



Haiti
Partners

QUALITY SCHOOLS
**QUARTERLY
REPORT**

| Summer 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.7

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.

On June 24th, 32 students graduated from kindergarten. These students represent the class of 2029.  



The Children's Academy grew to 184 students. With 3 preK classes, 1st and 2nd grades, it now serves students ages 3 to 8 years old.  



Parents provided 39,210 service hours during the 2015-16 school year. Typical tasks include permaculture gardening on the school grounds, helping in our hand papermaking social business, tending to the grounds at the school, working as community health agents and organizers, providing training on women's and children's rights, and a variety of other important activities. [\(Pics\)](#)  

Summer Camp: For two weeks in July a summer camp was held for new and returning students. Over 80 kids participated. [\(Video\)](#)  



CHILDREN'S ACADEMY AND LEARNING CENTER

Papermaking project: In July, a large concrete vat was constructed in the papermaking space allowing the creation of much bigger pieces of handmade paper. In September, papermaking expert Hector Rodriguez, came to visit for another month to teach the team how to fully utilize this and to advance the project. Currently, we're seeking artists for an artists-in-residence program. ([Video](#), [pics](#), [papermaking strategy doc.](#))  



In collaboration with the Touchstones Discussion Project, the school started piloting its first Touchstones discussion group made up of school staff this September. Through structured weekly discussions, Touchstones helps participants develop foundational skills like improved listening, speaking, reasoning, comprehension, collaborative problem solving, and teamwork. As groups go through the process, they develop a culture of respect and collaboration that has powerful effects both in and outside the classroom. ([Pics](#))  



Village Savings and Loan (VSLA) groups: Four VSLAs functioned out of the school this summer helping people to develop capital and learn about financial management. Groups have 20 to 30 members, meet weekly, and consist of parents, staff, and community members. So far these groups have collected over \$7,000. Participation at meetings is strong, enthusiasm is high, and loan repayment averages 98%.



([Pics](#))  



CHILDREN'S ACADEMY AND LEARNING CENTER

On June 26th, 53 parents and other community members graduated from the 6-month Education is Conversation (ESK) program. Through ESK, participants confront, first in conversation and then through role-playing, critical issues that afflict their communities: child abuse, sexual harassment, restavèk, and others.  

SASA! – Training for the prevention of violence against women and children: As a result of SASA! and ESK activities, three children from the community who were being used as restavèks were returned to their families this summer. We are thrilled about this critical partnership with [Beyond Borders](#) and look forward to being a part of reuniting more children with their families as the program goes forward.  



[Haiti Clinic](#) held 2 clinics this summer out of the Children's Academy reaching over 2480 people. They continue to maintain a small staff on site consulting more than 125 people each week. A dentist and assistant also consult more than 25 patients weekly. ([Pics](#))  




A “flash campaign” organized on facebook on behalf of a student named Leissa who needed a new prosthetic leg because of a birth defect raised \$1630 in a day. Children's Academy staff are currently helping with Leissa and her mother to acquire the new prosthetic. ([Video](#))











CHILDREN'S ACADEMY AND LEARNING CENTER

Language Hangouts: Transitioned to a volunteer coordinated program. We began utilization of signup.com for US partners to register and self-select day/time slots. The tool sends reminders with links and facilitates email communications. We've received positive user experience feedback. The 7 week fall session kicked off on September 19th with 14 weekly conversation hangouts. We introduced "Hangout Etiquette" to educate and improve conversations and expectations.  

Permaculture: In September the school installed two beehives on the property. Bees are critical to local gardens because as they pollinate they help plants grow and produce more seeds.   

Children's Academy Coordinator, Alex Myril, moved in August to do a year long internship with Urban Promise, an inner city youth ministry in Camden, NJ. Alex is excited to learn Urban Promise's community development model so it can inform his work at the Children's Academy in the future.  

Training:

- July13-15: Teacher Summit (details below)
- July 21, [Tabasamu](#): Dental Health
- July 25-29, Aug 12-13, [AMURT](#): Classroom management, critical & positive thinking
- August 16, [SASA!](#): Monitoring & Evaluation
- August 5, [Life is Good](#): Integrating play into classroom activities.
- September 30, [Community Coalition for Haiti](#): Creole Reading    



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

Three middle school grades have been added at the partner schools. These 6 schools now educate 1055 students each day.  


5th Annual Teacher Summit: From 13-15 July, 46 teachers from our schools were trained by 13 expert teachers and administrators from Calvary Church in Holland, Michigan. The training focused on lesson planning and involved many fun and effective student-centered teaching techniques. ([Blog post](#) & [pics](#))  

In order to better support the partner school teachers to implement the techniques learned at the Teacher Summit, we've established a [group of teachers](#) that will meet monthly throughout the school year in Leogane. These teachers have shown great interest in adopting these student-centered techniques and will work closely with HP Program Coordinator, Benaja Antoine, and long-time associate and education expert, Steven Werlin, to accomplish this. Their objective is to work together and support each other to plan, execute, and evaluate, the teaching techniques learned at the Summit throughout the 2016-17 school year. 


