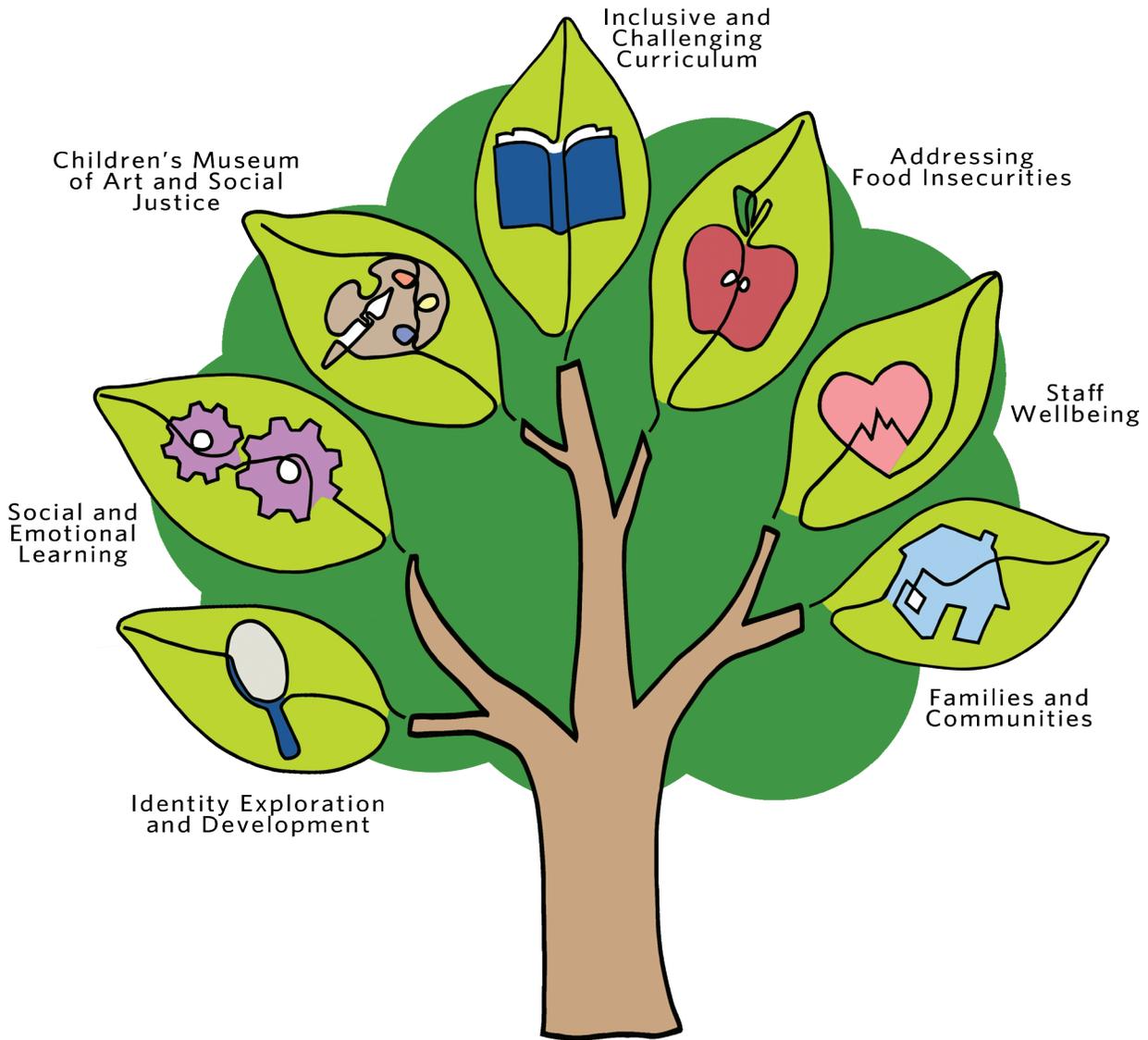


THE WHOLE CHILD REVIEW

ISSUE NO. 6 SPRING EDITION



KIPP:CHICAGO

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

THE WHOLE CHILD REVIEW

IN THIS ISSUE

LETTER	1
INCREASING FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS	3
EMBRACING INCLUSIVE AND CHALLENGING CURRICULUM	6
SHARING RESOURCES FROM OUR CMASJ	7
INTEGRATING SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL)	9
CULTIVATING IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES	11
ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITIES	17
ENHANCING TEACHER WELLBEING	18
KTC	20



Dear KIPP Chicago Community,

I hope you're taking and giving good care. On April 19th, for the first time in over a year, we opened our school doors to welcome back students. After a year of severe disruption, I am so heartened by the reciprocal joy seen and felt between staff, students and families.

Recognizing the many challenges of teaching remotely, I have witnessed unqualified resilience and brilliance at each campus as staff, students, and families navigate the logistics of safely transitioning students to hybrid learning. I have so much gratitude for our teachers who work hard each day to simultaneously engage students in-person and at home and am equally thankful for the operations teams who worked for months to prepare our buildings and ensure our team and family could meet this moment with ease, dignity, and confidence.

In this edition of the Whole Child Review, I encourage you to carefully read about the meaningful progress we have made with all 7 priorities. Three things I am excited about and want to emphasize are: the intentional support being provided to students through our SEL priority, the robust work being done under the priority of Cultivating Identity Development Practices, and the powerful Wellness Wednesday event entitled, Black Fathers, Mental Health, and Critical Thinking. I am also happy to share several staff features throughout this Review.

