



Winter 2015

A message from our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

We hope you and your family had a glorious holiday season. In the true spirit of giving our KIPP community came together in December to support the victims of the Bruce Place fire in Lynn.

As we begin the New Year we congratulate our KIPP Academy Lynn Collegiate high school seniors, class of 2016, who, as of December, submitted over 1,000 college applications. We are incredibly proud of the rigor with which our students and college counselors tackled the college match and application process. Right before our holiday break, we were notified that four of our students received early decision acceptances, Jefferson Prakob to Brown University, Edivan Solano to Duke University, Jassy Kim to Davidson College and Corinne Jean Gilles to Union College. Brown, Duke and Davidson are all KIPP partner schools. Corinne joins Jose Valera and Anaidys Uribe, last year’s scholars, as recipient of the Posse Foundation Scholarship, a four-year, full-tuition scholarship that awards students with extraordinary academic and leadership potential. In 2015, Posse received more than 17,000 nominations for 720 scholarship slots. We will continue to celebrate many other acceptances this spring as well as deferments and rejection letters as they are a testament to our student’s character in applying to reach schools.

As the class of 2016 thinks about beginning their college career, our founding class of KIPP Academy Lynn middle school 5th graders, KIPP Lynn class of 2012, will be graduating college. We estimate that 35% of these students will graduate from four year colleges, four times the national average of their peers. As our first KIPP: MA college graduates, this group of leaders and their families continue to pave the way for all KIPPsters who follow them.

While this edition focuses on students learning outside the classroom, new milestones are reached each day by our students inside the classroom. This year for the first time KIPP:MA made the commitment to implement the PARCC (Partnership for Assessment for College and Career) test. Over 70% of our KIPP Lynn middle schoolers met or exceeded expectations in ELA and Math. This was some of the highest growth and achievement in the nation’s best charter sector.

As we continue to build a K-12 education in Lynn and Boston we stand side by side with our families in advocating for choice in education for all families in MA. Our families have shown incredible commitment and GRIT to ensure their voices are heard by attending rallies, public hearings and evening meetings, making time around their work schedules. It is a privilege to work alongside our parents in the struggle to make social change.

If you haven’t visited one of our five schools lately, please visit with us so you can see firsthand the academic rigor and joy in our classrooms. We look forward to continuing to share with you lessons learned as the year progresses and wish you all a happy and healthy new year!

Many thanks, much love,

Caleb Dolan  
Executive Director



*“We need to make sure that these schools — these great schools — are available to everyone across Massachusetts.”*

Lieutenant Governor,  
Karyn Polito

A Tribute to Carolyn Lynch  
(1946-2015)

*“Discover where your passion lies. Act on it. And you will accomplish great things.”*  
- Carolyn A. Lynch

In 2010, when KIPP Academy Lynn was one middle school serving 373 students, Carolyn and The Lynch Foundation generously invested in building our flagship High Rock campus in Lynn and in our growth plan to serve 2,500 in Lynn and Boston by 2020. When Carolyn visited our schools, she did so with great enthusiasm and engaged with every student she met. We were deeply honored when she invited the KIPP Academy Lynn Collegiate’s Step team to be included in the Lynch Foundation’s 25th anniversary celebration in 2013, creating an exciting opportunity for our students to be recognized for their hard work outside the classroom.



*“We are incredibly grateful to Carolyn for her belief in our KIPPsters and in all children. While she will be greatly missed, her commitment to education, legacy and kind spirit will live on in our KIPP:MA Lynn and Boston schools.”*  
-- Caleb Dolan

Follow more KIPP stories on KIPP Massachusetts, @KIPPMASchools and Instagram at KIPPMMA



Help KIPP:MA save money and go green! If you would like to opt in, please email kreynolds@kippma.org to be added to our e-newsletter list.

