



# together Juntos

The quarterly newsletter of KIPP Massachusetts

**KIPP:MA**  
MASSACHUSETTS

**FALL 2011**

## FROM CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CALEB DOLAN

Dear Friends:

It's hard to believe that we are embarking upon our 8<sup>th</sup> school year at KIPP. We have already welcomed our newest 5th grade KIPPsters to Bessom Street, and they are learning what it means to be part of KIPP and earn college acceptance in 2019.



This year will be *particularly* special, filled with some amazing milestones. Our second school – KAL Collegiate High School – is officially open. Our first graduating class of KIPPsters – the class of 2012 – is applying to college and will start receiving acceptance letters before we know it. Our brand new Middle and High School building in the Lynn Highlands is being built as we speak. And, by the end of the year, as our oldest KIPPsters are moving into their college dorms, the rest of us will be moving into our new home on High Rock Street.

There will be challenges, but I am truly humbled by the strength of our KIPPsters, team and family. With their hard work and your support we will – together – reach the goals that lie ahead. It is inspiring to look around and see Josh and many of the founding KAL team working with new colleagues as we transform from a single school in Lynn to a multi-school, multi-city KIPP Massachusetts region that will serve over 2,100 kids and their families.

There are no shortcuts in successful growth. For the 7th consecutive year, our kids have outperformed their peers across the state, and our student attrition is again at an all-time low. Our kids are *staying* with us and they are succeeding.

Amidst all of our growth and change, one thing that will never waiver is our relentless focus and commitment to helping our KIPPsters get *to and through* college. I hope you will come visit with our founding high school class, meet some of our new 5<sup>th</sup> grade KIPPsters, and celebrate and cheer on our alumni throughout the year. Our teachers, kids, and families couldn't do it without your support.

Many Thanks. Much Love.

Caleb

## IMPORTANT DATES

### AUGUST 29—SEPTEMBER 2:

#### KAL COLLEGIATE OPENING DAY, ORIENTATION & TEAM-BUILDING WEEK

20 Wheeler Street, 2nd Floor, Lynn

### SEPTEMBER 6: ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES START

Free evening classes for KIPP parents *and* other adults in the Lynn community. Classes include ESL, English/Spanish Literacy, Technology. For more information, contact [hcarvajal@kipplynn.org](mailto:hcarvajal@kipplynn.org).

### SEPTEMBER 7: FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

KAL Middle School and KAL Collegiate

### EVERY FRIDAY, 1:30PM—2:30PM: SONGFEST

Join us Fridays for song, dance, and inspiration... Open to everyone, no appointment needed. KAL Middle School Cafeteria – 25 Bessom Street, Lynn

### SEPTEMBER 20 AND OCTOBER 13, 8AM—9AM

### OCTOBER 25, 3PM—4PM

#### OPEN TOURS

Join us for an open tour -All are welcome, bring friends! Please RSVP to [wgrace@kipplynn.org](mailto:wgrace@kipplynn.org) (tours will only run if we receive RSVP's)

### FALL DATE TBA: COLLEGE ESSAY DAY

This fall (date TBA), friends and community members will gather to help our alumni edit their college essays. Interested in volunteering? Email [wgrace@kipplynn.org](mailto:wgrace@kipplynn.org) for further information.

### OCTOBER 3 - 7: SPIRIT WEEK, KAL COLLEGIATE

20 Wheeler Street, 2nd Floor, Lynn

### NOVEMBER 3—PROJECT ADVENTURE

KAL Collegiate – team-building day on the ropes course at Project Adventure

### NOVEMBER 4—COLLEGE TRIP

KAL Collegiate students will take their first of many college tours

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## NEWS & EVENT RECAP



**The Step Team Takes Nashville:** This summer, thousands of teachers, administrators, and staff members from 109 KIPP schools across the country gathered in Nashville, TN for KIPP School Summit 2011. The KIPP Academy Lynn Step team, A New Sense, performed at the opening ceremonies. They may be a small group of just eight middle school girls, but they brought an entire auditorium of more than 2,500 “Big KIPPsters” to their feet. The performance was the epitome of the KIPP “joy factor,” and they represented KAL with pride!

