



EL EDUCATION

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Attending EL Education's National Conference in San Diego last week was an amazing experience. I only wish that there had been more time to attend sessions on a variety of topics. I walked away seeing EL Education focus on the many characteristics that build resilient and capable young people as they enter the world after graduation. Students are engaged to think deeper, make better connections, think critically, persevere, collaborate, problem solve, communicate, and demonstrate compassion and ethical behavior through being engaged more fully in their education. Students who are engaged in challenging and meaningful activities develop the above skills and are able to apply them across all aspects of their life. Further, students are creating a mindset of growth, integrity, and connections to their community that ultimately will benefit everyone. Building and strengthening these character traits are essential to building successful students here at KCS.

At the conference, I experienced learning sessions and connected with people who live and work this way everyday. I walked away impressed and inspired by what students are capable of achieving when expectations are high, challenges are complex, and the learning experiences are meaningful. I emphasize, students achieving because they are the ones doing the work as the teacher's role has shifted toward a coach or facilitator. Following EL Education's framework allows students to become engaged leaders of their own learning who thrive well beyond their years in school.

Dan Mayberry / Superintendent/HS Principal

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Note: EL Education (EL) is the new name of what was formerly known as Expeditionary Learning, a nonprofit school improvement organization created in 1992 by Outward Bound USA in partnership with the Harvard Graduate School of Education. In December 2013, HPEF helped to arrange for a team of EL coaches to offer a day of professional development to the KCS faculty. In the Spring of 2014, one KCS teacher attended an EL elementary institute, in December 2014, three more teachers and the K-8 principal attended the EL national conference, and in October of this year, one teacher and the KCS superintendent attended EL's national conference, all with partial support from HPEF.

- The Editors

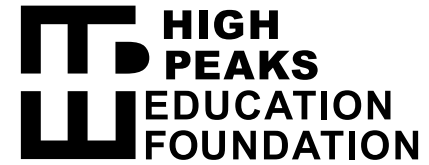
ROBOTICS CLUB

A Robotics club for ages 8-14 has been started in Keene Valley with the help of a grant from HPEF. Meetings started in January 2015, where club participants were exposed to using computer programming to control robots. Using robots to learn aspects of STEM education (science, technology, engineering and math) has become a major movement both in the classroom and in interscholastic competitions.

The venue has been at the Keene Valley Library, where this activity is a trial run for a planned Maker Space. For the 2015-16 school year, the club has invited North Country School to participate to see if a critical mass for future interscholastic competition can be achieved. KCS Superintendent Dan Mayberry is supporting the effort and hopes to see robotics brought into the curriculum when possible.

Jim Bernard / Robotics Coach

A copy of High Peaks Education Foundation's latest annual report may be obtained, upon request, from HPEF at High Peaks Education Foundation, PO Box 475, Keene Valley, NY 12943 or from the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau at 120 Broadway, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10271.



LIFETIME FITNESS

Thanks to High Peaks Education Foundation the Physical Education program was able to purchase some much needed fitness equipment to help build a community of Fit-Learners. Through Rogue Fitness and the help of HPEF we were able to purchase several new weight bars, bumper plates, medicine balls, kettlebells, and two Concept 2 Rowers. With the purchase of this new equipment it's allowed our Lifetime Fitness class to utilize more equipment without having to waste time while sharing with a classmate. It will also help our younger classes (middle school) to learn the basics of weight training and CrossFit so that they may learn how to be safe and effective movers. The equipment also helps our athletic teams stay fit during the season and implement an off-season training program which will help with injury prevention and allow our athletes to become bigger, faster, and stronger!

Matt Mills
KCS Athletic Director & PE Teacher

highpeaked.org

The logo for Keene Community School, featuring the letters 'KCS' in a stylized, white, serif font against a dark blue background.

HEALTHYEATING

The two new convection ovens for the cafeteria kitchen bought with an HPEF grant are working extremely well. We now make kale chips in one oven at 275 degrees while cooking rice in the other oven at 400 degrees. This was not an easy task before and often we were unable to offer as much as we do now. We feel blessed that we can have someone baking our ala cartes at the same time as someone else is cooking lunch. Thank you all also for your tremendous support through the years. From helping us to fund an amazing geodesic greenhouse, to funding a bread slicer that not only has saved us thousands of dollars through the years, it has also allowed us to provide bread to the students that is healthy. Our philosophy of not having chemicals in our food would have not been possible without this slicer, whole grain bread ready-made without chemicals would have been way over our budget constraints. Now we save so much money and have healthy bread to boot!

Julie Holbrook / Cafeteria Manager

A graphic with the text 'INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PROGRAM @ KCS' in yellow and white. The background is a photograph of two divers underwater, one appearing to assist the other. The text is overlaid on the bottom right of this image.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PROGRAM @ KCS

This is the fourth year of the International Student Program, and 21 students from 14 different countries have now attended KCS for a year long academic program. Local families have hosted these students, and some of the families and the local students have visited these students in their home countries. Five of the international students have attended colleges in the US following their year here. Global connections have been made world wide through the program.

Joy McCabe / ISP Advisor

BIOLOGYTRIP

Over spring break in 2015 from March 27th to April 4th twelve students and four chaperones traveled to Andros Island in the Bahamas on the first KCS Marine Biology Trip. In preparation for the trip the students had aggressively fund raised money and attended three Marine Biology classes a month taught by Mrs. Werner. While on Andros the students and the chaperones stayed at Forfar Field Station. From the field station the students went on day excursions to coral reefs to snorkel and to small Bahamian towns on the island to experience Bahamian culture. In addition, the students also had class each day at the field station. They returned to Keene with a better understanding of the world's oceans and marine life and memories that they will never forget.

Justin Haverlick / KCS Student

A photograph of an auditorium filled with people. A stage is visible at the front with a screen displaying a landscape image. The text 'AUDITORIUM SHINES' is overlaid in the top right corner.

AUDITORIUM SHINES

A packed house enjoys a lecture with excellent clarity due to an extensive multi-pronged effort to improve the quality of sound in the auditorium.

A photograph of a group of children on a stage performing. One child is playing a guitar, and others are singing or playing instruments. The text 'STORYLAURIE' is overlaid in the bottom right corner.

STORYLAURIE

Professional singer/songwriter, Storylaurie, Laurie McIntosh, worked with groups of KCS students in grades K-5 for 2 ½ days at the end of September to help them write songs to celebrate 20 years of composting, gardening and whole foods at KCS.

Storylaurie met with each group twice a day, once alone and once with KCS music teacher Lynn DeWalt. She elicited from the students words for four songs that they performed in an all school/community concert on October 6. On Friday, October 2, seven KCS students performed with Storylaurie at a concert that was part of a Farm To School Fest at Petrova Elementary School in Saranac Lake. One student said "Storylaurie taught us about how important worms are in the garden." A kindergartner said "I wish she lived here." While working with students, Storylaurie tapped into many areas of the curriculum such as music, language arts ("give me an adjective"), writing, and science as well as the performing arts. The experience helped build self-esteem and created an opportunity for students to sing out about the unique environmental programs at KCS.

Bunny Goodwin / Master Gardener