



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

Blessed with a rich diversity of students

This year Nativity enjoyed record enrollment with 25 new students entering in September bringing total enrollment to 50 students with an equal number of boys and girls across 5th through 8th grade. We expect enrollment to continue to increase over the next few years targeting full enrollment of 80-90 students. Over 95% of our students qualify for the federal free or reduced meal program and attendance continues to be excellent averaging 97%. One of the gifts we enjoy is tremendous



diversity. Our students come from families representing over 20 nationalities including new refugee families from Russia, Bosnia, Nepal, Sudan, Kenya and Zambia. 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.



Enrichment program gets the mind and body moving

Once their homework is completed each day, Nativity students participate in a wide variety of enrichment activities that are scheduled in six-week long blocks throughout the year with multiple options provided during each block. These activities are designed to expose students to a wide variety of cultural and recreational activities, encouraging students to explore their unique skills and passions. Since each activity is scheduled multiple times each week, the student can get involved in two or three different activities, and many spill over into Saturday sessions. Our Americorp teaching interns oversee the program and coordinate the many paid and volunteer instructors and coaches needed for the program.

So far this year, students have been able to have experiences in activities from Lego robotics to Chess Club to singing in a Choral Group. CYO basketball, cross country, step dancing, a WiiFit exercise program and floor hockey has helped get the heart pumping; and sewing and the Young Artists Club (for those interested in creative writing and the visual arts) has provided opportunities for artistic expression.



Many of these activities expand out into the community. The "Build Guild" participated

in the Lego Robotics competition at McQuaid Jesuit against other middle school teams; students also participated in CYO basketball; and the Choral Group sang for the St. Boniface Twilights at a Christmas luncheon and will perform during mass at St. Boniface during Catholic Schools Week. The Step Team also had its first demonstration performance.



The Chess Club plans to have some of its members attend competitions in the Spring. The Young Artists Club will be visiting the Writers & Books organization to hear from some writers about their craft and to further work on their own pieces.

These programs are a vital component of a Nativity education, plus they're fun!



Students speak from the heart

The *Young Artists Club* was started by intern teacher Sandy Casey in order to encourage the students to express their hopes and dreams through creative writing and visual arts. Students have flocked to these sessions and their work is revealing in their struggles but rewarding in the hope that lives in their heart.

I AM

By Jimmie (6th grade)

I am from the hood where guns shoot,
Blast Blast.

I wonder why it's like that,
Is it all for the cash?
I hear people arguing,
I see physical fights,
I want to be able to go,
Outside and fly a kite.

I am from the hood where guns shoot,
Blast Blast.

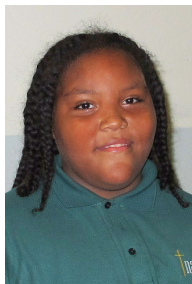
I pretend I don't care,
I feel the strength to spread love everywhere.
I touch people's hearts,
I worry I will ever be alone.
I cry as my bones get harder,
And start turning into stone.

I am from the hood where guns shoot,
Blast Blast.

I understand I'm not the best,
I say mean things,
That comes from my chest.
I dream of a better world,
I try for all the needy wonderful boys and girls.
I hope for things to come from worse and bad.

I am from the hood where guns shoot,
Blast Blast.

Jimmie was brought to Nativity by Sr. Grace Miller from the House of Mercy. He lives with his mother in one of the most depressed sections of the city. He is very happy to be at Nativity and has grown remarkably over the past year.



I AM

By Bikash (6th grade)

I am from Nepal where animals grow wild,
where it is hotter than hot, and where people have a good time.
But beware
Lurking in the shadows might be a snake, tiger, or, as I said.
Wild things.

I am from a farm where work is hard,
Where I get my milk, Where plants grow,
Where you can have a luxurious time if you know how to farm,
You can eat all you want, chicken, turkey, cows.
But for me cows are sacred.

Nepal is a good place. So is the farm.

I am from a house that's made of wood.

I am from a hard working dad and a loving mom.

I am from a house that is very cold or hot.

Depends.

I am from a leaking house where cold roams everywhere.

I am from a dangerous place where you could get killed
With one false move.

I am from a place where I can play soccer and eat and relax,
But I have rough times as well.

I am from a raindrop from the sky, Where thunder roams and goes wild.

I am from a place where storms hit water and create new disasters.

I am from lots of places but there is only one place I belong right now and its here.
Here is where I can be safe.

Here is where I can be free from all disasters.

Here is where I can let out all of my emotions.

Here is where I belong.

Bikash and his family are refugees from Nepal who settled in Rochester several years ago with the help of Catholic Family Center. While he speaks three languages, when Bikash arrived he could not speak a word of English.



