



together *Juntos*

The quarterly newsletter of KIPP Massachusetts



Winter 2012-13

FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CALEB DOLAN

Dear Friends,

As we publish this edition of *Juntos*, the country is still reeling from the tragic events in Newtown, CT. We honor the courage and resilience of those teachers, students, and families in the face of unimaginable tragedy.

We are grateful to serve over 40,000 KIPPsters in 125 KIPP schools across the country and reminded of the deep trust our families place in us. They expect us to teach children how to read, how to fill out college applications, how to show gratitude and compassion - and perhaps most importantly - how to remain optimistic in a world that often feels terrifying. From their very first days at KIPP, we impress upon our students that being part of KIPP means being part of our Team & Family and in many ways, a team and a family are one and the same. Families support each other through good and bad times, as teams help each other celebrate victories and built grit together through their losses.

At KIPP:MA, we believe that teaching doesn't stop at the classroom door, and our students are not just the thirty kids in front of us. We all take responsibility for the academic and social progress for all KIPPsters. Every member of the KIPP staff and faculty has a part in modeling character for our students in the hallways, the lunch room, at sporting events, and out in the community. In this issue, you'll meet father/son duo Duane and Ken McClendon, fifth-grade reading teacher, Eveleen Hsu and local Lynn business owner and philanthropist Robert Rothbard who are great examples of how teamwork exists in different ways around our KIPPsters.

For a project this fall, we asked students what they are thankful for at KIPP. We received responses such as "teachers care about me and treat me like family" and "having someone I can talk to if I feel unsafe." These responses indicate the feeling of community in our schools. This sense of community will be ever-important as we grow from today serving over 600 students in Lynn and Boston to 2,100 in 5 schools by 2020.

As part of the KIPP Team and Family - we encourage you to come visit one of our schools in the new year.

Many thanks and much love,



Executive Director Caleb Dolan with
KALC students Marcos and Briana

Team:
a group of players
coming together to
achieve a common goal

Family:
a social unit consisting of
one or more adults
together with the
children they care
for



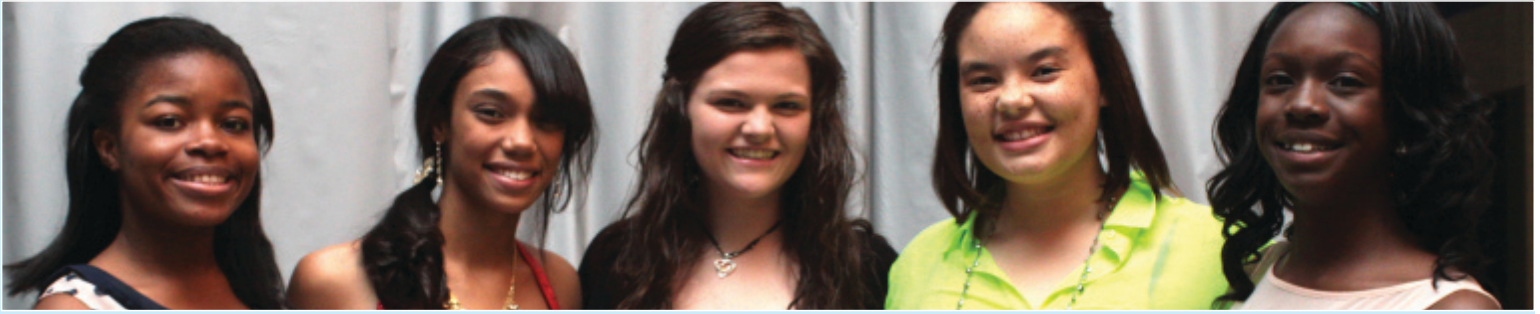
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In Memory

In October, the KIPP:MA family experienced a tragic loss with the death of custodian Demeko Seals. Demeko, who

brought joy and music into the lives of all those he encountered, will forever be a part of KIPP. He truly believed in the KIPPsters he helped and encouraged on a daily basis and embodied the spirit of "team and family".

"If we continue to support each other and work as one unit, we will achieve our goals."