In gratitude, community, and health
April



21st Century Grant

In December 2020, KIPP Chicago was awarded the Illinois State Board of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Center grant. The purpose of the grant is to support schools and organizations' efforts to offer students extended learning opportunities. Utilizing 21st Century funds, each one of our K-8 schools is providing academically focused programs, clubs, fine arts, science technology engineering and math (STEM), mentoring, college access support, sports, and other enriching programming during the day and for after-school programming. We are also engaging families and community members in adult education courses in order to transform our campuses into learning hubs for the whole family. The 21st Century grant is a five-year commitment that will support KIPP Chicago's campuses through the 2024 - 2025 school year. Currently, the grant is funding the enrichment and mentorship programs in schools.

As part of our 4th quarter school plan, 40 minute enrichment periods were added to all K-8 students' days. Enrichment classes are being taught by school-based staff and topics range from robotics to watercolor exploration to dance. Enrichment time was designed to offer students a creative and social-emotional reprieve during the school day. Check out the engineering work with Ms. Parker (KIPP One Academy) and the rock painting to spread positivity with Ms. Gates (KIPP Academy Chicago).



KIPP Chicago On-Site Mentors are supporting the academic and social-emotional growth of primary and middle school students. The Mentors, comprised of KIPP alumni, parents, and community members, are in schools supporting teachers' efforts to provide a positive hybrid learning experience. They ensure that students are fully engaged in learning by providing additional support in classrooms. Mentors are also providing academic tutoring for students in one-on-one and small group settings.

3 *"She's incredible. We wouldn't be able to provide this quality of an experience for kids without her." - Danni Quider, Assistant Principal, KIPP Ascend Primary on Diamond Peeples*



Monthly workshop series for KIPP families

We dedicated this year to holistic health and wellbeing for KIPP families. Each month centered on a wellness theme to be discussed in weekly workshops. The intention was that each workshop series would elevate, educate, and enhance our families' wellbeing. By the end of the school year, we hope that our families will have resources and new information to support their mental health, physical health, and economic health.

The months of **January and February** highlighted food nutrition which included cooking demos. Our community partner was [Erie Neighborhood House](#). In February, families cooked sweet potato quesadillas, banana splits, and apple nachos. The workshops included a 45-min presentation for healthy options, food groups, reading nutrition labels, the dangers of sugars and food coloring, and portion control. Following the presentation, families learned how to cook tasty heart healthy meals.



Desayuno de Banana Split

Ingredientes:
 1 banana
 ½ taza de yogurt natural, bajo en grasa (plain and fat free)
 ¼ de taza de blueberries
 ¼ de taza de fresas en rebanadas
 ¼ de taza de granola

Preparación:
 1. Semi congele el yogurt griego hasta que este firme (aproximadamente 3 horas), pero no congelado.
 2. Pelar y partir las bananas por la mitad y a lo largo
 3. Agregue 2 cucharadas de yogurt semi-congelado sobre la banana
 4. Acompañelos con las, fresas, berries y la granola

UNIDOSUS
 Walmart Foundation
 ERIE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE
 HEALTH LEADERSHIP

RUSH
 Excellence is just the beginning.

Mental Health Workshops for KIPP Parents

In partnership with:

 KIPP:CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Rush School Based Health Center is here to help parents and caregivers best support their children and take care of themselves.

Free Workshops Hosted by Rush Social Workers

Thurs March 11 th 8-9pm	Grief and Loss
Thurs March 18 th 8-9pm	Supporting Your Child's Mental Health Needs
Thurs March 25 th 8-9pm	Supporting LGBTQ Youth

How do I register for the workshops?
 Join our virtual sessions (same for each date)
 PASSCODE: 349844
 Please complete the [link] before March 11th.

KIPP:CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Driving financial empowerment through online educational events!

KIPP Chicago in partnership with Fifth Third Bank will be providing a series of virtual financial literacy classes during Money Smart Month, in April. This virtual series is part of the eBus program in which it offers four online financial empowerment classes that will empower you to design a more stable financial future and provide the knowledge you need to help turn your life around. Some of the topics include Budgeting & Saving Money, improving your Credit and Protecting Your Identity.

This virtual series will be offered on **Thursdays from 5pm to 8pm**. Click the link below for additional information.

Step 1: Instructions to the Zoom Meetings:
 Click below on the dates you'd like to join
 Meeting ID: 825 6906 1987 Passcode: 428539

Thursday, April 8 th	Financial Checkup 101
Thursday, April 15 th	Savings and Budgeting
Thursday, April 22 nd	Protecting Your Identity
Thursday, April 29 th	Boosting Your Credit Score

*If using your smart phone, download the Zoom app from Google Play, iTunes or the App Store.

For more information, contact Jennifer Hodges at jhodges@kippchicago.org or David Klein at David.Klein@k3.com

The Fifth Third Virtual eBus, "a new vehicle for driving financial empowerment into your community!"

KIPP:CHICAGO WINSTON & STRAWN
PUBLIC SCHOOLS LLP

May Family Wellness Workshop

KNOW YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS

THURSDAY, MAY 13TH 5PM
KNOW YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS

THURSDAY, MAY 27TH 5PM
RETURNING HOME WITH SUCCESS

THURSDAY, JUNE 3RD 5PM
CAREERS IN THE LEGAL FIELD OR WITH A RECORD

JOIN WINSTON & STRAWN LAW FIRM FOR A 3-PART WEEKLY SERIES OF LEGAL DISCUSSIONS CENTERING YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS, CAREERS FOR REENTERING SOCIETY AFTER INCARCERATION, CAREER DEVELOPMENT IF YOU HAVE A RECORD, AND CAREERS IN THE LEGAL FIELD.



The month of **May** centered legal “Know your legal rights” in partnership with Winston & Strawn we are partnered with Winston & Strawn Law Firm for a 3-part weekly series of legal discussions centering knowing your legal rights, careers for reentering society after incarceration, career development if you have a record, and careers in the legal field. Our goal for this workshop series was to offer families the tools and education they need to legally protect themselves, pursue careers in the legal field, and feel empowered to pursue new opportunities of choice.