News from our Graduate Support Director

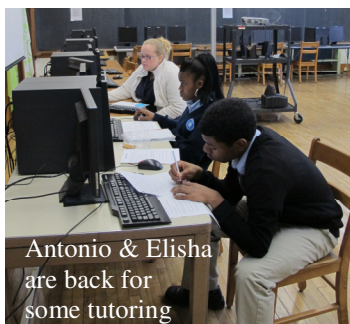


Our eleven Nativity graduates continue to thrive in their respective schools. They have completed their first quarter and two of the Mercy girls, Victoria and Diamond, made honor roll. I visit each of the schools every week to meet with the students and talk with counselors to make sure all are on the right track. While the transition to the demands of 9th grade was a steep learning curve for all of them,

they have transitioned well and feel at home in their new schools. Having said that, all have returned to Nativity to see friends and many come back regularly to get additional homework and tutoring support.

Beyond studies, their involvement in extra-curricular activities run a wide range of choices from football and basketball, to track and wrestling, to mock court. I recently had occasion to spend a day with a number of them as they prepared for midterm exams. Their enthusiasm and commitment is powerful. Truly wonderful!

Loretta Yatteau



Antonio & Elisha
are back for
some tutoring

New technology in the classrooms



The new school year brought new smartboard technology to our classrooms. Teachers and students have adapted quickly to this new learning environment.

We are appreciative of Marge Nientimp who provided the financial support to make this possible.



BASKETBALL 2012-13



From the Principal

It is difficult to believe how quickly time flies here at Nativity. Students are already taking their midterm exams as we prepare to close our first semester of this school year.

We are currently celebrating National Catholic Schools Week. The Nativity school family joined St. Boniface parishioners to kick things off at the 9:00 am mass on January 27th. Our new Chorus led the music and Nativity students also served as readers and altar servers. At the coffee hour following mass, all enjoyed the debut performance of the Nativity STEP team. During the remainder of the week our students and staff will be involved in academic, service and fun

activities that will reinforce the virtues that Nativity students are supposed to live each day: Respect, Responsibility, Gratitude, Spirituality and Scholarship.

A very special and important part of every day at Nativity is beginning our day with morning assembly. For the 2012-2013 school year we have been focusing on the theme of Peace. We have been praying and learning about becoming more peaceful and forgiving people. Our students have also been working on completing 26 Acts of Kindness in remembrance of the 26 victims of the Sandy Hook School tragedy.

As the students and teachers complete this first semester of the school year I find myself reflecting upon the completion of my first semester as Nativity principal. I feel very grateful for the advice, support, and assistance from the Nativity Board, Advancement Committee, Education Committee, our generous donors, volunteers, the Sisters of St. Joseph Rochester and the McQuaid Jesuit Community. Please know that all of you are appreciated and valued for helping us keep the Nativity spirit alive.

God Bless

Rebecca Maloney

Nativity students again excel in Photofinish 5k

Nativity students helped raise money for the school, with several demonstrating remarkable running skills, during the Photofinish 5k fundraising event sponsored by the George Eastman House.

It was another terrific experience for our students whose participation helped raised almost \$4,000 for the school from individuals who sponsored their involvement. Our thanks to Bill



& Victoria Cherry for covering the registration costs and to all of you who provided donations to sponsor our runners. It was a fun day!

Assembly to start and finish 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 Pledge of Allegiance and the Nativity school pledge. Mrs. Maloney 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. The day concludes with a similar gathering at 5:30pm to discuss the day, reinforce important themes and ensure all are ready to depart together.

Nativity in Bloom to be held on April 20th

Plans are in full swing for the 2nd annual Nativity in Bloom fundraiser to support the scholarship needs of our students and the "wishing tree" of items requested by the staff to support the school's educational mission. Last year's event raised over \$60,000 and was attended by over 180 supporters. The students are fully engaged in helping promote the event on behalf of their school and will be in attendance to meet with guests and provide some surprise entertainment.

It is an event not to be missed!



How you can help Nativity

The success of Nativity rests on donors and volunteers 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.

Contributions may be sent to 15 Whalin St, Rochester, NY 14620 or contact us by

phone (585-271-1630) or on the web at www.nativityrochester.org.

We are a United Way Designated Agency: donor option #2510.

Interested in Volunteering—Please give us a call!

Join the almost 100 volunteers from area colleges and high schools as well as retirees and parents who provide us with invaluable hours of mentoring and tutoring, which assists our students in reaching their academic goals. We'd love your help!



15 WHALIN STREET
ROCHESTER, NY 14620



Read about “Life at Nativity” and see
how you are making a difference in the
lives of our students.

Please save the date for our

2ND ANNUAL
“NATIVITY IN BLOOM”
COCKTAIL PARTY & AUCTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2013, 6:15-8:15 PM

to support the efforts of
NATIVITY PREPARATORY ACADEMY
15 WHALIN STREET, ROCHESTER, NY 14620

For additional information please visit www.nativityrochester.org

APRIL 20, 2013
SAVE THE DATE • HELP A CHILD