— Demeko Seals

August 7, 1976 - October 17, 2012

Event Recap

October:

- Hispanic heritage month- KIPP students, staff and community members engaged in events celebrating the rich culture and history of Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, the Caribbean and other Hispanic nations. Festivities included salsa and bachata dance classes, a trivia night, and culminated in a feast of cultural delicacies.

- Student council planned and held KIPP Academy Lynn's first annual Homecoming Dance the theme of which was "Once in a Blue Moon".

November:

- Election Songfest - KAL KIPPsters engaged in an open discourse with Brendan Crighton, Lynn City Councilor, during an election-themed Songfest. KAL held a mock election which stressed the importance of voting and required KIPPsters to take time out recess to "register" to vote.

December:

- Winter Performance - KAL elective classes (step team, cheerleaders, and music) performed and showcased their many talents.

- Family night at KAB- This evening focused on celebrating student growth accomplishments as well as featuring a musical performance by all 5th graders.

*What does
Team & Family
mean to you?*

*Send us a tweet
about your team
and family
@KIPPMA,
#team&family
and your message
may appear in
our spring
edition of Juntos!*

First KALC Student Council off to a Solid Start

The 2012/13 school year marks the first in which KALC has had a formal student council. The group, led by president elect Jose Valera, has done much already to add to the school's sense of community. "We're a 'family'", responded councilmember Mariana Chacon when asked if student council was more like a team than a family, "We'll argue but we also function well together." One point of pride for the eight student team is helping to promote culture within the school as well as KALC's values of Courage, Grit, Zest, Team & Family and Excellence.

"We try to make everyone feel included. We make signs that recognize people's birthdays, remind people of sports games and times and decorate our athlete's lockers." said Alex Huffman. The group can already claim several victories: hosting the first school dance at the new 90 High Rock Campus, raising funds for the purchase of a KALC Panther mascot costume and hosting a movie night where students, staff and community members gathered to enjoy an evening together. Their long-term goal is to plan events and fundraisers that will become traditions for the school. Currently, student council is raising money for a vending machine in the high school wing to be filled with healthy snacks.



Back: Nick, Jose, Michael, Anaidys, Alex
Front: Ann, Mariana, Jennifer

www.kippma.org • 781.598.1609
To make a donation, visit www.kippma.org/donate

Applications for the KIPP:MA lottery will be available in schools and online beginning January 15, 2013



Katie Monroe and Taylor N.

The strength of The Pride is the lion; the strength of the lion is The Pride



KIPP Academy Boston: The Proud Pride

At KIPP Academy Boston (KAB), students and teachers refer to themselves collectively as “The Pride,” (“pride” holding the dual-meaning of a family of lions as well as the feeling of self-worth and place in a community). “Pride Time” is a weekly gathering for KAB students to celebrate their successes, or, conversely, take ownership of any missteps they have made during the past week. “This allows their teammates to be aware of what each student is focusing on so they can all do what is needed to support him or her as a group.” said Katie Monroe, KAB School Counselor.

Students also develop a sense of team and family through advisory groups. Each cohort is made up of 8-10 students who work as a unit throughout the year. “We have inter-advisory competitions which the students all get very excited about, but it also allows us to teach lessons about the right way to win and lose which strengthens The Pride as a whole. Now that we are about halfway through the year, it’s great to see how closely knit the teams are becoming,” said Monroe.

Teachers in The Pride take great care to make their KIPPsters aware that everyone contributes to the group in a different way. “The Goldfish experiment was something we conducted in the fall in which two specifically selected students (one short and one tall) were asked to reach a bag of goldfish crackers that had been taped high on the wall.” explained KAB science teacher, Ryan Weaver. When one student was able to achieve the task while the other could not without a chair, the KAB teachers used this as an opportunity to illustrate how everyone has different needs, even when they are working toward a common goal.

KIPP is now hiring! Become a KIPP Teacher and join our Team & Family!

If you or someone you know is interested in growing with us as we expand to 5 schools by 2020, visit us online at:

<http://kippma.org/teach.php>

Here you will get a glimpse into the lives of three KIPP:MA teachers and can apply for an opportunity to begin changing lives.



