



PROGRESS REPORT

from Nativity Preparatory School

Spring 2008



A Letter from the Executive Director

Anyone with a case of the winter blues needs only to stop by 39 Lamartine Street to be instantly uplifted. Even during the winter doldrums of February and March, Nativity Prep pulses with new life and energy that the rest of the world experiences only with the official arrival of spring.

In recent months, new faces have been popping up at Nativity like spring flowers pushing through the melting snow. Our new Development Associate, Rosa Maria Olortegui, arrived in January, just in time to help us make the Spirit Dinner more inspiring than ever. With the admissions process underway, potential new students from Boston's inner-city neighborhoods have been visiting the school, even as our 8th graders receive their acceptances to high school and prepare to

move on from Nativity. New teacher prospects have also been showing their shining faces as the Faculty Recruitment Committee works to assemble the teaching staff for next year.

Our winter visitors and newcomers received their first taste of Nativity Spirit at recent events such as the Spirit Dinner, the Nativity Basketball Tournament, and the annual Nativity Science Fair. These events were made possible through the collaboration and generosity of many people from all parts of the Nativity family – teachers, students, administrators, benefactors, volunteers, trustees, families, and friends. Thanks to all of you for your share in advancing the mission of Nativity Prep.

I'd like to express special thanks to Mr. Jim Harrington, our principal, who has moved on to a new job at Dominican University in Chicago. Jim's generosity and dedication to the mission of Nativity Prep was remembered and celebrated all day at the school on March 7th – officially designated as "Mr. Harrington Day." Let us keep Jim and our interim principal, Mr. Bisi Oyedele, in our prayers as the remainder of the school year unfolds.

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Blessings,

Fr. John Wronski, S.J.

2008 ADMISSIONS REVIEW UNDERWAY!

Although the winter months are often dreary, they bring a time of excitement and new life to Nativity Prep. The day after Christmas Vacation, Nativity begins to accept applications for the next school year. All applicants must be boys entering the 5th or 6th grade, living in the City of Boston, be eligible for free or reduced-lunch in the Boston Public Schools and have someone at home who emotionally supports them being at our school almost year-round and all day long. This person can be a parent, but is often another adult in the boy's life; an aunt, uncle, grandparent, foster parent, older sibling, any responsible adult.



Applying to Nativity, however, requires more than simply signing up or filling in an application. It is a long, arduous process. First, a guardian must come to the school to have a tour, fill in initial paper work and pick up an application if they feel they are eligible and still interested in applying. Once

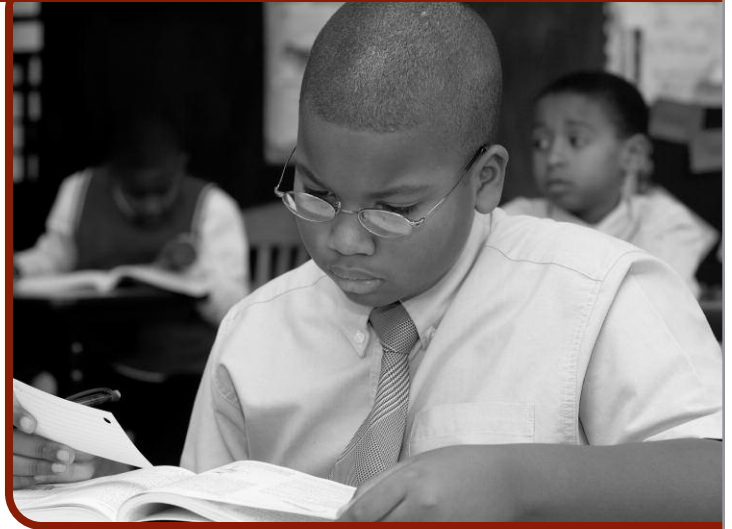
the application (including all household 1040 tax forms, welfare or unemployment letters, or the equivalent) have been turned in, the family may sign up for one of two Open Houses hosted at the school on specific Saturday mornings.

