



# PROGRESS REPORT

from Nativity Preparatory School

Fall 2010

## FEATURE STORY



### Graduation 2010

**Congratulations to the Class of Montalvo!** The 18th graduating class of Nativity Prep proudly wore their caps and gowns on June 13th at St. Mary of the Angels Church in Roxbury. Friends and family of the Class of Montalvo filled the pews to witness the transformative ceremony, along with younger Nativity students, faculty and staff, Trustees and volunteers. Highlights of the day included: Adonis Bonilla receiving the award for having the highest grade point average in his class, Argenis Bautista receiving the Barry T. Hynes Award for best epitomizing Nativity spirit, and Peter Tran receiving the Rev. William R. Campbell, SJ Sportsmanship Award for best exemplifying what it means to be a team player through integrity, leadership and fair play.

*(continued on next page)*

## IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ 2010 Graduation
- ◆ Alumni Spotlight: Rueben Bailey
- ◆ Sponsor Appreciation Luncheon
- ◆ Summer Academic & Leadership Program
- ◆ 6th Annual Nativity Golf Classic
- ◆ The Year Ahead Calendar

## A Letter from the Executive Director



Although the whirlwind of activity at Nativity Prep never really ceases, the relatively slower pace of summer allows time for special projects that often get pushed to the back burner during the fall, winter and spring. This summer I spent a few days organizing our school archives - a collection of newspaper articles, videos, newsletters, event programs, and photos that have been saved for posterity by various conscientious staff members over the past two decades.

The school archives tell the story of the legendary men and women who have labored without counting the cost to break the cycle of poverty through education. For twenty years we have been preparing inner-city 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. At our recent faculty orientation I challenged our new and returning staff members to honor those who came before us by fully embracing the Nativity mission as it informs the next stage of our school's life.

With your help we can carry the Nativity torch forward for another twenty years and beyond. As you read through this newsletter, imagine the future success stories we will write together.

*Blessings,*

Fr. John Wronski, S.J.

## NATIVITY PREP GRADUATION 2010



Montalvo, the graduating class of 2010, poses for one last picture together before becoming Nativity alumni.

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Jonas Grazulis, a member of the Class of Ricci (2003), was the featured alumni speaker at graduation. After graduating from Boston College High School, he moved on to Bentley University where he is now a senior business major.

The following is an excerpt from the speech that Jonas gave to the graduating Class of 2010:

*“I came to Nativity Prep a year after I moved to the United States. It was probably the best and luckiest decision I ever made. When I came, I barely knew the language. I didn’t know what I was doing, or what I was supposed to be doing. A few years later, I graduated, a young man, like you, going on to BC High, one of the most prestigious high schools in the area. Nativity set up the structure*

*and the resources I needed to prepare me for high school and future success.*

*The education you received here at Nativity is a gift you can keep forever. As long as you do your work, keep your mind open, and ask questions, there are no limits to what you can do! As graduates of Nativity, your main goal should be to exceed all expectations and to find yourself along the way. Hope, don’t lose faith, keep looking, find what you love, and don’t settle. Graduating from Nativity allows you to be whatever you want to be; there are no limits. With that, congratulations to the class of 2010! Go on, exceed expectations, follow your dreams, and don’t let anyone stop you!”*

### Class of 2010 High School Enrollments:

- Boston College High School (6)
- Cannon School (North Carolina)
- Cathedral High School
- Quincy High School
- St. Sebastian’s School
- Trinity Catholic High School (2)

### Class of 2006 College Acceptances:

- American University
- Art Institute of Boston
- Boston University
- Colby College
- University of Delaware
- Eastern Nazarene College
- Emmanuel College
- George Washington University

- Hobart & William Smith College
- College of the Holy Cross
- Le Moyne College
- Massachusetts College of Art & Design
- University of Massachusetts Amherst
- University of Massachusetts Boston
- University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
- University of Miami
- Northeastern University
- Salve Regina University
- Stonehill College
- Syracuse University
- Tufts University

