



*Breaking the Cycle of Poverty  
Through Education.....One Student at a time!*

## NATIVITY FOCUSED ON DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE

Dear Friends:

As our second year comes to a close, it is wonderful to pause and reflect on how the mission of Nativity has come together here in Rochester. I believe it was Thomas Jefferson who wrote "I am captivated more by the dreams of the future than the history of the past." In essence that is what Nativity is all about — Dreams for the Future! It is those dreams that we want for our students. They may not have performed well in the past, but they clearly have the potential to achieve their dreams in the future. It requires determination, hard work, and often a bit of prodding along the way, but it can and will happen. Our goal is to help our students achieve their dreams by ensuring that they are given the education and life skills necessary to succeed. In school....in a job....in life! We obviously need your help to achieve this ambition and appreciate the support that has come from so many over the past two years.



Bill Carpenter  
President



### A Wall of Dreams For All To See

The Wall of Dreams mural provides a welcoming and aspirational entrance to the school library. Its purpose is to "inspire" and "remind" the students of their ultimate goal of graduation from Nativity....from High School....from College, which will in turn enable them to pursue a rewarding career. The students were engaged in the selection of the career choices depicted in the mural. Lawyers, police officers, veterinarians,



soldiers, computer programmers, musicians, and chefs are all represented in vibrant color in this beautiful work of art. Thanks to the generosity of Tom & Marge Nientimp and the artistic talents of Rebecca Schottland and Michelle Streb, Nativity is blessed to have a constant reminder of the ultimate goal of our mission.

### Nativity "BUILD GUILD" Competes in Robotics Competition



Nativity formed a lego league robotics team last fall and participated in a ten week season culminating in a competition with 34 other middle schools. The science and technology competition had a bio-medical theme of "Body Forward". The Nativity team had to construct a robot as well as build a complex course filled with challenges modeled after real-life medical problems, like setting a fractured bone or placing a pacemaker into a heart. Once the robot and the course were assembled, the students had to work together to create programs that would allow the robot to compete in as many challenges as possible in a two minute time frame. In addition to the robot challenge, teams had to research a medical issue and come up with solutions to these problems either by proposing a

new medical invention or improving upon an existing invention. Teams had to present their research and solution to a panel of judges. The Nativity Build Guild decided to "tackle" the problem of football-related concussions and decided they would invent a gelatinous substance to be injected in between the skull and brain to reduce brain trauma. Clearly, an out-of-the box idea. Despite the pressure of competition the Build Guilders represented Nativity well and found science was as much about teamwork as it was about technology. The students still have weekly sessions to hone their skills and our goal is to have both a boys and girls team in next year's competition.





## From the Principal

As we start to wind down our school year, the Nativity dream continues to unfold. Our students just completed their standardized tests and are now working on completing their final school projects and exams. Our Accelerated Reader Program

has been very successful in encouraging our students to read and since January our thirty four students have read over five hundred books! We look forward to adding another grade in September at which time Nativity Preparatory will have its full complement of 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade. We are ahead of last year in the flow of perspective students, and parents are always impressed with the manners of our students, the quiet classrooms, the structure of the day, and the cleanliness of the school as they walk through the hallways.

I am most grateful that all of our dedicated staff will be coming back next year. They are a committed group of educators who have put their hearts and souls into the mission of Nativity and I feel fortunate to have them as colleagues.

We have our summer camp plans in place for July and August and we are grateful to Loretta Yatteau for again taking on the role of Director, and McQuaid Jesuit for providing the facility for the two week academic sessions and Father Brian Frain for coordinating the space as well as staffing for the enrichment part of the program. We will also be returning to Camp Asbury for the one week overnight camp experience that was such a terrific growth experience for our students last year.

As I write this letter we are a week from the wonderful feast of Pentecost and I can't help but reflect on how much the Spirit has guided this Nativity dream through our second year. We have been blessed to have a strong Board, advancement committee, education committee and enrollment committee who continue to guide and mentor me and the direction of the school. Most importantly we have been blessed by many generous donors, volunteers and friends who not only give to our mission financially but also of their time and talents.

