



Juntos together

Summer / Fall 2010

*The quarterly newsletter
of KIPP Academy Lynn*

From Executive Director Josh Zoia

Friends and Family:

We decided to dedicate this issue of "Juntos" to our future - the fulfillment of our promise and commitment to you and our KIPP-sters that they will succeed in making it to and through college. The new KAL Middle and High School Campus opening in August 2012 is part of that commitment.



Zoia with KAL alumni from the class of 2014.

The new school will give us all a place to proudly call our own. It will also help us

better support our students and families as they develop the tools they need to be successful. The addition of the high school means that we will have our KIPP-sters with us for 4 more years - an inspiring thought! The expansion will also allow us to increase our number of lottery seats for incoming 5th graders and shorten our wait list, something we have wanted to do since we opened our doors in 2004.

As Drea DeAngelo, our High School Principal-elect, begins her leadership development work in residency at various KIPP schools across the country, back at home our students are embarking on a new school year. Summer session begins August 16th, when our newest KIPP-sters will attend a week-long 5th grade orientation to learn all about working hard and being nice. The rest of our students will return on August 18th for a full summer session.

We will have the honor of welcoming our incoming 8th graders, the Class of 2015, who will be our first 9th grade class, and believe me; the class is filled with some incredible students. One of whom, José Valera, is featured in the "Student Shout Out" section of this issue.

We will officially break ground for the new building in late September. With computer labs, science labs, more classrooms, a practice field, and a real gymnasium, the new KAL will be a beacon of light in the Highlands - a neighborhood where many of our kids live (see more information in the feature article "The New KIPP Academy Lynn: The Actual Proves the Possible").

We will keep you updated on the building, capital campaign, and project milestones as we move closer to August 2012. A BIG shout out to our kids, parents, teachers, volunteers and donors who are making our future success a reality!

With Appreciation,

Josh

Calendar of Events

August 16 - September 3

Summer Session

8AM—2PM, M - F

Everyone Welcome!

Email jparkos@kipplynn.org to
schedule a visit

September 8

Regular School schedule begins
7AM—5PM

September [exact date TBA]

Groundbreaking for new building
Stay Tuned...

Every Friday throughout the school year

Songfest, 1:30pm—2:30pm

Open to everyone—come join us
for song, dance, and inspiration!



Phone

781.592.1937

Email

wgrace@kipplynn.org

Address

25 Bessom Street, Lynn MA 01902

Website

www.kipplynn.org

The New KIPP Academy Lynn: The Actual Proves the Possible



The Future

In December 2009, KIPP Academy Lynn's application for a charter amendment was approved, giving us the "green light" to proceed with our expansion. In comparison to the school's current capacity of 350 students in grades 5 – 8, this expanded charter will allow us to serve 750 students in grades 5 – 12 at full capacity. This includes the addition of not only four high school grades, but also more middle school seats. Beginning with our first class of 9th graders in fall 2011, followed by the opening of a brand new 68,000 square foot campus in August 2012, KAL is on track to bring the promise of a college preparatory education to more and more students who need and deserve this opportunity.

The Need

The need for a comprehensive KIPP education is greater now than it has ever been. In under-resourced communities across the US, just **66% of students graduate from high school** and only **22% of 9th graders matriculate to college**.

Perhaps the most sobering statistic of all:

Just 2 students out of 30 will earn a college degree.



The "KIPP Effect"

Since the first two KIPP schools were founded in 1999 in Houston and New York, the "KIPP Effect" on students in under-resourced communities has proven to be dramatic and long-lasting. Today, with schools in 20 states and Washington, D.C., the KIPP network serves more than 22,000 KIPPsters. Nationally, among students who attend a KIPP school:

92% graduate from high school and 88% matriculate to college.

KIPP Academy Lynn's first graduating 8th grade class is on track to matriculate to college in fall 2012, and academic results to date have our students on track to meet, or even break, these national graduation and matriculation statistics. On a variety of measures, including MCAS tests and reading levels, our students are making tremendous gains year after year. (For a full report on our kids' MCAS success, see our feature article in the Spring 2010 edition of *Juntos*, accessible through the newsletter link under the "News" tab of our website, www.kipplynn.org).



