

NEWS

NATIVITY ACADEMY AT SAINT BONIFACE

Vol. V No. 1

Spring 2008

Louisville's private middle school offering educational excellence to children of academic promise from low-income families

Nativity Welcomes Ozell Wilson



Ozell Wilson.
Director of Extended
Day & Graduate
Support Programs

In early January, Nativity Academy welcomed Ozell Wilson as the Director of the Extended Day Program and the Graduate Support Program. Ozell came to Nativity after completing a

degree in Sports Administration at the University of Louisville which included an internship at the Mid-South Conference/Louisville Sports Commission. Ozell completed his degree at the University through the UPS Metropolitan College Program. Before beginning his degree at U of L, Ozell served in JCPS as a security monitor at both the middle and high school levels.

When Ozell joined Nativity, he had to "hit the ground running." Students returned from Christmas break and the required supervised study period resumed the day he started working. But Ozell met the challenge and is already loved and respected by the students, his staff, and the faculty. When anyone asks Ozell about being part of the Nativity Academy administration, he always comments that he feels having been hired at Nativity demonstrates God's action in and plan for his life. Nativity Academy also sees God's hand in Ozell's joining our community; he is a blessing to us.



Jerry Walsh-Skelly, a former teacher with graduates, Cole Goodrich (Trinity) and Dominique Mc Clain (St. Xavier) gathered to meet Ozell Wilson the new Graduate Support Program Director.

Mason Scholarships now available to Nativity Eighth Graders

Nativity Academy recently received good news concerning Catholic high school scholarships for Nativity graduates. In February, Angela Mason, who founded the Region I Catholic high school scholarship program, agreed to open her scholarship program to Nativity graduates. This means that Nativity Academy 8th graders, no matter what their religion or where they live in Metro-Louisville, can apply for a Mason scholarship to any Catholic high school. Of course, Nativity students must meet the academic requirements and complete the scholarship application process. This opens up

a wonderful opportunity for financial assistance to Nativity families who want their children to attend a Catholic high school.

Scholarship opportunity for Nativity families who want their children to attend a Catholic high school.

We are very grateful to Angela and to her brother Steve for this decision. Steve visited Nativity, investigated our program, and provided Angela with the information she needed to make this decision. We are also grateful to Nativity Board member, Hosea Mitchell. Hosea, a childhood friend of Steve and Angela, helped to convince them to broaden the applicant pool because of his own interest in and support of Nativity Academy. Thanks to all of them.

Nativity Academy Congratulates!



Shian Jordan, Nativity graduate, freshman at Sacred Heart Academy

We offer special congratulations to the following Nativity students and graduates:

- NaKayla Little and Taylor Curd each received a Rodriq McGravy scholarship award at the annual African American Catholic Leadership Awards Banquet. Both girls are planning on attending Sacred Heart Academy.
- Bryan Valtierra who is one of four recipients of a ten-week scholarship to the Louisville Visual Art Association
- Sidney Taylor, Maya Berkley, and Shian Jordan who participated in PeaceCasters at the invitation of Barbara West. PeaceCasters attempts to help

young people appreciate peace and diversity and to get this message out in their own voices.

• Nativity's 6th, 7th, and 8th grade boys who played on the Nativity basketball team. Thanks for a hard fought season and thanks to Coach Marc Murphy for all his work.

• The Nativity Step Team (DeAirice Hobbs, NaKayla Little, Tyler Harris, Chloe Hogue, Arian Franklin-Williams, Yolanda Logan, Kiara Jones, and Teonna Jones) which placed 2nd in the middle school competition at Central High School

- Shian Jordan ('07) who made first honors at Sacred Heart Academy.
- Dhulisha Brown ('07) who made all A's on her first report card at Seneca High School.



Sr. Paula Kleine-Kracht, OSU
Executive Director

From the Executive Director

Dear Friends of Nativity Academy,

Most people involved in education are well aware that February and March are the most difficult months in a school. The “winter doldrums” seem to set in and everyone suddenly seems to be at their worst and feeling that spring can’t come quick enough. Well, this doesn’t seem to be the case at Nativity this year. February and March are proving to be exciting months for us.

I am sure you have already noticed the “new look” for the “News.” The colored photos and new formatting bring additional excitement to our communications. We are now benefiting from the expertise of Mike Nabicht and his company, Creative Media for Learning. Mike is working with Nativity’s Community Relations Committee to develop a clear and consistent identity for the school which includes all its communications.

While we are grateful for Mike’s contributed services, we want to give a special “thank you” to Amber Dunlap who, as a volunteer, created Nativity’s newsletter in 2004. She designed the Newsletter while she was a student completing her degree in graphic design and now has a full-time position at Bellarmine University. As Amber enters a new phase in her professional career so Nativity begins a new phase of development. We wish many blessings to Amber and thank her for giving us such a creatively successful beginning.

But there is more that is new at Nativity than the look of its newsletter. As you read this issue, you will also see there are new people working and volunteering in our programs, and our students are participating in new and exciting activities both during the academic day and extended day programs.

You will also read of the continuing successes of our graduates who returned to Nativity for a gathering in late January. Their accomplishments are not new to us, but they continue to be exciting and affirm Nativity’s work and mission.

I hope you find reading the news from Nativity to be as hope-filled and blessed as I do writing it. All of you who help to support us in so many ways should continue to feel a sense of gratification because you make everything at Nativity Academy possible. You are very appreciated.

