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LQE 's



Friday Fax

NEWS FROM LQE

School of the Week: KIPP Ascend Charter School

LQE is pleased to present you with our sixth School of the Week, KIPP Ascend Charter School in the Austin neighborhood. Each week, we will offer a look into a different Chicago charter school, providing an introduction to their innovative programs and featuring the voices of teachers and students.

School History

KIPP Ascend is modeled after the Knowledge Is Power Program (KIPP), which was founded in 1994 by Mike Feinberg and Dave Levin. Upon completing their commitment with Teach for America, Feinberg and Levin launched KIPP as a 5th grade program at Garcia Elementary School on the north side of Houston, TX. Their students' academic success and interest in learning inspired Feinberg and Levin to expand the program beyond one classroom. The following year, KIPP Academy opened in Houston and Levin founded KIPP Academy in the South Bronx, NY. Today, both are recognized nationally as outstanding schools. Thanks to the visionary support of Doris & Don Fisher (co-founders of the GAP clothing stores), the KIPP Foundation was established in 2000 and there are now 36 KIPP middle schools open nationwide, as well as an elementary school and high school program in Houston. The KIPP Foundation continues to train outstanding school leaders each year through the KIPP School Leadership Program.

KIPP Ascend Charter School was founded in July 2003 by Jim O'Connor, a Teach for America alum and former teacher at Noble Street Charter High School. Jim undertook a year-long fellowship with the KIPP School Leadership Program in 2002. KIPP Ascend currently serves 165 5th and 6th graders from the Austin neighborhood and surrounding communities of Chicago's West Side. The school will expand one grade level each year, until reaching a full capacity of 320 students in grades 5-8 in 2006. KIPP Ascend adheres to the 5 Pillars common to all KIPP schools: Choice + Commitment, More Time, Power to Lead, High Expectations, and Focus on Results. For details on the 5 Pillars and the national KIPP movement, please visit www.kipp.org.

Basic Info

Address: 4820 W. Walton Street, 3rd Floor, Chicago, IL 60651

Grades Served: 5 & 6; will add 7th grade in the fall of 2005

of Students: 165

of Staff: 15

Community Served: middle school students on Chicago's West Side

Year Opened: 2003

Leadership team: Jim O'Connor, Founding Principal; Sheri Barrette, Dir. of Development & Operations; Doris Nelson, Office Manager

Best Practice: 5-week Standards Based Assessment (SBA) Tests

Teachers at KIPP Ascend write detailed Scope & Sequence plans at the beginning of the year based on the Illinois State Standards and the KIPP Exit Standards. Every five weeks, assessment tests are administered in each subject area, then the data is analyzed and used in an immediate manner to determine which skills the teacher needs to re-teach and which students need more



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intensive help in mastering skills that have been covered. By building this infrastructure of continual, "real-time" assessment, faculty at KIPP Ascend are equipped to shape effective curriculum and develop successful instructional practices throughout the course of the school year, resulting in higher levels of achievement for all students at KIPP Ascend.

Student Snapshot

Name: Wilvis Atkins

Grade: 6th

Why chosen: Since starting KIPP as a 5th grader in 2003, Wilvis has improved his attitude and efforts 110%. He has developed a great sense of personal responsibility and is a good role model for his fellow KIPPsters, always living up to one of KIPP's key mottos: *Work hard. Be nice.* Wilvis is an excellent writer, and hopes to be a defense attorney someday. He wants to attend Whitney Young High School, and although he's not sure what college he wants to go to yet, he knows he wants to go "somewhere warm."

Quote from Student: "I like Math class the best because Mr. Breen teaches us chants and songs that help me learn facts."

Teacher Snapshot

Name: Cassie Magnuson

Subject: 5th grade Math

Why chosen: Cassie teaches math to her 5th grade students using innovative and engaging techniques to improve student achievement. Students compete in a daily "Mad Minute" competition to help them master functions such as subtraction and multiplication, and have recently learned a Prime Numbers song. Cassie joined Teach for America in 2002, where she taught 5th grade for two years in Marianna, Arkansas. While completing her service with TFA, she also led Girl Scouts Troop 295. Prior to teaching, she worked for the American Heart Association. Cassie graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2002) with a bachelor's degree in Community Health.

Quote from Teacher: "KIPP Ascend employs an amazing group of educators. I have learned so much this year by being a part of this staff."