KIPP One Primary Logo Update

School Operations Leader at KIPP One Primary, Mr. Anthony Whaley, worked with our Communications Director, Brittany Jones, to create a new logo to represent the school and its values. Mr. Whaley was passionate about including school staff and families in the process so that the final resulting logo was truly a community collaboration. The new logo was presented to founding Principal Rashid Bell, as a tribute surprise!

We’re looking forward to seeing more new branding for KIPP Chicago! Our new Director of Brand Strategy & Communications, Brittany Jones, is working hard to ensure that our schools and special programs are represented with intentional logos and branding.



Embracing an inclusive and challenging curriculum

Think Cerca

[ThinkCerca](#) is our newest partner that centers on critical analysis in writing. Cerca stands for claim, evidence, reasoning, counterargument, audience. This partnership offers our students the ability to increase their writing skills and provide the foundation for becoming the next generation of attorneys, journalists, and storytellers. We will pilot ThinkCerca in KIPP One Academy's after-school program from March through June and offer complete classroom integration Fall of 2021. This partnership will provide pathways for the integration of the 1619 curriculum in our ELA and SSC curriculum.

1619 Project Pulitzer Center Grant

We are thrilled to announce that KIPP One Academy has recently become a Project Pulitzer Center Grant recipient! This grant supports exploring critical questions around racial justice and other pressing issues and was developed by award-winning journalists and the Pulitzer Center education team. The grant supports curriculum development and professional development for teachers. We look forward to utilizing the resources of the 1619 Project to reframe how history is taught to students.



Sharing resources from our *Children's Museum of Art and Social Justice*



Coloring book project

Coloring book

Our coloring book is full of 30 + pages, all designed by a KIPP Chicago student. Check out De'Ondrea A.'s page with a message about changing the world and making an impact. Copies of the coloring book can be ordered [here](#). All proceeds from the book will help us to install identity-affirming, positive murals in our schools.

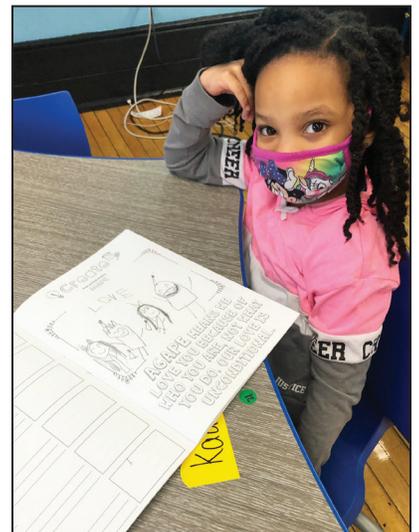
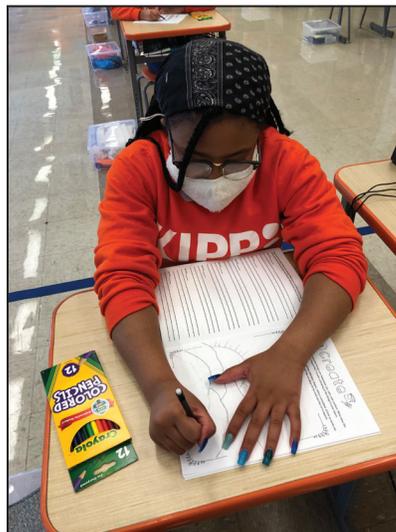
Gratitude!

With the wonderful generosity of Deborah Quazzo, Managing Partner at

GSV Ventures and friend of KIPP Chicago, 500 individuals will receive a copy of the coloring book at this year's [ASU GSV conference](#) in San Diego. KIPP Chicago looks forward to presenting at the conference in August! Thank you, Deborah, for supporting our endeavors to ensure quality arts programming for KIPP Chicago students.

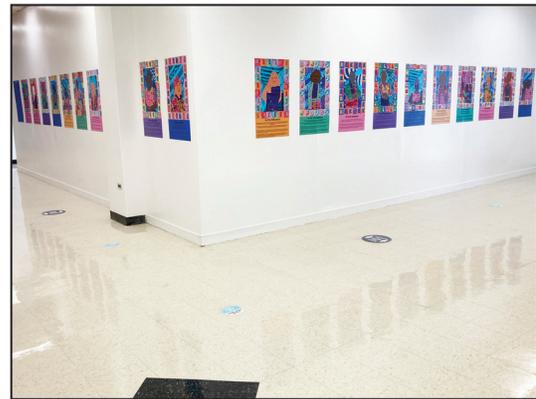
Creative Schools Fund Grants

Each year, a dedicated arts liaison from every school works with the Excellence team and School Leader to craft a \$10k grant Creative Schools Fund grant proposal to bring meaningful art programming to students. This school year, KIPP One, KIPP Academy Chicago, and KIPP Ascend Middle School were awarded the grant to carry out various forms of arts programming. The grant helped these schools hire guest artists to teach in virtual classrooms, purchase custom-made creative workbooks and art supplies for students, and hire artists to add murals to school walls.



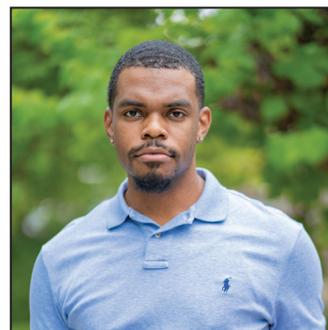
Installing CMASJ artwork in schools

As we continue to prioritize creating warm, welcoming, and affirming school environments, we believe student-created work should always be on display as much as possible. This spring, we installed our [Activist Soup portraits](#), along with the bios of each person, to create a beautiful, meaningful, permanent fixture at all of our schools! Please consider a donation to our [Go Fund Me](#) to aid in our efforts to continue installing identity-affirming imagery in schools!