## SPONSOR APPRECIATION LUNCH

### The Nativity Prep Sponsor Program: A Chance to Give and Receive.

On May 13th, Nativity Prep Student Sponsors came to 39 Lamartine Street to share lunch and talk with the student(s) that they sponsor. This special day allowed Nativity sponsorship donors to get to know the students and the sponsors gained a greater understanding of what it is like to be on the receiving end of a Nativity education. Simultaneously, Nativity students were able to say “thank you” to their sponsorship benefactor, and express their appreciation for the support and generosity that their sponsor gives to Nativity. The Student Sponsorship Program continues to be one of the most effective ways that a person can give the gift of an education, the gift of friendship and the gift of hope. The students and the school alike benefit from this financial aid and from partnerships with these generous individuals who are committed to serving others.



Class of Montalvo students Argenis Bautista and Darwin Pena with sponsorship benefactor, Tom Shields.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Rueben Bailey: A MAN FOR OTHERS

On August 19th, Rueben Bailey (Hopkins '06) was presented with the Sun Life Financial Rising Star Award at a ceremony held at the Blackstone Elementary School in Boston. Rueben received a \$5,000 scholarship to be used towards his college tuition, and is under consideration for the National Sun Life Rising Star Award (to be awarded later this year) that would be worth an additional \$50,000 in college tuition aid. Rueben was recognized for his six years of dedicated volunteer service (over 2,000 hours) as a member of City Year, an organization that aims to keep at-risk youth on track to high school graduation while helping to transform Boston's physical landscape into a safe and welcoming urban environment. **Rueben began his involvement with City Year as a 7th grade student at Nativity Prep where he learned the value and joy of helping others in need.** As a dedicated and active participant in youth leadership programs, Rueben has been a vibrant life force in the City Year Boston community, initiating and planning community service days, as well as developing and leading several social justice workshops. He has also been an active member of his high school's community service club and has participated in several service projects through his church. He graduated from Boston College High School in May 2010, and after being accepted to five colleges, has begun his freshman year at the University of Massachusetts Amherst where he plans to study Aeronautical Engineering.

Rueben is clearly a "man for others" who shares his Nativity spirit with the world every day. Congratulations Rueben, and thank you for being such a wonderful example and role model for us all!

The following is an excerpt of Rueben's speech when he was honored with this award:

*"Leadership wasn't always a skill I had readily available when I was younger. I was quiet, shy, and rather afraid to be in a position where I'd be responsible for others or for getting a job done. It was only through the community of young leaders from the former Heroes program run by City Year that I was able to find my voice.*



(left to right) Beth Segers, Fr. Si Smith, S.J., Mrs. Tara Bailey, Rueben Bailey, Fr. John Wronski, S.J.

*The first time I found out about the program was when they came to my middle school, Nativity Prep, to recruit for the Young Heroes program.*

*City Year helped me see the value of service in one's life and though the majority of people in society usually underrate it, service offers a lifetime of rewards if done with an open heart and open mind. I learned to appreciate that feeling over the course of my high school career both during the school year and during the summers when I volunteered of my own time.*

*I feel good about where I am now in my life, but I cannot forget about the community who helped me learn the skills that I would not have been able to gain on my own. Sometimes we underrate our support systems, but anyone who's familiar with the saying "It Takes a Village to Raise a Child" knows that no one can develop to their full potential without a support system. City Year and Heroes was the village that helped raise the leader I've become today and will continue to be."*

## SUMMER ACADEMIC AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

***We hope you enjoyed your summer as much as the students of Nativity Prep did!***

For all of our students, the Summer Academic and Leadership Program addresses one basic need above all others: to keep their development at the forefront of all they do. Through this program, in an environment that is nurturing and positive, our students engage in activities that challenge them physically, sharpen their minds and build learning skills that better prepare them for the academic and career road ahead. The Summer Program is a critical component of Nativity's mission to maintain the students' focus so that their chance to achieve success at Nativity Prep and beyond is maximized.

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Dr. Jen Roy addresses Nativity Prep 5th and 6th grade students during the 2010 Summer Academic and Leadership Program.

