

January 2009

"We can't become what we need to be by remaining what we are."  
- Oprah Winfrey

**KIPP:LEAD**  
COLLEGE PREP

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### School Tours

The best way to learn more about KLCP is to visit our school, meet our students and observe classes. Contact Patricia Allen at 219-979-9236 for more details.

### Deeply Rooted E-Newsletter Subscription

To subscribe to Deeply Rooted, send an email to [info@kipplead.org](mailto:info@kipplead.org) with "Newsletter sign up" as the subject.

### Upcoming Events

January 24, 2009, 9:30 am - 2 pm : Friends of KLCP Board Meeting (Poetry Lounge)



### Help LEADers Grow at KLCP with Box Tops for Education

Please clip your Box Tops for Education coupons and send them to KLCP. This program helps us earn money for additional programming.

# Deeply Rooted

KIPP LEAD College Prep (KLCP) is deeply rooted in these values: Leadership, Empathy, Achievement and Determination. We are committed to preparing our students with the character, knowledge and leadership skills necessary to graduate from college and help change the world.



### J. Ivy, HBO Def Poet, Visits KLCP

Self-expression is powerful and words hold immense power. In an effort to expose students to opportunities for self-expression, KLCP founded Ann's Poetry Café in honor of Dr. Ann Hines, mother to hip-hop artist, Common. This space serves as a forum for students to explore poetry and participate in poetry slams thereby developing their public speaking skills and developing confidence when communicating with others.

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, the Class of 2014 had the privilege to experience J. Ivy, a Grammy-winning Chicago artist who has worked with the likes of Kanye West, John Legend and Carl Thomas. Ivy told students about his background and journey through spoken word, as well as shared some of his lyrical creations. "His performance was very intense and detailed. He had a lot of feeling, emotion and facial expression. I'm excited to get his CD," reflected Kyle Allen, Jr. J. Ivy's passionate performances always leave spectators transfixed in a state of inspiration. More information about J. Ivy can be found on his website at [www.seejivyhearjivy.com](http://www.seejivyhearjivy.com).

This visit was the second installment in the KLCP Poetry Series. The first installment in October featured lyrical hip-hop poet Kevin Coval, author of Everyday People.



### KLCP Welcomes New Business Manager, Russell Armstrong

Russell Armstrong joined the KIPP team this month after completing work on the presidential election in Illinois and Florida. Before working in politics he was a 2006 Teach For America Corps Member in Miami, FL, where he taught high school special education and coached wrestling and baseball. In his spare time he tutors and volunteers for the Red Cross. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and is originally from Wilmington, Delaware.

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## Michael Tolbert Participates in Leadership Speakers' Series (LSS)

Michael Tolbert is a partner at the law firm Hoepfner Wagner & Evans in Merrillville where his practice primarily focuses on the areas of insurance defense, civil litigation, employment law and wrongful death actions which include catastrophic personal injury cases. At this month's installment of the LSS, Mr. Tolbert spoke to students about his work, his interests and his drive to succeed. "What you're doing at KIPP is preparing you for your future," he said. When asked what advice he had for students, Mr. Tolbert replied, "Read, read, read as much as you can to develop your comprehension skills." Seventh grader, Desmaray Tolliver, was curious about a typical



He said that his morning starts at about 5 a.m. when he goes to the gym and that he is at the office by 7:30 or 8:00 a.m. He usually gets home by 8:00 or 9:00 p.m. and averages fourteen to sixteen hour days. He received his J.D., cum laude, from Valparaiso University School of Law in 2000 and his B.A. in Criminal Justice from Valparaiso University in 1997. Additionally, Mr. Tolbert serves as the Chairperson for the Gary Chamber of Commerce.

If you are interested in participating in the LSS, please contact Makiyah Moody at [mmoody@kipplead.org](mailto:mmoody@kipplead.org). The next installment of the LSS will take place on Friday, February 6, 2009. Confirmed guests are: Chidinma Asonye of Prospect Partners, LLC in Chicago; Danyele Davis of Flowers Communications Group in Chicago; Attorney Karen Freeman-Wilson of Gary; and Roosevelt Haywood of Haywood & Fleming Associates in Gary.

## Class of 2015 Gets Too Hot to Handel

Last month sixth graders earned the opportunity to go to the Auditorium Theater in Chicago to see a rehearsal performance of Too Hot to Handel: The Gospel Messiah. Of this production, the Chicago Tribune wrote, "Christianson and Anderson have brought Handel's "Messiah" into a new aesthetic. In doing so, they have offered an inspiring object lesson on the genius of black music in America."

