

Haiti Partners Activity Report

Preparer: Erik Badger

Location: Bellevue Guesthouse (John's)

Participants: 17 partner school/Children's Academy leaders; 4 HP staff

Date: Thursday Dec 5-6, 2013

Description of the activity: Regularly scheduled partner school leadership teams meeting.

Objectives for this activity: Address our concern that partner school leaders aren't supporting their teachers to implement the training methods they've learned from us. Also, receive updates from partner schools, take up current issues, build capacity of participants, and cultivate ties between partner schools.

Describe how these objectives were accomplished:

The first night we divided into small groups by school and had participants find 3 answers each to 2 questions: a) Why do kids want to go to school? And, b) Why do parents send their kids to school? This encouraged participants to think broadly about the value of the education they provide.

The next morning in the large group we had participants list on sheets of paper what qualities they hope to see in students who pass through their schools. These were then posted on the wall and we went around the circle discussing each one.

Finally, participants divided into small groups - specifically not by school - to create a list of tasks they could implement to support their teachers to achieve the characteristics they enumerated in the previous activity.

At the end we passed out an explanation for a new system of certificates that both teachers and schools will be awarded by at the end of the year depending on whether and to what degree they implement the methods learned at the trainings. Certificates are held in high regard in Haiti and we're optimistic this will increase implementation significantly.

The activity did well to get our partner school leaders thinking both more broadly and more concretely about the goals of education rather than just on the many tests they have to prepare their students for.

Describe how they were not accomplished:

The real test will be how many times the partner school teachers actually implement the student-centered methods we have trained them in. We are tracking this and ought to know more in the coming months.

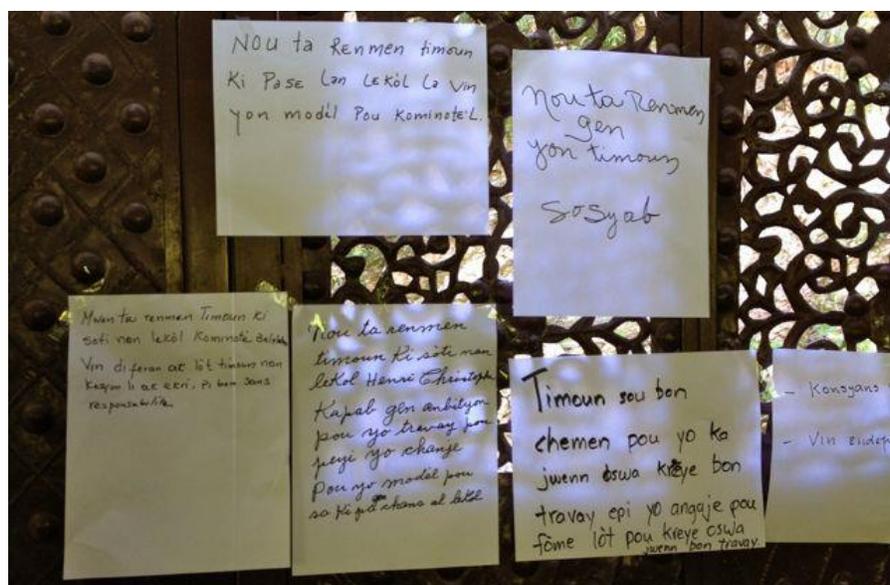
Describe how the activity can be improved in the future:

Female participants were not as active as we had hoped. They did speak at certain parts, but not as freely as the men. This is unusual and we'll be keeping it in mind for our next meeting. This group has a strong enough rapport that it may be as simple as pointing it out in the future before we begin.

Photos (to view a separate photo report from this meeting, [click here](#)):



Large group discusses characteristics they hope to cultivate in students



Characteristics hoped for: 'well socialized'; 'models for their community'; 'to stand out in literacy and responsibility'; 'to want to change their country'; 'to be able to find or create work'



Steven introduces the final activity



Small groups, divided by different schools, determine a list of things they can do to help students achieve these characteristics



This group has a great rapport, a fact that improves participation and energizes us to work together