Duke Engage interns

We are thrilled to be working with three students from the [DukeEngage](#) program from Duke University this summer. The vision of DukeEngage is for students and faculty to collaborate with communities, locally and globally, to address critical social issues through an immersive summer of community engagement. This summer, our three interns, Axelle Miel, Victoria Wang, and Victor Clifton, will be collaborating with our efforts to elevate the work of CMASJ. We're so excited to see what their unique backgrounds and perspectives will bring to our programming!



Integrating social and emotional learning (SEL)

Intentional SEL practices

Our schools are working to create more intentionality around students' social and emotional needs throughout the school day. In Primary schools, teachers are scheduling lots of movement breaks and guided stretches and breathing exercises. Schools are also reviewing development by grade level, noting the opportunities to adjust classroom routines accordingly. For example, learning that 4th-grade students become more interested in socializing with peers allows teachers to build more turn-and-talks into the day. Schools are also emphasizing the importance of free play and recess for our students' development as well as creating space for helping students to re-center themselves.

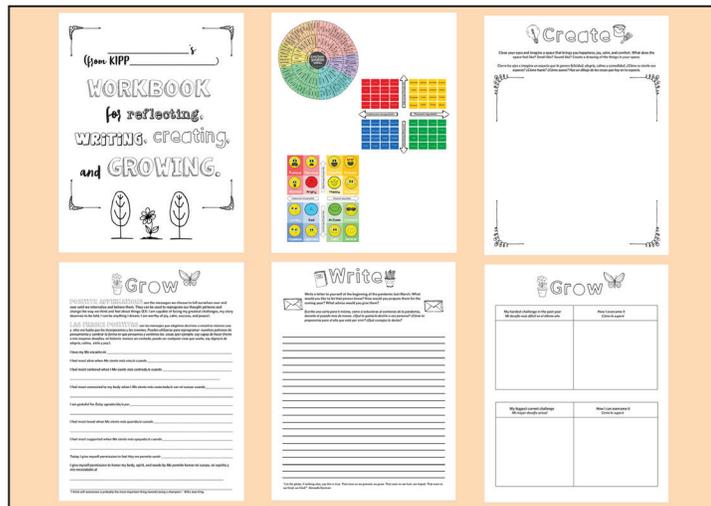
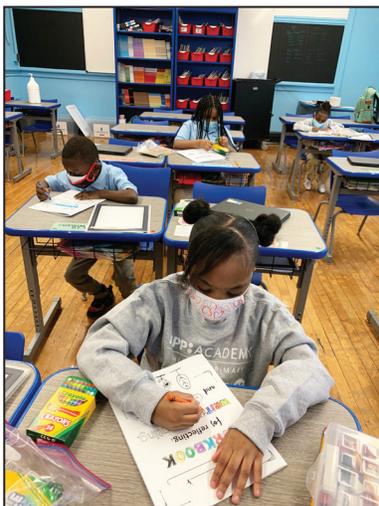


Student workbooks

Students need opportunities to process the pandemic, living in quarantine, and virtual learning for over one year. They need a space for creativity while working through coming back to in-person learning.

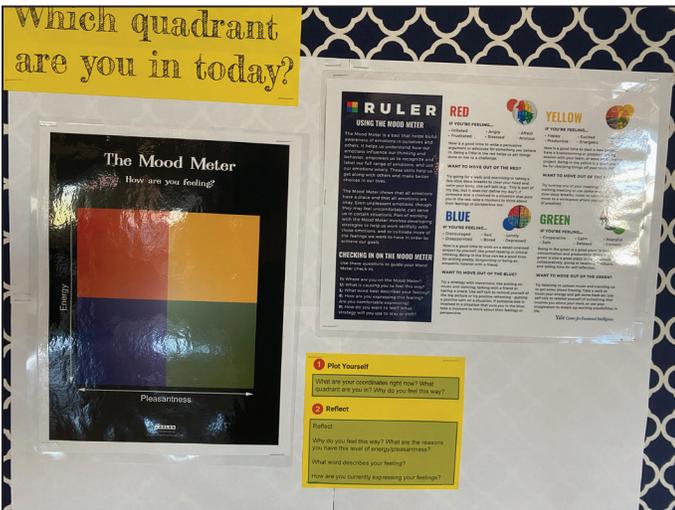
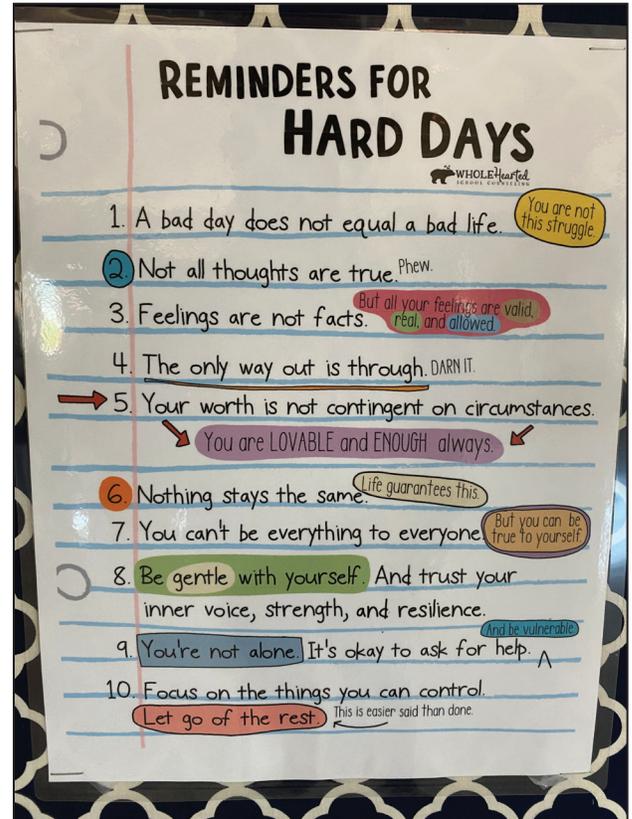
A team of teachers, social workers, administrators, and regional leaders collaborated to create a 35-page student workbook full of creative writing, poetry, coloring, drawing, and SEL activities, designed to help students reflect on and express their stories of living through a pandemic.

