



GK TODAY

Spring 2012

Welcome to the Spring 2012 edition of GK Today! As the weather warms up, so do GK student campaigns. Check out all the ways our youth leaders are beating the heat and making their mark this season!

Expanding in Washington, D.C.

Thanks to an exciting partnership with Hilton Worldwide, Global Kids is expanding its programming in Washington, D.C.! GK will offer new afterschool programs at the Academies at Anacostia and Maya Angelou Public Charter School and reach hundreds more young



people through special trainings and peer education. Hilton Worldwide team members will volunteer their time to provide college and career readiness activities and conduct service learning projects with the students at GK partner schools. Working together, Global Kids and Hilton Worldwide will create a network of active global citizens from diverse backgrounds who are changing the world. Thanks to Hilton Worldwide for their commitment to D.C. youth and supporting our work!

Local Reps Rev Up Students

GK student leaders have been busy meeting with elected officials over the past several months. Youth in NYC discussed environmental issues with NY State Senators Michael Gianaris and Tony Avella, while NY State Senator Joseph Addabbo, Jr. and NY State Assemblyman Michael Miller spoke with students about their careers in politics. In Washington, D.C., students met with US Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, who talked about the importance of global awareness and civil rights.

Senior Keanna Jardine from the High School for Global Citizenship said that she learned more about the political process and how she could be an effective activist from State Senator Avella. "It seems like letter writing is better than petitions because politicians know that when you write a letter, it shows that you take the time and really care," she reflected. Students plan to use what they learned in the meetings to inform their human rights and climate change campaigns this spring.



Students Kevin Gaul and Keanna Jardine meet with NY State Senator Tony Avella to discuss his proposed ban on hydrofracking

Students Score Big on Program Evaluation

Global Kids is pleased to announce the results of its Leadership Program evaluation! The evaluation, conducted over a period of one year with the participation of hundreds of current students and alumni, assessed GK's effectiveness in achieving its five outcomes: high school graduation and college enrollment; increased interest and knowledge of domestic and international affairs; leadership skill development; increased civic engagement; and global citizenship values. The report reaffirmed the efficacy of Global Kids' innovative methodology and will be used to strengthen our work. 2010-2011 quick stats: 96% of seniors graduated from high school, with 89% of them attending college. [Click here to download the one page summary of the evaluation!](#)



9 out of 10 students agree that Global Kids changed the way they look at issues in the world and their communities.

Global Warning: Youth Plan Conference on Climate Change

Youth in GK's Conference

PURCHASE TICKETS FOR GLOBAL KIDS ANNUAL

benefit

WEDNESDAY
MAY 2ND
@THE
COUNCIL ON
FOREIGN
RELATIONS

PURCHASE

In This Issue:

[Expanding in D.C.](#)

[Students Meet with Legislators](#)

[Program Evaluation](#)

[Annual Youth Conference](#)

[Youth "Kick Butts"](#)

[Greening Western Queens](#)

[Online Leadership](#)

[D.C. Fundraiser](#)

[Winter Retreat](#)

[Summer Institute](#)

[Annual Appeal](#)

Date for Alumni Reunion Announced!



91% of GK Alumni believe they can make a change in their community.

Come connect with other change-makers.

Save the Date for Global Kids Alumni Reunion
June 2, 2012
from 5:00-7:00pm

Student Spotlight: Kendell Francis



Planning Committee are working hard to ensure the success of the 2012 Global Kids Youth Conference on Climate Change. This inspiring event will unite over 600 teenagers from the New York tri-state area and D.C. to discuss ways to promote a more sustainable world. The 2012 Conference will take place on Friday, April 20th from 8am to 4pm at Baruch College in Manhattan. To reserve your spot today, please contact Simone Jennings at 212-226-0130 x112 or email conference@globalkids.org.



Photo courtesy of Sue Rissberger

Youth "Kick Butts" in Music Video



Smoke Free (The Way 2 Be)

GK Leaders from the High School for Medical Professions (HSMP) in Canarsie have been learning about the effects of smoking and the marketing tactics of the Big Tobacco Industries. Their work has inspired two emcees from Staten Island to write and produce a hip-hop track speaking out against smoking. They even invited HSMP students to take part in the accompanying music video. "Smoke Free (Way to Be)" has become the anthem to this project. Students debuted the video with pride on March 21st during Kick Butts Day at their school to fellow peers, faculty, and staff from Global Kids' partners at Brooklyn Smoke-Free. Viewers can watch HSMP students, as well as their communities, fight back against Big Tobacco by clicking on the link above!

