

NEWS

NATIVITY ACADEMY AT SAINT BONIFACE

An independent Catholic middle school that transforms the lives of students who have a commitment to achievement and whose families demonstrate financial need.

Vol. X No. 3

Spring 2014

Affirming the Good Things... Turning Obstacles Into Blessings



Dear Friends of Nativity Academy,

As we enjoy the spring of 2014 and reflect upon the many events of 2013, I find myself coming back to a particular word that we, in our Nativity community, try to keep prominently in focus during each and every day – GRATITUDE.

Gratitude is an emotion expressing appreciation for what one has been given. It is the quality of being thankful; a readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness.

While reading a recent edition of *Education Update*, I ran across emerging research that points to gratitude as a bridge between students' academic and social well-being. I was encouraged to find that "studies show that grateful youth have higher GPAs, experience more positive emotions and ultimately, go on to live more meaningful lives. In addition, gratitude among middle school students can foster an increased sense of hope and trust in others and fuel a desire to give back to their community" (ASCD, 2013,(55), 11, p. 1). This is affirmation that we are on the right track with the values we reinforce with our students!

The research seems to imply that practicing gratitude at early ages helps promote self-control and self-regulation at later ages while helping students feel more connected with their families, school and broader community.

Gratitude fosters positive emotions that help students in the learning process, and it reduces the stress response. It affirms the good things in an increasingly negative world, and helps us see that goodness often comes from outside ourselves.



At times, it is difficult and foreign for middle schoolers to step outside themselves and be grateful. However, gratitude can be taught, modeled and practiced. We promote this attitude through our service learning opportunities, "House" system

activities, and regular contact with student sponsors. We practice gratitude daily at Nativity! We are grateful for the generous community support that Nativity receives through student sponsors, volunteers, donors and benefactors, and all who play a crucial role in our success.

Be Thankful



Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire, If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something, For it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times, During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations, Because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge, Because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes, They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary, Because it means you've made a difference.

It is easy to be thankful for the good things. A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who are also thankful for the setbacks.

GRATITUDE can turn a negative into a positive. Find a way to be thankful for your troubles and they can become your blessings.

–Author Unknown

This poem reminds us to practice gratitude and continue to see the glass "half full." Truly a skill to last a lifetime!

With gratitude for all our blessings,

Carol A. Nord

Carol A. Nord
Executive Director



"In daily life we must see that it is not happiness that makes us grateful, but gratefulness that makes us happy."

–Br. David Steindl-Rast

NIBBLER 2014
Taste of the Irish
Thank You!



On April 11th, 2014, Nativity Academy held its annual Nativity Academy Nibbler, themed this year as "Taste of the Irish", at Bellarmine University's Frazier Hall. From a brownie-wielding, jovial leprechaun to the lively notes blown by bagpiper Jim Kuchenbrod, a spirited time was had by all in attendance! A big thanks to our wonderful sponsors, who make such an event possible:



Silver Sponsor



Bronze Sponsors



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We appreciate your support of our 2014 Nativity Nibbler: "Taste of the Irish", and can't wait to see you at next year's event!

Smile - It's Simple



Want to support Nativity Academy by doing something you may already do? Amazon shoppers are now provided the option to shop via smile.amazon.com!

When you shop AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. By simply selecting Nativity Academy (which can be added by searching "Nativity Academy, Louisville KY") as your charity of choice, 0.5% of eligible purchases will support the school.

AmazonSmile offers the same great items you find on Amazon, and if you have an existing Amazon account, you can simply sign in with your existing account information. It really couldn't be easier!

The hardest part may just be remembering! Once you've selected Nativity Academy as your charitable organization, you're set! There's no need to add it with every purchase, just log in to smile.amazon.com and shop the same way you've always shopped Amazon!

"Nativity Night Out" 2014 another great Friend- and Fund-raiser!

"Fat Tuesday", March 11th, 2014 was a festive and well-attended night for Nativity Academy's partner restaurants! From Mellow Mushroom to Porcini's to Pat's Steakhouse, Nativity supporters were out in droves to raise money for our students and mission!



A BIG thanks to our restaurant partners, new and familiar, and to the wonderful sponsors that made the night possible! Please support these local businesses and restaurants as a Friend of Nativity!

2014 Sponsors:

AirHydro Power Horton Fruit Company Faulkner Law Offices

2014 Restaurants:

211 Clover Lane Come Back Inn
 Earth Friends Café & Eatery - NULU Irish Rover
 Mellow Mushroom - St. Matthews Pat's Steak House
 Porcini Restaurant Rocky's Pizza & Panini - Bardstown Road
 Texas Roadhouse - Dixie Highway Tumbleweed Waterfront
 Tony BoomBozz - Eastern Parkway
 White Castle - 700 W. Broadway, and
 7th Street & Berry Blvd

We are thankful for each of you!

Nativity Academy is so proud of its graduate Mya McClain, who recently was featured in the Courier-Journal speaking out about the recent acts of violence at Waterfront Park. We've included excerpts from her article, below, because we think it's important that Mya's actions towards peace and understanding in our community are seen. Great job, Mya!

Youth to hold run/walk for community

By Mya McClain
Special to *The Courier-Journal*

"As a sophomore at Presentation Academy and a resident of the Russell neighborhood in western Louisville, I have been very interested in the recent events, such as the mob violence that broke out. I am also very concerned with the incidents on TARC buses, because they are my primary source of transportation. Most times I am concerned about my safety while on the bus.

