

# April 2025

## College & Career Readiness Newsletter

### STUDENTS TAKE THE MIC FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



This month, Global Kids highlighted environmental justice within our communities and tasking students with projects to identify local issues and solutions. Students at **Global Kids HQ** wrapped up the Spring Break Leadership Institute with a special visit from **Victoria Moran Garcia, a Lehman College senior**. Chosen by her professor to start a podcast on environmental justice in the Bronx, Victoria shared her journey and inspired students to become storytellers themselves.

For their final activity, students began drafting their own podcast scripts based on the environmental issues they explored throughout the program—using their voices to spark change in their communities.

Students from the **High School for Public Service** joined the Spring Break Leadership Institute for a special day of fieldwork at the Water Alliance in Prospect Park. There, they gained hands-on experience in water testing and lab work, learning how science and environmental justice intersect in real-world settings.

***Interested in being part of future institutes and becoming a change maker?***

***Reach out to your Global Kids staff member at your school to learn more and get involved!***



# MEET ISAIAH TAYLOR

## GK SCHOLAR CLASS OF 2025

*Each month, a student is nominated by the GK staff at their school to be recognized in our newsletter for their outstanding service, leadership, and contributions to both their school and the Global Kids community. We share different scholars' postsecondary paths as inspirations and models of the many routes to success for GK Scholars.*



**Isaiah Taylor** is a dedicated student liaison, representative, advocate, and student athlete. Originally from South Carolina, Isaiah currently serves as the president of the **Student Council at Bronxdale**, where he has created impactful events and programs that foster a brave, inclusive, and welcoming community for his peers. As a bridge between students and administration, he actively represents student voices and needs. Isaiah was nominated by the Global Kids CCR team for the monthly CCR student highlight for his leadership and excellence in and outside of the classroom.

A passionate athlete, Isaiah plays Lacrosse for Bronxdale and also gives back to his community by coaching the Lacrosse team at his former middle school. His commitment to leadership extends beyond school as a member of **Global Kids**, where he previously served on the youth council and represented the organization at a youth conference in Albany. This fall, Isaiah will continue his academic and athletic journey at **Herkimer County Community College**, where he plans to pursue his love for Lacrosse at the collegiate level.

# MEET KUMBA NYANG

## Supporting Students at Bronxdale High School

*Each month, a staff member is nominated by CCR leadership to be highlighted for their dedication, leadership, and contributions to their school community and their support of students' postsecondary success. We share their stories and their work so that you can connect with them as a resource for you or your student.*



We're kicking off this month by highlighting **Kumba Nyang** for her amazing work in College and Career Readiness and how she continues to show up for students at **Bronxdale**. Her dedication and support have made a huge impact, helping students feel empowered and ready for what lies ahead.

**Kumba** has been working closely with the Guidance team to support seniors as they plan for life after graduation. Through one-on-one sessions and classroom push-ins, she's helping students explore all their options—from college and trade programs to career pathways. She's also provided assistance with financial aid applications, scholarships, resumes, and hosted information sessions to ensure every student feels seen, supported, and prepared for their future.

To boost daily attendance and overall engagement, Kumba is rolling out new incentive programs and activities designed to make school more rewarding and enjoyable. Whether it's through fun competitions, prizes, or special events, she's helping create a positive and motivating environment that encourages students to show up and stay connected.



**Hey Bronxdale Students! Be sure to stop by and introduce yourselves to Kumba and make the most of all the amazing resources Global Kids has to offer!**

# RESOURCE HUB

April is Financial Literacy Month and to commemorate, GK is providing you with important information on banking and budgeting that will be core to you as you begin to manage your own finances and make smart and safe choices with your hard-earned money.

## BANK ON IT: INTRO TO SAVING, SPENDING & BANKING

Got a summer job? Make your hard-earned money work for you. Learn how to save smart, spend wisely, and use banking tools to stay in control of your finances all year long.



**Scan QR Code to Get Information of Bank Accounts for High School Students**



### WHY OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT?

- **Safe & Secure:** Keep your money safe in a bank instead of hiding it at home.
- **Easy Access:** Withdraw cash or make payments easily with a debit card.
- **Earn Interest:** Grow your savings with interest in a student-friendly savings account.
- **Track Spending:** Use online banking tools to monitor your spending and manage your budget.