Charter Challenges

KIPP Ascend is currently working to find a long-term facility solution.

News

***Teacher recruitment: KIPP Ascend is currently seeking applications for 5th, 6th, and 7th grade teachers in all disciplines for the 2005-2006 school year. Interested candidates can fax their resume and cover letter to 773.261.9975 or email to info@kippascend.org.

***Tracy Kwock, 6th grade reading teacher, was recently presented with a Golden Apple Award, becoming the first charter school teacher and first Teach for America alum to be honored with the award.

***Student recruitment: KIPP Ascend is currently accepting applications for 5th - 7th grade students for the 2005-2006 school year. Interested parents can call 773.261.9970 for more information.

***On Friday, May 27th the entire 5th grade class and the 6th grade orchestra will present *Cinderella, The Musical*, directed by Mr. John Breen. Stay tuned for details in upcoming editions of the Friday FAX.



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For more information about KIPP Ascend, please visit the website at www.kippascend.org or call the school office at 773.261.9972.

School Board Development Program (SBDP)

Over the past two weeks, members of Cohort 2 of LQE's School Board Development Program have had the pleasure of visiting one of the city's excellent charter schools and meeting with an organization that is slated to open a charter school this fall.

On Wednesday, March 23, we visited Erie Neighborhood House, an organization founded in the settlement house tradition that has been a trusted institution in Chicago's West Town community for 134 years. In Fall 2005, Erie House will open the Erie Elementary Charter School, a K-5 school that will begin with 80 students in Kindergarten and 1st grade.

On Tuesday, March 29, we toured CICS Longwood in neighborhood of Washington Heights. One of seven CICS campuses, Longwood currently serves more than 1400 students in Grades K-12. LQE would like to extend our thanks to everyone at both of these schools who helped make the tours a success!

The next and final SBDP event for Cohort 2 will be a **Matchmaking Reception**, which will take place on Thursday, April 7 from 5:30- 7:30 PM. The reception will provide the opportunity for members of the Cohort to meet and network with representatives from both new and existing charter and contract schools that are seeking new board members. LQE is pleased to announce that 25 potential board members and 12 schools are scheduled to attend this event.

For more information about the School Board Development Program, please contact Brenda Bell at 312.853.1211.

RENAISSANCE 2010

Website

CPS has a website dedicated to Renaissance 2010. Here you will find a wealth of information ranging from press releases to the Renaissance 2010 Q & A, to a listing of upcoming events. Check it out!

<http://www.ren2010.cps.k12.il.us/>

CHARTER CHATTER

April 2: Perspectives Student Expo

The students of Perspectives Charter School will be presenting a showcase of their work on Saturday, April 2nd from 4:00-7:00 PM. The event will include student presentations and performances, poetry recitations, science experiments, and a silent auction of student work. Presentations are scheduled at specific times throughout the event in order to highlight different grade levels, subject areas, and classrooms. The Expo will take place at Perspectives Charter School, 1930 S. Archer. For more information, please call 312. 225.7400 or visit

www.perspectivecs.org



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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

April 14: A Yoga Session with Cindy Lou Fults at Passages Charter School

Cindy Lou Fults, a yoga instructor from California who teaches yoga to children, will spend the day at Passages on Thursday, April 14 to train the school's staff and to instruct their students. The charter community is invited to attend an afternoon session with Cindy Lou from 4:00-5:30 PM. If you are not taking advantage of yoga techniques at your school, this is a chance to get started. If you are, come and share your insights and practices. For more information, please contact the Passages school office at 773.549.1052.

Early Warning!

July 18-29: Illinois Writing Project Summer Institute in Chicago

This intensive two-week Institute provides teachers from all grade levels with the opportunity to gather together and collaborate about the best practices in children's literacy learning. Participants will learn engaging, practical strategies for teaching writing and reading, from classroom workshop to reading comprehension strategies, and plan for balancing in-depth instruction with standardized test expectations. The Institute will be held at the McAuliffe School, 1841 N. Springfield, from 8:30-2:30 each day. The first 20 registrants will receive a \$750 stipend, thanks to National Writing Project support. CPDU's are provided. For more information, please visit the Illinois Writing Project website, www.illinoiswritingproject.com, or contact Steve Zemelman, Director, at 847.674.2318.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 15: Illinois Network of Charter Schools 2nd Annual Success By Design Best Practices Conference