Not only does the KIPP model work, but after 6 years of results, we know that *KIPP Academy Lynn* works. With this proof in hand, the school is embarking upon this major growth effort in order to help more kids from Lynn develop the tools and skills they need to succeed in high school, college, and beyond. The expansion includes adding 400 more students, expanding to grades 5 – 12, building a new campus, and developing the programmatic innovations that will support this expansion, including a high school curriculum and expanded adult education opportunities. The growth effort symbolizes our confidence and excitement for our kids' future success. Together, we are helping them "Prove the Possible" every day.

THE **ACTUAL** PROVES THE **POSSIBLE**

Student *Shout Out*: José Valera



NAME & GRADE

José Valera, 8th Grade

Class of 2015 (*KAL grades are named by the year they will matriculate to college.*)

HOMEROOM

Yale University (*KAL homerooms are named for the graduating college of the homeroom teacher.*)

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Principals list: at least 3 times, maybe more

Honor roll: I'd have to count the shirts I earned. At least 6, but too many to remember.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Varsity Basketball (Center)

FAMILY

Mom Rosa, dad José, sisters Catherine and Melida (a KAL alumna class of 2012, now at North Cambridge Catholic High School)

There are many famous Josés in the world who have worked very hard for their success . . . José Albentosa, Spanish long-distance runner; José Alberto, Dominican salsa singer; José Chu, Taiwanese entrepreneur and economist; and José Martí, Cuban poet and national hero (just to name a few). One of KAL's famous and yet very humble Josés who has worked very hard for his success is José Valera.

What is Your Favorite Class?

Is it OK if I have more than one? Math, Science and Social Studies. I like Math because I have always been good with numbers, I love science because way deep down I am a little bit of science geek, and I like social studies because I like to hear about history and the past.

What do you like most about KIPP?

I like the trips—they have opened my eyes to new things and people. Utah was the best - I made a lot of new friends. Also, Ms. DeAngelos. She pushes me in different ways. She is a hero to me and I appreciate having her as a teacher and a coach. She has made a big difference in my life.

What do you think about the new KAL high school?

I think it will be a great school. My dad already said I have to go, but even if he didn't say I had to go, I would want to because it will help me get to college. It will open up opportunities for a lot of kids.

What would you tell an incoming 5th grader: Be honest, work hard and be your teacher's best friend - they will help you with everything. Study a lot because it will get harder but don't try to take any shortcuts because they don't work. I made some mistakes I regret & I wasn't the most honest, but I'm different now, and it's much better.

Is there anything else you want to share about yourself? Not really - I don't want to sound conceited. I used to be that way, and it got me in trouble. I just try to work my best to be happy. It crushes me to think about how I was, but I'm happy I'm not like that anymore.



There are no short-cuts. There are no excuses.

For more information or to make a donation, visit www.kipplynn.org

Teacher Shout Out

Drea DeAngelo been with KAL since 2006. Over the last four years, she served as KAL 7th grade math teacher, Grade Level Chair, Math Department Chair, and Boys Basketball Coach. In 2009, she earned the Excellence in Teaching Award from the KIPP Foundation, and in 2010, she was one of 12 people selected to participate in the Fisher Fellowship, KIPP's prestigious year-long leadership training program. The program will prepare Drea for her new role as Principal of the new KAL High School.

What is the most exciting aspect for you in your new role as Principal?

I am really excited about creating a school to meet our kids' needs. This fall, I'll have the chance to visit many successful high schools across the country. When I return, I'll spend a lot of time talking to our kids, so we can plan our high school to best fit what they need and want as they work towards their goal of graduating from high school and college.

What do you think will be the most challenging part of being KAL High School Principal?

I think the most challenging part of being the principal is transitioning from being a teacher and creating a rigorous, fun learning environment for one classroom, to doing the same thing at a high school level, across an entire school. The great thing about the Fisher Fellowship is that I will receive a lot of support and be pushed to make the transition continually all year long. I am eager for the challenge.

KAL will miss you next year while you are away for the fellowship. Who will teach 7th grade Math?

Katrina Callsen, a returning 7th grade math teacher, and Margaret Chute, a new KIPP teacher, will take charge of 7th grade Math and continue setting high expectations for our students' success!

Drea DeAngelo



NAME: Andrea (Drea) DeAngelo

TITLE: Principal-Elect, KAL High School

HOMETOWN: Cincinnati, OH

YEARS AT KAL: 4

Event Recap

End-of Year Trips

The end of the 2009–2010 school year came to a rousing close with our annual End-Of-Year trips. More than 75% of our kids earned the privilege of traveling with their classmates on these trips. The 5th graders traveled to Washington, D.C., 6th graders spent a week hiking and team-building in Utah, while the 7th and 8th grades visited New York City and the eastern seaboard, respectively.

