Appealing to you - Jay Goldrick - Head of School

During our fall break, teachers, administrators, and staff convened to take a step back and make some first-quarter adjustments, if you will. We focused on a lot of the little things that make the school run smoothly, and we carved out some time for the big things, like school culture. To that end, we read an excerpt from Legacy by James Kerr, which is about the national rugby team of New Zealand -- the All Blacks. The book addresses the team’s values, which have helped them maintain an incredible record of success over the past 100 years. Themes of humility, openness to growth, teamwork, preparation, and high expectations pervade, but there was one idea that stood out to me most. In Maori culture and with the All Blacks, the concept of legacy is understood partly through this idea: “Be a good ancestor. Plant trees you’ll never see.” I think that is what people in the Nativity community have done for the first 20 years of our school’s life, and that is what our community continues to do today.

However you support our mission, you are planting trees you may never fully see because the formation of human beings, as we know, takes time, care, and cultivation. The short-term successes are certainly important -- secondary school opportunities, graduation rates, college acceptances -- but we plant the seeds of knowledge, character, and service because our mission is about human development in the long-term. Becoming a Nativity Man for Others is a life-long process of growth and practicing one’s values.

This is our 20th year in operation, which is a wonderful thing to be able to celebrate! Our immense gratitude goes to our founder, Barry Hynes, and all of the teachers, staff, leaders, trustees, volunteers, alumni, and supporters who have been good ancestors so that our students can continue to have a transformative Nativity experience.

This holiday season, we ask with humility and gratitude that you consider making a gift to Nativity Prep. Your generosity ensures that we can continue to serve boys in New Bedford for another 20 years and beyond!

On behalf of the Nativity Community, Thank You and Happy Holidays!
Jacob Berman: NP Alum & Teacher . . .

new Mentoring Program Coordinator

In 2010, board member and volunteer Annie McGuire introduced the mentoring program to Nativity Prep. Her model matches students in 6th – 8th grade with a volunteer adult mentor who meets with that student every Monday evening from 5:30 – 6:30 pm.

The purpose of the program is to introduce students to men (mentors) who will provide them with encouragement in their studies, discuss career opportunities, help expand communication skills and most importantly, serve as role models. As pairs, the student/mentor work together to complete a structured activity based on a value or developing a skill (communication, goal-setting, virtue, knowledge, trust, community service, etc.).

With Annie’s retirement last year, the Nativity Community was scrambling to find a replacement to take over the program that she began nearly ten years ago. Nativity did not have to look far when Jacob “Jake” Berman, 3rd year Nativity English and math teacher and a graduate of Nativity Class of 2008, stepped up to the plate.

Jake was inspired by the mentoring program when he attended his first Hero Dinner honoring Peter Kavanaugh in May 2018. Several of Peter’s mentees spoke about the impact that Peter had on them. Jake knew he wanted to become involved. Annie asked him to help out for a couple of nights and see the program in action.

Although the mentoring program began after Jake graduated from Nativity, this Boston College alumnus hails the program as “another incredible example of our community’s care for the growth and future of our students.” Jake says, “The mentors, some retired and some still working, contribute their time and energy every week to offer support and guidance to make a positive difference in someone else’s life.”

Jim Dildine, a long-time mentor, and past board member said it perfectly. “I have been privileged to be a mentor in the Nativity mentoring program since its inception years ago. I have connected positively with several Nativity boys over the years and observed their growth, both academically and personally. The overall Nativity experience is powerfully good for these boys, nearly magical.”

As for the mentees, Jake comments, “During the past two years I’ve seen the effects of the program on my students in and out of the classroom; they become more confident, shyer personalities become more social and more positive. The mentors exhibit these qualities and instill in their mentees through constant reassurance and support.”

Just ask 8th grader Xavier Alves what mentoring has meant to him for the last three years. “Mentoring opens up more opportunities and allows me to have a strong connection with a person who is part of the Nativity community. It opens my eyes to things I would normally not see.”

“Another incredible example of our community’s care for the growth and future of our students.”
Mentoring in Action

Jake Berman, coordinator, speaks to the mentors and students.
Our Fall Celebration

The Fall Celebration was a great success! Our guests were welcomed by Jay Goldrick, Head of School, and ten of our alumni were introduced by Sue Phillips, Director of Alumni Support.

The youngest alumnus was 15 and the oldest was 30. They all had one thing in common, a deep commitment and love for this little middle school. There were three alumni who spoke about their Nativity experience.

Adrian Cortez-Lopez, now employed by Joseph Abboud said, “I became a young man on my own but I became a gentleman with the help of my mother and Nativity. I will always have memories about this place and I will never forget this school, Nativity will stay with me forever.”

Alumnus, Darius Cortez-Riccio, a student at Rhode Island College and working part time said, “I have had many challenges in my life and I knew I could always return to Nativity for advice and counsel and I was always welcome. Nativity has truly become a second home to me.”

Alumnus, Isaiah Ratti is now a teacher at Nativity. He returned in September after completing his Master’s Degree in Education. “When I was a student here, I witnessed multiple people accomplish many great things, which gave me the inspiration to persevere in my studies; I was given evidence that my dream to become successful was actually possible through hard work and dedication. This firsthand look at the difference Nativity could make in someone’s life fueled my desire to return and teach here since I was twelve years old.”
Annual Gift Card Party - Thank you Sandy!

Ten years ago Nativity volunteer, Sandra Sylvia decided to help Nativity students enjoy the holiday season with their families. She invited friends, neighbors and Nativity supporters to her home for refreshments and good conversation. Her only request was that guests bring a gift card for a local store like Shaw’s, Stop & Shop, Market Basket or Walmart.

Sandy’s goal was to give the cards to students to insure that their families could enjoy the holidays. Ten years later, her efforts have made it possible for over $35,000 in gift cards to be distributed to families with limited financial resources.

Our Nativity family including Board of Trustees, staff and volunteers, thank Sandy for her commitment and dedication to the boys of Nativity.

Visits & Service

Field trip to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Students volunteer at Gifts to Give.

Visit to the New England Holocaust Memorial in Boston.

Students sitting in a Wampanoag long house at Plimouth Plantation.
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If so, please e-mail tallan@nativitynb.org or call the school at 508-994-3800.

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Down on the Farm

Black Feather Horse Rescue is a non-profit organization that strives to improve the health and well-being of abused, injured, and neglected horses. This farm provides a loving space for the horses to heal, and when possible be relocated to new homes at other farms. Some of the horses live the rest of their lives at Black Feather Horse Rescue due to age or illness.

Students were able to visit Black Feather Horse Rescue to help the owner complete all the barn work for the day. The students cleaned stables, brought in new hay, refilled the horses water jugs, and were able to interact with all the animals.