

# News & Notes



May 25, 2017

Dear Nativity Families:

*As May begins to close, Nativity staff shared the joy of all progress made throughout this school year.* We celebrate the personal, academic, and spiritual growth of each child and reflect on implementations schoolwide. Here is just a short list of the Strategic Plan goals we met during the 2016-17 school year.

- **Faith Development:** Students growing in acceptance of one another, appreciation of differences and diversity through reflection of Christ. Welcoming of new students to school faith family. Adoration throughout school year. Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass.
- **Responsive Classroom:**
  - Creating a similar focus for all classrooms each day.
  - Developed a loving environment with more self-reflection for students.
  - Behavior plans coordinated as needed with students and families
- **Student & Family Support:**
  - Coordinating additional tutoring programs with Bloomington Title services, Nativity's tutor, and the Catholic tutors who assisted at various grade levels
  - Hired interpreter
  - Developed Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)
- **Assessment:** Implemented new national testing, FAST, for K-2. Teachers were able to better see the results more quickly and areas to focus on.
- **Curriculum**
  - New Science curriculum, National Geographic, implementation
  - Schoolwide mock election experience
  - Makerspace/STEM enrichment (Grant)
  - Musical performance at Mall of America
  - Expanded grades 4-5 choir experiences and performances
  - Advanced math for grades 5-8
  - Two Minnesota State Science Fair competitors invited to Nationals
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Spanish class
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Tech class
  - LaCrosse in physical education (Grant)
- **Preschool:** Completed Minnesota License and Parent Aware certification
- **Creation of More Clubs:** These clubs were added-Lego League, Yearbook (8<sup>th</sup> grade students), Literary Magazine, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Book Club and Newspaper.
- **Marketing**
  - School growth, enrollment up PreK-8 by 30 students
  - Development of key communication pieces
  - Promotion through Instagram as well as Facebook and Twitter
- **Staff:** Teacher stipend (grant); Added professional development

**7<sup>th</sup> GRADE:** Nativity of Mary 7<sup>th</sup> Grade attended Camp Iduhapi this past week. At this special retreat students gathered in prayer, learned to support one another, climbed ropes, and participated in various strategic activities. Our students came back strong – we are so proud of them! Thanks to our Middle School teachers and our parent chaperones for helping create a strong bond with our students.



**May 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Safety Patrol Field Trip-MOA

**May 26:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Field Trip to Arboretum

**May 29:** NO SCHOOL – Happy Memorial Day!

**May 30-June 2:** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Chicago Trip

**June 1 & 2:** Kindergarten Graduations

**June 2:** Preschool Party

**Tuesday & Wednesday – Weekly Lego League!**

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



**STEM:** Lego League wrapped up this week. We are so thankful to have added this program and look forward to more enrichment programs next year! Thanks to YEL for providing the classes and our instructor, Catherine Baier.

**PIANO STUDENTS:** Nativity piano students performed at their Spring recital. Special thanks to our piano instructor, Angela Bergquist for sharing the gift of piano!

**PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO) – Join us June 1st:** The final PTO meeting for the school year is June 1st, 7-8 p.m. in the Gathering Space. Please join us as we finalize the summer calendar filled with many great outings for all, hold elections for our PTO Board, find out about the Nativity summer punch card and the Kindergarten camp picnic

and mentorship program. More details on the agenda can be found in this week's communication folder. The first person reading this who emails Annette ([Netter0719@aol.com](mailto:Netter0719@aol.com)) AND attends the PTO meeting will receive a \$25.00 discount at the Used Uniform sale in August. **APPLICATIONS ARE STILL BEING TAKEN THROUGH THIS FRIDAY MAY 19, FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN BEING CONSIDERED FOR THE PTO BOARD FOR THE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR.** (Link below) If you would like to nominate someone you can also do this on this form. Elections will be held at the PTO June meeting. Our mission is: "To strengthen and encourage the educational and social environment of our school through volunteerism and community building activities." We need your voice! PLEASE JOIN US. ([Form Link](#))



