



Haiti
Partners

QUALITY SCHOOLS
**QUARTERLY
REPORT**

| Spring 2016 |

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

LEGEND

- IP** Improving Pedagogy
- IA** Improving Administration
- IPI** Increasing Parent Involvement
- ICE** Increasing Community Engagement

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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.

Thirty three 3-year olds have been registered for the next school year bringing the total number of students for September 2016 to 188. Parents of the new students have already started receiving orientation and providing weekly service hours.  

Parents continue to provide 4 service hours per week doing a variety of things including working as community health agents, landscaping at the school, improving local roads, and leading community meetings. So far this school year (Sept-Apr) parents have provided 24,621 service hours. ([Pics](#))  

CALC staff has begun initial steps toward developing a strategic plan. The process will be conducted over the next year and will be open to all stakeholders. ([Draft document](#)) If you'd like to be involved in this process, please [be in touch](#).  



CHILDREN'S ACADEMY AND LEARNING CENTER

In May CALC became the first primary school to make the WorldBlu List of Most Freedom-Centered Workplaces. WorldBlu promotes freedom-centered, democratic organizational design and leadership, and over the last ten years has certified 136 organizations impacting over a million employees worldwide. CALC was also recognized with three Top Practice awards in the areas of Purpose + Vision, Dialogue + Listening, and Accountability. ([Blog](#)) 

Permaculture training: In May CALC engaged a Haitian expert in permaculture for 3 months to develop a substantial organic farming program. Plans include: planting a model school garden that becomes a place for learning for parents and students and which generates revenue, working with teachers to integrate permaculture gardening into the curriculum, working with parents to plant permaculture plots in their own gardens and to train other parents, and developing a long-term plan for integrating permaculture education into the education at CALC and expanding it to include chickens and fish. ([Video](#))   

Moment of Silence: In January the school implemented a moment of silence as a way for students to quiet their minds and focus their attention for better learning. Each day at 11am the entire school pauses activities for 5 minutes while calming instrumental music plays in the background. Though it took some time to get everyone used to it, it's currently working well and people have come to value it as a time for reflection, a little breather in an otherwise full schedule, and even as a time for prayer. 



CHILDREN'S ACADEMY AND LEARNING CENTER

Centers: The “centers” teaching method is flourishing at CALC. This approach teaches students to work independently of the teacher in small groups. In contrast to traditional education in Haiti, centers teach students how to collaborate and take responsibility for their learning without relying on the teacher for everything. (Pics) 

Village Savings and Loan (VSLA) groups: As part of HP’s Entrepreneurship activities, 4 savings groups were established since last December. The groups have 20 to 30 members each, meet each week, and consist of parents, staff, members of the CPBM cooperative, and parents receiving training on women’s rights through our Churches Program. To date these groups have collected over 400,000 Haitian goudes (US\$6430). Participation at meetings is strong, enthusiasm is high, and delinquency rates on loans vary between 0 and 3%.  

Language Hangouts: With sustained enthusiasm, the current session launched April 19th with 23 participants. Between June 2015 - May 2016 the program logged more than 1,000 hours from US and Haitian partners.  

SASA! – Training for the prevention of violence against women and children: In partnership with [Beyond Borders](#), this spring SASA! established a network of 38 local volunteers – including youth, community and religious leaders – to play the role of “Community Activists.” These activists raise awareness about violence against women and children in their communities and serve as a support system for women and children who are at risk. The program aims to reach 3-5000 people around CALC over the course of the next year.  



CHILDREN'S ACADEMY AND LEARNING CENTER

Education Is Conversation (ESK) – Women’s and children’s rights training for parents: In January 65 parents started a new 6 month cycle of ESK. They meet on a weekly basis in 4 groups to discuss real-life challenges of women and children in Haiti, especially children in servitude (restavèk), and how to overcome them. On March 15 the ESK program organized an Open Space for all 65 participants. [\(Pics\)](#) On May 18, Haiti’s Flag day, another Open Space meeting reached 75 people - parents plus CALC staff - on the theme, “What can we do to end restavèk in our area?” [\(Pics\)](#) [IPI](#) [ICE](#)

In February with substantial help from parents a short stone and mortar wall was built behind the school. Over 30 yards of chain link fence was also installed to better demark the campus. [\(Video\)](#) [IPI](#)

In April the school developed a peer-to-peer values survey. This survey will allow staff to improve their performance through anonymously providing and receiving feedback from their colleagues. Staff will determine together if they like this practice or if they feel there is a better approach. [IA](#)

Training:

- Feb 23-28, Mary Pautz: Music education.
- Feb 20, Apr 29-May 1, [Life is Good](#): Integrating play into classroom activities.
- May 3-4, visit to [MCLC](#): Mother Tongue Books - students create books in Haitian Creole.
- May 6-7, [Community Coalition for Haiti](#): Basic reading and math for early grades.
- May 18, [A Connected Planet](#): Technology for classroom education. [\(Pic\)](#) [IP](#)



CHILDREN'S ACADEMY AND LEARNING CENTER

On May 27 Kim Laughlin, another parent and 4 recent high school graduates held a puppet show and discussion on dental hygiene for students, staff, parents and community members. (Pics)   

In June 4 medical students and 2 nurses visited CALC for a week. While there they conducted physicals on all 155 students. 

Haiti Clinic held 3 clinics this spring reaching over 1000 people. (Pics) They continue to maintain a small staff on site consulting about 125 people each week. A dentist and assistant also consult about 25 patients weekly. On March 18, the clinic provided vaccinations to students and community members. 

Lisa Reyes, a retired school teacher from the US, continues to volunteer over half the year at CALC helping with everything from supporting teachers to implementing new teaching techniques, to developing a new report card system, to identifying and providing needed classroom materials. Lisa's expertise, hard work and dedication has been invaluable to the school's progress over the last couple school years. 

Since January CALC has hosted 5 interns and over 50 visitors. Interns typically come for 1-3 months and help with afternoon English programming, school activities in and out of the classroom, as well as entrepreneurship activities. (Pics) Visits range from one to multiple days and often include activities that draw on visitors' skills and meet local needs. 



THE PARTNER SCHOOL NETWORK

Outcome

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



The Network

Anonsiyasyon

Cabois

Henri Christophe

IMN

Bèl Platon

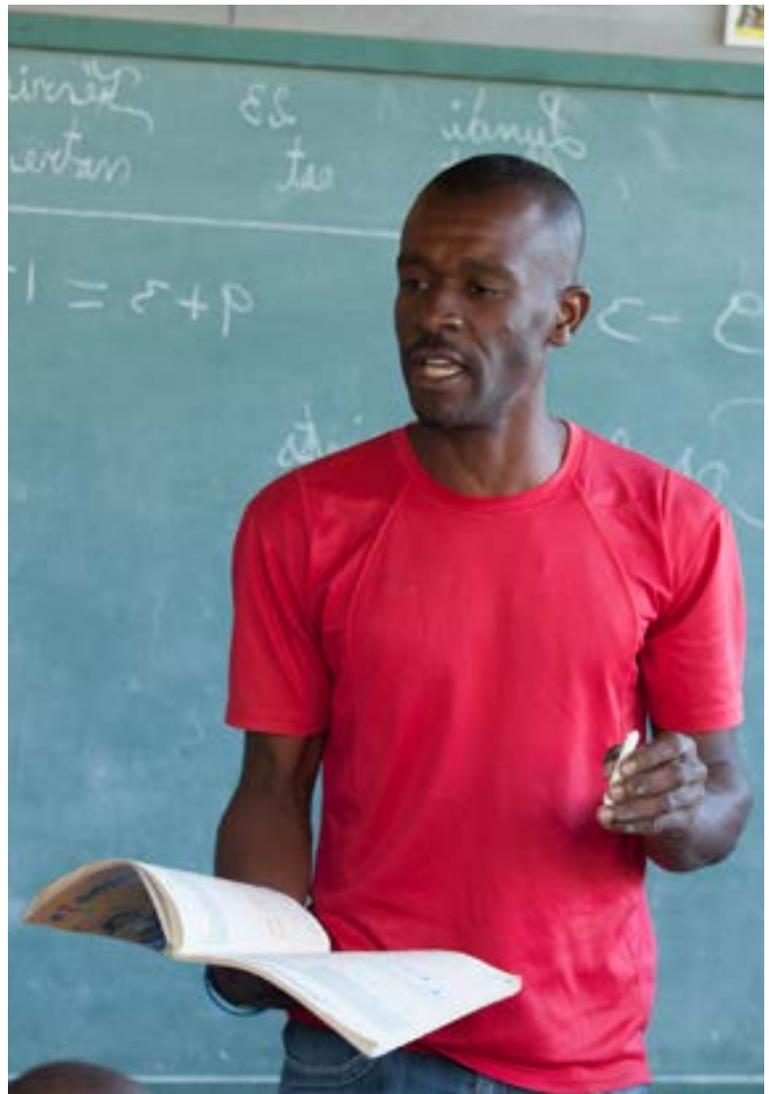
Cité Soleil

OVERALL

On March 4 HP conducted a day-long Open Space meeting for our partner school lead teachers and administrators in the Leogane area. Twenty-six people participated on the theme: “What can we do to support our teachers to practice in their classrooms the techniques they’re being trained in?” Together the group tackled a number of challenging topics and renewed their commitment to work together with HP staff to support teachers to implement these new techniques in their classrooms. (Pics)  