At the Open House, applicants and their families can expect to hear more information about the school, have a tour if they have not already, and to meet other applicants, current students, and their families. The boys will also be asked to do a short writing assignment and have time to play in our gym. When the Open House is over, they may sign up for an interview. During the interview, applicants will formally meet with a few members of the Admissions Committee (made of up teachers and administrators). If the interview goes well and the candidate seems promising, he will be invited to spend a day with the fifth grade.

Then comes the worst, for both families and the Admissions Committee... the waiting and decision-making. Decisions are made the first week of May, based on how much the admissions committee feels the student will benefit from and succeed in the programs that Nativity has to offer. As a group of five,



the committee meets and looks at the students' academic records from his prior school, including all special education and standardized testing reports, notes from his visits at the



Open House, interview and the possible day spent in the school, as well as the family's income.

In recent years there has been an average of about 100 inquires for admissions, and at least 60 families have completed the admissions process each year for the nine spaces available in the fifth grade and the seven seats in the sixth grade. Needless to say, even before the young men of Nativity begin their first day of school in July, they have already proven to us that they do not only have the desire and ability to learn in the classroom, but to truly become men for others and leaders in their community.

“Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss it you will land amongst the stars.”

– Les Brown

Class of 2007 High School Enrollments:

- Beaver Country Day School
- Boston Arts Academy
- Boston College High School
- Brimmer and May School
- Catholic Memorial High School
- Cushing Academy
- Media & Technology Charter High School
- Noble and Greenough School
- North Cambridge Catholic High School
- St. Andrew's School
- St. Sebastian's School
- Xaverian Brothers High School

100% of our Class of 2003 is enrolled in college.

Colleges at which they were accepted:

- Anna Maria College
- Assumption College
- Bentley College
- Boston College
- Emmanuel College
- Fairfield University
- Fordham University
- Johnson and Wales University
- Lasell College
- Newbury College
- Northeastern University
- Providence College
- Regis College
- Syracuse University
- Tufts University
- Tuskegee University
- UMass Amherst
- University of Miami

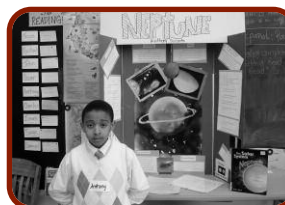
2008 SCIENCE FAIR

On March 12th family and friends were invited to our annual Science Fair. This “Rite Of Spring”, a sign of new life, curiosity and creativity at Nativity Prep, is always a time of learning and discovery. This year was no exception as every student spent several weeks brainstorming, researching, conducting experiments, documenting results and creating a project that detailed his findings. A diverse group of judges, from Alumni, to Trustees, to Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis, reviewed each project and awarded prizes to the students listed below.

In addition to our own Science Fair, Nativity Prep will host eight Nativity/Miguel Schools for the Second Annual Regional Science Fair which will take place on April 11th at UMass Boston.

Thank you to our Science Teachers, judges, the faculty and staff, and the families and friends of our students for the many generous ways you supported the Science Fair.

...and the winners are?



8th GRADE

- 1st place: Giovanni Acevedo**
“Can the Amount of Bacteria on Sponges and Dishcloths Be Reduced?”
- 2nd place: Adams Contreras**
“What Substance Cleans Teeth Best?”
- 3rd place: Jorge Medina**
“How Does Adding Epsom Salt to Potting Soil and Grass Seeds Affect Its Growth?”

7th GRADE

- 1st place: Alexander Adames**
“Do the External Conditions Affect the Growth of Bacteria?”
- 2nd place: Doby Maduegbunam**
“Toward What Light Do Bean Plants Grow Fastest?”
- 3rd place: Julius Martinez**
“What is Concrete’s Durability When It Is Made With Different Size Sand Particles?”

6th GRADE

- 1st place: Eaton McLaren, Peter Tran, David Torres**
“How Does Polluted Water Affect Plant Growth?”
- 2nd place: Andy Bencosme, Sabree Edwards, Lukas Velasquez**
“What Kind of Magnet Makes a Toy Car Move Farthest?”

