

NATIVITY EVENTS

April 7:

9:45 Mass - 5-8 Band perform at Mass

April 13: 7:30 a.m.

Accreditation Breakfast

April 13-15: Accreditation Review of Nativity

April 14: 9:45 a.m. Mass

April 18-22:

- Kool to be Kind Week
- MAP 3-8th grade testing begins

April 22:

- Earth Day activities
- Spring Picture Day

MISSION STATEMENT:

Nativity of Mary Catholic School provides a Catholic centered education that fosters academic excellence and spiritual growth while preparing students to become responsible citizens in a global society.



Dear Nativity Families:

We are proud of our strong educational programs at Nativity.

Our mission statement at the school is to foster “academic excellence and spiritual growth.” With this emphasis, combined with hands-on learning, state-of-the-art technology, and a rich faith environment and parent partnerships, Nativity students thrive. This week I’m honored to recognize Grace Hoepfner who competed at the Minnesota State Science Fair after earning that right at the regional competition. Grace received three State recognition awards and is invited to compete, nationally.

1. *Emerging Scientist Award*
 2. *Broadcom Nominee* - this is an award/invitation to another national Science competition for the top 10% of middle school participants nationwide
 3. *Silver Grand Award* - this was for being in the top 10% of all middle school applicants.
- Grace and her family would like to thank Mrs. Angie Flynn for her support of Grace in this project and for continually pushing the kids to excel at these initiatives. Grace’s parents shared another parent’s comment, commending Nativity of Mary School - saying "There are not a lot of parochial schools represented at the State competition, not to mention getting awards, which is a testament to what you are doing at Nativity."



DID YOU REGISTER FOR THE 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR?

- **CONGRATULATIONS TO BRIAN & JANA MILLER** – All family registrations received by March 2, 2016, were put in a drawing for a Scrip \$50 gift card. Call or email the office to choose your gift card.
- **ONLY 2 SPOTS LEFT IN 5-DAY PRESCHOOL!** Nativity families have priority, but we need to know your plans. Call with questions.
- **TADS-Scholarship Assistance:** Thank you to the many families who have completed their TADS forms. If you have not, please do so as soon as possible. Our committee hopes to be reviewing and awarding aide no later than early May.

ACCREDITATION VISIT: The Accreditation review team will be at Nativity April 13, 14 & 15. What might you expect?



Wed., April 13 Breakfast: School Advisory Council members, trustees, Father Zehren, and Nativity school staff will host a breakfast on Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. for the team. Some of our Student Leadership Team will welcome the committee. If you wanted to help or bring an egg bake, please email: mreeder@nativitybloomington.org

Wednesday & Thursday during the day – students and staff may be interviewed about the great things happening at Nativity! Let your child know they may be interviewed and parents, you may also receive a call at home. As a reminder, our Mission Statement is on this newsletter every week and our Strategic Plan is on the website: Strategic Plan.

MUSIC UPDATE: Enclosed in your folder is a music newsletter from Miss Emma Shukle. Music enriches the mind and soul, enhancing learning for students. Read about what your child is learning in music. Watch for upcoming music and band concerts in May.

SPRING TESTING AROUND THE CORNER: Nativity of Mary begins spring testing for 3-8th grades on Monday, April 18. Dibels testing for K-2 will be in May. Teachers will take time to do a practice test and create some goals and celebrations in the classrooms. What can families do to help?



- ✓ Write a "happy note" to encourage your child during testing
- ✓ For the weeks of April 18 and April 25, ensure that your child has a healthy breakfast and plenty of rest.
- ✓ Send a water bottle and soft, chewing gummies for during the test
- ✓ Talk about how proud you are of your child's accomplishments and remind them to always do their best.

NATIVITY OF MARY HOSTING FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS IN 2016: Nativity of Mary was approved by SEVIS, the branch of the Federal Government, to host foreign exchange students in 2016. If you are interested in hosting a student, please let us know! (mreeder@nativitybloomington.org)

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT ACCELERATED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AT NATIVITY? Nativity teachers begin to offer an individualized learning experience in Kindergarten. From classroom choice, to grouping options, to programming, students receive opportunities to be challenged. In addition to classroom programs, teachers in 5-8th grades will also make additional recommendation for students to experience accelerated classes in Middle School.

How does this work? Students will be evaluated to experience accelerated math, beginning in 6th grade, based on 5th grade results and again in 7th grade for their 8th grade year. Students in 7th grade will also be considered for an accelerated science class for their 8th grade year. Accelerated learning for middle school is based on the following:

- Classroom performance
- State and national test results
- Homework and assignment follow through
- Teacher and parent recommendations

If your child is considered for an accelerated class, you will receive a letter. We invite you to talk with your teachers if you have questions about this process. For younger students, accelerated opportunities occur in the classroom and parents are invited to discuss this with their child's teacher.