Sincerely,
Sr. Paula



Bob Morris, Principal

Update from the Principal

What an exciting first half of the year. To begin, I want to sincerely thank the entire faculty, staff and volunteers.

The integration of technology in the curriculum using computers and Smart Boards has been fun to watch. The students love it and are noticeably more engaged in class. I am very excited about the relationship we are building with Bellarmine University. Dr. Hannah Clayborn, Ph.D., the newly hired Director of Multicultural Affairs has been wonderful in helping establish the connection. So far we have had Bellarmine faculty, staff and students come to Nativity for a literacy day. Dr. Clayborn also arranged to have an African American writer, Dr. James Graham, author of “The African American Child” give a presentation to our faculty and students. We have also scheduled a career day where Bellarmine faculty and staff will come in and talk to our students about career paths. Lastly, we have a day planned to take Nativity 8th graders and graduates to Bellarmine for a campus visit. Dr. Clayborn and I will continue to work together finding additional ways that we may expand Nativity and Bellarmine’s relationship. Together, we have much to look forward to for the remainder of this school year.

**Going Once,
Going Twice...
Sold!**

**On a great evening
benefiting Nativity Academy
at St. Boniface.**

Mark your calendars now for
Friday, April 18, 6:00 to 9:00 pm
at Whitehall.

Auction items include a Florida
condo, a trip to England and
Ryder Cup tickets.

Tickets for the event are
\$25 and include drinks
and a cocktail buffet.

Call Kathey G. Sanders,
Director of Development,
at 584-4279, ext 8 for more
information.

Exciting opportunities for Nativity Students

Nativity Academy students have had several exciting new opportunities this semester.

- Archbishop Joseph Kurtz visited Nativity in mid-January and met many of our students. He was very impressed with the greetings he received from our students.
- The Music Box organization is offering free piano lessons during the day to several students – Bustavo Alcantara, Victor Board, TiErica Carney, Jordan Crosby, DeAirice Hobbs, Consuelo Santillan, Marvin Stewart, and Brandon Valtierra.
- Fourteen students participated in the 15th annual Celebrity African-American Read-In at the Western Branch Public Library. This activity is sponsored by the Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
- Representatives from Bellarmine University's Office of Multicultural Affairs came to Nativity in early February for a classroom read-in. We are grateful to Dr. Hannah Clayborne for coordinating this activity.
- Our 8th grade students attended a Liturgy at St. Margaret Mary Church to celebrate Catholic Schools' Week
- Taylor Curd, Ivori Robertson, and Arian Franklin-Williams are acting in "The Legend of Pocahontas" at the Ursuline School for the Performing Arts.

Breakfast At



On Saturday, April 12th from 8-10 a.m let our 8th graders serve

you breakfast at Applebee's (at the intersection of Taylorsville Rd and Bardstown Rd.).

The students use this project as a fund-raiser to support Nativity and another charity of their choice. Tickets are \$5.00 (\$4 comes to the students and \$1 goes to Applebee's).

Call Nativity for more information and/or to purchase tickets.

Students' Christmas Projects include Entertainment & Service to the Community



Students cheerfully pose for the camera before participating in the Christmas program.

Christmas is a special time for everyone and the Nativity Academy Community is no different. Our students continue to provide an evening of entertainment for their families and sponsors, and there is an annual gift exchange. Once again this year, our 8th graders participated in a service project at the Cathedral soup kitchen, and the St. Patrick Parish Community stocked a gift shop so our students could shop for family gifts. And of course, we are grateful to the St. Boniface Parish Community and the Cathedral Parish Community for helping our families through an Angel Tree.

From the Board of Directors

By Alice Cowley, Chairperson

One of the most rewarding aspects of being a Board Member at Nativity is involvement in Fund Development. With the active partnership and guidance of Kathey Sanders, Development Director, the Board sponsors and participates in three events. These events are: Night Out for Nativity, The Nativity Auction, and a Golf Outing.

Under the leadership of Board Member, Bob Meyer, the Night Out for Nativity was held on February 5th. Twenty local eateries donated a portion of their day's proceeds to school. Our challenge was to publicize the event and fill restaurants. The evening was a resounding success!

The Nativity Auction will be held April 18th at Whitehall. The evening includes a cocktail buffet, drinks and an opportunity to bid on wonderful prizes led by auctioneer, Rick Wordlow. Among the items to be sold are Ryder Cup Tickets, an Oaks box, UofK and UofL sporting events and one week in a three-bedroom Florida condo. We would love to have all of our Nativity supporters present – please plan to attend!



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

...a reason for hope

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Please mark you calendars and spread the word... Nativity Academy is hosting an Open House, March 25 – 27.

This is an opportunity for prospective parents/ students and people wanting to learn more about our program to visit the school and see our community in action.

OPEN HOUSE DATES & TIMES

Tuesday through Thursday - 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.
Thursday evening from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

During the Open House, visitors may walk into classrooms, talk with teachers and administrators, and talk with current parents.

*For more information about this event:
Call the school at 562-2190*

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NATIVITY ACADEMY AT ST. BONIFACE

Executive Director: Paula Kleine-Kracht OSU
Development Director: Kathey Golightly Sanders
Phone Number: 584-4279
Principal: Bob Morris
Extended Day Director: Ozell Wilson
Phone Number: 562-2190
www.nativitylouisville.org

Sponsoring Congregations

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St. Boniface in your will.
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