

A young girl in a school uniform is captured mid-air, jumping rope in front of a school building. She is wearing a blue and white checkered shirt under a dark blue dress. Her hair is styled in braids with white bows. Other children in similar uniforms are visible in the background. The building behind her has a blue frame and a grey concrete wall. A red circular logo with the text 'Haiti Partners' is in the top left corner.

Haiti
Partners

QUALITY SCHOOLS
QUARTERLY REPORT

SUMMER 2015 |

QUALITY SCHOOLS

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

Develop schools that help children realize their potential while driving community development and lifelong learning.

COMPONENTS

Children's Academy and Learning Center - P.3

Partner School Network - P.8

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CHILDREN'S ACADEMY AND LEARNING CENTER



Outcome

Create a high quality school and learning center grounded in the local community that cultivates civic engagement, innovation, and sustainability and serves as a reference for Haiti's Ministry of Education, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and other schools.

CHILDREN'S ACADEMY AND LEARNING CENTER

The Children's Academy opened its doors on September 7th with 40 new students, bringing the school's total to 155. It now offers three preschool grades and grade one of primary school. Including Alex Myril, Benaja Antoine, and Junia St-Surin Couloute, total employees stands at 27.

Parents worked 19,963 service hours in total during the 2014-15 school year. From July through September 2015, they completed 4342 service hours. Service hours have been devoted to a number of things including: levelling the land in front of the school to make it more conducive to play and school activities, assisting teachers in the classroom, landscaping, and working as health agents in the clinic and visiting sick parents to help them with their house work. This coming year, selected parents will also complete service hours as community activists supporting the SASA! program which combats violence against women and girls.

On August 23rd we held a graduation ceremony for 29 parents who completed the Education is Conversation (ESK) seminar groups. These groups started with 45 participants and took place from February into August. ESK teaches participants to confront critical issues that afflict their communities including child abuse, sexual harassment, restavèk, and others.

For two weeks in June a summer camp was held for new and returning students. Over 90 kids participated.



CHILDREN'S ACADEMY AND LEARNING CENTER

Children's Academy teachers received five days of training in June from Life Is Good and another five days in July from AMURT.

HP staff has been working closely with Beyond Borders to implement SASA! - a method of their Rethinking Power program - at the Children's Academy. [SASA!](#) is a methodology for community activism developed to combat violence against women and girls.

In May we launched a literacy class in partnership with the Secretary of State for Literacy (a Haitian government agency) through COGEB (a local Association) for parents of Children's Academy students. The group has 12 participants and is being led by Children's Academy teacher, Francessa Antoine.

Language Hangouts engaged 28 Haitian English students in the summer session and resulted in 605 volunteer hours between January and June. A background check system has been put in place and the current session was launched with 24 students on Monday, September 21st. A survey of volunteers in July found that two-thirds found the program "fulfilling" to "extremely fulfilling," with no negative evaluations. Additionally, thanks to a recent partnership with the Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart's English Honor Society - the only all-girls school grades pre K-12 in the state of Florida - eight students with the support of their teacher/advisors will be participating in Language Hangouts.



CHILDREN'S ACADEMY AND LEARNING CENTER

Jodie Kitchens, who has been generously volunteering her time to coordinate the Language Hangouts program, was recently contracted to coordinate an entrepreneurship program grant. Jodie is a great colleague and we're all thrilled at the opportunity to work with her!

English classes for local youth and other community members continued through the summer from 4-6pm each weekday. We also recently launched an English class for 1st graders each weekday afternoon from 4:30- 5:30pm. Classes are led by retired teacher and long-term volunteer, Lisa Reyes, with assistance from intern Hannah Knierim and HP staff and Children's Academy coordinator, Alex Myril.

In addition to more than two-dozen visitors of one week or less, since April we've had a steady flow of volunteers and interns at Bellevue. Six stayed for between three weeks and several months and concentrated on teaching English at the Children's Academy. Additionally, two new interns started this month and several groups are already planned for the coming months.

WOZO Choir continues to practice every Saturday and Sunday afternoon from 3-5pm. Additionally, the choir has now also taken responsibility for leading Sunday afternoon prayers which we call "Community Assembly" in collaboration with Jean-Reynald Blanc and Alex Myril.



CHILDREN'S ACADEMY AND LEARNING CENTER

On September 25th we started a teacher development course on the psychology of learning led by long-time associate, Steven Werlin. The class is held last Friday of the month with all the Children's Academy teachers participating.