Spirit of Spring:

Look for your invitation in this week's communication folder for the 16th Annual Spirit of Spring to be held May 14th! You can RSVP online at [HTTP://Spirit2016.gesture.com](http://Spirit2016.gesture.com) or fill out the RSVP card on your invitation and return with payment to the school office. Don't be late for this very important date! RSVP by May 9th.

****Wondering how you can help? We are still looking for theme baskets, gift cards, experiences, and bottles of wine****

SPRING PICTURES:

Spring Picture Day is coming soon! To place an online order or to see what looks are available, please use the hyperlink below: <http://my.lifetouch.com/mylifetouch/pictureDayId/MI695512Y0>. If you have any questions, please call Lifetouch at 888-543-3867 from 7am-7pm (CST). Order forms are in today's communication folder.

SUMMER CAMPS AT NATIVITY:

- ✓ **VBS:** July 11 – 15 (Morning program, details to come!)
- ✓ **Kindergarten Camp:** July 25 – 28, 2016 (Forms will be sent to registered Kindergarten students)
- ✓ **Art Camp:** Thursday afternoons, June 16, 23, 30 and July 14, 21 & 28 from 1-3 p.m. (\$125) [Flier link](#)
- ✓ **STEM Camp:** Tuesday afternoons, June 14, 21, & 28 and July 12, 19 & 26 OR Wednesday afternoons, June 15, 22 & 29 and July 13, 20 & 27 (\$200) [Flier link](#)



REMINDERS:

- **Apply to be a member of the School Advisory Council:** Members needed who want to continue to plan as we live our mission to “foster academic excellence and spiritual growth” at Nativity. (Go to our SAC web page and download the application form: <http://school.nativitybloomington.org/school-advisory-council.html>)
- **SCRIP for SPRING! Think – Mom’s, Dad’s and Grads!** This is a great time of year to pick up Scrip gift cards for Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, and the many graduations in May and June. Scrip also makes great wedding gifts. Shop online at: www.shopwithscrip.com or stop in the office for your favorite gift cards! Remember, Scrip helps you reach your fundraising Scrip goal, as well as earn tuition credit once you have reached this goal!
- **8th Grade Graduation Photos – April 22:** What to wear? Come dressed your best! Ties for our young men and ladies, no sleeveless dresses (or wear a sweater over the dress.)
- **SPIRIT OF SPRING – May 14:** Stop by the office to pick up a card and create a basket! Invites coming home. Information in this week’s communication folder.

KUDOS:

- **7th Grade** - who volunteered at VEAP this week.
- **Preschool teachers, Lisa Hegard & Oliva Sage** - for completing their Preschool licensure materials.
- **Congratulations also to our middle school science teacher, Angie Flynn** - for coordinating and preparing students to succeed.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Prayers for Nativity families and staff with health needs at this time.

Blessings, Mindy Reeder - mreeder@nativitybloomington.org

Lunchroom Volunteers:

Mon 4/11 Rachel Stuart, Susy Brar, Todd Millenacker, Clark Flowers
Tues 4/12 Lydia High, Mary Koch, Matt Martin, Molly Bergum
Wed 4/13 Mary Koch, Don Eslinger, Helen Eslinger, David Fong
Thurs 4/14 Connie Larson, Kathy Love, Lynn Poehling, NEED VOLUNT
Fri 4/15 Heather Bartfield, Grant Parker, Colleen Thomburg, K.Johnson-MacPherson

Playground Volunteers:

Mon 4/11 Sherry Battin
Tues 4/12 Jenefer Morales
Wed 4/13 John Lako
Thurs 4/14 Robert Stuart
Fri 4/15 Tim McCollow

PARISH & COMMUNITY EVENTS:

Women of Nativity Spring 2016 Retreat:

Planting Seeds of Mercy Saturday, April 23 from 9a.m. – 1 p.m. Beginning with 9 a.m. morning Mass and concluding with a noon lunch, this women’s retreat right here at Nativity will bring springtime renewal to your spirit. Our featured speaker is Dr. Ann Marie Klein, Assistant Professor in the Catholic Studies Department at the University of St. Thomas, who will encourage and help us in our Christian walk as women disciples. We will also hear and discuss how we can come together as Women of Nativity to serve our community. Please RSVP to the Parish Office (952-881-8671) by Monday, April 18th with your name(s), number(s), and any dietary restrictions. This is a free-will offering event; there is no cost to attend. Pass the word and invite friends and neighbors to attend -- we hope to see you there!

Jefferson High School Sideline and Competition Cheerleading try outs for the 2016/17 season!

INFORMATIONAL MEETING - April 11 - 7:00 JHS cafeteria

- Clinic days - April 12, 13, 14 - 4:00-6:00pm JAC Court 1
- Formal Tryouts - April 15 - 2:45-5:00 Jefferson gymnastics room

If you have a daughter entering 7-12th grade in the fall of the 2016-17 school year and she is interested in trying out for cheerleading, please attend an informational meeting on Monday, April 11th, at 7:00pm in the Jefferson cafeteria. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Gerleve at jeffersoncheercoach@gmail.com