

The Haitian Project, Inc.

Community Update: Men Anpil, Chay Pa Lou [Many Hands Make Light Work] May 7, 2014



Left to right: Sizyèm (U.S. 7th grade) student Julie Florine Francklin and Philo (U.S. 13th grade) student Yvelaure Théodore play hand games during the Philo-Sizyèm mentoring program; Philo students pose with their sizyèm partners and the program supervisor, Volunteer Kristin Soukup; Philo student, Evens Ducasse washes the walkway after last Thursday's wall pour.

"Many hands make light work" rings true in every language. We best know this as a community best from digging holes--really deep and wide holes. Every community member, from the smallest to the tallest, is valued as a member of our work force.

In their seventh year at LCS, part of the work of the Philo class is to serve as a Guide for the rest of the student body. They lead work groups weekly and take responsibility for dormitory cleanliness and order.

Thanks to yet another of Christina's great ideas, this year's Philo class has participated in a mentoring program with our sizyèm class (U.S. 7th grade), meeting once a month with assigned partners and discussing different facets of life at LCS. I've asked Volunteer Kristin Soukup, Philo economics teacher and mentoring program supervisor, to reflect on the benefits of this activity.

The Philo-Sizyèm mentoring program provides an opportunity for students from these two classes to form a unique relationship. The Philo students learned how to be mentors, and the sizyèm students were paired with an older student they could be comfortable talking to and could look to as a role model. Over the course of the year, I could see relationships forming, the students becoming more like brothers and sisters. The sizyèm students especially appreciated the opportunity to spend time with the Philo students, who they looked up to as the leaders of the school. It has been a valuable program, encouraging the Philo students to pass on what they have received, and helping the sizyèm students better understand the daily activities of LCS as well as their responsibilities at the school. Throughout the year, the program has built a stronger community between the oldest and youngest students of the school. This is especially important because, through this link, the entire school community can be strengthened.

When the students met this past week, they discussed the topic of work at LCS. Sizyèm students participate with their groups in Netwayaj (campus clean up) each day, which is led by the Philo students of each group. The Philo and sizyèm students shared their ideas about work: how work is done at LCS, how it compares to their previous experiences of work, and the reasons and purpose behind the work done at LCS. --Kristin Soukup, Volunteer

Peace, Patrick

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“What you receive for free, you must give for free.”

“Se gratis nou resevwa, Se gratis tou pou nou bay.”

--Matthew 10:8