



together Juntos

The quarterly newsletter of KIPP Massachusetts

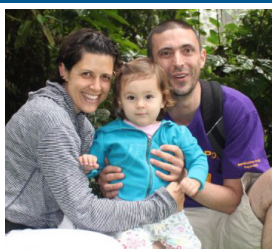
KIPP:MA
MASSACHUSETTS

SPRING 2012

FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CALEB DOLAN

Dear Friends,

There is a wealth of knowledge about what works in great classrooms. At KIPP, we draw on many resources and our own experiences to develop our vision. **We believe...**



Dolan with wife Joanna
and 2-year-old daughter
Tallulah

- ... that excellent teaching means a commitment to transformative outcomes for kids.
- ... that teaching is not an individual endeavor - we are a team.
- ... that our students & families should know that we absolutely love what we do, that we truly care about them, and that we aim to help them revel daily in the joy of learning, struggling & growing.
- ... that great teachers are made, not born, and we must systematically develop and support our teachers.

KIPP is an environment where teachers & students alike are engaged in learning **and** teaching on a daily basis. So who are our teachers?

- They are the KIPPsters themselves, like **Hector Lopez** and **Gilda Borbon**, who are teaching & learning from *one other* every day.
- They are the counselors and social workers, who make such a strong impact on so many KIPPsters (like Class of 2012 alum **John Cordova**) by teaching them about themselves.
- They are our committed volunteers, like those from **General Electric**, who teach our KIPPsters through ongoing, experience-based exploration and inquiry.
- They are our core of talented, caring, passionate & committed classroom teachers like **Derek Davidson** & **Melissa Savage**.

This kind of environment is helping our KIPPsters build the skills they need to truly succeed in college, and most importantly, in their lives. This issue of *Juntos* is a celebration of the teachers of all kinds - classroom teachers, students, alumni, counselors, volunteers, donors, and friends - who are part of our KIPP team and family.

Many Thanks. Much Love.

Caleb

JOIN US!

KAL MIDDLE SCHOOL SONGFEST
EVERY FRIDAY, 1:30PM—2:30PM

Join us for some song, dance, and inspiration. No appointment needed! KAL Cafeteria, 25 Bessom St.

OPEN TOURS: KAL MIDDLE SCHOOL
FEBRUARY 29, MARCH 13, APRIL 5, APRIL 26
ALL TOURS FROM 8AM - 9AM

Join us for pre-scheduled tours or call to schedule a tour anytime. Please RSVP to wgrace@kippma.org or 781-592-1937.

OPEN TOUR: NEW BUILDING SITE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 10AM - 11AM

Join us for an open tour of the new building and construction site! Space is limited due to safety constraints (RSVP necessary: wgrace@kippma.org.)

SPIRIT WEEK AT KAL COLLEGIATE
MARCH 12 - 16, 20 Wheeler Street, 2nd Floor
Stop by anytime to soak up some Panther spirit!

LOTTERY:
MARCH 15, TIME TBA: 9TH GRADE LOTTERY
MARCH 19, TIME TBA: 5TH GRADE LOTTERY
MARCH 22, TIME TBA: 6TH-8TH GRADE LOTTERY
Admission to KIPP is determined by blind lottery. The 5th - 8th grade lotteries are held in the middle school cafeteria at 25 Bessom Street (malvarez@kippma.org), and the 9th grade lottery is held at 20 Wheeler Street (jstartek@kippma.org).

KALC BASKETBALL GAMES

Come cheer on the Panthers!

SAT 2/18: 9:00 AM - Girls; 11:30AM - Boys
Jewish Community Center, Marblehead

WED 2/29: 3:30 PM (Boys team only)
At Roxbury Prep

SAT 3/3 3:30 PM - Girls; 5:00PM - Boys
Home - Lynn YMCA

SUN 3/4 4:00 PM - Girls; 5:30PM - Boys
At MATCH

Please join us for any of the above events, or just stop by for a visit whenever school is in session. Please note that there will be no school February 20 - 27 (Winter Break), April 6 (Good Friday), and April 16 - 20 (Spring Break).

25 Bessom Street · Lynn, MA · 01902 · www.kippma.org · 781.592.1937
To make a donation, visit www.kippma.org/donate

NEWS AND EVENT RECAP

At KIPP, we believe in **CARING** more than others think is wise, **RISKING** more than others think is safe, **DREAMING** more than others think is practical, and **EXPECTING** more than others think is possible. This means that not only do we encourage our KIPPsters to reach for the stars, but we give them the tools and skills to do so and the ability to see any outcome as a learning opportunity. There are so many amazing stories & events happening at KIPP every single day, it would be impossible to highlight them all here, but here are three examples of KIPPsters taking what they learn at KIPP and applying it out in the world, competing - and succeeding - against older (in some cases much older) peers.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SUMMIT: In December, ten KIPPsters competed in the Boston International Economic Summit, sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston and the Council on Economic Education. The Summit is a trade simulation where student teams represent different countries and negotiate trade alliances, develop economic policies, and debate real-world issues. The summit was the culmination of a semester-long elective led by math teacher Kelly Rigby & volunteer John Kane, joined this year by volunteer Mike Michaud. For the second year in a row, our KIPPsters were the only middle school team competing against nearly 100 high school teams. KIPP's "Team Switzerland," made up entirely of sixth graders, submitted one of just six proposals singled out for special mention.