Experiencing Joyful Learning Through Vivaldi’s Music



This fall, Performing Arts Teacher, Linda Rae Krov’s, KIPP Academy Boston Elementary (KABE) Kindergarten art class students connected the music of the composer of the month, Antonio Vivaldi, and one of his pieces, the Four Seasons, with the natural world. The class read a book about Vivaldi’s life in one class, and in a separate class, talked about why leaves change colors and how the music matches the change in the seasons. The Kindergarteners learned about every piece of the painting starting with the trunk then added in each of the colored leaves in phases to create their own compositions. Combining art and music in this way inspires students, through joyful learning, to see their world in a new way by interpreting the music through their own eyes and expressing this through watercolor painting.

Studying Steinbeck in Salinas Valley, California

KIPP volunteer John Kane and KALC teacher, Jennifer Stocklin, traveled with their KALC reading club students, Ann Pyram, Precious Parker, and Daniel Santos, to California to visit author, John Steinbeck’s, home and experience the places that inspired the writing of many of his books. They started their adventure in San Leandro, CA visiting KIPP King High School, and attended AP and other classes, then traveled onto Salinas Valley, CA. The students earned this trip by reading three Steinbeck short novels and discussing them in depth over the summer. They toured Steinbeck’s home then drove to the farm where Ms. Stocklin read *East of Eden* to the students. The next day they visited Monterey where they learned about many of the mulit-faceted characters in the depression era based book *Cannery Row* including Ed Ricketts, Steinbeck’s friend and model for Doc, the main character in the book. They rounded out the trip with a visit and tour of Stanford University.



Learning Through SEAing (Sports, Engineering and Arts)



The heart of KIPP’s mission has always been helping students develop character and academic skills for success in college and life. That kind of growth can only happen with great teaching and remarkable instructional support for teachers and leaders. Activities at KALE cultivate curiosity and creativity; model excellence in what we display to the kids and how we do something, whether it’s a visual product, a chant/song, or a movement. KALE’s SEA program integrates learning through sports, engineering and arts programs.

*“Children need a place where they will learn and thrive together with their needs and strengths accounted for by adults who are not only masterful in teaching and cultivating rigorous and joyful classroom environments, but who will also not give up on them.”*  
- Eveleen Hsu, KALE School Leader

KIPP Academy Lynn (KAL) Middle Schoolers  
Visit Phillips Andover Academy to Meet Author Julia Alvarez

KIPP Academy Lynn middle school students visited Phillips Andover Academy on October 21 to meet and listen to award-winning writer and Andover alumna, Julia Alvarez ‘67, author and poet, who spent the first 10 years of her life in the Dominican Republic. In 1994 she published the historical novel, *In the Time of the Butterflies*, her second novel, which sold over 250,000 copies. Alvarez spoke about how she uses storytelling to share anecdotes of her family and her native country and to raise awareness of humanitarian causes. Many of Alvarez’ books focus on assimilation, preservation of culture and identity about which many KIPP students can relate. KIPP students and teachers made a huge impact on the other 100+ people in the room with their thoughtful, inspiring and intellectually stimulating questions. Each question flowed organically from Ms. Alvarez’ talk and reflected each student’s engagement with her story and her ideas.



The Case for Raising the Cap and Advocating for a High School for KIPP Academy Boston (KAB) Students



On November 18, over 400 KIPP Lynn and KIPP Boston families and staff, along with over 1,000 supporters from around Greater Boston, attended the Education Rally for Great Schools at the State House.

Together, Charter school supporters gathered to ask the Senate to pass a bill that answers to the needs of 37,000 children currently on public charter school waitlists. The rally was an educational opportunity for KIPP 8th grade students to learn about the democratic process in action, advocacy work and standing for their civil rights as U.S. citizens.

Participants at the rally, including KIPP, Brooke Charter School, Bridge Boston, Boston Prep, Boston Renaissance, Dorchester Collegiate, City on a Hill, Conservatory, Davis Leadership Academy, Dorchester Collegiate, Excel Academy, Lowell Community Charter, Lawrence Community Day, Match, NHCS, Phoenix, Roxbury Prep and Veritas, led by Lieutenant Governor, Karyn Polito, marched to the State House where family speakers shared their children’s educational experiences.