Recognizing the transformative power of exposure, KLCP purposefully seeks out opportunities that will expand students' understanding of the world around them. "It was awesome to see the epitome of teamwork. In order to sound that great, it was clear that all of the choir and orchestra members had to work together. I hope that students at KLCP are learning similar lessons in teamwork," said Glenn Davis, sixth grade mathematics teacher.

Constance Redding, age 12, Class of 2015/University of Kentucky, had a similar assessment of the performance. "It was too short, so I left wanting more. There was a group of students from Whitney Young High School in Chicago who were there. I know they had to work hard to be able to sing with a professional choir. It was interesting for me to see the conductor give notes (feedback) to the performers on how they could improve. It made me think about how I respond when teachers give me information on how I can do better at school."

## KLCP Receives \$25,000 Grant from the McCance Foundation Trust

The start of the new year brought wonderful news for students and staff at KLCP, when they learned of a grant from the McCance Foundation Trust, a family foundation based in West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania.

With a vision of both bettering the world and demonstrating the impact of quality programming, the McCance Foundation provides support to organizations implementing unique and innovative strategies in the areas of developing cures and care for critical diseases, alleviating poverty with special attention to underprivileged children, and conserving the earth.

The funding from the McCance Foundation was a pass-through grant from the KIPP Foundation, headquartered in San Francisco. This funding will be used to support extended day programming, including end-of-the-year field lessons, local field lessons, and Saturday School.

## Career Connections Fair – Save the Date!

The Career Connections fair is an annual event designed to inspire and inform our KIPP LEADers as they think about their future career aspirations. This event will be held on three consecutive Thursdays (February 5, February 12 and February 19 from 2:30 – 4:30 pm) for each grade level. A wide variety of professionals will be invited to share with students about their day-to-day job responsibilities. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions and learn about multiple career paths, the skills necessary to pursue such careers and any obstacles that guests encountered on their journeys. For more information or to RSVP to participate in a Career Connections session, please email Patricia Allen at [pallen.kipplead@gmail.com](mailto:pallen.kipplead@gmail.com).

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**KLCP Students Create Recipes for Change to Celebrate Obama's Inauguration**  
Change was such a common word throughout the presidential campaign, but what did it mean to students at KLCP? Students participated in a Recipe for Change project organized by Braden Kay, former teacher at KLCP. The goal of the project was to show President Obama that students were ready to help him change the country by creating individual Recipes for Change. For each recipe, students chose 3-5 things or "ingredients" that they will do to help make our country better in 2009. The recipes were written on a carbon-copy waitress tablet. One copy was sent to Mr. Kay for him to add to his installation in Washington, DC, while the other copy has been composed into a book at KLCP. The ingredients were simple things that students promised to do to bring change this year. Here are a few sample recipes:

**Christopher's Recipe for Change**

1. I'll pick up trash when I see it.
2. I'll cut old people's lawns for free.
3. I'll try to be more kind to people.
4. I'll be a great leader at my school, KIPP LEAD.

**Laurence's Recipe for Change**

1. I will stop littering all over the place.
2. I will plant more trees for the town.
3. I will recycle five times a week.
4. I will help old people in the neighborhood.
5. I would volunteer in a neighborhood cleaning process.

**Ceville's Recipe for Change**

1. I will help the elderly if they need it.
2. If some kid needs help because they don't understand school work, I will help them.
3. I will learn all I can in school so I can get a PhD to be a criminal lawyer.

**Onosai's Recipe for Change**

1. Ride my bike or walk instead of using a car.
2. Pick up trash I see every day.
3. Recycle or reuse old things I find.
4. Turn water off that I am not using.
5. Use less water every day or not waste food. Donate to the Salvation Army or shelter.

**Corporate Gift Matching: Making Your Gift Go Further**

Many companies have programs through which they will "match" the charitable contributions made by their employees. Through corporate gift matching, your employer can multiply your gift to KLCP, making it go further. Check with your company's Human Resources office to see if they offer gift matching. (If they don't, you may want to ask your company to start one.) If your employer does offer this program, your Human Resources department should provide you with a matching gift form to send to KLCP along with your donation. Complete this form and mail it with your donation to: KIPP LEAD College Prep, c/o Development Office, 6060 Miller Avenue, Gary, IN 46403

**Thank You for Your Support!**

KLCP would like to thank the following individuals, foundations and corporations for their support during this fiscal year:

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