**KIPPsters in the News:** Alex Newell, a member of KAL’s first graduating class (the Class of 2012) beat out more than 34,000 applicants to become one of twelve contestants on *The Glee Project*, a reality TV show whose two winners earned a seven-episode spot on FOX’s hit show, *Glee*. Newell made it to the final four of *The Glee Project*, and will have a cameo on *Glee* this season. Also a member of KAL’s class of 2012, 17-year old Chyna Hope made her national television debut, sharing her rap skills on BET’s hit show, *106 and Park*. The show is a 5-week competition whose winner earns a recording contract. She wants to use rap music to “put Lynn on the map,” and also plans to attend college in 2012.

**Rites of Passage:** This summer, while some KIPPsters were taking their short summer break to relax, others were hard at work participating in the *Rites of Passage* program– a manhood and womanhood training program for KIPPsters designed to teach responsibility, leadership, and cultural awareness. This summer, there were 21 participants in 6th–8th grades. The theme for the four-week program was: Defying the Status Quo. Students learned about the various factors contributing to the 8% college graduation rate for students from low-income communities like Lynn. Curriculum and activities focused on ways they can change cultural and educational inequalities that still exist in our country today.

### Beam Signing

Construction of our new building is in full swing, and with nearly all of the beams in place, it is starting to look like a school! In another display of Team and Family, our staff and students gathered to place their signatures on one white beam. This beam will be the last one placed in our new home, and will be a visible reminder of just how many people are involved in bringing KIPP to life.



**5th Grade KIPPnotizing:** For the 8th year in a row, a brand new group of 5th grade KIPPsters—the Class of 2019—has joined us. As they do every year, they started out sitting on the floor of the cafeteria until they earned spots on the cafeteria benches. After a week of learning the chants and learning to SLANT (Sit up, Listen, Ask & Answer questions, Nod your head if you understand, and Track the speaker), the Class of 2019 finally earned their classrooms, chairs, and desks. Then they were treated to a warm welcome by the older grades, pep-rally style, at their very first songfest ever.

### DO NOW...

One element that is present in every hour-long lesson at KIPP is called the “Do Now” - an activity or short set of questions intended as a warm-up for the lesson. In every issue of Juntos, we will share a few fun “Do Now” questions to test your KIPP knowledge. Answers are upside down in the bottom corner. Good Luck!

#### 1. Paychecks are:

- A) Actual money we pay our KIPPsters for doing their homework
- B) Figurative “KIPP Dollars” awarded for good behavior, class participation, and homework completion
- C) Candy rewards we give KIPPsters for good behavior

#### 2. SLANT stands for:

- A) Strength, Leadership, Altruism, Nobility, Teamwork
- B) Set goals, Learn, Achieve, No Excuses, Think
- C) Sit up, Listen, Ask/Answer questions, Nod, Track the speaker

#### 3. KIPP teachers and staff are called:

- A) Big KIPPsters
- B) KIPP Masters
- C) Grown-ups

#### 4. Where do 5th graders sit on their 1st day of school?

- A) In chairs at their desks
- B) In armchairs
- C) On the cafeteria floor

1. B, 2. C, 3. A, 4. C



# KIPP ACADEMY LYNN MIDDLE SCHOOL

ANNA BREEN, PRINCIPAL · MIKE BROWN & EMILY STEAD, ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS  
781.598.1609 · WWW.KIPPLYNN.ORG · 25 BESSOM STREET · LYNN MA · 01902

If you spend even a minute at KIPP Academy Lynn (KAL) Middle School, you will see every classroom abuzz with energy and joy. KAL's four core values (*Community, Enthusiasm, Excellence, and Perseverance*) are embraced by students & teachers alike. The *shoutouts* below profile just a few of the many people who bring these values to life on a daily basis.