Teachers and administrators from all types of public schools in Illinois are invited to exchange ideas and learn about innovative strategies to enhance student learning. This year's conference—*Beyond the Basics: Developing the Whole Child in an Age of Accountability*—includes over 20 workshops focused on instructional topics in the area of supporting real world problem-solving skills of students and leadership topics related to tailoring learning opportunities to student and teacher needs. The conference will also include a Governance Roundtable for charter school board members to discuss key issues related to school oversight. Keynote Speaker: Robert Fried, Associate Professor in the School of Education at Northeastern University and acclaimed author of *The Passionate Teacher*. Location: DuSable Museum of African American History, 740 E. 56th Place, Chicago. Time: 8 AM- 4PM. For more info, please e-mail dlibert@incschools.org, call 312.261.5267 or visit www.incschools.org.

April 16: Illinois Health Professions Student Conference

In collaboration with the CHANCE program, the UIC's Urban Health Program is presenting the second annual Illinois Health Professions Student Conference. The conference provides the opportunity for elementary and high school students to interact and network with public health and allied health professionals. There will be panel presentations, workshops, and a college fair. The keynote address will be provided by Congressman Danny K. Davis. The conference will run from 9:00 AM-1:30 PM and will take place at the UIC Student Center located at 828 S.

Wolcott. Admission is free and refreshments will be provided. To register, or for more information, please call 312.996.7727 or visit www.uic.edu/depts/uhealth.



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April 26: *Brown vs. Board* in Chicago: Where are We Now?

Facing History and Ourselves is sponsoring this provocative conversation about school integration in Chicago. The event will begin with a screening of *Beyond Brown: Pursuing the Promise*, a poignant documentary that examines the unfulfilled promises of the *Brown* decision. Following the film, Alex Kotlowitz will moderate a panel of Chicagoans who have been on the ground level of the fight for educational equity in Chicago and beyond. What does it mean that we have continued segregation in our public schools 50 years after this landmark decision? Come hear the personal stories of those who have experienced the successes and frustrations of this system as students, teachers, and administrators. The event will begin at 7:00 PM and will take place at Northwestern University School of Law, Thorne Auditorium, 357 East Chicago Ave. It is free and open to the public. For more information, please call (312) 345-3203 or visit:

<http://www.facinghistorycampus.org/Campus/Events.nsf/173ae20944560dd385256ee8006d5535/70325f0a4a7492cc85256ec1007224f6?OpenDocument>



GRANTS, CONTESTS, AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

National Charter Schools Clearinghouse (NCSC) Press Release Distribution Service

In celebration of National Charter Schools Week, the NCSC is offering to distribute a press release about your school's accomplishments to over 400 national charter school and education reporters free of charge! For guidelines on developing your press release, please visit the new NCSC press center at http://www.ncsc.info/mod.php?mod=userpage&menu=3604&page_id=181. If you are interested in using the NCSC's distribution service, please notify them as soon as possible by email at info@NCSC.info or phone at 866.954.1414, so they can provide you with the guidelines. The most newsworthy press releases will be published in the next edition of the NCSC News.

April 18: Chicago Foundation for Education (CFE) Study Group Team Member Grants Application Deadline

CFE has an exciting new grant opportunity called the Study Group Team Member Grant which are due April 18 and available to any CPS Pre-K – 8th teacher. Study Group Team Member Grants provide \$300 to teachers interested in participating in 12 hours of Study Group Meetings (between June-December 2005) to learn new teaching strategies from experienced teachers who CFE has recognized as Study Group Coaches. This year, CFE is offering 20 Study Groups that cover a wide range of grade and subject areas. Examples of this year's Study Groups include: The Reggio Approach, Inquiry-based Instruction, Utilizing Novels for Literacy, Using Manipulatives to Teach Fractions/Geometry, Using Art to Teach Science, and Creating Quality Citizens through Social Studies.

Copies of CFE's Study Group Grant Catalog and Study Group Team Member Applications are now available. If you will be meeting with teachers before April 15, and are interested in distributing this information, please contact Liz Funk at (312) 670-2323.