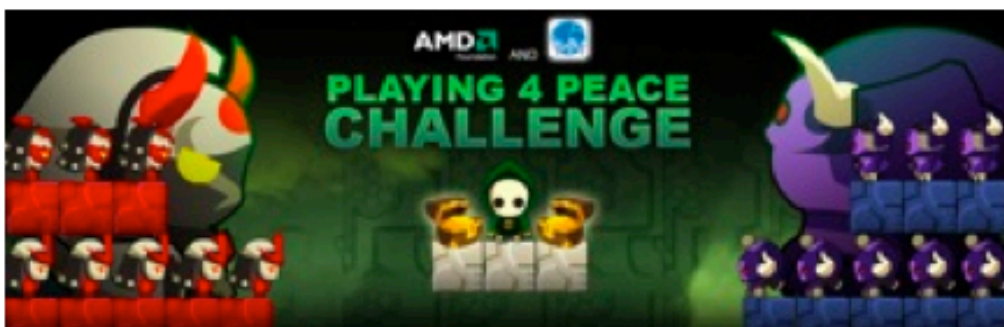
GK Goes Green in Western Queens



Global Kids is excited to announce a new \$150,000 grant from the Greening Western Queens Fund to support the Human Rights Activist Project (HRAP) at Bryant and Long Island City High Schools. The program will train a team of 100

students who will educate and organize 4,000 community members, businesses leaders, and elected officials to improve environmental conditions and sustainability efforts in western Queens. The students will conduct hands-on research, community surveys, and town hall forums in order to advocate for stronger environmental and energy policies in Western Queens.

Online Leadership Highlights



Banner designed by Playing 4 Keeps students for their Playing 4 Peace game design contest

This spring in collaboration with New York Public Libraries, GK youth leaders in the Bronx and on the Lower East Side released the first two chapters of *NYC Haunts*, a location-based game using iPads in which youth take on the role of a ghost detective and learn about their community. Meanwhile, youth game designers in our *Playing For Keeps* Program launched their first **social impact game design contest**, challenging hundreds of youth around the country to create games promoting peace. Staff traveled to San Francisco to present these projects at the third annual Digital Media and Learning Conference and were thrilled to return with a new grant from the MacArthur Foundation to create a digital badging system for Global Kids and HIVE Digital Media Learning Fund

A junior at Benjamin Banneker Academy in Brooklyn, Kendell Francis originally joined GK's Playing 4 Keeps (P4K) program as a way to gain community service credit while practicing an activity he already loved: video games.

However, since joining P4K, Kendell says his perspective has changed. "P4K is helping me think about how I view the world. It's helping me re-evaluate my relationship with media. Now I think about what I can do to affect the media and teach others." With the support of Global Kids trainers, he has even begun to look at collegiate programs in game design. Kendell says his goal is "to focus on building more realistic games that address everyday issues." Playing 4 Keeps emphasizes social impact game design as a tool for exploring issues such as resource management, conflict and the influence of media on youth.

Student Spotlight: Brittany Arboleda



A GK leader since her freshman year in high school, Brittany Arboleda is no shrinking flower when it comes to environmental justice. "One day, I'm going to put solar panels on every public building in this country," she announced boldly one recent afternoon. The 17-year-old's passionate commitment to green technologies have made her a natural leader in Global Kids' Human Right Activist

DC Fundraiser Supports 2nd Annual *Global Gateways* Program

On February 22nd, Global Kids' Washington, D.C. Advisory Board organized a fantastic fundraiser to support our 2012 *Global Gateways* summer program, an intensive foreign policy seminar that includes a service learning trip abroad. We're grateful to our D.C. Advisory Board for organizing the event and for making it such a successful night. [Click here to view more photos!](#)



Scott Beale, Amira Fouad and Scott Darling enjoy themselves at Global Kids DC Fundraiser

Students Declare Solidarity at Winter Retreat

In February, sixty GK students from across NYC went on a three-day retreat to upstate NY. They took part in workshops on topics such as democratic participation, health, and ethnic studies, and practiced their facilitation skills in preparation for our upcoming youth conference. After learning about the struggle to defend "Raza Studies" in Tucson, Arizona, students wrote letters and took photos to show their support for students in Arizona who fought for their right to an empowering and culturally relevant education.



Global Kids Youth Stand in Solidarity with Students and Teachers in Tucson, Arizona

Global Kids Summer Institute at the Council on Foreign Relations Now Accepting Applications

High school students can now apply to the *U.S. in the World: International Law and Foreign Policy Program*. This rigorous program, which received the National Summer Learning Association's 2011 Excellence in Summer Learning Award, will take place from July



23rd to August 10th at the prestigious Council on Foreign Relations. The program features intensive seminars on foreign policy with Council fellows and guest speakers, interactive workshops, field trips, and peer education projects. [Click here to download a brochure with additional information!](#)

Thank You for Supporting GK!



We're pleased to announce that Global Kids raised nearly \$100,000 during our end-of-year appeal! We'd like to give a big thank you to everyone who donated. With your support, GK continues to provide life-changing experiences to the next generation of leaders.

which is dedicating all of its youth campaigns for the 2011-2012 school year to climate change issues. Through the HRAP campaign, Brittany has already spoken in front of politicians and UN delegates. This summer, she is preparing to take her message global at the Rio+20 Environmental Conference in Brazil. For your chance to hear Brittany speak, register today for GK's Youth Conference, where she will be presenting the youth address on Climate Change!

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