## STUDENT SHOUTOUT—PERSEVERANCE

When Betty Louis was in 4th grade, she entered herself into the KIPP 5th grade lottery. Her name was not picked, but she didn't give up. Instead, she sent daily emails to KIPP administrators, to make sure her name was on next year's lottery list. When Betty tried out for the KIPP Step Team as a new 6th grader, she didn't make it. But instead of walking away discouraged, she became the team's manager—not a glamorous role, but it allowed her to learn the steps. She made the team the next year. As a first-generation American with hard-working parents who came to the U.S. from Haiti, Betty knows all about hard work. Whether she is "not taking no" for an answer or maintaining her honor roll status, Betty is the definition of *perseverance*. "I like to think of myself as determined," she says with a smile.

**How do you think you've changed since you came to KIPP?** I think I'm a lot more persistent now. Before, if I couldn't do a homework problem, I'd just say, "forget it." At KIPP, giving up just isn't an option. You keep trying until you get it, no matter what it is or how long it takes. It feels good.

**What do you like most about KIPP?** The teachers really pay attention here. They *know* us. I remember on my second day ever at KIPP, I forgot my glasses. A teacher asked me where they were, and I remember thinking, "wow—she noticed I was wearing glasses after just one day!" Also, the teachers make learning interactive and really push us to advocate for ourselves.

**On your own, you have participated in academic enrichment programs for the last two summers. Why not just relax?** I don't like coming back to school and forgetting stuff. When you keep pushing yourself, your brain keeps going—it doesn't have a chance to get rusty. I want the best for myself, and I know that means keeping myself challenged, even in the summer!

## BETTY LOUIS

### GRADE

8th Grade,

Class of 2016

Grades are named for  
the year they go to college



### ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Honor roll or Principal's list every quarter

### EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

KIPP Academy Lynn Step team

### SCHOOL/CAREER ASPIRATIONS

An Ivy League college, then an anesthesiologist

## LAUREN LEONARDO

### SUBJECT

7th Grade Social  
Studies

### YEARS AT KAL

Entering her 4th

### HOMETOWN

Warren, RI

### ELECTIVES SHE LEADS

Elves of Change



## TEACHER SHOUTOUT—COMMUNITY

As teacher of Ancient History, Lauren Leonardo must contend with a question that some kids inevitably ask: "Why does this subject matter to *me*? How does it apply to *my* life?" She attacks this question with creativity & enthusiasm, from comparing ancient "cold cases" with current cases in the news, to teaching students to interpret artifacts of *any* kind, from *any* era, from studying mummies to analyzing local newspaper clippings. Entering her 4th year at KAL, Lauren has made deep connections with many KIPP families, even beginning to teach the younger siblings of kids she has taught in years past, and she is deeply committed to the KIPP community.

**What inspired you to teach at KIPP and why do you stay?** When I was in college, I saw the *60 Minutes* story about KIPP. I had never heard of KIPP, but I thought, "It's everything

I believe in and it's different." I knew I wanted to be a part of it. I stay because I've seen it *work*. I've seen kids turn around who I never thought could. Teaching here is humbling. Working with so many talented people pushes me to be a better teacher.

**What exactly do you say to the kids who ask why Ancient History matters?** I tell them that it's really about the skills they are learning when we study these ancient stories, artifacts, and sources. It's about helping them learn to think critically, and think for *themselves*, instead of assuming everything they hear or read is truth. It's about helping them build a framework and skill set to question and examine the events happening around them—in the world and in Lynn.

**Tell us about The Elves of Change.** It's a community service elective for KIPPsters wishing to help the community. This year, we're focusing on external projects in Lynn, so the community can get to know our kids. I think there is still a perception that Lynn has no future, and I want the community to see what talented, enthusiastic local leaders our kids will one day become.