Promotion Ceremony

On June 19, KAL promoted its third alumni class on to high school in an inspiring ceremony for 71 graduating 8th graders. Members of the class of 2014 will be attending high schools such as: St. Mary's High School; The Pingree School,

Nobles & Greenough School, Essex Agricultural and Technical School, Lynn English, and Lynn Classical. This marks the third graduating class for KAL.



A KIPP-ster celebrates
"making it to the top" in Utah



A Rites of Passage participant working with
one of the "Babas" (leaders)

Rites of Passage

For 5 weeks this summer, thirty KIPPsters participated in the Rites of Passage program, designed to help train boys and girls to become responsible young adults. Among the topics covered: building positive and productive relationships; applying healthy eating and exercise habits; understanding how money is earned and saved; and engaging in conversations on race, class, and cultural identity. At the end of the program, parents, teachers, and community members gathered for a graduation ceremony to celebrate the students' hard work and character growth.

Donor & Volunteer Shout Out

John Kane has been a committed volunteer, donor, and advocate of KAL since 2009. In addition to his volunteer work both tutoring and assisting with the International Economic Summit, Kane has been a loyal supporter and was among the first to step up in support of KAL's capital campaign.

The first time you ever walked into KAL, what was your first impression?

I was impressed with the attentiveness and orderliness of the kids, and their eagerness to learn. The teachers are spectacular—smart, engaged & empathetic. As soon as you step foot inside the building, it is clear that KAL provides an environment that is very conducive to learning and growth.

How do you think expanding KAL will affect the city of Lynn? The city of Lynn is very close to my heart. My Irish-American father grew up in Lynn during the peak of the city's industrial success, which involved a wide variety of hard-working immigrant populations. Today, the city is just as diverse as it was then, if not more so. This expansion is more than just a building; it is a resource that will help us develop the next generation of strong, multicultural, urban leaders. These kids are what our ancestors were a hundred years ago: the future of Lynn's success.

What inspired you to support this campaign to expand KAL? Right now, KAL has *almost* everything; it has the motivated kids, the inspiring teachers, the structure, the curriculum, and the passion. The only thing missing is a first-rate facility. KAL is a gem, one that requires a gem-like setting to most effectively do what it already does best.

What do you think about the expansion and the new building? I've seen the new site and the building renderings; they are just marvelous. Having both a middle school and a high school, and specifically having them on the same campus, will be incredibly functional and will create a lot of synergy.

What most excites you about working with KIPP students?

It's the connections I make with individual kids. This summer on two separate occasions, I ran into kids in Lynn whom I worked with during the year. Each ran up to greet me, one to tell me about his summer reading progress and the other to share with me his 96% social studies grade. Seeing that enthusiasm for learning is incredibly gratifying. It tells me these kids will go far.

John Kane



John Kane, far left, with KIPPsters at a recent visit to MIT

NAME:

John Kane

HOMETOWN:

Swampscott, MA

INVOLVED WITH KAL SINCE: 2009

PROFESSION

Retired Partner, Ropes and Gray

FAMILY

Wife Susan, and three grown children, Matt, Caroline, and Chris

5th Graders Visit Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor



KIPP-sters in front of the Supreme Court Building

During their End-of--Year class trip to Washington, D.C. in June, 83 KAL 5th graders had the honor of visiting the United States Supreme Court for a tour and the opportunity to speak with Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the first Latina justice and only the third female justice in history. After a tour of the Courtroom, the group was treated to a private visit with the Justice herself, which included an extensive Q & A session.

KIPP-sters asked what inspired Sotomayor to become a judge (watching Perry Mason); how she felt about being nominated to the Supreme Court (she cried); and whether she always knew what she wanted to be when she grew up (yes, but it's OK to take your time deciding, she reminded them). She also spoke about what it feels like to visit the Bronx where she grew up, reminding students that no matter what, the places they grow up will always be home. The visit was a poignant reminder that hard work, perseverance, and respect of self and others, can help us achieve our highest goals and dreams.



KIPP Academy Lynn • 25 Bessom Street • Lynn, MA 01902 • www.kipplynn.org