Elementary schools serve an essential component to society. When young minds come through the doors each day, they step into a world full of learning and potential. Teachers must take on the task to guide and shape these young students into the leaders of tomorrow. My name is Rashid Kapovich and I’m a clinical intern in Lehman College’s MATH-UP Program. In this program, students are immersed in the classroom environment for the entire school year. Utilizing the theories and content from their graduate courses, interns are matched with experienced teachers in order to complete the program.

So far, I have been in the classroom for four months. I teach 1st grade under an intergraded special education co-teaching model. Some days, certain moments prove very challenging and children may be uncooperative. Students who need help learning proper behavior tend to distract other students from their learning. At times, it may become very difficult to get past student behavior in order to concentrate on the content. However, if there is one thing I have learned, it’s that students need consistency and opportunities. Teachers need to be consistent in positive routines that work then students have will chances to succeed in their learning.

When behavioral obstacles subside and learning can begin, I excel in my engagement of student in learning. 

Continues on page 2.
Challenges, Success and Support Cont’d

Continues from page 1

I provide multiple opportunities for students to become involved in their own learning. Applying KLT (Keeping Learning on Track) strategies and techniques in the classroom has definitely impacted student learning. When I grab the Popsicle sticks to call names at random, students wait eagerly with anticipation. Group assessments are instantaneous with “parking lot” and “ABC card” techniques. Finally, when students hold their own whiteboard in their hands, they hold a powerful tool that will enhance their learning.

Having an experienced mentor as a guide and a resource is a priceless to me. I have gained an amazing insight on what it takes to become an elementary teacher as I develop my own style of teaching. I have grown in this environment under the guidance of my mentor. She allows me to attempt my ideas, even if they end up falling apart in the worst way. The point is that I try and learn first hand from it. I know if I stumble and fall; I will have someone there to help me back on my feet again. That’s what this whole program prepares you for, the actual real elementary classroom setting.

This experience is unlike anything that you can read about in books, or watch in media. Being in this internship, takes me a step closer to being in my own classroom and completing my part in society. It provides me with the opportunity to learn first hand what it takes to be an elementary teacher. The road is a long and difficult one from what I can see but the future is being created today, and I’m proud to be a part of that growth.

Rashid Kapovich (’15)

MATH-UP Participates in Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk

In the spring of this year, our dear friend and colleague Khalilah Arrington has been courageously battling breast cancer. She has been undergoing treatment and is well on her way to recovery. In honor of Khalilah, the students of MATH-UP’s Cohort 4 organized a MATH-UP team to walk in this year’s Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk.

On Sunday, October 19th, 2014 the MATH-UP team which included students, School of Education Dean Niki Fayne, Professor Anne Marie Marshall and Khalilah gathered in Central Park along thousands of other participants to complete the five – mile walk.

As of December 18th, 2014, 2,260 teams and 18, 196 participants have raised over two million dollars in the fight against breast cancer according to Making Strides Against Breast Cancer website. Let’s continue to honor our fighters, survivors and their families by never giving up on finding a cure!

Naliza Sadik, Educational Technology Assistant

Happy Holidays & Best Wishes for a Wonderful New Year!

From the MATH-UP Program
MATH UP Newsletter, Fall 2014

TQP Mathematics Achievement with Teachers in High needs Urban Population (MATH UP) Program
Lehman College, CUNY
Carman Hall B-26