The workbook was designed to be a tool to open up conversations among students and teachers and provide a safe space for processing the past year. All students are utilizing this workbook in the final quarter of the school year during homeroom.



RULER progress

SEL chairs and social workers continue to train school staff on the principles of RULER, from [Yale's Center for Emotional Intelligence](#), in preparation for utilizing the structures with students next school year. KIPP Bloom College Prep SEL chair, Darlene Santos, created an area in the teachers' lounge with visual reminders of staff's commitment to social and emotional learning and growth.



Cultivating identity development practices

Black History Month celebrations

In February, KIPP Chicago celebrated Black History and championed Black futures by amplifying our KIPP community's voices and impact while looking back to celebrate movements and figures in history where African Americans inspired, thrived, and trailblazed in the face of unconscionable barriers.

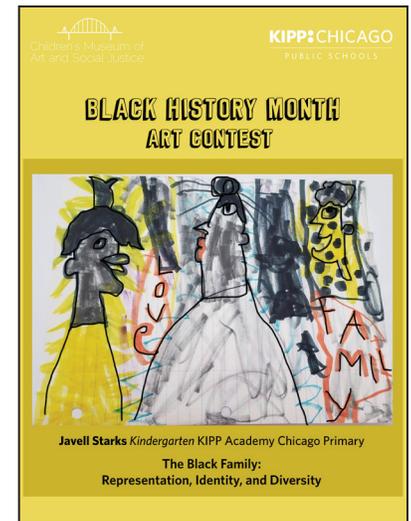
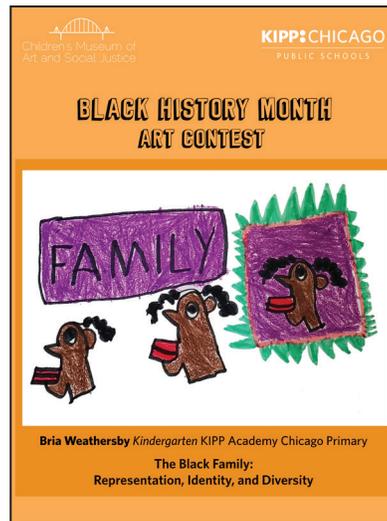
Our school-based planning committees collaborated to exchange ideas and encourage one another ahead of this month's virtual celebrations. Here are just a few examples:

The KIPP Ascend Primary K-4 Excellence team including Liz Lesinski (musical theater), Elise Thomm (visual art), Cortney Horton (PE), Jasmine Nicholson (music), and Ciara Phillips (explorations) worked with their classes to showcase examinations of Black History. The culminating [video](#) production was viewed live on Zoom for students, staff, and families to enjoy together!

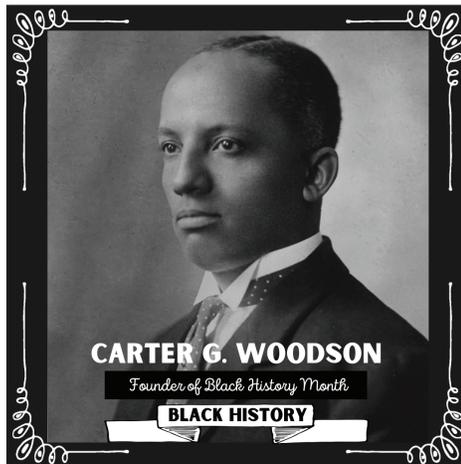


The power of storytelling and exploring our roots was central to KIPP One Academy's virtual [event](#). 5th-8th grade students were invited to interview a family member to learn more about their ancestral history and how they ended up in Chicago. Students' recorded stories were compiled into a video that students, staff, and families watched together virtually. Special thanks to the planning committee: Briana Jocelyn, Andrew Albert, and Sylvia Ibarra.

Congratulations to our Regional Black History Month art contest winners! This year's theme was "The Black Family: representation, identity, and diversity." These are two of our winners from KIPP Academy Chicago Primary! This beautiful art from Javell and Bria is now being showcased in all eight schools.



Our social media campaign featured Black History and Black Futures by highlighting people like Carter G. Woodson and Cicely Tyson and young people, Marley Dias and Tyler Gordon.



We also highlighted some of our teachers as they shared reflections on Black pride and what this month means to them. Here are just a few:



"I have traced my maternal lineage to 1849. I'm sincerely proud to know their names. As simple as this is, it is an accomplishment for African Americans to know the names of great great great grandparents and be able to trace our migration across the U.S. It's a sad reality of our story. Still, I have pride in simply knowing their names."

"My parents moved to the states after the war in Liberia. My grandma is doing research 24/7 to trace our other lineage and return to the early 1800s. It is an honor to have this information and be able to truly understand my lineage. What gives me pride is that I am able to provide students more information about Black history than I was taught in Naperville schools growing up. We are able to celebrate Black heritage through the present and the past."



"When I was younger, I remember February always being my favorite month because we would finally talk about something interesting to me in history class. I remember a feeling that I was always Black, but that wouldn't be appreciated until February. So I turned up my pride as a young child. As an adult, I find the most pride in learning about my history and culture and identifying how this impacts my daily life. Although I have learned to love and appreciate being the woman I am, I celebrate a tad bit harder in February and on Juneteenth."

McNair Website Update

Check out the new page on our website, detailing the McNair program and introducing all of the fellows! This page will showcase highlights and progress as the group engages in professional development, retreats, and other growth opportunities. We'll also continue to feature the fellows with each new edition of the Whole Child Review.

