Our New (School) Year!  - Jay Goldrick, Headmaster

Nativity’s mission has a clear set of goals: “To graduate young men who are academically prepared for further education, who are inspired to lead their lives with humility, and who are dedicated to serving others.” On an annual basis we are able to provide the program, the structure, and the Nativity family that creates the climate for personal and academic growth and success at a vulnerable age for at-risk boys. Our job is to create a culture of achievement that builds knowledge, character, and trust in each and every one of them.

Collectively, we can make a huge difference! When the conditions are right and the support is there, the opportunity of a Nativity experience can be a tremendous factor in making a transformative difference, both in the short- and long-term.

This experience has been foundational for Nativity alumni who, as a group, have earned a four-year high school graduation rate equal to that of suburbs and towns with double the median household incomes of New Bedford. Nativity alumni, in just 17 graduating classes, have gone on to attend over 40 different high schools and colleges, with the most recent class now attending Bishop Stang, Cushing Academy, Moses Brown, New Bedford Voc-Tech, Phillips Academy Andover, and Tabor Academy.

The cornerstone to the personal and academic growth of our students is our faculty. They, with support from our administration and staff, have the great responsibility of providing an excellent educational environment for the young men of Nativity Prep. Making a difference in the classroom this year are third-year teachers Jake Berman (NP ‘09), Maddie Inlow, and Ella Lindholm-Uzzi; second-year teachers Gus King, Jess Lazala, and Sam Monkman; and first-year teachers Anna DeLong (Denison University), Isaiah Ratti (NP ‘10, UMass Dartmouth), and Nicole Williams (St. Lawrence University). Each teacher brings a unique skill set to the team and all possess a deep commitment to the mission and our students.

Thank you for your continued support of Nativity Prep! I look forward to celebrating the many successes of our students with you throughout the year.
Nativity boys enjoyed our summer camping program sponsored by the Kaplan Foundation. A special treat this year was Camp Counselor, Diego Tavares a Nativity alumnus. He had participated in our camping program for four years as a student.
Meet the Teachers

Anna DeLong is a first year teacher at Nativity Prep this year. Anna grew up in Concord, MA then attended Denison University in Granville, OH. She just graduated in May in the Educational Honors Society for her major in Educational Studies and Communication. She volunteered most of her time to the Big Brother /Big Sister's program and tutored young adults who came back to school to get their GEDs. This year, Anna is teaching 6th grade English, and she is the Independent Reading Coordinator and coaching the soccer team.

Isaiah Ratti, a Nativity alum and in his first year, is teaching 8th grade English after recently graduating with his Master's in Education from UMass Dartmouth. Isaiah also coordinates student council, as well as The Binnacle Lamp, the literary and art magazine produced by the Nativity students.

Nicole Williams is from Plattsburgh, New York. She graduated in May with a Bachelors of Science in Statistics from St. Lawrence University. She loves music, traveling, and learning or experiencing new things. Nicole is excited to be a part of Nativity Prep and teaching 5th grade Math and Science.

Gus King is a second year teacher from Boston, Massachusetts. Gus attended Kimball Union Academy and Grinnell College, where he played on the men's basketball team. He is excited to return as the 7th and 8th grade social studies teacher and to serve as the athletics director for the year. He is looking forward to another great school year at Nativity!

Ella Lindholm-Uzzi (Ms. Lu to the students) is in her third year, teaching 5th grade English. Ella grew up in Evanston, IL and moved to the Hudson Valley when in high school. She double majored in English and Sociology at Wesleyan University in Connecticut, where she also played four years of varsity college tennis. Ella is very thankful to be a part of the Nativity community in many different roles, as she also is the Student Support Coordinator and head of the advising program.

Maddie Inslow is her third year and teaches 6th, 7th, and 8th grade science. She is the Community Service Coordinator and works with the after-school homework program this fall. She will be coaching basketball in the winter. Maddie grew up just outside of Portland, Maine and went to Bates College in Lewiston Maine, where she was a biology major and an education minor. She is currently in the second year of a graduate program at Boston University, where she will be getting a Masters in Education.

Sam Monkman grew up in central Maine, where he attended Lawrence High School. He went to Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, majoring in mathematics and philosophy. He loves music, literature, puzzles, and soccer, and he is excited to begin his second year teaching 7th and 8th grade Math.

Jessika Lazala is a second year teacher from Springfield, MA. She attended UMASS Dartmouth (Operations Management '18) and is currently studying for a master’s degree in Nonprofit Management & Philanthropy at Bay Path University. Jessika is in charge of the lower school Social Studies classes and Literature Challenge. Her hobbies include hiking, writing poetry, and cooking.

Jake Berman is in his third year at Nativity. This year he’ll be teaching 7th grade English and 6th grade Math as well as coordinating our Mentoring Program. Originally from Boston, he moved to and grew up in New Bedford from 2003 to 2012. Jake is proud to be a Nativity Prep alumnus and extremely grateful to be back. He is looking forward to the rest of the school year.
On September 16th, Nativity Prep held their annual golf and tennis tournament at The Bay Club at Mattapoisett. This tournament is Nativity’s largest fundraiser of the year. All tournament funds support our commitment to our young Nativity gentlemen & excellence in education.

Many thanks to all our sponsors, our volunteer committee and everyone who participated in the day. For a second year in a row, we grossed over $103,000 between tournament fees, our reception with the silent and live auction and the Nativity wish list. A very special thanks to Larry and Charlotte Oliveira, who have co-chaired this event for ten years and we certainly hope they will stick around for another ten.

Save the date for next year’s Tournament: Monday, September 14th, 2020
More from Golf & Tennis
A Message from Nativity’s Board Chair  -  Ed Ottensmeyer

The Nativity Prep community suffered a major loss over the summer – Headmaster Emeritus John Martin died on July 11; and our hearts went out to John’s wife, Sheila, and their three sons.

John served as our headmaster for four years before his illness caused him to cut back on the time he was able to spend with us. Through it all though, John found the energy to lead us to a successful conclusion of our first capital campaign, raising over $2 million in less than three years and designing a splendid renovation of an outdoor play space for our boys. In recognition of his outstanding leadership, the Board of Trustees voted to name this new playground in John’s honor, so that his name and the work he did to benefit Nativity students would be remembered in the future.

As Board members considered this decision, we knew how inadequate this recognition was. John was far more than a wise and dedicated headmaster, extraordinary fundraiser, and inspirational academic leader. He was a warm, sensitive person with a deep love of family and friends, a strong commitment to his religious faith, and a lively wit and sense of humor, all of which defined the man who attracted our individual and collective affection and respect. Indeed, we lost a wonderful and caring friend.

At John’s memorial service, I had a pleasure of meeting many of his friends, some from as far back as his high school or college days and others from his long tenure as headmaster at St. Andrew’s School in Rhode Island. Given the high value John always placed on getting to know and understand people and to shape strong relationships, this seemed not at all surprising.

John’s commitment to students and their families was deep and abiding, and his actions as headmaster were all taken with them at the forefront. Whether it was hiring good teachers, renovating facilities, organizing fundraising campaigns, the guiding concern to John was the impact on students and how to give them a better chance in the world, better preparation for an uncertain future. To John, it truly was all about “building our community, one boy at a time”.

But, now as we move forward without John leading the way, we will take heart as we recall his deep commitment to the Nativity vision and the work he did to translate that vision into reality.

With my warm regards and best wishes, Ed