HP Schools Program Coordinator, Benaja Antoine, met on a regular basis this spring with partner school administrators and lead teachers to help them organize to better implement the student-centered techniques they have been trained in at our annual Teacher Summits. This year we have focused on supporting a core group of teachers who have demonstrated enthusiasm for these new methods. Our hope is that as these teachers succeed in adopting student-centered techniques – in part because we are better able to support this smaller group – their fellow teachers will come to better appreciate this alternative approach and seek to adopt it as well.  

This spring Abelard Xavier, close colleague and co-founder of our partner organization, Eksperyansla Foundation, launched an after school class on written and oral communication. The class is open to all partner school students, but has focused on students at Henri Christophe Community School since it is held at his residence next door to the school. 



Anonsiyasyon

Continuing a trend which began last fall when the school enrolled a local 58 year old woman, in January Anonsiyasyon accepted a new 30 year old adult student named Jesula. Jesula never had the chance to go to school as a child. As she got older, she became frustrated that she couldn't sign her name when the need arose. Having moved to the area in the fall, she heard about Anonsiyasyon and inquired as to whether she could enroll as an adult. Wishing to serve all those in need, the school accepted her and she started 1st grade mid-year. Already Jesula has caught up with her classmates and has begun to learn to read and write. She now helps her son – who is also in 1st grade – each night with his homework. IP ICE

This summer the school will conduct repairs to the classrooms to deal with leaks that have developed in the roof. At the same time, in order to address a space shortage, the school will expand and build another classroom on top of the current office space. IA

Throughout the spring both 3rd and 4th grades participated in Reflection Circles on a weekly basis. IP



Cabois

On February 5 the school organized a Carnaval celebration for the students. Both students and parents were in attendance. Carnaval is a national celebration in Haiti and this activity served as a way to teach students about Haiti's culture and history. 

On March 18 the school held a day of recreation together with other local schools from the area. They organized competitions and sporting events. An estimated 180 people participated and it served as a great boost to student morale. 

The class committee system established last fall – in which each class has 5 students who take responsibility for the success of the class independently of the teacher – continues to serve the school well.  

On May 20 in celebration of Haitian Flag Day the school led an excursion to a local beach. Though this was certainly a fun event for students, it was also educational in that most children who live in the very poor rural vicinity of the school have never had the opportunity to go to the coast, even though it's only about a 30 minute drive from where they live. 

This spring the school launched a dance program for the kindergarten students. This program is a part of the school's efforts to increasingly provide physical education. 



Henri Christophe

In February HC held a meeting for parents to inform and motivate them about the importance of parents engagement in their children's education. **IPI**

On February 5 HC organized a Carnaval celebration for students. Carnaval is a national celebration in Haiti and this activity served as a way to teach students about Haiti's culture and history. **IP**

On March 29-30, HC held a training for teachers about trauma and psychological and mental challenges for students and the impact they have on the ability of students to learn. **IP**

On March 31 HC held a training for teachers about how to identify and address basic health issues for students and families. **IP**

This spring 5 students from HC participated in a spelling competition organized by two local cultural and educational clubs. **ICE**

This spring HC arranged for a psychologist to meet with a 4th grade student named Derlens. Both of Derlens' parents are dead and he lives with his aunt, who has many challenges of her own. With special support from teachers, the administration, and the psychologist, however, Derlens has recently become more motivated and is making improved efforts to succeed in school. **IP IA**





On April 29 IMN held its annual agricultural and craft exposition for parents, students, staff, and other community members. On display were a variety of fruits, grains and vegetables that are native to the area, as well as crafts made by local artisans and students. Students worked with teachers to organize and execute the event. **IP** **ICE**