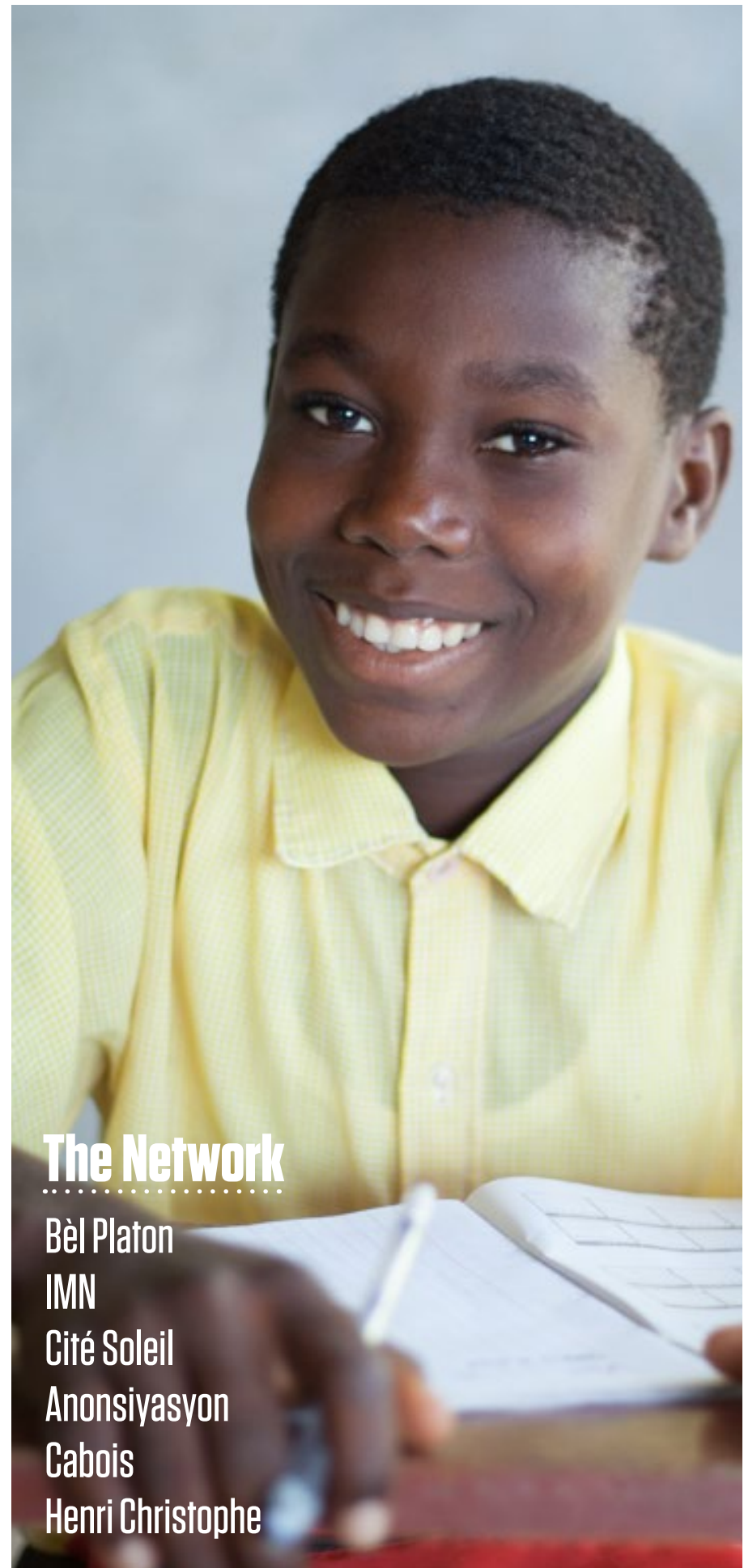
In June Haiti Clinic sent 9 US-based volunteers to hold a clinic. Over 400 patients were seen over 2 and a half days. The on-site clinic continues to see approximately 25 patients per day. When the dentist comes, she sees approximately 20 patients and extracts 20-25 teeth.



THE PARTNER SCHOOL NETWORK

Outcome

Develop an effective accompaniment approach that helps Haitian schools to improve education, achieve financial independence through social business, and become democratic centers for community development and lifelong learning.