## SMART SPENDING: WHY STUDENTS SHOULD BUDGET THEIR SUMMER PAYCHECKS

Summer jobs can bring in extra cash, but without a plan, that money can disappear fast. Budgeting helps students stretch their earnings, cover future expenses, and build smart financial habits early.

### BUDGETING



**Scan QR Code to Get a Budget Plan to Input your Income, Wants, and Needs, and Meet your Financial Goals**



### I HAVE MONEY TO..

Go Out and Still Save

Live, Not Just Survive

Treat Myself Without Regret

Handle Surprises

Relax Now and Plan for Later



# RESOURCE HUB PT 2

## COLLEGE BOUND? HERE'S HOW TO PREP BEFORE YOU SAY YES: MUST-DO CHECKLIST

### 1. Review Your Acceptance Letters

Check all offers and make sure you understand the details of each.

### 2. Compare Financial Aid Packages

Look at scholarships, grants, loans, and total costs—know what you're signing up for. **NEGOTIATE YOUR OFFERS !!**

### 3. Speak with Your College/GK Counselor

Get guidance, ask questions, and talk through your options—they're here to help you make a confident choice.



### 4. Visit the College (If You Can)

Seeing the campus in person can help you decide if it feels like the right fit. Take a tour, talk to students, and explore!

### 5. Secure Your Spot with a Deposit

Most schools ask for a tuition deposit—make sure it's paid on time.

### 6. Celebrate Your Choice!

You did it—this is a big moment! Rock your college gear and share the news with pride.

# JUNIOR & SENIOR CORNER

## JUNIORS

"The future's closer than you think—keep pushing and stay focused!"

### TODO LIST

- **Create a Resume:** Showcase your skills, activities, and experience.
- **Apply to a Job/Internship:** Gain experience and build your professional network.
- **Check in with your school counselor:** Get the scoop on what's next for senior year!
- **Seek SAT Prep:** Start preparing for the SAT to boost your score and college readiness.
- **Open a Bank Account:** Start managing your money safely and smartly
- **Planning for the Future:** Begin researching post-secondary options like college, trade school, internships or apprenticeships, and the workforce



#COLLEGEBOUND

## SENIORS

The journey's just beginning—embrace the future and trust the path ahead!

### TODO LIST

- **Check in with your counselor:** Make sure you're on track for graduation and college preparations!
- **Open a Bank Account:** Start managing your money safely and smartly
- **Decision Time:** Whether you're headed to college, a trade program, or the workforce, now's the time to review your options and financial aid to make the best choice for your future.
- **Prepare to Choose Your Post-Secondary Path:** If you haven't yet applied to college or aren't sure on your next steps forward after graduation, don't worry! Meet with your GK counselor— there are rolling admissions, community college options, and workforce opportunities still available for you, but move quickly!



#GKALlday

# PARENT CORNER

Global Kids is committed to supporting students and their families by providing helpful resources and guidance.

## STRONGER TOGETHER: THE POWER OF OPEN COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR TEEN & THEIR SCHOOL



The choices you make for your student's future start with staying connected. With deadlines always on the horizon, it's essential to keep you in the loop. Let's work together to ensure your student has the support they need to thrive.

**Check Out Page 8 to Connect With Our GK Staff at Your Student(s)' Site**

## CHECKLIST FOR SUCCESS: CLOSING OUT THE SCHOOL YEAR TOGETHER

- **Review Grades & Progress**  
*Check in on final grades, missing assignments, and overall academic standing*
- **Start Thinking Ahead**  
*Look into next year's schedule, required forms, or early deadlines for college or activities.*
- **Talk About Summer Plans**  
*Discuss summer school, work, camps, or relaxation time to keep your teen balanced*



- **Meet with School Admin**  
*Schedule time with counselors or admin to discuss concerns, next steps, or future planning.*
- **Celebrate Accomplishments**  
*Acknowledge both big and small wins—your encouragement means everything.*

# STAY CONNECTED WITH US

## COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS TEAM

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