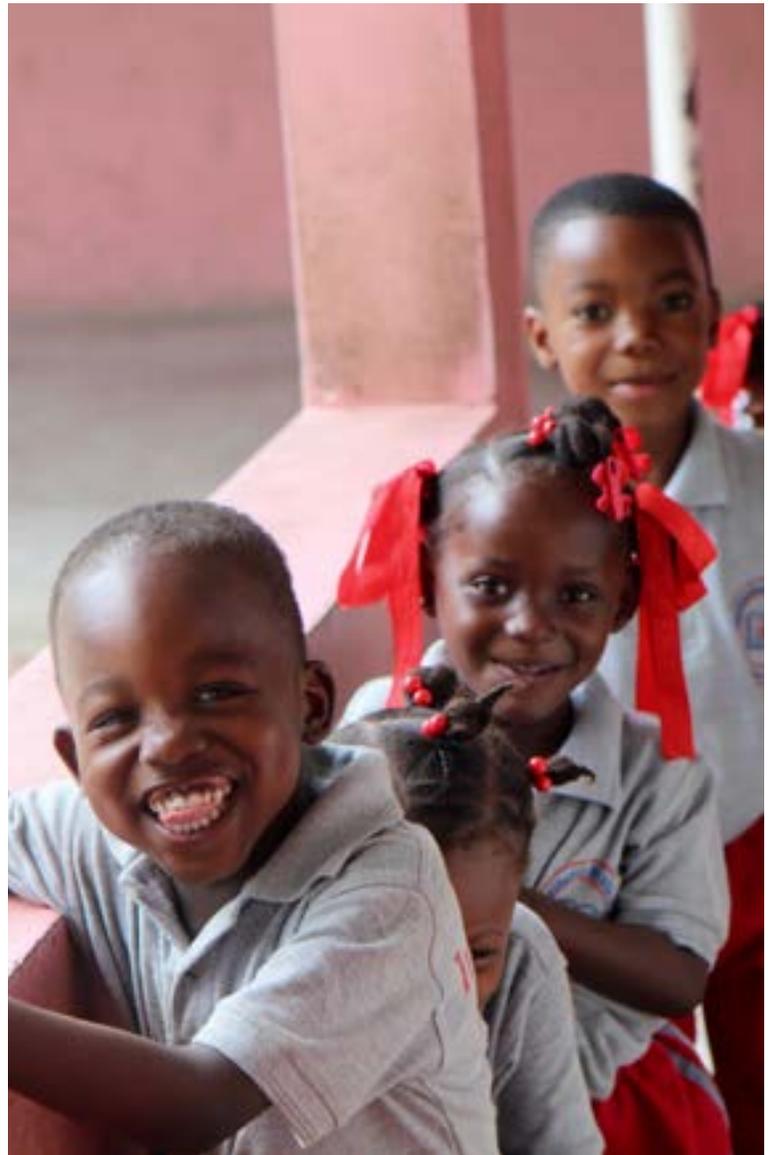
This summer, through a partnership with [Bethel Computers for Education](#), IMN will install its first computer lab. The lab will be comprised of 6 used laptops and one server loaded with a vast amount of searchable information as well as a variety of educational games in Haitian Creole, English and French.

IP

In the hopes of better engaging students and parents outside the normal framework of the school day, this spring several meetings were held with teachers on extracurricular activities.

IP

Anticipating the addition of its first 8th grade class next year, IMN is making plans to build another classroom this summer. **IA**



Bèl Platon

In February, the school cistern developed a leak that threatened not only the school's water security, but their food security as well since their meal program could not function without water from the cistern. In response, HP launched an emergency campaign to raise funds to fix it. The campaign succeeded in just 5 days, and within a month the cistern was repaired. ([Blog](#)) Though this was an unexpected challenge for a school which faces enough challenges as it is, we were pleased with the response the campaign drew and the way the project united the school community to come together to get it fixed as soon as the resources were available.  

WorldVision has promised to build a new latrine for the school before the 2016-17 school year begins. The school has cultivated a relationship with WorldVision over years, and we are thrilled to see them succeed in advocating on their own behalf in this way. 

This spring the school received enough support from the state to begin construction on a designated office space for the school administration. The space is simple and incomplete, though they hope to complete it this summer. To date, the school administrators have had to share space with classrooms. 



Cité Soleil

After a challenging fall during which there was a lot of gang violence in the area of the school, the fighting has abated and the neighborhood surrounding the school has been relatively calm. This has led to better attendance and improved student focus and attention. The school looks forward to improved student outcomes as a result on the state exams later in June.

With encouragement from staff and teachers, the CSCS parent committee has been very active in the last few months. This has led to an estimated 90% participation rate by parents in school meetings and gatherings.  

On April 27 there were 5 teachers from CSCS who participated in a training in social psychology. Teachers were very enthusiastic about this training and are working together to integrate what they learned into their teaching and classroom activities. 

On May 17 CSCS staff took a break from their challenging environment and made a day trip to a local beach resort. They organized this 'day of reflection and professional development' around the topic, "What is the future of schools in the most vulnerable neighborhoods?" Staff left the meeting feeling rejuvenated and looking forward to a strong finish to the school year.  

