



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

CONTINUITY & COMMITMENT GUIDE NATIVITY INTO YEAR 3

Dear Friends:

While hard to believe, we are now entering our third year with the exciting prospect of seeing the first class of graduates next June. And while much work remains, it has been wonderful to see how far our students have progressed since entering the school. They have learned what it means to be a "Nativity Leader" and have grown dramatically both in and out of the classroom. Many of you have seen this for yourselves at our reception last June or during visits to the school; and for those who have not visited, I encourage you to come see how Nativity is making a difference in the lives and preparedness of our students.



We are blessed to have all of our staff returning this year which provides important continuity for the students as well as the environment created within the school. Expectations are clear and performance follows! This is a mission of the heart and of justice for all those who have been involved with Nativity over the past several years. We know that the children we serve have the potential to become successful students and great role models in our community if given the right direction. It is our goal to provide this opportunity and support them on their path to an advanced education that will enable them to break the cycle of generational poverty that serves as a barrier to so many.

As part of the Nativity community, you are the ones who are making this possible. We cannot thank you enough.

Bill Carpenter
President

Meet Our Students

This year we added eighth grade and we now have a total enrollment of 44 students with 25 boys and 19 girls across 5th through 8th grade. Over the next few years we will continue to add students targeting full enrollment of 80-90. Attendance continues to be excellent averaging 96% and over 95% of our students qualify for the federal free or reduced program. One of the gifts we



enjoy is tremendous diversity. Our students come from families representing over 20 nationalities. We have Catholics, Christians, Muslims and Hindus. This diversity has provided us with a wonderful opportunity to learn about other cultures and religions, not just through textbooks, but through lived experiences. This provides a wonderful opportunity for true understanding and acceptance as our students grow into adulthood.



Nativity Students Excel in Photofinish 5k Event

Nativity students helped raise money for the school and honed their running skills during the Photofinish 5k fundraising event sponsored by the George Eastman House.



Over a thousand runners participated supporting over 60 charities in the Rochester area. It was a great experience for our students and all tolled, they raised over \$4,000 for the school from individuals who sponsored their involvement. In addition, Nativity received the Wegman's Educational Prize for being one of the top fundraisers which included an additional \$1,000 donation. Our thanks to Bill & Victoria Cherry for getting us involved and covering the registration costs and to all of you who provided donations to sponsor our runners.





From the Principal

I am sitting in my office and have just finished conferences with all of our eighth grade parents and students. This has been an exciting year as we have instituted our eighth and final grade here at Nativity. The first phase of the Nativity vision will soon be completed and now we take the vision to another level, as we work at placing our students in college prep high schools and follow them through these next four years.

All eleven of our eighth grade students have visited each of the Catholic High Schools, and now with their parents, need to make the very important decision of "Where Should I Go?" It has been so rewarding to see how these young teens have matured and grown in these last three years. They have been pioneers in many ways and they have proven that the Nativity model does work.

A few weeks ago we were honored to have Bishop Clark visit our school. After celebrating Mass he visited the classrooms. I was very touched as our 8th grade students responded to the Bishop's question, "Of the five virtues in your pledge, which do you feel has been the most challenging to live?" To hear our students respond to his question with sincerity and truthfulness was a gift for those of us looking on. Their personal reflections on how Nativity has helped them grow and mature into young adults was inspiring. In my position as principal I am privileged to often hear parents speak of how grateful they are for what Nativity has offered to their child. They recognize what a unique educational opportunity their child has been given.

I extend those words of gratitude on behalf of our students and their parents to all of you, our generous, faithful donors, our dedicated volunteers and the many who have supported the dreams of our Nativity students and the vision of Nativity over these last three years. I ask each of you to keep our eighth graders in your prayers as they make important decisions in the weeks ahead.

Blessings!

Dianne Crowley

Nativity "Build Guild" Robotics Team Competes

Nativity Preparatory Lego Robotics is back in full swing this year with a seventh and eighth grade team and a coed 5th and 6th grade team. We had 13 students who competed with 22 other teams on Saturday, November 14th at McQuaid Jesuit in the "Lego Robotics Challenge." Ms. Geniviva, their coach, worked many long hours to prepare both teams for the competition. The theme for this year's competition was "Food Factor". Students



needed to design and build their robot and complete a series of "missions" related to food contamination. This terrific enrichment activity has provided wonderful learning opportunities as well as team building and problem solving skills for our students. This year the team received the "Perseverance Award" for teamwork and persistence in solving unanticipated problems. Way to go "Build Guild!"

Chefs Show Students "Cooking Matters" and Can Be Fun!

Monday afternoons find the hallways of Nativity saturated with the most mouth watering aromas. For two six week time periods this Fall, Foodlink is sponsoring a course for our girls and boys entitled "Cooking Matters". Every week Nativity students work with local chefs and Foodlink nutritionists. They discuss a variety of topics around healthy eating. They also prepare and try new recipes. After class students take the recipes home to encourage their



families to participate in healthy eating. One of the most interesting recipes the students prepared and really enjoyed (despite some initial hesitancy) was a blueberry and spinach smoothie. The Cooking Matters course is sponsored by Foodlink through a Community Health Foundation Grant.



Three Students On The Move

The focus of a Nativity education is to prepare our students to be eligible for entrance into one of the excellent local high schools. To this end, three of our students have already accomplished that objective, albeit a year earlier than planned. **Alex Blagrove** and **Quinton Dang** applied and were accepted into the McQuaid Jesuit middle school, both achieving exceptionally high scores on the entrance exam. In addition, **Grace Keller-Gorman**, a very artistically talented young lady, was also accepted into the 8th grade at the School of the Arts. While we will miss them, it was wonderful to see them move on to the school of their choice, and they serve as terrific examples for the rest of our students.