STEP TEAM: The KIPP Academy Lynn Step Team, called "A New Sense," traveled to Virginia, and for the second year in a row, took first place at the 14th Annual Tri-City Step Show. Led by Middle School Assistant Principal Mike Brown and comprised of four 9th graders and eight middle-schoolers, the team was by far the youngest at the competition, stepping against exclusively high school & college teams. With multiple perfect scores from the judges, the team captivated the entire auditorium, showing that excellence can be attained at any age. Said one, "We didn't even realize we were so much younger than everyone else until someone pointed it out to us after the competition. We just did what we always do - worked together and stuck to the precision we are known for." The team also had the chance to spend some time on the campus of Hampton University.

KALC GIRLS BASKETBALL: The KALC Girls' basketball team may be entirely made up of 9th graders competing against full 9th-12th grade high school teams, but that hasn't stopped them from pursuing - and achieving - excellence. The team started the season off with seven straight wins, is now 10-1, and they hold the second seed out of 15 teams in the Massachusetts Charter School Athletic Organization (MCSAO) standings. When asked why the team is so successful, coach Nat Jones says, "This is the same group of girls who went 74-1 in middle school together. Not only do they know each other really well on and off the court, but they don't think they're *supposed* to lose."



DO NOW

One part of every lesson at KIPP is called the "Do Now" - a short warm-up activity or question set. Below are a few "Do Now" questions to test your KIPP knowledge. Answers are upside down below. Good Luck!

1. Teachers at KIPP Massachusetts receive, at minimum, how many hours per school year of professional development (defined as one-on-one observation and feedback and group training sessions)?

- a) 75 b) 10 c) 50 d) 25

2. Until what time each night are teachers available by phone for homework help after school ends at 5pm?

- a) Until 6pm b) Until 7pm c) Until 9pm d) All hours of the night

3. What do KIPP teachers do every Friday once students are dismissed for the weekend?

- a) Take a nap b) have a pizza party
c) have grade-level meetings and professional development sessions



KIPP ACADEMY LYNN (KAL) MIDDLE SCHOOL

25 Bessom Street · Lynn, MA
www.kipplynn.org · 781.592.1609
Principal: Anna Breen

Founded: 2004
Grades: 5 - 8
of Students: 376

Community.
Enthusiasm.
Excellence.
Perseverance.



MELISSA SAVAGE

SUBJECT

5th Grade Science

YEARS TEACHING:

2nd year teaching
2nd year at KIPP

HOMETOWN:

Eau Claire, WI

COLLEGE & MAJOR:

University of Wisconsin Milwaukee,
Education Major; Now pursuing
Master's of Education at B.U.



TEACHER SHOUTOUT - ENTHUSIASM

Take an informal recess poll of Ms. Savage's 5th grade students about what makes her a good teacher, and the overwhelming answer is: "She makes everything fun." One student said, "It feels like every day she has a new educational song or game to help us learn." Another added, "She has so much energy and she never gives up on us." Executive Director (and Savage's coach) Caleb Dolan says, "Melissa relentlessly asks herself, 'Did my kids learn today and how will they learn more tomorrow?'"

Why did you decide to become a teacher? I was raised by a single father in a low-income neighborhood; I grew up in a demographic that isn't expected to succeed. Because of the encouragement I got from my dad, I was a first generation high school & college graduate. I can identify with so many of our kids who are paving the way for their families in that way; I want to show kids that they can build a good future for themselves no matter where they come from.

Why is teaching at KIPP unique? The culture of support here is amazing. On a weekly basis, I get observation, feedback, and coaching from all levels. To be a good teacher you need to be able to constantly self-reflect, and KIPP helps me do that every day. I'll be improving for as long as I'm teaching, because I know that if I don't grow, my kids won't grow.

How do you bring the "joy factor" into the classroom? I make sure to plan lessons and explore topics that I myself am excited about - the kids pick up on that and respond to it. I also really focus on humor and physical movement - we laugh and we move every single day. I think it helps keep the kids engaged and excited to learn the material.