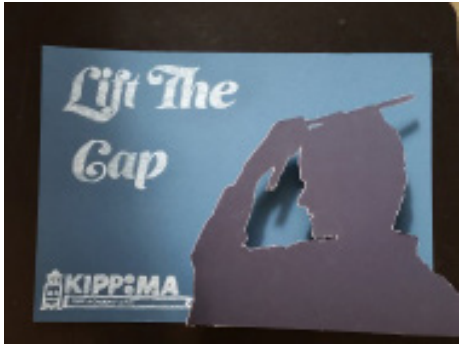
The Rally was a call to support Gov. Charlie Baker’s Charter Cap Lift legislation presented at a hearing at the State House on October 13. *“Kids can’t wait. Every single child in the state of Massachusetts deserves a great public school education regardless of zip code”* said Nikki Barnes, School Leader at KIPP Massachusetts who emceed the event. Data shows that low-income students make up 85% (over 65,000 students) of all children who attend failing schools, while 71% (over 55,000 students) of students in failing schools are African-American or Latino. *“KIPP was the beginning of making something of my life”* shared Justin Fenton, KIPP Academy Lynn Collegiate.

This call to action came at a crucial time for KIPP Boston where 72 8th graders are currently without a KIPP high school. Though facing some particularly strong opposition to raising the cap, KIPP’s charter proposal, if approved, will allow KIPP to provide a full K-12 education to students in Boston, like the K-12 program now available to students and families in Lynn. Audrey Miller mother of Daniel and Priscilla, both 8th graders, shared *“At KIPP Boston the difference is that they have dream carriers---people who are willing to help parents help carry their children’s dreams.”*

Garshae Mowatt-McKenzie, KIPP Academy Boston 8th grader, shared *“When I found out KIPP wasn’t having a high school in Boston, I was devastated. Even though I want to go to an exam school, I still needed KIPP as an equal opportunity just in case I didn’t make it. With the neighborhood I grew up in, I take a long look at my peers and I realize they don’t have the opportunity I do to even apply for an exam school. They need KIPP for a shot at a better future.”*



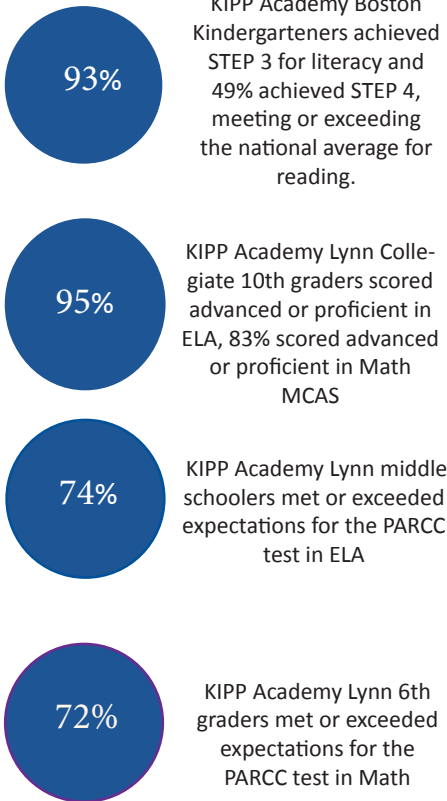
Rendering of new  
KIPP Academy Boston K-8 school in Mattapan



Artwork created by students,  
Khalid Al Mharib and Murtada Mahmood

Six Essential Questions:  
Are our children progressing and achieving academically ?

At KIPP, we are reminded that behind the numbers are stories of unwavering effort on the part of our KIPPsters, families, teachers, and leaders to achieve substantial progress. We recognize that most of our students need to make more than one year’s growth to climb to college-readiness levels. This year KIPP: MA Kindergarteners achieved amazing STEP results and for our Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers, we committed one year earlier than required by the state by introducing PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career) because we believe it is a more rigorous predictor of college readiness. In this edition of Juntos, to show our student’s significant growth in all academic areas, we spotlight **Question 3: Are our students progressing and achieving academically ?**



More results for KIPP:MA students can be found online at [www.kippma.org/about/results/](http://www.kippma.org/about/results/)