Artists on Campus

Over this first quarter Nativity Preparatory had three Volunteer Art students from Nazareth College. The graduate students worked with twelve of our Nativity students for a four week period of time. The project was to design a painting that would represent one of our five virtues: respect, responsibility, gratitude, spirituality or scholarship. The students' completed work will be on display in the school hallway.



Nativity Staff Members Provide Experience and Continuity

We are extremely pleased that all of our teachers and key staff members have returned this year: **Thomas Lott**-ELA; **Dorann Salvaggio**-Math; **Loretta Yatteau**-Social Studies; **Jill Mensing**-Science; and **Sr. Magdalena Kellner SSJ**-Spanish; plus **Martha Capozzi**-Office Manager and **Roxanne VanDeWalker**-Food Service Coordinator. Their years of experience were clearly evident in the progress made last year both in terms of the academic achievement as well as the environment within the school. "Life at Nativity" continues to move forward thanks to their dedication. We are also pleased to welcome three new members:



Richard Calitree has joined Nativity as our new **Religion** teacher. Rich is from Rochester and received his degree in Business Administration from Oswego State. After working for Kodak for 15 years, he went on to receive his Masters from St. Bernard's Institute in Religious Studies and Pastoral Counseling. He has taught at both Siena Catholic Academy and Aquinas Institute. He has coached a variety of sports and comes with much experience working with middle school students.



Sue Petronello is our new **Director of Advancement** and brings a wealth of education and fundraising experience to Nativity. As Executive Director for the Star Kids Scholarship Program in Rhode Island, she raised more than \$500,000 per year to provide tuition aid and placed over 100 high risk, low income students in local private and parochial schools. A returning Rochesterian, Sue received her BS in Education from SUNY Geneseo and Masters from Nazareth and taught for eight years in Webster prior to leaving Rochester. Welcome back!

Nativity Intern Teachers

We are fortunate to have three intern teachers again this year. These dedicated young people are Americorp volunteers who put in endless hours teaching, coaching, tutoring, overseeing meals and enrichment activities as well as mentoring our students.



Katie Rosario grew up in Baltimore, MD and is a graduate of Mount St. Mary's University with a BS in Psychology. She spent last year in Alaska in the Jesuit Volunteer Corp working for Big Brothers-Big Sisters. "Through service I find a unique way of helping others the best that I can and I am able to learn much about myself. I find fulfillment in meeting new people and learning from their special skills and their life lessons."



Amanda Geniviva grew up in Victor, NY and is a graduate of Geneseo with a BA in Math and Science. She lived in Brazil for two years and returned to work with Habitat for Humanity during college. She also studied in Prague. "I decided to volunteer for AmeriCorps because I wanted to spend a year in service. I feel that everyone should dedicate more time to helping others."



Bill D'Antonio grew up in Rochester, NY and is a graduate of McQuaid Jesuit and John Carroll College. He has a BS degree in Economics. Mr. "D" spent six months studying Business in London, England and wants to pursue a graduate degree in law. "Service has taught me that there is a tremendous amount of interconnectedness of the community and the citizens who dwell

within it; by improving society at large, you are making improvements to yourself."



Sr. Mary Lisa Dwyer SSJ has joined the Nativity staff as our part time Academic Intervention Service Tutor which is a federally funded position through the RCSD. She taught in Catholic Schools throughout the Diocese for twenty years and then has spent the last 20 years teaching English as a second language in the RCSD. She has her BA in English and a Masters in English as a Second Language and Elementary Education. She will be a terrific help to our students.

Morning Assembly to Start the Day

Each morning the school gathers for Assembly where students read a passage from the Bible, lead the morning prayers, offer remembrances and collectively recite the Nativity school pledge. Ms. Dianne offers her reflections as well as announcements, birthdays, student achievements and daily schedules to make sure all are on the same page as the day begins. It is a wonderful way to start the day.

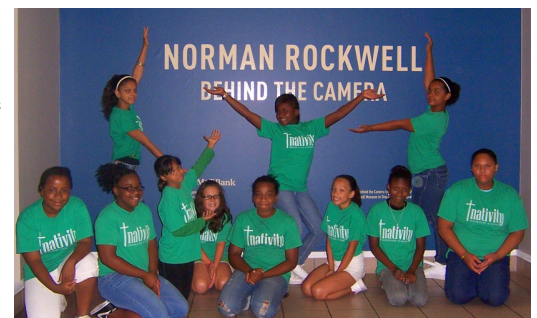


Nativity 2011 Summer Program

Summer Camp is an important component of the Nativity model and it is safe to say that our students had a very rewarding experience thanks to Loretta Yatteau, our Camp Director, and a staff including several of our teachers, interns and three counselors. This unique three week program is designed to ensure academic continuity and enrichment for our students during the summer months as well as provide unique experiences that enhance their leadership skills, personal values and team-building. The camp ran from mid-July through early August and was divided into two parts: 1) a two week academic and enrichment day camp that was held at McQuaid Jesuit which included a morning session focused on academics and afternoon enrichment activities and community service programs; and 2) a six day overnight camp



experience at Camp Asbury where the students spent mornings focused on summer reading and journaling and afternoons enjoying various camp activities such as swimming, canoeing, hiking, archery, and a ropes course. The students were also assigned to crews responsible for the meals: setting the table, cooking and cleaning up.





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

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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!

INVEST IN OUR STUDENTS

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 three week program provides academic continuity for our students during the summer as well as enrichment activities, leadership training and an seven 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.**



To learn more about Nativity visit our website at www.nativityrochester.org