## SUMMER ACADEMIC AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

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Students entering the eighth grade attended a five-week boarding camp 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 skills in some of life's most essential areas. Challenged on physical, intellectual and spiritual levels, without exception, our students grew and thrived in this demanding, yet loving, environment. Reflecting on his experience, 8th grader Samuel Rodrigues stated: "I became closer to God, and I learned more about myself and my classmates."

Rising seventh graders attended a six-week day camp held at Boston College High School which included two rigorous academic classes each morning, followed by afternoon sports camps. Nativity students benefited from the teaching of BC High faculty and exposure to the extensive resources of the BC High campus such as computer labs, athletic fields, and the Corcoran Library.

Students entering the fifth and sixth grades attended a four-week day camp held at our Nativity campus. While an important orientation to the school for new students, all of these young men spent the month of July sharpening their reading, math and writing skills between Monday and Thursday. Fridays consisted of out-of-class activities, such as community service trips to a local church and assisted living facilities, as well as field trips to the Museum of Science and Fenway Park.



Sixth grader Landini Jean-Louis is hard at work during the Summer Program preparing for his first school year at Nativity.

According to 6th grade student Luc Benjamin: "Summer camp is good for us for many reasons. It keeps our minds moving and gets us ready for September. We get to meet all of the new students and learn what their interests are. We also are able to learn what our teachers' expectations are before school starts."

Other fun summer activities included a weekend trip to Kittery Point, Maine hosted by Beth Segers, a Red Sox game and a meet-and-greet with Kevin Youkilis courtesy of Youkilis Hits for Kids, a weekend trip to Sun Rise Lake, New Hampshire hosted by Gerry and Kathie DeRoche, and a week-long trip to Walt Disney World courtesy of the Rodman Ride for Kids.

## NATIVITY PREP GOLF CLASSIC



Nativity students welcoming the golfers, (left to right) Charles Lawrence, Diala Anuonyemere and Julio Castillo.

### The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Nativity Golf Classic

June 14<sup>th</sup> proved to be yet another memorable day of golf, camaraderie, generosity and spirit for the Nativity Prep community. Due in part to our dedicated benefactors and volunteers, the day was a tremendous success, **raising over \$150,000!** We would like to give special thanks to our Presenting Sponsors, **Staples** and **Rick and LeeAnn Miller**, and our Tournament Director, **Rich Hutchinson**. We would also like to express our appreciation to our Double Eagle Sponsors, Goulston and Storrs, Dave and Joan Melville, Tom and Liz Niedermeyer, Parish of St. Ignatius of Loyola and Pyramid Hotel Group. Continued thanks to our Black Rock member sponsor, Jack Shaughnessy, Jr., our Auctioneer, Dan Flynn, and our Planning and Auction Committee, Joan Brassil, Monica Connolly, Maria Curtis, Rich Hutchinson, Nancy Kelleher, Jackie Keshian, Cathy O'Neil and Susan Smith. Without the help and generosity of so many, this day would not have been possible!

**We hope to see you at next year's Nativity Golf Classic on Monday, June 13, 2011 at Black Rock Country Club!**

**THE YEAR  
AHEAD  
CALENDAR**

**Wednesday, December 1, 2010**

"Experience Nativity" Breakfast

*Spend a morning with us! Contact Rikki at (857) 728-0031 for details.*

**Wednesday, March 16, 2011**

14<sup>th</sup> Annual Nativity Spirit Dinner

**Thursday, May 12, 2011**

Sponsor Appreciation Lunch

**Sunday, June 12, 2011**

Graduation

**Monday, June 13, 2011**

7<sup>th</sup> Annual Nativity Golf Classic

Please visit our website at [www.nativityboston.org](http://www.nativityboston.org) and become a fan of "Nativity Preparatory School of Boston" on **Facebook** to keep up to date with pictures and videos of our students and faculty.

**VISIT NATIVITY!** Please feel free to visit us at any time! Help us grow our Nativity community of supporters by introducing friends, family and colleagues to our school. **Thank you for your continued support!**