McNair Features

I want KIPP Chicago schools to be a community resource for students and families. I aspire to create a space in which parents and guardians are an inclusive part of the school's culture. My goal is to lead an initiative in which adults and kids can simultaneously enroll in extracurricular activities that engage their respective interests. I believe the McNair Fellowship will connect me with the needed stakeholders in order to fulfill this vision.

There are many historical figures whom I have much to learn from and admire fondly. The non-conformity of Frida Kahlo. The power in Audre Lorde. The resilience in Coatlicue. However, none are more personally influential than my mother. I know the highs and lows of her journey. She is my push to keep going and my first and most important inspirational figure.



Sylvia Ibarra | Managing Director of EL Student Services



Miguel Rodriguez | Assistant Principal, KIPP Bloom College Prep

I want all students to have a robust education that includes arts programming. Growing up, I was profoundly impacted by theater. It made me more engaged in school and put me on a pathway towards higher education and onto a career in education. Even today, I see the ways in which theater can move people to act, connect, and grow.

Since being at KIPP, I've been able to bring arts programming to students. I'd love to expand what we started at KIPP Bloom to all KIPP schools and the communities that we serve. I see the McNair program as the catalyst for seeing that dream come true. The fellowship is giving me the space to build skill and conceive the idea.

I'm inspired by my partner, Robbie. He not only shows me unconditional love and support, but he inspires me to be a better version of myself. Those of us in education know how difficult being an educator- especially these days. There have been many moments that I've wanted to abandon ship and move in a different direction, but Robbie reminds me of what brought me to this work. He also reminds me of my highest self. We were both raised by single, working class mothers. So having someone who reminds me of home and my values has been a saving grace while doing this work.

My aspirations in leadership are to make a meaningful impact and inspire others to reach their true potential. Knowing that I can't change the world, my leadership aspiration is to impact someone's world one person at a time. This fellowship will provide me the coaching and professional development opportunities to grow as a leader and manager. This fellowship will also grant me the opportunity to do a project of my choice to explore some of my passions. This fellowship will also allow me the opportunity to connect with other LatinX leaders from our region and the chance to build community with them. I am grateful to be a McNair Fellow and look forward to this incredible opportunity. Growing up, my mother always told me to gain an education to think and advocate for myself. She said, "you can go bankrupt, you can have nothing to your name, but the only thing no one can ever take away from you is the knowledge you gained because with an education you can recreate yourself and do anything!"



Margarita Herrera | Director of College Support, KTC

My mother is my inspiration, and role model because she immigrated into this country not knowing the language and with a peso in her pocket. Years later, she fought the Chicago Board of Education advocating for the needs of our middle school at the time - she demanded a Spanish interpreter to voice her concerns and be understood in the same language of those in charge. While my mother was in Mexico, she couldn't finish high school because she had to help my grandfather on the farm. When she was studying for her GED, I was struggling my freshman year transitioning into college. She worked really hard for several years to learn English and earn her GED, but she accomplished her ambitious goals and I couldn't be prouder. I am grateful to my mother for fighting for us to have a college degree and a better future. I am proud of her for believing in herself and my six sisters. I am eternally grateful for her sacrifices, firm commitment, and dedication to our family and herself :)

School visuals

Before welcoming students back into school buildings, the Operations teams worked hard to ensure all areas were carefully and thoughtfully updated, from fresh new paint and safety signage to installing new vinyl stickers with inspirational messages. Then, teachers and administrators got to work adding photos, artwork, and decorating bulletin boards to ensure schools are filled with identity-affirming, positive imagery.





Teacher spotlight

Asia Booth

On any given day, you can hear Asia Booth singing good morning warmly as she walks through the halls with her coffee, welcoming students and staff alike. Her classroom is a haven for students she teaches and ones she doesn't. I'm not sure if she's ever taught an entire class period without being interrupted by a student waving at her through her doorway. She insists on students taking pride in who they are and the efforts they make. She is a confidence builder, a creative genius, and a teacher who sees each student's full humanity and potential. Her dynamic leadership is leaving a legacy of self-love, love of community, and love of learning for KIPP Bloom College Prep students.

-Brittany Jones, former Assistant Principal, KBCP

Read Asia Booth's interview [HERE](#).



Addressing food justice

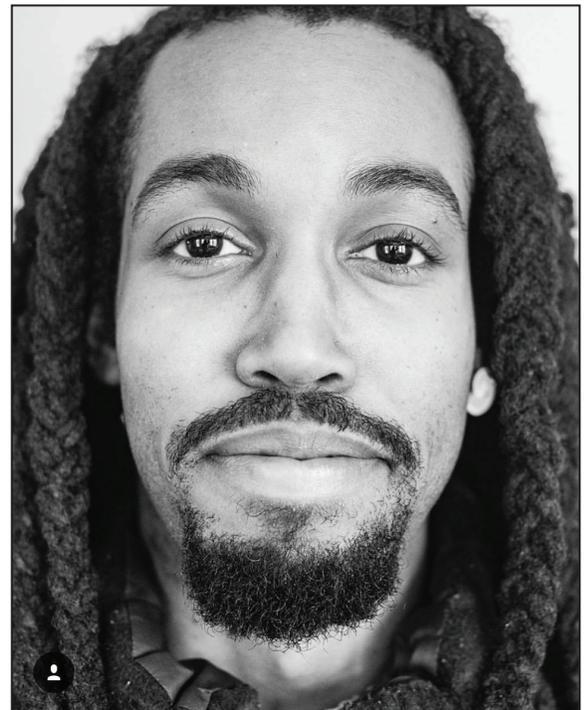
February 26th Food Box Giveaway

In continued partnership with the Office of Community Health, Equity, and Engagement, we provided KIPP Bloom families with a box of fresh food. As we continue to focus on food justice, we are grateful for partnerships like these that allow us to offer nutritious food directly to families.