*Community. Enthusiasm. Excellence. Perseverance*



There are 109 KIPP schools nationwide, but KAL Collegiate is just the 18th KIPP High School to open across the entire country. Led by Founding Principal Drea DeAngelo, this group of KIPPsters, teachers, and staff truly exemplify the school's five core values: *Courage, Excellence, Team and Family, Grit, and Zest.*

## TEACHER SHOUTOUT: GRIT

As the first one in his family to graduate from college, a former college basketball player, a teacher & coach for the past seven years, and a member of the KAL Collegiate Founding Team, Duane McClendon knows a thing or two about grit. Education and athletics are a family affair—with a father who was a longtime coach and a national college track champion, and a wife who worked with him for two years at KIPP Houston and currently works with Building Excellent Schools—McClendon lives and breathes his craft, on the field, in the gym, and at home. He has a calm demeanor and a warm smile, and is passionate about giving kids in underserved communities the quality education they deserve.

**What is your philosophy on physical education?** My goal is to help kids understand what it means to live an active lifestyle. Every class I teach has a specific structure—an intro activity followed by fitness development, lesson focus, and a game. This kind of dynamic approach to physical education helps kids gain critical life skills, such as how to work out, how to be a good teammate, and how to think strategically.

**What inspires you about KIPP?** Before coming to KAL Collegiate, I spent two years teaching and coaching at KIPP Houston, and have worked at other charter schools as well. To me, being a KIPP teacher means bringing private-school-quality education to kids in underserved communities. The drastically different quality of education you see between private schools and urban public schools just isn't right. I think that KIPP is doing its part to balance that inequality.

**You were the first in your family to graduate from college. Tell us a little bit about that experience.** I had so many coaches, teachers, and family members who were incredibly supportive, and who helped me through times when I considered giving up my dreams of college graduation. For example, I was approached to play professional basketball overseas (which would have required leaving school), and then, after I had earned my Associate's Degree, I thought for a while that might be "enough." But I stuck with it and earned my full degree. It was hard to justify giving up everything when I know I would be the first in my family to graduate from college. I can definitely identify with some of the struggles our kids may face.

## DUANE MCCLENDON

### TITLE

PE Teacher, Athletic Director, Basketball Coach

### HOMETOWN

Chandler, AZ

### YEARS TEACHING

Entering his 8th year

### FAMILY

Wife Johanna; Dogs Benson, Stabler



## STUDENT SHOUTOUT: COURAGE

## MAYELIN BURGOS, ANN GROSS & NICK GROSS

No matter who you are or where you live, attending your first day of high school takes some measure of courage. But attending your first day of high school as a brand new KIPPster, when most of your classmates have been at KIPP since 5th grade, takes an extra dose of courage. A positive attitude doesn't hurt too. And that is exactly what newcomers Mayelin Burgos, and twins Ann & Nick Gross, have. They are three of the 19 new 9th graders joining the 73 returning KIPPsters as the founding class of KAL Collegiate, which officially opened on August 29. Their advi-



**Was it your choice to come to KIPP?** No! Our parents told us we were coming. We didn't know what to expect, didn't want to leave our friends, and we had heard about how much hard work they do. We weren't excited at first.

**What helped change your mind?** **Ann:** I talked to one of my friends who has been at KIPP since the 5th grade, and she said it's all worth it. I started to realize what a great opportunity it is. I want to be a therapist when I grow up, and I know that KIPP will help me get there. **Nick:** I started to realize how different this place is than my old school. Our advisor has already come to our house to meet our family and learn more about us. It's really different than anything I've seen at other schools. I like it already. **Mayelin:** At our old school, some of the teachers didn't even know our names. It made me feel invisible and not really motivated. I can tell KIPP is different.

Adjusting to KIPP isn't easy, but by this time next year, Mayelin, Ann and Nick will be true KIPPsters, wondering why they ever considered any other choice.