The Network

Bèl Platon

IMN

Cité Soleil

Anonsiyasyon

Cabois

Henri Christophe

OVERALL

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In July we held our fourth annual Teacher Summit teacher training. It lasted three days and was attended by 38 of our lead teachers and administrators from the Children's Academy and partner schools. The training was led by an exemplary group of 12 expert teacher trainers from Calvary Church in Holland, Michigan. ([View blog post and pics here.](#))

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In partnership with Haiti Clinic, this September we distributed deworming medication to all our Leogane partner schools. [Research shows](#) that deworming is one of the most basic and cost-effective ways to support student success in the developing world.

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Because of the changed testing regime (GoH-mandated national exams don't begin until 9th grade now, instead of 6th), IMN School has begun offering 7th grade this year. Henri Christophe School plans to do the same next year and, because of the emphasis parents put on national test scores as the primary indicator of a school's success, other partner schools are considering this option as well for the coming years.

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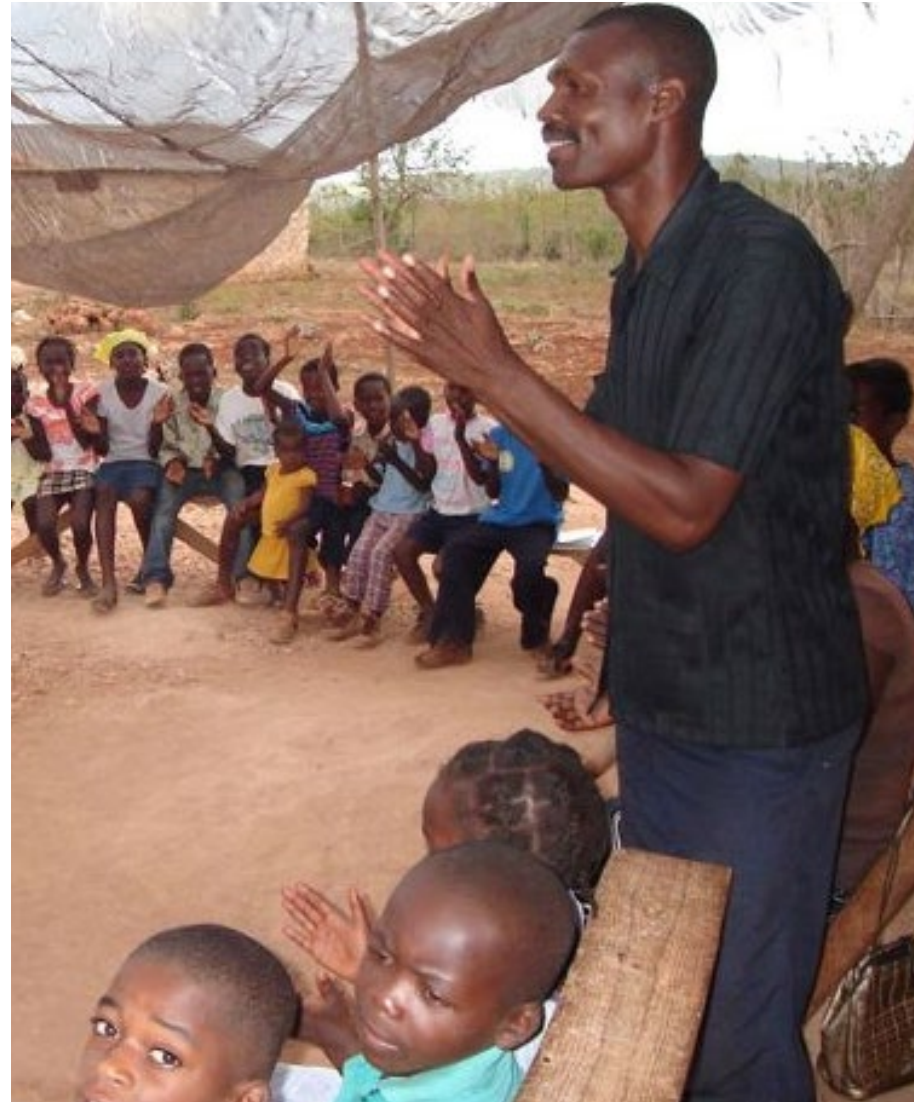
Bèl Platon

100% of 6th grade students – 8 girls and 5 boys - passed their exams this year, making them eligible for the next cycle of Haitian education, middle/high school.