I attended the "Youth Conversation" at the Louisville Urban League last month to gain a better understanding of the violence.

I am a member of the Teen Leadership Council at the Louisville Central Community Center, at 1300 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd. in western Louisville. Since October 2013, we have organized and executed three ACT college prep work-



shops, a public speaking skills workshop and a leadership skills workshop. Collectively, these trainings have reached more than 220 of our peers, helping them to grow their personal skills. Our motto is "learning while serving others as we reach for adulthood" and we take that pretty seriously.

While attending a TLC meeting, Sam Watkins, CEO of LCCC, presented to the council the vision for "The Boulevard West of Ninth." At that time, all of us got very excited about what the future could be if this vision were to come to life. So we decided that we would do whatever we could to raise awareness in this community about the vision, and about the wonderful assets that currently exist in western Louisville. The Boulevard West of Ninth 5K Beautification Run/Walk was born!

The primary goal for our event is to raise awareness among community leaders regarding the Boulevard West of Ninth vision. We want Mayor Greg Fischer and other community leaders to know that young people in this community want a bright future and we believe that the Boulevard West of Ninth Vision will lay the foundation.

It is my hope that the next large gathering of people, both young and old, will be on April 26. Who said there is nothing positive for teens to do in western Louisville?"

Nativity Academy is so grateful for the time and energy given by our Board members! We truly couldn't do it without each of the thoughtful, wise, and dedicated leaders, below. Thanks to each of you for furthering Nativity's mission!

- Bill Benoit
Horton Fruit Company
- Joyce Cass
Chestnut Hill Advisors, LLC
- Dr. Robert Cooter
Bellarmine University
- Sr. Maureen Coughlin, SCN
Retired, Spalding University
- Alice Cowley
Spalding School of Nursing
- Bro. Ed Driscoll, CFX
Xaverian Brothers Representative
- Shannon Fehr
Boice.net
- Erin Faulkner
Faulkner Law
- Susan Foley
Retired Sacred Heart Academy
- Charlie Francesconi
Retired, Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- Tyra Fullam-Mueller
Retired - Sacred Heart Academy
- Gary Grieshaber
KFC
- Sr. Ruth Ann Haunz, OSU
Ursuline Sisters Representative
- Mike Hendricks
Norton Healthcare
- Sr. Rose Howard, PhD
Retired, Bellarmine University
- Mark Kirchdorfer
ISCO Industries, LLC



- Bob Meyer
Self Employed
- Libbye Montgomery
Montgomery Realtors
- Dave Mueller
Retired, Exxon Chemical Co.
- Carol Nord,
Nativity Academy, Executive Director
- Paul Pendell
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- Richard Rink
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- Jay Saling, CFP, CWA
Hilliard Lyons
- Hal Smith
Governor Scholar Program
- M. Annette Mandley-Turner
Archdiocese of Louisville
- William Weyland
City Properties Group
- Debra Whitner
Humana Inc.

Nativity Academy Board Spotlight – Jay Saling



Board member Jay Saling, who is Senior Vice President and a financial consultant with the Saling Group of Hilliard Lyons, is a true asset to Nativity Academy's mission! From his engagement as a Nativity Academy student sponsor to his commitment to our Finance Committee, Jay has been a faithful supporter of Nativity Academy since he joined our Board in 2011. In recent years, Jay was recognized by Consumer's Research Council of America as one of America's top Financial Planners. Jay is also an Emeritus Director for St. Xavier High School. And, according to his LinkedIn profile, he has been granted the prestigious title of "World's Greatest Dad" since 1982 – a rare honor!

We are so thankful to have Jay involved here at Nativity Academy.

Brother Ed Driscoll, Nativity Academy Board Member



As many of you know, the delightful St. Xavier High School former teacher and principal, Xaverian Brother Edward Driscoll, was recently elected General Superior of the Congregation of the Brothers of St. Francis Xavier, a congregation that serves in education ministry on four continents.

After serving a total of 37 years at St. X, his fall 2013 departure was hard on everyone, including the Board at Nativity Academy, where Brother Ed had served for many years. But no one makes a commitment

like Brother Ed! Since assuming his new position last October, Brother Ed has been present at both of Nativity Academy's board meetings – quite a feat! We are so grateful to Brother Ed for his strong commitment to Nativity's mission, and so proud of the powerful work he continues to do!



NATIVITY ACADEMY
AT ST. BONIFACE
529 E. Liberty Street
Louisville, KY 40202

...a reason for hope



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**NATIVITY ACADEMY'S
Annual
Golf Scramble**

Plan to Attend



*Thursday, August 21, 2014
Shotgun Start at 1:30 PM*

Quail Chase Golf Club
7000 Cooper Chapel Road



**For more information, please visit our website
www.nativitylouisville.org**

An independent Catholic middle school that transforms the lives of students who have a commitment to achievement and whose families demonstrate financial need.

NATIVITY ACADEMY AT ST. BONIFACE

Executive Director: Carol Nord
Advancement Director: Brooke Burnette
Phone Number: 855-3313

Principal: Meghan Weyland
Phone Number: 855-3300

Extended Day Director: Tami Harbolt, Ph.D. Phone Number: 855-3300	Graduate Support: Brandy Jones & Tyler Robertson Phone Number: 855-3300
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