

# Kuper Academy



## Kuper Gives Back Through Backpack Project in Haiti

This past winter, a team of nine teenagers and four adults travelled to Haiti on a week-long humanitarian trip. What made this trip special is that Kuper Academy played a very important role. In the fall of 2014, Caleb Chang (a grade eleven student at Kuper) began raising funds for the trip by selling freezies and powerbars. Shortly after he initiated his fundraising, the backpack project was presented to Headmaster Kotler, the grade six graduation committee, and the grade six teachers. The warm and supportive response from the Kuper elementary school jumpstarted the process of collecting school supplies over the Christmas season from students in the mini and the elementary buildings. After the Christmas break, the grade six students, with the help of volunteers and their teachers, assembled the backpacks and filled them with the school supplies collected. They also added a personal note that they wrote themselves into each backpack for each individual recipient. (Cont'd)



Then came the most rewarding part! Caleb and his team made the trip to Haiti in February of 2015 and had the privilege of personally distributing the packs. The excited response from the Haitian children was palpable (as you can see from the photos). In addition to the backpack donations, the funds that were collected allowed the group to purchase paint to do some work on various projects at the Youth Unlimited office in St-Marc, Haiti. The funds also allowed for the purchase of rice for food distribution in a nearby village, as well as allowing for the purchase and distribution of thirty solar lights for families in need. The team also assisted in building a foundation for a chicken coop and helped assemble bunk beds for the orphans at L'Arche Orphanage located near Gonaives, Haiti. In addition to this effort, some grade six parents donated t-shirts and toothbrushes that were also distributed during this trip. Without Kuper's support and efforts, this successful backpack project would not have been possible. This is an excellent example of how working together we achieve more.

Way to go Kuper family!



# Wizard of Oz Comes to Life



Every spring, the Kuper Actors' Guild hosts an end-of-year production. This year, the group outdid themselves by managing to engage audiences of all ages in the world of a timeless fairy tale. The Wizard of Oz production culminated with two days of fantastic performances delivered to students, faculty, staff, and parents. It was obvious that the cast spent much time in recent weeks developing their characters, as they delivered their lines clearly, consistently, and with vigour. Though the play was mainly a high school production, there were members of the cast from a wide array of grade levels, and the students who played the roles of the "Munchkins" ranged from middle elementary levels all the way up to the high school level. Since the theme this academic year is to 'get involved', it was great to see that students of all ages were able to join in on the excitement that a dramatic production brings to an academic environment. There was much singing throughout the play, and the cast succeeded in affirming the importance of friendship, loyalty, and courage. Additionally, the set was well-organized and the special effects, the costumes, and the props all worked together to create a wonderful atmosphere for Kuper students to be able to listen, to watch, and most importantly, to dream.



# Student Leaders & Positive Messaging Post-Its

Canada is a cultural mosaic and Kuper values inclusiveness. One way that our student-leaders have fostered an inclusive mentality mind frame is through the “Post-It Campaign”. The S.O.S. (Supporting Our Students) group plastered the entire school with post-it notes that all had unique positive and kind messages on them. The students made sure to write (and post) one note for every locker and they also made extras to cover staff spaces, bathroom stalls, and hallways. As a result of their efforts, many students got to feel good about themselves unexpectedly and gained a new enthusiasm for student life and for their experience at Kuper. Gestures such as this are continually making Kuper an even better place to study and to grow!



## ~ Alumni Return as Physical Education Staff Members ~ Confirms Success of Family Atmosphere



This spring Kuper eagerly welcomed back two members of our alumni who are in the midst of completing their second year of a Physical Education degree at McGill University. Holly Janna ('10), and Alex Stephenson ('08) chose to do one of their mandatory three-week placements within the Kuper high school because they both had such a terrific experience at Kuper. While talking with them about their life after Kuper Academy, it quickly became apparent that they still think of themselves as part of the Kuper family and that they are happy to be back and learning again, albeit in a new role. Both Holly and Alex are appreciative that the education they received while attending Kuper high school has prepared them well for their continued learning. “We learned from our Kuper teachers that it’s important to be strict and firm, but that it’s also very important to make learning fun. We have also realized, since graduating, how sport relates so closely to life in that you need to be disciplined, you need to know how to socialize (get along with others), and you need to be able to communicate properly with (all types of) people”, exclaimed Holly.

# Kuper Family Fundraiser



Kuper recently co-hosted a charitable evening in the high school gym with the goal being to raise money for Matthew Schreindorfer, a twenty-five year old Laval resident who was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. Matthew's chances of survival are 90% if he can afford an experimental treatment currently being offered in the United States. Unfortunately, the treatment costs \$800,000.

Because of this high cost of treatment, Kuper parents decided to get involved to help him reach this goal. Since Kuper cares about giving back and helping deserving members of the Montreal community, Mrs. Salette, owner and Head of School, offered to host the fundraiser in the high school building. A group of Kuper parents, along with the Ballet Montreal Performing Arts School, held the event, raising \$11,000 in tickets and \$1,305 in a 50/50 draw. As you can see below, the Kuper community is not only a school but a group of people working toward a cause- a group of people that has become a family, often with the goal being to come together to lend a helping hand in whatever way is needed.



# Grade Six Annual Public Speaking Competition

Kuper held its annual public speaking competition this month. Each grade six student prepared a three-minute speech based on their interpretation of a photograph, and the top three speakers from each class (voted on by their peers) then competed in the larger competition. It was clear that students prided themselves on writing thoughtful pieces and ensured that they practiced their enunciation, gestures, audibility, and eye contact. This year the theme focused on being positive, choosing inclusiveness over exclusion, and the acceptance of others. Student speakers reflected on their learning from this academic year and emphasized the importance of stepping out of one's comfort zone, going with the flow, and embracing the idea that hope always exists.



## Spring Sports Encourage Hard Work, Play, and Laughter



The arrival of springtime means the opportunity for Kuper students to get outside after a long winter. Kuper spring sports are offered to students of all ages, and we are proud of the varied choices that our community offers in each of the three sport seasons. During the spring months (April, May, and June), Kuper high school students have the chance to sign up for one or multiple sports, including: Track & Field, Lacrosse, and Flag Football. What separates our Kuper family from other schools though, is not just the variety of offerings, but our coaches and staff members who go over and above the expectations and support the student-athletes in their personal growth by going the extra mile and showing their commitment not only to athletics, but also to Kuper students' happiness and success.

# Grade Seven Animation Excursion to National Film Board



As part of Kuper's efforts to support learning outside of the classroom, a group of high school art students recently visited the National Film Board (NFB) to learn about how animation is created from start to finish. The field trip started off with two animators detailing the purpose of the NFB and explaining various forms of animation. After being taught how to create a stop animation students were then shown how to use the camera and computer equipment to create their own storyboard and animation series.

Over the course of the day, Kuper kids also had the opportunity to create new features and characters out of paper. Much of the day was spent building characters, setting up the sets of their own animation series, and adding sound to their film. The animators explained the different methods and ways to create and add sound, how many frames are used per second, and the amount of time it takes to make sure everything flows smoothly. Once all the films were completed, the students were able to watch each group's animation. The excitement was tangible because, as we know, everyone loves to see the fruits of their labour and their creativity- especially when the product is something that instills pride!



# Fly Day

For the final “Fly Day’ of the academic year, a handful of enthusiastic Kuper students spent the afternoon flying over the beautiful city of Montreal.

Before actually taking flight though, students must always learn about the different components of a plane and they must understand the basics of how to fly a plane as well as how to work with all of the variables that arise when sharing busy air space in a city like Montreal.

As you can see, they learned while having fun!