Poetry and Community

Our first community circle of the year, Poetry for Progress was curated around elevating the Whole Child Initiative and served as our regional kick-off to Black History Month. This virtual circle, featuring Chicago poet and organizer, Ayinde Cartman, focused on our priority of food justice, and invited collective reflection on our vision for organizational impact through poetry, conversation, and joy. Inspired by what we all love most about being together and fueled by the input and perspectives of our many staff members, this time together was a place for meaningful conversation, inclusion, authenticity, and truth.

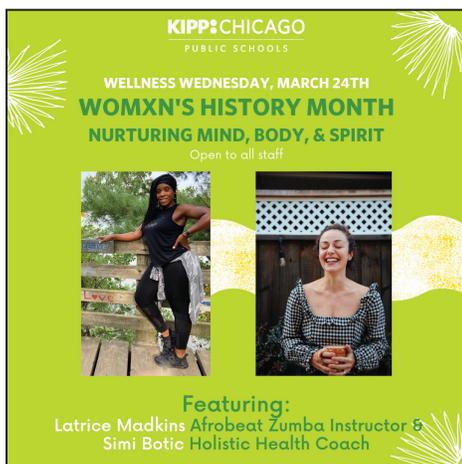
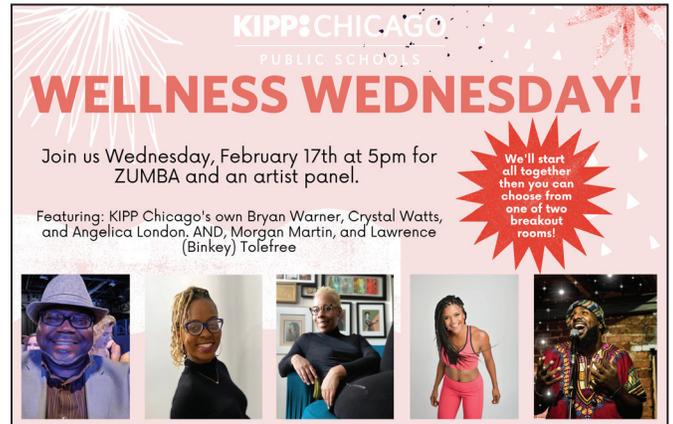


Embracing teacher wellbeing

Wellness Wednesdays

At the start of 2021, we recognized the reality of 'Zoom fatigue' and worked to prepare once-a-month wellness workshops for staff, instead of several events monthly. We made sure to pack each Wellness Wednesday event full of thoughtful, meaningful content!

For February, we hosted a Black Renaissance with an artist panel discussion, led by Lawrence 'Binky' Tolefree, alongside a Zumba class. Participants could enter the virtual event and choose between the panel or Zumba and both spaces allowed for gathering together in community, whether through high energy or low.



In March, we centered the needs of women during our Womxn's Mental Health Workshop, offering participants a choice between an Afrobeat Zumba class or a workshop with Simi Botic, a holistic health coach.

On April 28th, nearly 50 team & family members joined our [virtual workshop](#) centering Black Fathers, Mental Health, and Critical Thinking. Dr. Obari Cartman hosted the robust conversation with our KIPP panelists, Lee Fisher, Jarell Lee, Pete Gooden, and Ivyl Watts. Dr. Obari emphasized the need for Black men, in particular, to take care of their wellbeing by expressing their feelings, journaling, and creating space for mindfulness and meditation. Then the panelists weighed in on various topics from raising Black boys, the media, gun violence, police brutality, and breaking familiar patterns.



"It was great to have that space created in the first place. As a black father, there is a ton of duality that you have to operate in. You're always conscious of everything. Being able to talk about it is great. I enjoyed having my white counterparts there listening in and growing their knowledge and empathy. The only way we ALL change is if we ALL learn."

-Branden Bufford, Talent Recruiter

Exerpts from Dr. Obari

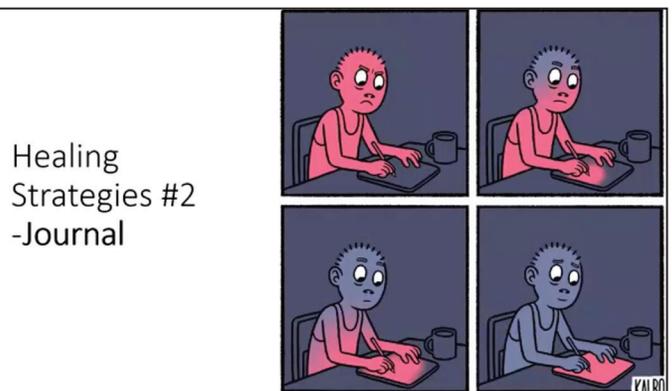
Healing Strategies #1- Express yourself



"One of the first things we need to do is just talk..we need to find the language and permission to say how we're feeling... modeling a new way of being human.... we have to dismantle these notions...it's a human thing to express your emotions, the range, from shame to guilt to regret to anger to sadness and grief...if there's no space to say it out loud, it all turns to anger. The anger is masking a million different things."

"I appreciated this space for the diverse perspectives and experiences of the fathers on the panel. While we may all identify as Black men, we are not a monolith and can continue to learn from each other's similarities and differences." -Pete Gooden, Vice President for Equity & Inclusion

"You can have all of these feelings inside, but once you write, once you get it out, there's a relief that comes from documenting it, from releasing it. It can be a ritual, giving your feelings a space to rest, something else to hold it rather than your heart, mind, and spirit. If you don't put it somewhere, it just ruminates...most of the men I know have a list of strategies to distract, to move away, like drinking, smoking...these things can be an illusion of reprieve that's different than the actual relief you get when you write."