Fernando Acosta
KIPP Academy Boston



Damian Ramsey
KIPP Academy Lynn Collegiate



Melissa Savage
KIPP Academy Lynn

What if you were surrounded by people who believe that all children have unlimited potential?

What if you developed strength of character alongside academics?

What if your development was as important as the children you all teach?

“KIPP Cousins” and National Partners Help Support KIPP:MA Alumni *To and Through College*

The end of 2012 brought with it KIPP’s 19th and 20th national college partnerships adding Georgetown and Trinity Washington University to the network of advocates dedicated to helping KIPP alumni *to and through college*. Other Universities such as Brown, Tulane, and Duke have partnered with KIPP and KIPP Through College by pledging to increase recruitment at KIPP schools across the country. Beyond partnering at an external level with college and universities, the internal KIPP Through College (KTC) network supports and assists “KIPP cousins” who may leave home to pursue their college degrees.



Rachel Espailat experienced this network firsthand when she traveled to New Orleans, LA to attend Loyola University. “One of my really close friends [at Loyola] went to KIPP Delta in Arkansas. I just saw her wearing a KIPP shirt and said ‘Hey! I went to KIPP, too!’” Espailat, who is studying Mass Communications, attended KAL through 8th grade before going to Cristo Rey Boston for high school. She noted that Loyola has meetings at the beginning of each year for KIPP alumni attending the school so they get to know people on the campus. “Team and family is at the core

of KTC,” said Alexis Rosado, Director of KIPP:MA’s KTC program. “We complete the promise of helping our students *through* college, and we can’t do that without having strong relationships with both our students and their families.”

Panther Athletics: A Team and Family Effort

For father-and-son duo Ken and Duane McClendon, working together to coach the Varsity KIPP Academy Lynn Collegiate basketball team is no sweat. “I coached my sons for years when they were younger,” said Ken. Athletics are something which have played a big role in the lives of both men. In the 1970’s attending George Washington High School in Denver, Colorado, Ken set and held the national high school triple jump record from 1974 to 1988. He went on to qualify for the Olympic trials for the 1980 games but due to the boycott that year, was unable to move forward on that path. “I grew up in a tough, urban neighborhood but between my mother and being involved in athletics I stayed on track.”



A founding staff member of KIPP Academy Lynn Collegiate, Duane originally joined the KIPP family in Houston at KIPP DREAM prep after graduating from Arizona State University. Ken and Duane hope that they can impart the same value for athletics and academics to the 2012/13 Panthers. “They are out there practicing at 5:30 in the morning, and attendance has been very good. That’s grit,” said Duane.

Duane McClendon is the KALC Athletic Director and Ken McClendon serves as custodian for our 90 High Rock Campus.

2013 Basketball Home Game Schedules

Come support our KIPPsters!
For complete schedules visit us at
www.kippma.org

KALC Girls (Varsity)

Date	Opponent
1/4	Edward M. Kennedy
1/11	South Shore
1/18	Phoenix Charter
1/25	Salem Academy
1/28	Marblehead (JVG)
2/2	KIPP NY (HS, MS)
2/4	The Pingree School
2/9	Academy of the Pacific Rim
2/11	Marblehead (JVG)
2/16	MATCH
3/1	Boston Collegiate

KALC Boys (Varsity)

Date	Opponent
1/4	Edward M. Kennedy
1/11	South Shore
1/18	Phoenix Charter
1/25	Salem Academy
1/28	Marblehead (jvb)
2/2	KIPP NY
2/9	Academy of the Pacific Rim
2/11	Marblehead (JVB)
2/16	MATCH
3/1	Boston Collegiate

KALC Girls (JV)

Date	Opponent
2/2	KIPP:NY
2/27	Codman Academy
2/28	Prospect Hill

KALC Boys (JV)

Date	Opponent
1/23	Community Charter
2/2	KIPP:NY
2/6	MATCH
2/27	Codman Academy
2/28	Prospect Hill

KAL Boys and Girls (Varsity)

Date	Opponent
1/8	Breed
1/10	PHA
1/15	Community Day
1/17	Marblehead
1/22	Pioneer
2/2	KIPP NYC
2/7	Salem
2/13	Excel