To peruse the Study Group Grant Catalog or fill out and print the Study Group Team Member Application online, please visit: www.chgofdneduc.org.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Illinois Network of Charter Schools

The Illinois Network of Charter Schools (INCS) posts job opportunities in charter schools on their website. Please visit: <http://www.incschools.org/jobposting.htm>

RISE Network

RISE (Resources for Indispensable Schools and Educators) is revolutionizing the way that effective teachers are recognized and rewarded. RISE is a growing network of 500 outstanding teachers nationwide. Join today and you will receive job postings at pre-screened schools in the greater Chicago area, as well as dollars and discounts for your classroom. The RISE Network is free for teachers. To join, or to refer an effective teacher, please visit www.RISEnetwork.org.

Young Women's Leadership Charter School

The Young Women's Leadership Charter School (YWLCS) is an all-girls, public charter school which serves 325 students in grades 7-12. The YWLCS is committed to the following set of principles:

- *All students have the capacity to learn and achieve at high levels and succeed in a college preparatory school.*
- *There is value in teaching young women in a single-sex student population to develop high levels of mastery in math, science and technology, for themselves and to contribute to the nation's resources.*
- *Collegiality and collaboration among the adults in the school, the parents, the students, and the whole school community are vital to the school's overall success.*
- *Educating students in a diverse, urban environment provides unique opportunities for teaching and learning and empowering them to affect change and achieve social justice.*

YWLCS is seeking applicants for the following positions for the **2005-2006** school year. For a full job description of each position, including qualifications and requirements, please visit the YWLCS website at www.ywlcs.org

Assistant Director

YWLCS is seeking a highly motivated and energetic individual, with a minimum of five years experience, to work in a collaborative environment to participate in the overall operation and development of YWLCS. The candidate must be articulate, well-organized, and very knowledgeable about student achievement, staff development and evaluation, curriculum and instruction. A proven track record of working with students, staff and parents in an urban environment and demonstrated performance in increasing student achievement is required. A strong work ethic, professional demeanor and collaborative management style are essential attributes. The successful candidate will be an accomplished faculty leader and mentor experienced in middle and high school education and possessing excellent communication and management skills. The new Assistant Director will join a dynamic faculty and administration focused on innovation related to academic excellence, diversity, and leadership development. A key member of the school leadership team, the Assistant Director reports directly to the Director. Responsibilities will include: collaboration with the school Director to effectively lead school community in achieving school mission; collaboration with faculty, staff and the larger school community, including school partners and social service providers; facilitating collaboration and communication with parents/families; and responsible leadership for the following initiatives: student support services; family involvement; student recruitment; community schools. **Application deadline: April 30.**



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Chemistry Teacher

YWLCS is seeking a highly motivated individual to work in a collaborative environment to facilitate the development of science in the Junior Academy, grades 9 and 10. Qualifications include a college degree (an advanced degree in education or other area preferred), current teacher certification in science (minimally an endorsement in chemistry), previous teaching and/or instructional experience in urban setting working with academically under-prepared students, and coursework, knowledge, and experience teaching chemistry.

Mathematics Teacher (Interactive Math—IMP—Program)

YWLCS is seeking a highly motivated individual to work in a collaborative environment to facilitate the development of mathematics at the high school level. Qualifications include a college degree (an advanced degree in education or other area preferred); current teacher certification in mathematics; previous teaching and/or instructional experience in urban setting working with academically under-prepared students; and coursework, knowledge, and experience teaching mathematics, specifically IMP.

Reading & Writing Teacher, Middle School

YWLCS is seeking a highly motivated individual to work in a collaborative environment to facilitate the development of literacy skills in its Middle School Academy. Qualifications include a college degree (an advanced degree in Reading preferred); current teacher certification in English/Language Arts or Reading/Literacy; experience teaching middle school students; strong instructional strategies for teaching literacy skills and increasing student achievement; and coursework, knowledge, and experience teaching reading and writing.

Reading & Writing Teacher, High School

YWLCS is seeking a highly motivated individual to work in a collaborative environment to facilitate the development of literacy skills in its Junior Academy (grades 9 and 10). Qualifications include a college degree (an advanced degree in Reading preferred); current teacher certification in English/Language Arts or Reading/Literacy; experience teaching high school students; strong instructional strategies for teaching literacy skills and increasing student achievement; knowledge and experience in integrating career and college awareness into a classroom setting; and coursework, knowledge, and experience teaching reading and writing.

Salary for all positions will be based upon experience. Health and dental benefits provided. The YWLCS is an equal opportunity employer. Persons of color are encouraged to apply.