STUDENT SHOUTOUT - PERSEVERANCE

Hector Lopez is among the top paycheck earners in his grade; he is a member of the boys' leadership group at KIPP; he reads above grade level, was chosen to represent KIPP as a Student Ambassador, and he wants to start his own business one day. He is a natural leader who sets a positive example for the entire community. Now consider this: when Hector came to KIPP in the 5th grade, he did not speak English. Today, if you spend even five minutes with him, you see an animated, honest, determined, humble person, who happens to speak English fluently. You will also quickly see that this is just the beginning for Hector.

What do you like most about KIPP? It's like a little family here. The teachers really care about us and they're honest - they tell us the truth about how important education is. Before I came to KIPP, everything I thought about was small; I didn't think about my future at all. KIPP opened my mind. Now, every decision I make is about making my future better.

What do you think makes KIPP unique? You see students of every kind here, and you can learn so much from other kids. At my old school, kids made fun of me when I tried reading out loud, and I sort of thought I was better than everybody else. When I came to KIPP, the students were really supportive, in book groups or at recess (one of my classmates found out I liked breakdancing and spent a lot of time teaching me stuff). KIPP has helped me realize I have so much to learn, and not just from my teachers - I can learn from my classmates too.

HECTOR LOPEZ

GRADE & CLASS

7th grade, Class of 2017

Grade levels are named for the year they will go to college

ELECTIVES & HOBBIES:

Basketball, Soccer, Music, Student Ambassador, Breakdancing, Amistad de Caballeros (boys' leadership group at KIPP)

FAMILY: Lives at home with his grandmother, two brothers and two sisters



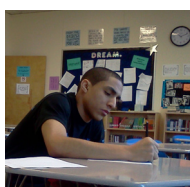
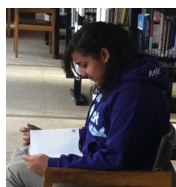


KIPP ACADEMY LYNN COLLEGIATE (KALC)

20 Wheeler Street · Lynn, MA
www.kipplynn.org · 781.581.8493
Principal: Drea DeAngelo

Founded: 2011
Grades: 9 (to 9-12)
of Students: 96

*Courage.
Excellence.
Grit.
Team & Family.
Zest.*



TEACHER SHOUTOUT - GRIT

When you ask students what they like most about Mr. Davidson, two common themes emerge: that he is honest & real, and that he is *there* for his students no matter what. Teachers and teaching have been a cornerstone in Davidson's life from the beginning, from his own teachers whose material he still uses and who he still keeps in touch with; to his five years as a classroom teacher; to his role as a father to 2-year-old daughter Adexa. Colleagues and KIPPsters alike say he has a talent for making real-life connections to classroom material, and pushing students to engage in deep, relevant conversation.

Why did you become a teacher? I grew up in a working class, mostly minority neighborhood. School was really boring for me, so I dropped out. Because I was smart, a lot of my teachers said, "oh you'll be fine." But the teachers I still keep in touch with are those who were *mad* at me for dropping out. They held me to a higher standard, which I eventually lived up to. I became a teacher because I want to help kids stay engaged in school and understand their relationship with their own race and others, so they can succeed and escape the plight of racial inequity.

What do you think makes KIPP so successful? KIPP gives every kid a chance to succeed outside of traditional academics. That's why I involve myself different ways, by coaching basketball, chess club, etc. Success breeds confidence, which leads to more success - it doesn't really matter what they're succeeding at, as long as they're succeeding at *something*. Also, KIPP succeeds because of the people - the teachers and leaders. I became a much better teacher in one year at KIPP than I would have in five years somewhere else, because we get and give so much feedback. As a staff, we enjoy each other, share our interests, support each other, and have fun, and that comes across in the classroom.

DEREK DAVIDSON

SUBJECT: World History

YEARS TEACHING: 5th year teaching; 3rd in the KIPP network; 1st at KAL

HOMETOWN: Houston, TX

COLLEGE & MAJOR: University of Texas Austin; Majored in African American Studies, History, and Rhetoric



GILDA BORBON

GRADE & CLASS

9th grade, Class of 2015

Grade levels are named for the year they will go to college.

ELECTIVES & HOBBIES:

Cross Country, Track, Cheerleading

FAMILY: Lives at home with mom, grandmother, and sister Anna



STUDENT SHOUTOUT - GRIT

According to multiple teachers, KAL Collegiate 9th grader Gilda Borbon is one of the most consistently hard-working students they know. At KIPP since 5th grade, Gilda admits she didn't always follow the rules at first, but she credits KIPP for helping her change her mindset. She wants to be a psychologist so she can help others, something she has already started practicing. "I tell my friends they can come talk to me anytime," she says. "Helping others changes the way I see the world and helps me not to be selfish." Gilda is humble, persistent, enthusiastic and reflective, and she oozes with excitement about KIPP, her teachers, and her future.

