



PROGRESS REPORT

from Nativity Preparatory School

Fall 2009

FEATURE STORY



Nativity Prep Graduation 2009

The 17th graduating class of Nativity Prep donned their caps and gowns and received their diplomas at a ceremony held on June 7th at St. Mary of the Angels Church in Roxbury. The 12 graduates and their friends and family members gathered for a pot-luck meal and presentations of diplomas, speeches and awards. Alexander Adames was awarded the Barry Hynes Nativity Spirit Award and Boysie Williams was honored with the William Campbell Sportsman Award. Congratulations Marquette. We're proud of your accomplishments and wish you much luck in your future academic endeavors.

(continued on page 1)

IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ 2009 Graduation
- ◆ Mark McLaughlin Joins Nativity
- ◆ Summer Academic & Leadership Program
- ◆ Youk's *Hits for Kids* Charitable Organization
- ◆ 5th Annual Nativity Golf Classic
- ◆ *The Year Ahead* Calendar

A Letter from the Executive Director



Happy 20th Anniversary! On September 8th we opened our doors to a new school year for the twentieth time. Since 1990, Nativity Prep has been breaking the cycle of poverty through education by preparing boys from Boston to become men for others in the Jesuit tradition of academic rigor, education of the whole person, and service to the common good.

Each day of the past 20 years has brought new experiences that have challenged us to pay attention to the presence of God in all things. In this new school year, our Jesuit tradition will continue to inspire us to find God in all faiths, cultures, and fields of study – from ancient history and physical science, to mathematics, literature and music. The world is filled with God's grandeur, and at Nativity Prep we celebrate God's gracious presence with our heads, our hearts, and our hands.

Our graduating class of 2009 was named for Fr. Jacques Marquette, the world-renowned Jesuit explorer who unraveled the many mysteries of the Mississippi River in 1673. Like Jacques Marquette, our students explore new worlds, serve their local community, and pray daily in gratitude for God's many gifts. Of course Fr. Jacques Marquette was not the only Jesuit to explore a mighty river. All Jesuits, and all students at Jesuit schools, are given the opportunity to discover and explore the river of living water that flows from the side of Christ. This mighty river of God's love binds us together as brothers and sisters, people of many cultures and creeds united as one human family.

We are grateful that you are a member of our Nativity family, and we hope that the many success stories contained in this Progress Report will inspire you to find and serve God in all things. Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam!

Blessings,

Fr. John Wronski, S.J.

NATIVITY PREP GRADUATION 2009

(continued from cover)

The following is an excerpt from our student speaker.

Boysie Williams

"At first I did not have a big interest in coming to Nativity. The work at public school was much easier. I could get by in ways that I would not be able to get by at Nativity. The hardest parts of adjusting to Nativity were the new uniform, harder work and much longer days. Another big challenge for me was to come to an all boys school. I did not really know what it was going to be like until I came to Nativity and had a great experience with the boys of Marquette.

Nativity has been the bright light in my life. This school has challenged me in ways that you would not find at any other middle school. From this experience I learned that hard work will always pay off in the end. This school taught me many things that I will take with me. For future classes coming up like Montalvo, Grande, Kostka and Healy, the most important things for a successful future are hard work, respect for others and being a man for others."

*** Nativity Prep is proud to announce our first college enrollment at Harvard University. Congratulations to Andrew Vincent.**



Nativity's newest alumni and faculty members celebrating at the graduation pot-luck dinner.

Class of 2009 High School Enrollments:

- Boston College High School
- Braintree High School
- Malden Catholic
- MATCH Charter High School
- Noble and Greenough School
- North Cambridge Catholic
- St. Sebastian's School
- Tech Boston Academy
- Trinity Catholic High School (2)
- Urban Science Academy
- The Roxbury Latin School

Class of 2005 College Acceptances

- Bay State College
- Boston College
- Georgetown
- Harvard University*
- Middlesex Community College
- Northeastern University
- Stanford
- Stonehill College
- Syracuse University
- Trinity College
- University of Hartford
- University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth
- University of Rhode Island



MARK MCLAUGHLIN JOINS NATIVITY PREP

Mark McLaughlin has accepted an appointment as a Teaching Fellow at Nativity Preparatory School. He is the English teacher for Kostka, the present 6th grade. Mr. McLaughlin has worked in the newspaper business for almost thirty years, including the last nineteen at the Boston Globe. As the newspaper business became less stable and the news itself changed in tone, he asked himself what he should do for the rest of his working life. In answer he took a buyout from the Globe and decided to become a teacher. This was, he said, *"all a result of a deep sense of gratitude to my teachers and to my children's teachers."*

Mr. McLaughlin remembered Nativity; he was very impressed with the young men of Nativity who attended Roxbury Latin School with his son. Since his arrival at summer camp he has been struck with the family atmosphere at Nativity and the strong values that Nativity promotes. He is especially inspired by the spirit of Nativity demonstrated by the faculty and the students as they attempt to become men and women for others. As soon as Mr. McLaughlin heard *"Oh Lord, teach me to be generous"*, he knew Nativity was the right place for him.