All applicants should send cover letter and resume to: Mary Ann Pitcher/Margaret Small, Young Women's Leadership Charter School of Chicago, 2641 South Calumet Avenue, Chicago, IL 60616, Fax: 312-949-9142, mapitcher@ywcls.org/msmall@ywcls.org

Paul Revere Elementary School Seeking Dynamic K-8th Grade Teachers

Paul Revere is a CPS, Pre-K thru 8th grade school in the Greater Grand Crossing neighborhood on Chicago's South Side. Gary Comer, a Revere alum and founder of Lands' End, has teamed up with local leaders to support the revitalization of both the Revere School and its surrounding community. In partnership with the *Comer Science & Education Foundation*, Revere has been executing a vision for transformation and is implementing an education program unique within CPS. Revere School has built a tremendous team and plays a powerful leadership role in urban education! *For more information or to apply for a position, please send your cover letter and resume to:* Ms. Trina Cooper, Business Manager, Paul Revere Elementary School, 1010 East 72nd Street, Chicago, Illinois 60619. e-mail: coopert@paulrevereschool.org



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**University of Chicago Charter School, Donoghue Campus
Seeking Director of Family and Community Engagement**

Donoghue is the new public elementary and college preparatory campus of the University of Chicago Charter School Corporation. Donoghue is committed to professional development, inquiry, and high expectations for all staff and students. The campus, opening in the fall of 2005, will serve as a catalyst for community building by offering programs for students and families beyond the school day. Donoghue seeks a Director of Family and Community Engagement who will work closely with the Campus Director, parents and community to support students, families, and the greater school community. Principal responsibilities include supporting curricular alignment, standards, and structures to support children's academic development; facilitate strong school-home-neighborhood relationships; and cultivate and manage partnerships with university and community organizations in areas such as health, technology, recreation and the arts. Ideal candidates will possess a Bachelor's degree; have proven leadership experience working in and with urban communities, excellent written and oral communication skills and demonstrated fund-raising ability. Interested applicants should send resume and letter of interest to Nicole Woodard Iliev, School Director, Donoghue Campus, 1313 E. 60th Street, Chicago, IL 60637.

**University of Chicago Charter School, Donoghue Campus
Seeking Pre-K through 3rd Grade Teachers**

Donoghue is the new public elementary and college preparatory campus of the University of Chicago Charter School Corporation. Donoghue is committed to professional development, inquiry, and high expectations for all staff and students. The campus will open in the fall of 2005 serving grades pre-kindergarten through 3rd. Candidates should have a B.A. in education and appropriate state certification in Pre-K and/or K-8 instruction; at least 3 years of urban teaching experience and proven curriculum planning and commitment to professional development. Interested applicants should send resume and letter of interest to: Nicole Woodard Iliev, School Director, Donoghue Campus, 1313 E. 60th St., Chicago, IL 60637.

Tutors Needed at KIPP Chicago Youth Village Academy

KIPP Chicago Youth Village Academy is a college preparatory middle school for traditionally underserved students. Our school is comprised of approximately 130 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students, the majority of who live in the neighboring Dearborn Homes housing development.

Our students possess varying levels of proficiency in reading, math, and other core areas, and many of our students have entered our school two or more grade levels behind. They need help to advance their academic skills. Additionally, many of our students have special learning needs; please inform us if you have previous experience tutoring students with learning disabilities.

Much will be expected of you as a tutor, but the returns are tremendous. The students with whom you will work are well disciplined and come to the LaSalle Street after-school program ready to work hard.

Tutors will be asked to commit to tutor at least one night per week, and will be focusing on working with students to improve math and reading skills. Tutoring is offered Monday-Thursday from 5-6:30 PM. Please contact Joel Pollack at pollack@northwestern.edu or 773-841-1482 with any questions.

**The Rochelle Lee Fund
Seeking Program Director**

The Rochelle Lee Fund (RLF), a non-profit organization, seeks a full-time program director. RLF provides Chicago's public school teachers with children's books for classrooms and professional



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development. Responsibilities include the production of its professional development components as well as the recruitment and selection of facilitators and workshop presenters. A minimum of 5 years experience including teaching in an elementary school (public urban setting preferred) and program management, as well as experience and demonstrated interest in literature, and in reading as a discipline, is required. This is a year-round, full-time position; salary commensurate with ability and experience. For more information or to apply (cover letter with resume), email mhicks@rochelleleefund.org (preferred method) or fax to 773-989-8661.