Staff and students alike are looking forward to those "lazy, crazy, hazy days of summer". However, please know all of you will be very much in our prayers of gratitude as we close out the school year with our Mass of Thanksgiving on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

God Bless

Dianne Crowley

## Accelerated Reader promotes love of reading



Accelerated Reading is a national reading program which has been introduced at Nativity with great success. The program has been found to be a very powerful tool for urban youth in encouraging students to read for enjoyment and understanding. Students read a book and then take a test on the computer to see if they understood what they have

read. Students receive immediate feedback and if they pass the test with an 80% or higher they receive the points listed on the book which are tied to a reward and recognition program. To date, our thirty five students have **read over 500 books** since January and have accumulated more than 1,800 points. Even more exciting is that we often hear our students comparing authors, encouraging a peer to read a certain book and having their own "mini" book discussions.



## Poetry For Learning

Mr. Lott has been using poetry in his ELA classes as a way to get the students to express themselves both on paper as well as orally in presentations. It has been wonderful to see students who arrived painfully shy open up and become more confident in their ability to communicate their thoughts to others. It is also quite eye opening to read these poems and see the thoughts, dreams and struggles that our students confront. Here are a few samples.



### I Believe

So many things I try to do  
So many things I cannot do  
I want to believe that I can succeed  
I feel like something is blocking my path  
I feel like I'm going to scream  
A dark cloud is blocking the sun  
I sit and wait for my loved one

My loved one will have the key to my heart.

And that's my very favorite part

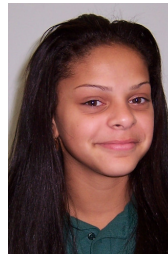
I look out the window at the snow

I ask myself how I didn't know

The key was right inside me all along

It makes me want to sing a song.

-Talayza Hilarski



### Teenage Mom

Life as a teenage mom ain't the best,  
chasing babies around is just a mess.  
Changing diapers, washing clothes,  
feedin' em, I just don't know...

...Just don't know,

but I do know I won't be the one to play  
that role; I have control.

Control over my body, my soul, my mind,

I waste no time

No time with the ones who have no direction

'cause there's no need for all the affection

Oh and lemme mention, I do get the attention

But there's no need to go down that path.

- Zaida Rodriquez

## Parents Recognized for Involvement

Parent involvement is an important component for student success at Nativity. All are required to attend parent-teacher conferences (4 each year) as well as 3 workshops (cyber bullying, no child left behind and our accelerated reading program). In addition, parents volunteer in the cafeteria, the library and are involved in our "spruce up" Saturdays. Parents also must support the school policies and teachers.

On June 11th the Rochester City School District will be holding their "Heart of Gold" banquet which honors parents throughout the city who have shown a firm commitment to participating in their child's education. Nativity is proud to announce that virtually every one of our families (32 of 34) have been invited and will be honored at this banquet.



## Nativity Students Share Their Dreams



### "I HAVE A DREAM FOR THE WORLD"

It is that people will stop doing drugs.  
I have a dream that people will stop littering.  
I have a dream that we won't have war or violence.  
I have a dream that everyone will love one another as they love themselves.

### "I HAVE A DREAM FOR ME"

I have a dream to get a good education at McQuaid.  
I have a dream to go to college.  
I have a dream to get married and have kids.  
I have a dream to be an engineer.  
I have a dream to invent something special.  
I have a dream to take care of my family.  
I have a dream to retire and still be able to support my family.  
I have a dream to live a happy life.  
I have a dream that everyone else's dream will be fulfilled and everyone will be happy.

-Alex Blagrove



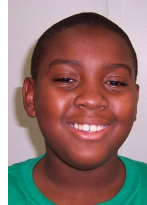
### "I HAVE A DREAM FOR THE WORLD"

I have a dream that one day there will be no violence.  
And there will be peace and justice in the world.  
And all wars will end.  
And everybody will be able to enjoy the peace.

### "I HAVE A DREAM FOR ME"

I have a dream that I will go to McQuaid.  
And I will go to R.I.T. and be a computer engineer. And program a famous social networking site.

-Rabin Dahal



### "I HAVE A DREAM FOR THE WORLD"

I have a dream that one day the people in this world will stop the violence.  
I have a dream that people with drug addictions can go to rehab.  
I have a dream that the world will get along.

### "I HAVE A DREAM FOR ME"

I have a dream that one day I can go to Aquinas Institute to have a great education.  
I have a dream that one day when I get older I want to become a police officer or work for the F.B.I.  
I have a dream that one day I will have a wife and two children.  
I have a dream that my wife will have a good job.  
I have a dream that my children will have a great education.