Through a partnership with [Vitamin Angels](#), in September we distributed bulk multivitamins to the partner schools and Children Academy. Since many students at our schools struggle with malnutrition, daily multivitamins distributed to our preschoolers supplement their vitamin intake and aid in their physical and mental development.  



Anonsiyasyon

79% of students who took their end-of-year exams passed this June. This is moderately strong in Haiti where passing rates are often in the 70% range. 


During the summer the school completed significant improvements:




- Built a new room on top of the office. This room will be used for classroom, meeting and cultural activities.
- Resurfaced the interior walls in two classrooms.
- Replaced the metal roofing sheets on two classrooms in order to repair leaks.
- Enclosed a small, previously open, irrigation canal that passes through the school yard addressing a safety concern. 


In 2013, the leadership at Anonsiyasyon collaborated with other local educators to begin a new school that would function out of the same building in the mornings (Anonsiyasyon functions in the afternoons). This new school - Centre Educatif des Sages or “CEDU-SAGE” - has grown year by year and now educates 170 students in three preschool grades and 1st grade primary. Though it is not formally a partner school, through supporting the advancement of Anonsiyasyon, as well as through training some of its staff, Haiti Partners is helping CEDU-SAGE succeed as well.





Cabois

93% of students who took their end-of-year exams passed this June. This is an especially strong showing in Haiti where passing rates are often in the 70% range. 

In July and August, 72 students came to the school from 8 to 11 AM Monday through Thursday to receive remedial education. Teachers volunteered their time to make this possible.   

The school made further steps toward completion of its 3 preK classrooms by finishing the walls and painting the exterior this summer. 

In recent years, the school has developed a partnership with [Project Nourish](#), a US non-profit that supports people in Haiti in a variety of ways. This summer – coinciding with the summer remedial education programming – they provided daily meals to the school, ensuring that those who participated in the activity were rewarded with a nutritious meal.  



Henri Christophe

77% of students who took their end-of-year exams passed this June. This is moderately strong in Haiti where passing rates are often in the 70% range. **IP**

The school added its first 7th grade class this September. They currently have 8 students enrolled in the class. **IP IA**

This summer the school completed 3 new classrooms on the side of the main school building. These classrooms will house the grades for the next cycle of education, 7th through 9th grades. **IP IA ICE**





100% of 5th, 6th and 7th grade students passed their end-of-year exams. Though the national exam has been moved back to the 9th grade, this bodes very well for the future for these IMN students. IP

In September, IMN added its first 8th grade class.




Over the summer IMN finished the walls in two classrooms (before this they were bare cinderblock), built a partition to make a single large classroom into two smaller ones (to accommodate the new 8th grade class), and built a kitchen space where they can prepare meals for the kindergarteners. They also had a local artisan make 7 benches, 5 tables, and two cabinets. IA

In July, a lead administrator at IMN arranged for the school to host a youth group made up of kids from around the country who came to perform in a local church. ICE

Over the summer the school administration was pleased to learn about the success of one of their former students, Daphslanty. After completing the 6th grade at IMN, Daphslanty enrolled in a private, local middle school. During her first year she was so successful that not only was she able to skip the 8th grade, but even after doing so she received the school's top score on the national exam. The principal at Daphslanty's new school was so pleased that he contacted the leadership at IMN to congratulate them on their work with her. IP IA





Bèl Platon

91% of students who took their end-of-year exams passed this June. This is an especially strong showing in Haiti where passing rates are often in the 70% range. 


On June 16th, the same day they distributed report cards, the school held an Open Space meeting for parents and students. The theme was environmental protection. This is a particularly relevant discussion in this community because it is located on the island of La Gonave which has been devastated by deforestation to the point where rivers have run dry and parts of it have become arid.



Thanks to a partnership with the Haitian government, the school has established and is maintaining a meal program. This program is vital in this extremely poor area that deals with food insecurity on a regular basis.  



Cité Soleil

89% of students who took their end-of-year exams passed this June. This is an especially strong showing in Haiti where passing rates are often in the 70% range. 

The school continues to stand out, especially given the circumstances under which they work, in terms of continually developing and cultivating partnerships. As part of the school's partnership with [Haiti Allies](#), they are currently working on establishing a social business creating hand-made yoga bags out of recycled materials that are abundant in Cité Soliel – plastic fibers from 50lb rice bags and cotton denim material. 