With KAL Collegiate now open, and additional schools Lynn & Boston on the horizon, we are now officially a KIPP Massachusetts region. This section highlights some of the special Team & Family members who are helping us grow & thrive.

## DONOR SHOUTOUT: ENTHUSIASM

Clark & Sheila Willmott are among a special group of Team and Family members who have supported KAL from its very beginning, before a building had been secured, before teachers were hired, before there was any KIPP Academy Lynn to speak of. They are long-term supporters, but they speak about KIPP as if they have just learned about how great it is—with an animation in their hands and a twinkle in their eyes, as if they just *have* to share it with everyone they meet.

**How did you become involved with KIPP?** We are very close to two of the school's founding leaders (Josh Zoia, Founder & Co-Executive Director, and Rodney Smith, KAL's first board chair). It's been pretty special watching these people we know & respect bring KIPP to life in Lynn. *They* were really what inspired us to get involved, because if anyone could do it, we knew they could.

**What most excites you about KIPP?** From the beginning, we've been blown away by KIPP's mission statement. What other organization makes that kind of commitment—to support kids all the way *through* college? And it's not an experiment anymore; KIPP *works*. It's a proven commodity that needs to be replicated, because our education system needs true innovation—not just for innovation's sake—but for performance's sake. *All* of our kids need to be able to compete successfully in a very competitive world, and KIPP is giving them the tools to be able to do that.

**Why is KIPP among the top causes you support?** To us, it comes down to impact. Education is one of our highest priorities, and KIPP is making a widespread impact, not *only* on the students and families who go there, but *also* on the entire community. The way that KIPP engages with the community—with its adult education classes and community outreach—is a model that should be followed *everywhere* (not just in urban areas such as Lynn).

## CLARK & SHEILA WILLMOTT

### HOMETOWN

Marblehead, MA

### INVOLVED SINCE:

2004

### CAREERS:

Clark: Founder of Willmott & Associates, an HR Staffing & Strategy firm; Sheila: Retired Teacher

### FAMILY

Two grown children, Catherine & Jeffrey, and three grandsons.



## NATALIA ROSA

### SCHOOL & GRADE

Pingree School, 12th Grade

### LANGUAGES SPOKEN

English, Spanish, Portuguese

### EXTRACURRICULARS

Dance, Photography, Singing, Women Empowered (*a women's leadership group*)

### LEADERSHIP ROLES

Mentor for KAL Collegiate; Mentor for Prep@Pingree; Youth Group Leader at her church



## ALUMNI SHOUTOUT: COMMUNITY

Natalia Rosa is a member of KAL's first graduating class—the Class of 2012. As its name implies, the Class of 2012 (Natalia included), will be heading off to college this time next year. Eventually she wants to become a KIPP teacher and one day found a new KIPP school. According to her teachers & peers, Natalia as a natural-born leader. In 2008, she was one of just six nationwide recipients of the prestigious KIPPster of the Year Award, given to those who demonstrate personal & academic excellence, community impact, and exceptional leadership & character. Today, she is already working to change others' lives the way KIPP changed hers.

**How have you changed since you first came to KIPP?** As a 5th grader, I was motivated, but I was quiet & timid. KIPP helped me become a stronger leader, and taught me to speak up for what I believe in. I am lucky to have a supportive family, but KIPP is really like my second family. I talk to some of my friends who don't have such supportive families, and I realize that KIPP is even *more* important to them than it was for me. And it was *really* important for me.

**Why do you want to come back to KIPP as a teacher?** Well I really want to help my community, and that's exactly what KIPP does. Some people ask me, "Why do you want to be a teacher? Teachers don't make very much money." But it's not about money. It's about reaching out to future generations and making a difference. That's why I've stayed connected. I care so much about the work KIPP does, and about the *way* they do it. I'll never forget that KIPP changed my life.

WELCOME  
To Your New  
FAMILY

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