This August, Bèl Platon Community School built three badly needed new classrooms. Though parents were unable to contribute financially to this effort, they helped out with the construction by carrying gravel, sand, water and cement to the work site.

From July 26-28 the staff participated in a training sponsored by CARE International on classroom management, lesson planning and how to best utilize Haiti's national curriculum.

During September the staff made preparations for the 2015-16 school year. They met to discuss strategies for how to best implement the new methods they learned in training this summer, how to take advantage of the new materials that they received at the HP Teacher Summit training in July, and how to support their students to begin taking increased responsibility for doing their work. To encourage student motivation, they also decided to explore the possibility of a competition with other area schools on reading, writing and general knowledge.





100% of 6th grade students – 4 girls and 5 boys - passed their exams this year, making them eligible for the next cycle of Haitian education, middle/high school.

Over the summer the school built a second floor making two new classrooms available.

In response to the Haitian government's decision to eliminate the 6th grade national exam in favor of a 9th grade national exam, this September IMN began offering a 7th grade class to 8 students. The school plans to add 8th and 9th grades over the next two academic years.

IMN has begun offering a meal program for 1st and 2nd year kindergarten students. It hopes to expand the program to more grades in the coming years.

In addition to training offered in July through HP, this summer the school held trainings on student evaluation, communications, and English instruction.

This year the school has integrated computer and physical education classes into its offerings. It hopes to launch a school garden later in the year.

To date, 217 students have been enrolled for the 2015-16 academic year.



Cité Soleil

100% of 6th grade CSCS students – 7 girls and 7 boys - passed their exams this year, making them eligible for the next cycle of Haitian education, middle/high school.

Unfortunately, the second week in September – the week most schools get started in earnest - was a violent one in Cité Soleil because of armed conflict between police and local gangs. As a result, parents were afraid to send their kids to school and the beginning of the year saw greatly reduced attendance. Thankfully, since this time the conflict has abated and parents have begun to send their kids to school again each day as usual.

In order to provide more security at the school, especially when these kinds of armed conflict arise, last spring the school began construction on a tall cement security wall. Though not totally complete, this wall has been raised and is already providing increased security to CSCS students and staff each day.



Anonsiyasyon

63% of 6th grade students – 3 of 6 girls and 2 of 2 boys - passed their exams this year, making them eligible for the next cycle of Haitian education, middle/high school.

This summer the school improved its physical plant by building office, kitchen and storage depot spaces.

In June, the school leadership hosted 3 international visitors. During their visit, they organized cultural events and held an end of the year celebration.

The school received a significant restricted donation this summer to set up a basic solar powered electric system. This is an important development since the school operates in the afternoons and is regularly limited in the winter months in how late it can function because of a simple lack of light.

In early September, the school organized trainings on how to best teach geography using a globe or map.

In order to expand its limited facility and create the possibility for increased offerings, school leadership aims to build another two rooms on top of the newly built administrative and kitchen spaces. They hope to accomplish this in the summer of 2016.



Cabois

80% of 6th grade students – 2 of 3 girls and 6 of 7 boys - passed their exams this year, making them eligible for the next cycle of Haitian education, middle/high school.

From July 20th to August 20th the school held a summer camp for 1st through 6th grade students each weekday. There were 75 students who participated with supervision from 4 teachers and 4 staff members. Activities focused on academic areas in which students needed extra support like math, grammar and writing, primarily using techniques and materials learned at the Teacher Summit training in July. Additionally, there were games and other leisure activities to build camaraderie and community among students, teachers and staff.



Henri Christophe

76% of 6th grade students – 6 of 9 girls and 7 of 8 boys - passed their exams this year, making them eligible for the next cycle of Haitian education, middle/high school.

In an effort to increase parent involvement in their children's education, the school introduced end of the year parent-teacher meetings this June. The meetings serve as an opportunity to evaluate the overall school year and consider how parents and school staff can better work together to improve student outcomes in the coming year.

To date, 229 students have been enrolled for the 2015-16 academic year.

The school added two new people to its staff this year: an additional kindergarten teacher and an additional cleaning staff person.

In response to the Haitian government's decision to eliminate the 6th grade national exam in favor of a 9th grade national exam, Henri Christophe has decided to add grades 7, 8, and 9. The change will be made gradually by offering 7th grade in the 2016-17 school year, 8th grade in 2017-18, and 9th grade in 2018-19.