KAL Boys and Girls (JV)

Date	Opponent
1/7	Smith

Do Now: Match the KIPP value with the correct definition

1. COURAGE
2. GRIT
3. EXCELLENCE
4. PERSEVERENCE

- A. Never giving up; continuing to try with faith that noble actions produce good results
- B. Taking risks even when we are afraid; standing up for ourselves, our values and our fellow human beings
- C. Determination in all things that we do, giving it everything that we have and never settling for less than our best
- D. Commitment to high-quality performance, and outstanding results

Answers: 1.B 2.C 3.D 4.A

Teamwork at KIPP Academy Lynn and Across the KIPP Network



A common misconception about KIPP is that students go through preliminary testing to selectively admit students with strong academic backgrounds. This is not the case, as the only prerequisites to admission are being in a grade served by KIPP and being chosen through the lottery system. Academically, upon entering KIPP, our students match the profiles of those found in Lynn and Boston public schools. Many students are below the grade level proficiency expected by Massachusetts when they begin fifth grade at KIPP. However, the team of fifth grade teacher, led by Hsu, is working diligently to bring KIPPsters up to speed. Hsu, who saw a significant 16-point gain in the MCAS Reading scores of her students last year, was recently selected for KIPP's Miles Family Fellow which allows teachers to hone the leadership skills necessary to open their own KIPP schools. Below, she speaks to the successes of teamwork at KIPP:

How does the fifth grade work together as a team to ensure the success of the students?

I really consider the 5th grade team to be a team and family because we work together toward one common goal: doing what is best for the kids. In many of the decisions and actions that we take on a daily basis, we try to align our high expectations and values which stem from the belief that all kids will learn and grow. This alignment on a common goal and belief enables us to create classroom environments highly focused on learning (and the joy of learning!)

How do you feel programs like the Miles Family Fellowship influences Team and Family within the KIPP network?

I am very grateful for programs like the Miles Family Fellowship! They help educators develop their leadership skills so that they can maximize their impact on working with others to help drive student results and create better outcomes for our kids and families. KIPP invests heavily in teachers which I appreciate, and this investment creates a ripple effect on building and sustaining quality schools. One classroom alone cannot be the only source of change in our schools and communities. It really does take a "whole village" to raise our kids, and programs like the Miles Family Fellowship helps people and schools extend their impact.

We sat down with local Lynn businessman and philanthropist Robert Rothbard to discuss why he and his family are part of the KIPP Team

How were you initially introduced to KIPP?

Several years ago, we had a very bright employee here who was also a single mother. One day, her daughter was in the office working on homework at a table near her mother's desk. I went over to say 'hello' because both of my sons were about the same age and the little girl stood up, looked me right in the eye, shook my hand and introduced herself. I noticed the math she was working on was the same as what my sons were doing at their school so asked what school she attended to which she replied "KIPP Academy." I was taken with her behavior and her attitude really impressed me.

Why did you decide to get involved with our school?

Not more than six weeks after meeting the little girl, I ran into a friend of our family, Kelly Rigby, who mentioned she was volunteering at a local school, which turned out to be KIPP. She invited my wife and me to an open house, and a week later I met Josh [Zoia] and a few of the kids from the school. We later went in for a tour (back when they were at the church in the trailers) where we spent an hour and a half observing. It was great to see the methodology and Josh's enthusiasm, and we realized there can't be a better place to make an impact.

In your opinion, why is fostering a sense of "team and family" in our school important to the community?

Within our own family, Evelyn and I see how important it is for our sons to be involved with philanthropy and giving back to the community. This is something we all value. I was raised in Lynn; I went to Lynn schools so I know what it's like here. If you think 20 years into the future, if even 5 or 10 percent of KIPP students went on to graduate college and came back to Lynn, they could be running the community. They could be voting their classmates into office and really have the opportunity to make changes.



Robert and Evelyn Rothbard with sons Aaron and Alex

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- Find out about the many ways Team & Family exist for KIPP:MA
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- Test your KIPP knowledge

In this issue...



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