How have you changed since you first came to KIPP? For the first few years I was at KIPP, I had a negative mindset. I just stayed at the surface and didn't dig any deeper. Then my teachers and advisors helped me realize I needed to change the way I saw things. So I became more positive and started listening a lot more to my teachers. Now, I focus a lot more on how my decisions affect my future. My mom always says she wants me to do better than she did, and that motivates me to work hard. Even if I'm not earning a trip or anything, I do it for myself and my family.

What do you like about the teachers at KIPP? When the teachers talk about college and the future, you can just see it in their eyes; sometimes they almost start crying, they care about us so much & want us to succeed so badly. The teachers help us see why education is so important, why things are the way they are, and why it should matter to us, but they also help us be independent & make our own decisions. My teachers have helped me see that it's my life and I can be who I choose to be.



KIPP MASSACHUSETTS
25 Bessom Street · Lynn, MA
www.kippma.org · 781.592.1937
Executive Director: Caleb Dolan

Founded: 2004
Grades: 5 - 9
of Students: 472

Community. Courage. Enthusiasm. Excellence. Grit. Perseverance. Team & Family. Zest.



JOHN CORDOVA

GRADE & SCHOOL:

Class of 2012 (Senior)
Salem Academy Charter School

HOBBIES:

Art, Painting, Basketball

COLLEGE & CAREER GOALS:

Attend UMass Lowell or Amherst, major in Art & Psychology, and be an art therapist.

FAMILY: Lives at home with mom, younger brother & sister (sister attends KIPP).



ALUMNI SHOUTOUT - PERSEVERANCE

A member of KAL's founding class, John Cordova is now a senior at Salem Academy Charter school and is currently in the midst of applying to college, but he has never strayed far from KIPP; he participates in the CHAMPS alumni program, was a mentor for the 9th grade class at KAL Collegiate, and shows self-reflection and humility when talking about the ways KIPP has helped him. School counselor Joan Stein calls him "an amazing young man who always puts others before himself." She continues, "When I think of John, I think of resiliency. He has had his share of adversity but his positive attitude and motivation to be successful has always guided him through the most difficult of days. He is inspiration to me and reminds me of why I chose to be a school counselor." Says Cordova, "I want to be an art therapist because it's my need and my duty to help people the way others have helped me."

What did you first think about KIPP and how did your opinion change? When I first got here, I was a delinquent; I never followed the rules and I messed up a lot. It took me a while to come around, but no matter what, KIPP never gave up on me. That's how I developed such a good relationship with Mr. Zoia, who has been like a father-figure for me, and Ms. Stein, who is like an older sister. They helped me learn to build relationships with other teachers and kids, which I've been able to do at my high school too. Now, I still come to KIPP a lot for [the] CHAMPS [alumni program] (Ms. Rosado never lets me quit.) When I need help I know I don't have to search for it. It's right here at KIPP.

Do you ever give advice to your younger siblings? I can give them advice, but it won't mean anything - they have to learn it for themselves. What I *can* do is show them - by going to college myself - that it is possible, and we can *all* go to college.

VOLUNTEER SHOUTOUT - COMMUNITY

The employees of the Turboshift/Turboprop division at the General Electric Aviation plant Lynn are engineers, scientists, attorneys, military personnel, interns, and more. But one thing that unites them is their collective commitment to volunteering at KIPP, and their excitement for igniting a passion for science and engineering in our kids. In addition to their generous financial support, they are star volunteers. You name the project, and GE volunteers are there. Each year they act as judges for the 7th grade science fair, accompany KIPPsters on a field trip to test water quality at King's beach in Lynn, and host a field trip to the plant for a tour, hands-on demonstrations, and discussions on everything from building engines to careers. Additionally, they help wherever the need is greatest, from painting walls to dropping in to offer homework help. Says science teacher Jennifer Startek, who has worked with GE from the start of the partnership, "The volunteers from GE have been instrumental in making science *real* for our students, and they've inspired our kids to become more involved in science, engineering, and technology." Says Ron Hutter, who spearheads the partnership from GE's side, "We love working with the KIPP kids because they are energetic, inquisitive and eager to learn, and always exhibit incredible discipline and manners. We have fun and learn as much as the kids do, so it's a huge win-win for everyone."

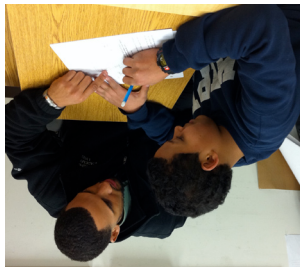
GENERAL ELECTRIC



GE volunteer historian Dave Carpenter uses a hairdryer & pinwheel to show KIPPsters how a wind turbine works.



KIPP Massachusetts
25 Bessom Street
Lynn, MA 01902



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Visit www.kippma.org/teach

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