5th GRADE

- 1st place: Quang Dang**
“Saturn” and **Anthony DoCanto**
“Neptune”
- 2nd place: Sage Centeio-Cleveland**
“The Sun”
- 3rd place: Sammy Rodrigues**
“Earth”

FILING OUR 2008 NATIVITY PREP “RETURNS”

April – For those of us who are required to file taxes every year, April is a month we tend not to forget. In a similar way, the month of April represents an important time for our eighth grade students and high school seniors. During the month of April, both groups will receive admissions and financial aid letters from their prospective high schools and colleges.

While some people file their own taxes, others prefer to work with a tax accountant who can help them reduce mistakes or find areas for credits and deductions. Throughout the academic year, the Graduate Support Office and the High School Placement Coordinator offer services that help students and alumni apply for high school and college. These services include application assistance, financial aid workshops, interview preparations, scholarship assistance, site visits, recommendations, and parents meetings. This year we hope for more returns like Anilson Lopes, Nativity Class of 2008, who received the Corcoran Scholarship, which provides a full scholarship to both Boston College High School, and Boston College.

We are fortunate to have a passionate staff member, Gadisa Goso, who has been working with the eighth grade class and their parents over the last few months. Although this is Gadisa’s first year working as the High School Placement Coordinator, he understands the guidance, patience, and encouragement each student needs since he himself is a Nativity graduate and volunteer teacher. As April 15th approaches, he is working harder than ever to provide students with the best possible “return.”

Although April can be a very long and arduous month for the Graduate Support Office, it is also a special time for our school. It is the month when we celebrate the accomplishments of our eighth grade class. With only two months left, our eighth graders have accumulated hundreds of hours of study, play, growth, and progress toward becoming men for others. In addition, they will receive a glimpse of their future through our high school seniors. The accomplishments of our high school seniors will pay tribute to Nativity Prep’s dedication to its mission and the hard work and efforts of current and former staff, volunteers, parents and administrators.

Our eighth grade students have applied to the following high schools:

- Boston College High School
- Buckingham Browne & Nichols
- Cambridge School of Weston
- Catholic Memorial
- Lexington Christian Academy
- Newton South High School
- Xaverian Brothers High School

Our twelfth grade seniors have applied to the following colleges:

- Bates College
- Bentley College
- Bowdoin College
- College of Holy Cross
- Emmanuel College
- Fairfield University
- Fordham University
- Johnson and Wales
- Northeastern University
- Providence College
- Salem State College
- Syracuse University
- University of Massachusetts

Announcing
**THE 4TH ANNUAL
 NATIVITY GOLF CLASSIC**



Hosted by
Black Rock Country Club
 Hingham, MA

Monday, June 9, 2008

Please contact Deborah Blicharz at 857.728.0031 x14
 or drblic@nativityboston.org for tournament information.



TOURNAMENT SPONSOR



**THE YEAR
 AHEAD
 CALENDAR**

March 29 – 9:00 am
 Admissions Open House

April 11 – 11:00 am
 to 3:00 pm
 Nativity Miguel Network
 Regional Science Fair,
 Ryan Building, UMass
 Boston

April 13-16
 Re-Accreditation Site
 Visit, New England
 Association of Schools
 and Colleges

April 17 – 6:00 pm
 Young Professionals
 Gathering, McFadden's,
 148 State Street, Boston

April 30 – 6:30 pm
 An Evening With Boston
 Globe Photographer,
 Bill Brett, w/ Cocktail
 Reception, Discussion
 and Book Signing

May 8 – 6:00 pm
 Volunteer Appreciation
 Reception

June 8 – 3:00 pm
 Commencement,
 St. Mary of the Angels
 Church, Dorchester

June 9 – 11:30 am
 4th Annual Nativity Golf
 Classic at Black Rock
 Country Club, Hingham

*Unless otherwise noted, all
 events will take place at
 Nativity Prep.*

*Please contact Deborah
 Blicharz at 857.728.0031 x14
 or drblic@nativityboston.org for
 more information on any of
 these events.*

39 Lamartine Street
 Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

**NATIVITY
 PREPARATORY
 SCHOOL**

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