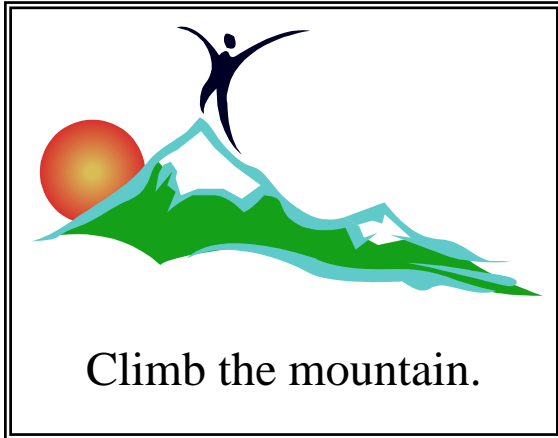


# KIPP Ascend Charter School

## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



### Meet a KIPP Ascend Student

**Keith Davis, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Student at KIPP Ascend**

**How many are in your family?** I have one sister, Lakeithia. She is nine years old. She plans to come to KIPP.

**Why did you come to KIPP?** I wanted to learn.

**What is your favorite class?** Math

**What is your favorite book?** *Dracula*, *You're a Pain in the Neck*

**Do you have any pets?** No

**What do you do for fun?** I like to play baseball and basketball

**What do you want to be when you grow up?** A doctor for kids

**Where do you want to go to college?** Duke University

**What are you going to be for Halloween?** A Special Forces Trooper

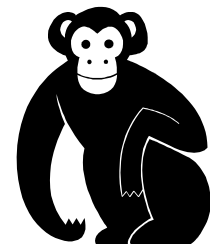
**What is your favorite thing about KIPP Ascend?** I like the classes, the teachers, and the work.

### Saturday Experiences

On Saturdays, our students continue to prepare for college. We meet every other Saturday for either enrichment activities or field lessons. The enrichment classes give our students a broad base of experiences. Examples of our enrichment classes that meet once a month are: Arts and Crafts, Animal Science, Martial Arts, and Chorus.

Our field lessons are built into one of our classes and serve as an extension of our academic classes. We have taken two field lessons so far this year: DePaul University and Lincoln Park Zoo. On our trip to DePaul University, students toured the Student Center, a lecture hall, the library, and a dormitory. DePaul students from Chicago's West side spoke to our students about the importance of hard work and of staying focused on your dreams.

During our field lesson at the Lincoln Park Zoo, our students participated in a scientific lecture about primate behavior. The speaker was Franz de Waal, a noted



primatologist. Dr. de Waal described his research on chimpanzee behavior. We learned that some research has shown that monkeys may be empathetic towards each other.

Our field lesson this weekend will be to Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve in Darien, IL. Our students will be practicing their map skills on an orienteering course. Let us know if you would like to chaperone!

## In the news...

Our school was fortunate to receive some nice press since our last newsletter.



Art Norman from NBC Channel 5 featured our hard working teachers and students on September 15<sup>th</sup>. In addition, Jim O'Connor was interviewed on WNUA's City Voices program on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

Our school was also featured in the *Herald News* (Joliet, IL) on October 8<sup>th</sup>. You can read the article at:  
<http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/heraldnews/ourtown/j08oconnor.htm>

The *Catalyst*, a Chicago education reform journal, featured several KIPP schools including ours. You can read the article (and see a great picture of our chorus) at:  
<http://catalyst-chicago.org/10-03/1003kipp.htm>

## Upcoming events:

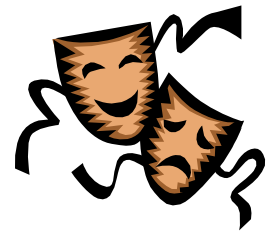
**Friday, October 24, 2003, 3 PM:** Susan Mantilla, the Assistant Dean of Admissions from Phillips Academy Andover Academy (Andover, MA), one of the most highly regarded high schools in the nation, will visit KIPP Ascend to talk to our students about boarding schools and what Andover has to offer. Our students are focused on working hard everyday in order to enroll in high-quality high schools and universities.

**Friday, October 31, 3:15 PM:** Song Fest. Come and join our students as we sing and dance to some inspiring music.

**Saturday, November 15, 9 AM to 1 PM:** Small Schools Expo at Whitney Young Magnet High School. Catch a group of our students performing academic songs they use to help them in math and language arts.

**Friday, November 21,**

**3:15 PM:** School Summit. Our students will perform skits and songs based on work they are doing in class. This is always a great performance and allows you to meet our students and parents.



## How can you help?

- Donate dictionaries for our students. We need 90 new or used dictionaries.
- Donate a video recorder. We would like to record events at our school on video.
- Help us find a Director of Development. We are looking for a self-starter with three to five years experience in development.
- Contact Jim O'Connor at 773-263-5769 to help.

## Thank you to our supporters

- Mark Larson: The Director of Education at the Lincoln Park Zoo that coordinated our field lesson last Sunday.
- Saturday School teachers: These individuals have climbed the mountain to college and are now helping our students get there. They are: Anthony Chukumba, Mara Cosillo-Starr, David Crownover, Patrick Haugh, Tracy Kwock, Makiyah Moody, Hannah O'Connor, Ramses James, Jake Socha, Kathleen St. Louis, and John Swenson.