"It was powerful to reflect on the questions presented by Dr. Cartman, many of which I had never thought of before. It was also simply bucket-filling to engage in the conversations with the panelists and other community members. Looking forward to the next!" Jarell Lee, School Leader, KACP

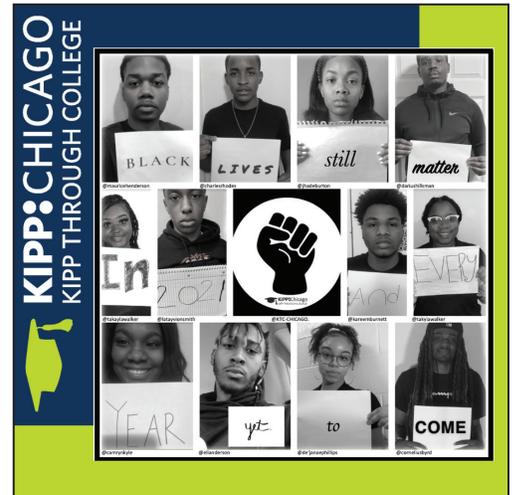
Healing Strategies #3- Stop and breathe



"Particularly for the young people, they are embedded in a social media world that is an experiment that we've never seen before. The amount of distractions from self that keep us away from the ability to sit still, to be quiet, to center ourselves, to listen to our intuition. Those kinds of things are critical to mental health, to wellbeing."

KIPP through College

KTC recently concluded a 6-month long PD series entitled "Racing Together for Justice," led by team member Jamie Hawley. In the last session, students from KAMS, classes of '16-'20, were eager to lend their voices and joined the call chanting "Black Dreams Matter! Black Minds Matter! Black Feelings Matter! Black Hearts Matter! BLACK LIVES MATTER!"



Alumni Spotlights



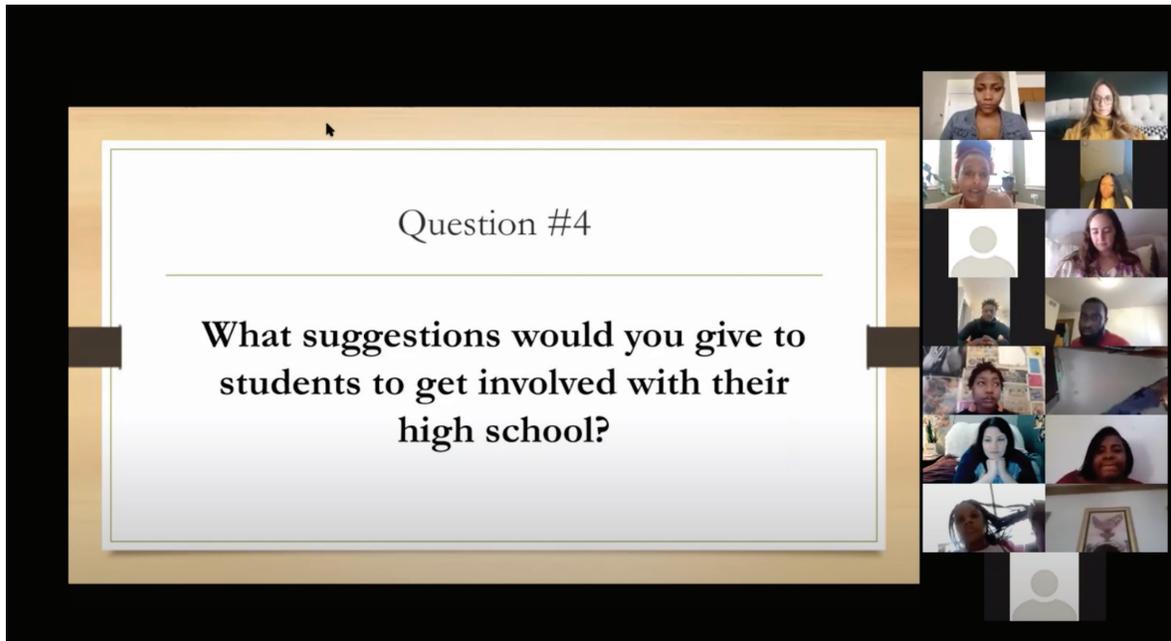
Chris Young, KIPP Bloom College Prep class of 2021, is a senior at Eastside College Prep in California and has taken dual enrollment courses at Stanford University. He's been accepted to over 12 of his choice universities, including Clark Atlanta University, Columbia College, Seton Hall, CSU-Northridge, CSU-Long Beach, Mount Saint Mary's University and most recently, Morehouse College. He wants to be a screenwriter as he loves all creative writing! His favorite artists include Ta-Nehisi Coates, Angie Thomas, and Nas. Chris has also written a novel that's available on iTunes, entitled Unorthodox Fairytales. Someday, Chris wants to turn this novel into a film.

Camryn Kyle, KIPP Create College Prep class of 2020, is a freshman at National Louis University. During her first semester of college, she earned an outstanding 3.67 GPA! Not only is Camryn earning incredible grades, she also most recently received the Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship! With this scholarship, she is attending National Louis University for FREE! Camryn is studying to be a middle school teacher and has goals of also attending graduate school after her four years are complete at NLU. Who knows, maybe you'll see her in a KIPP classroom in the future!



Alumni Panel

KIPP Academy Chicago (KAC) hosted a [virtual panel](#) discussion featuring alumni in high school. Current KAC students joined to listen to the high school experiences of the panel members and ask questions to better prepare for the transition from middle school to high school. Thanks, Ms. Weldu and Ms. Dolan for hosting such an important event!



Question #4

What suggestions would you give to students to get involved with their high school?

The image shows a virtual meeting interface. On the left, a large white slide with a gold border contains the text 'Question #4' and a question. On the right, a grid of 15 small video feeds shows participants. Some feeds show people, while others are greyed out with a person icon, indicating they are muted or have their video off.