-Fritz Hyppolite

**See More of our Students dreams on our website!**

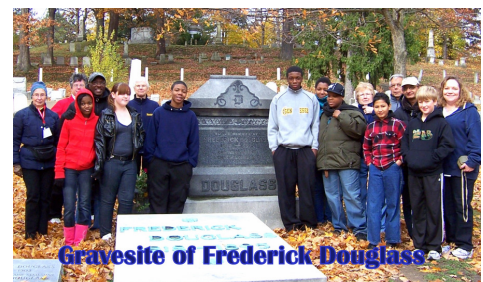
### Thomas Lott elected to McQuaid Athletic Hall of Fame

Congratulations to our ELA teacher, Thomas Lott, who has been inducted into the McQuaid Athletic Hall of Fame. A member of the 2 mile relay team that won McQuaid's first NYS championship in any sport in 1975. Their winning times are to this day still Section V records. We are blessed to have Thomas on as a member of our faculty and his love of running has also led to a terrific cross country program at Nativity.



## Nativity Happenings

- The Nativity CYO basketball team had another successful season while the girls formed a volleyball team. The whole school also participated in a six week session of Jazzercise and cross country is back this Spring.
- Our Enrichment Program provided numerous learning experiences that were tied to the curriculum including a guided tour of the Mount Hope cemetery, the one room cobblestone schoolhouse, and a visit to a working farm.
- Our organic garden was integrated into our science curriculum by teacher Jill Mensing. Seedlings were started indoors and the students planted the garden.
- Gloria Rodriguez was this year's Queen of the Nativity May Crowning.
- A Scrabble Club was started and now competes with the Chess Club for student attention.
- Numerous baking projects continued to be offered by Roxanne VanDeWalker with a focus on healthy, but still tasty, snacks; and students learned the connection between pretzels and Monks during pretzel making sessions hosted by Jean Parker.
- Students participated in a six week session on healthy eating sponsored by the Cornell Cooperative and Foodlink provided a 3 week workshop to be followed by a Creative Cooking program next Fall.





## OUR MISSION

Nativity Preparatory Academy is a Roman Catholic middle school designed for highly self-motivated, economically disadvantaged students whose potential for academic success has been compromised by negative social and economic factors affecting them and their families.

Our graduates will leave Nativity well equipped to handle a demanding college preparatory high school curriculum coupled with a strong sense of spirituality, morality and personal responsibility.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William Carpenter  
 Mary Christine Carpenter  
 John Crowe  
 Joseph Carney  
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 Sr. Janice Morgan SSJ  
 David Pitcher  
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 Frank Staropoli  
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## Volunteers Make The Difference

Over the past year we have had almost 100 volunteers from area colleges and high schools as well as retirees and parents. These volunteers provide us with invaluable hours of mentoring and tutoring, which assists our students in reaching their academic goals. We can't thank them enough!

**Interested in Volunteering—Please give us a call!**



## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The success of Nativity rests on donors who believe in the value of investing in the education of inner city youth. Become part of the Nativity family and help our students reach their potential and fulfill their dreams.

### Sponsor a Student

For a week	\$ 300
For a month	\$ 1,000
For the after school program	\$ 2,500
For the academic program	\$ 5,000
For the entire year	\$10,000

### Sponsor an Intern Teacher

A designated gift to this program helps us afford the invaluable resources provided by our full time Americorp intern teachers who are recent college graduates. A gift of \$1,000 pays for a month of their service.

### Support our Summer Program

This four week program provides academic continuity for our students during the summer as well as enrichment activities, leadership training and an eight day overnight experience at Camp Asbury. A donation of \$1,000 sponsors a student for the entire program or a \$500 donation covers the cost of the overnight experience at Camp Asbury.

### General Gift

A gift to the general fund allows us to use your donation in an area most in need.

### Nativity is a United Way Designated Agency

You can help support our mission through designation of all or part of your gift to the United Way to Nativity Preparatory Academy, **donor option #2510**.

If you are interested in supporting our efforts, contributions may be sent directly to the school at 15 Whalin Street, Rochester, NY 14620 or contact us by phone (585-271-1630) or on the web at [www.nativityrochester.org](http://www.nativityrochester.org).

To learn more about Nativity visit our website at [www.nativityrochester.org](http://www.nativityrochester.org)