**NATIVITY NEW SCHOOL TUTOR: Meet Mrs. Sarah Thornton (Mueller)** - I am thrilled to be "coming home" to Nativity of Mary this school year! I went to Nativity Kindergarten through 8th grade and then on to Holy Angels. I received my bachelor's degree in education from Saint Mary's University in Winona and continued a few years later to receive my master's degree in literacy education. I am a K-12 reading specialist and began my own tutoring business this past spring. I spent six years working at Cannon River STEM School in Faribault, Minnesota where I taught 4th grade, wrote curriculum, and helped develop their STEM program in connection with literacy. Most recently, I taught second grade at Nativity of Our Lord in St. Paul (the "other" Nativity) for two years where I was privileged to lead the students

through two beautiful sacraments. My husband and I were blessed with a son last July and we live in Burnsville where I love to bike, do yoga, and be outside! I hope to help your child celebrate his or her strengths while finding engaging ways to tackle the challenges of learning and build success and confidence.

**NATIVITY K-5 FIELD DAY:** Join us on June 6th from 1:00-3:30 p.m.! Nativity is planning our annual Field Day. Mrs. Steffens and the PTO have joined forces to make this a memorable and fun family afternoon (K-5). Clear your calendar now so you can be a part of all the activities. The schedule and sign up form is in this week's communication folder. **Volunteers are needed to help run the events.** Please sign up to volunteer using this form or Sign Up Genius [Link](#). We are looking forward to fun with games outside!



**DID YOU REGISTER?** Thank you to everyone who already registered or have come in to meet with me. Scholarship awards were mailed home this week.

- **NEW PRESCHOOL CLASS! We have another class. Spread the news and remember, we are now Parent Aware and have Preschool Scholarships available:** You can apply by calling: 888.291.9811 [www.parentaware.org](http://www.parentaware.org)

#### **SCHOOL FUNDRAISERS:**

- **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Students are working hard on this year's Garage Sale.** Bring in your items or call the office to help! Nativity of Mary Garage sale is June 15-17. Sign up to help and drop off your wonderful items for the sale!
- **Annual Fund:** \$44,186 toward our goal of \$50,000.

#### **REMINDERS:**

- **LIBRARY – Books are due!** Please turn them in and we are doing inventory! Special thank you to Kristi Riley and all of our library volunteers for a great year in the library!
- **PLANTS ARE HERE!** Did you pick up your plant on Wednesday? If not, stop in the school office to take your plant orders home.



## KUDOS:

- **Retiring Teachers – Pat Bohman, Terri Riehm & Carla Zenk:** Thanks for honoring them this past Sunday at the reception. Special thanks to Father Zehren for the blessing during Mass and to Wanda Hagerty, Holly Long, Megan Thorpe and Kathy Daggett for hosting this event.
- **Congratulations to 2017 Flaherty Scholars Recipient:** Denya Jada will be attending Holy Angels.
- **Nativity received a “Relevant Radio” gift from an anonymous donor!** Thank you! Listen to 1330 AM for more.

PRAYERS: New students and families. Prayers for families with sick or ill family members.

BLESSINGS, Mindy Reeder – [mreeder@nativitybloomington.org](mailto:mreeder@nativitybloomington.org)

Your  
**Community  
News**

**Extreme Faith Camp:** We have just a few spots left for our middle school Extreme Faith Camp which runs from June 26-30 at Camp Victory in Zumbro Falls, MN. Please visit <http://www.nativitybloomington.org/youth-ministry.html> for a promo video, more information, and a registration form. Besides Extreme Faith Camp, Nativity will be hosting Summer Stretch on July 10,12, 25, 27 and is open to all Nativity of Mary Youth. Summer stretch is four days of service in the morning and fun in the afternoon which will include activities like Feed My Starving Children, Valley Fair, Wild Mountain, and Saint Vincent De Paul Food Shelf. The cost is just \$150 per child for all four days. Don't miss out, Summer Stretch is a great way to stay active in the faith and have a blast over the Summer! Please contact John for more details at [JStute@nativitybloomington.org](mailto:JStute@nativitybloomington.org) or 952-881-8671 Ext. 316

## **7<sup>th</sup> GRADE CAMP IDUHAPI**