New faculty member Mark McLaughlin greets his sixth grade class.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

Another Successful Summer Academic and Leadership Program

Summer at Nativity is always extremely busy, and this year was no exception. Our students continued to focus on their academic work, while also concentrating on building their leadership skills, providing community service and challenging themselves physically. Of course there was plenty of time for them to just be kids and have fun too!

While in the classroom, the 5th and 6th graders read *Seedfolks* by Paul Flieschman, a novel that revolves around the stories of 13 unique people who made a difference in their community by turning a vacant lot into a community garden. Meanwhile, the 7th graders were busy reading *Locomotion* by Jacqueline Woodson. The students also spent time reading and writing poetry, learning about figurative language, and studying the great speeches of history. Some of the students' favorite speeches were those given by President Ronald Reagan and President Barack Obama. The students also had the chance to polish their public speaking skills by writing and presenting their own great speeches. Students also got a jump-start on their math skills by working on the first chapters of the current years' textbooks.

Thanks to the gracious hospitality of our benefactors, the boys were able to take weekend visits to Cape Cod, New Hampshire and Maine. The students enjoyed fishing, kayaking, sailing, riding waterslides and being out of the city. In fact, many students cite these trips as the highlight of their summer.

Our 8th grade students had the unique and exciting opportunity to spend five weeks at the Ron Burton Training Village in Hubbardston, MA. The focus of the camp is to provide students from diverse backgrounds guidance, support and mentoring in some of life's most essential areas such as education, social skills, morals, values, leadership and fitness. The camp's philosophy is to inspire the consideration of others before oneself and to motivate the understanding that faith and morals need to be the



A Nativity rising 7th grader hard at work during our Summer Program.

foundational mentality through which life is approached. The four basic guiding principles of the camp are love, peace, patience and humility.

Each day at camp the students woke up at 4:30 in the morning and embarked on a seven-mile run. After breakfast there was time to meditate, reflect or just be peaceful and still. The day continued with visits from inspirational speakers and courses on life skills such as conflict resolution, managing a bank account and preparing for a job interview. All of our student campers also had lessons in geography, SAT preparation, writing and reading. In addition, the students participated in team building activities and were coached by professional clinicians in football, basketball, soccer, tennis and golf.

We feel so blessed that in these tough economic times we were still able to offer this important piece of the Nativity Prep mission. On behalf of the students and faculty, thank you again to all who generously supported our summer program.

Kevin Youkilis Hits for Kids Charitable Organization

Nativity Prep is excited to be entering our second year as a partner with the Kevin Youkilis *Hits for Kids* charitable organization. Founded by Boston Red Sox All-Star first baseman, Kevin Youkilis and his wife Enza, *Hits for Kids* is dedicated to generating local and corporate support for charities focused on the health and wellbeing of children. Earlier this year, through *Hits for Kids* corporate partnership with Bain Capital, Nativity Prep received a completely updated computer lab and new software. In August, during an on-the-field ceremony at Fenway Park, Nativity received a \$25,000 check from Kevin and Enza. Thank you to *Hits for Kids* for your generosity and commitment to transforming the lives of so many children and young people who only need a chance to dream and fulfill their potential.



Kevin and Enza Youkilis present a check for \$25,000 to Nativity Director of Development, Deborah Blicharz and Executive Director, John Wronski, SJ.

Photo courtesy of Michael Blanchard Photography
www.michaelblanchard.com

(School Development continued from page 3)



The 5th Annual Nativity Golf Classic

On what turned out to be the only sunny day in the month of June, the 5th Annual Nativity Golf and Tennis Classic took place. In spite of these challenging economic times, the day was a remarkable success raising over **\$205,000!** Congratulations to our Tournament Champions, the **VPNE Parking Solutions LLC** team of Kevin Leary, Tom MacKinnon, Taylor Tibbets, and James McDonough whose 58 (-13 under) was the winning score.

The addition of the Tennis Classic to our event was exciting, and participants enjoyed a spirited day of clinics and "play with the pro" opportunities. Next year will bring a full-fledged tennis competition to this day.

This success would not have been possible without the amazing support of our Tournament Sponsors, **Holliday Fenoglio Fowler, L.P.** and **Pyramid Hotel Group**. We are deeply grateful for their generosity and belief in our mission. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to our member sponsor, **Jack Shaughnessy, Jr.**, Tournament Director, **Rich Hutchinson**, the **Black Rock Staff**, and our Trustees, benefactors and volunteers for their tireless work and generous spirit that ensured the day's success. Last, but certainly not least, thank you to auctioneer **Dan Flynn**, whose generosity, good humor and great skill promoted lively and generous bidding at our live auction. **Mark your calendars now for next year's Nativity Golf and Tennis Classic, June 14, 2010, once again at Black Rock!**

THE YEAR AHEAD CALENDAR

September 17
Board of Trustees Meeting

September 24
Open House and Pot Luck Dinner

September 26
Rodman Ride for Kids

October 4
"Run For A Change" Maine Marathon

October 13
Secondary School Fair/Open House

October 29/30
Faculty/Staff Retreat

December 3
Board of Trustees Meeting

February 10, 2010
Mark your calendars!
13th Annual Nativity Spirit Dinner
Celebrating our 20th Year!

Please visit our website at www.nativityboston.com for details on school events and programs

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