Our message to you today is simple -- THANK YOU.

Thank you for helping Nativity Prep continue to navigate the pandemic. Your continued support of our students and our mission, especially when so many people are in dire need, has enabled us to do our best for our kids during perhaps the most challenging year of their lives.

The pandemic has brought a tragic loss of life, perpetual anxiety, massive economic hardship for many people, and a complete disruption of everyday life. In the world of education and human development, as you well know, the effects have been far-reaching.

From learning loss and stifled academic growth to social-emotional struggles and loneliness, being out of school has exacerbated difficulties faced by many kids and families. Contrary to the oft-repeated outlook of “opportunity in crisis,” it is hard to see how the “benefits” outweigh the human costs.

So, we must continue to look at what we can do now -- day by day, week by week -- to chip away at the obstacles we have faced and inch toward a more hopeful spring. By the time you read this, Nativity will have expanded in-person schooling for all students to four days per week, advancing forward from the hybrid model that helped us safely manage the winter surge.

Encouraging data can be seen across the board, from low rates of transmission in schools to declines in COVID case numbers, both locally and nationally. With things trending in a positive direction, we can and will continue to expand purposeful, mission-driven opportunities for our students.

Tremendous credit goes to the Nativity faculty and staff for fighting through myriad challenges in order to best serve our students. The work has not been easy and has taken its toll, but the collective attitude, effort, and adaptability demonstrated by the team for the good of our kids has carried us forward.

Your generosity has been so meaningful and impactful for the school over the past year. We cannot thank you enough for your continued support throughout this crisis and we sincerely wish you and your families all the best!
Around the School
Some Good Work!

Dear George,

After reading your story I think I could help you out with some problems that you have and tell you what a best friend means to me. To me, best friend means somebody that's a close friend. It means someone who would help me when I’m sad. For example, if my friend was sad, I would help him cheer up by trying to make him laugh and playing games with him. In a best friend I look for someone who will help me when I’m sad and need someone to lean on.

As I was reading your book, I thought there was a moment where you seemed really alone. The moment was when you were mad because Kelly got the part of Charlotte in the play. I would try to help you by saying you can try harder next year and maybe get the role on your own talent instead of having to sneak into Kelly's role so you can play the part.

If I were to give you advice, I would tell you to never give up on your dreams because you can do whatever you want to do. Another piece of advice I would tell you is that it doesn't matter what other people think of you. The last piece of advice I would tell you is don't give up on Kelly because Kelly is a good friend. She's always stood by your side and accepted you for who you are and that is what a good friend does.

Best, Jayce Jorge

Assignment: After reading the book George, 5th graders (Briggs Class) were asked to write a letter to the main character showing support and offering advice on their struggles in the novel.

Assignment: Write a business proposal for a fictional business start up. (8th graders, Cuffee Class)

Will Guerreiro:

1. I am going to create a business called “Trendies” where I will sell unique items that can be used on a day to day basis! I will be producing a pillow that stays cold/warm, a bookmark lamp, USB rechargeable batteries, a stroller bike, a heat/cold charging device, and more. These items limit pollution, and will be extremely useful on a day to day basis. For example, having rechargeable batteries will save you so much money. Reading at night is nearly impossible without a light. But with the special bookmark, you will be able to read whenever you want!!

My business will be located in New Bedford, Massachusetts. The business will start off pretty small. This is considering the fact we will need to partner with a factory so we can produce the items we want to sell. I am entering the Technology Market with my business. I decided to enter this market because the competition is mild and the market is growing!! The technology industry sees a 27% growth in new companies. “Tech Industry Sees 27% Growth in New Companies. ... According to the latest State of Swyft Industry Report, the technology industry witnessed 27.3% year-over-year growth in new business formation between 2018 and 2019. Considering last year's negative growth for the same, this is a significant increase.”(https://smallbiztrends.com/2020/03/2019-industry-growth-statistics.html)
Nativity Alumni Spotlight - Jake Berman, Dean of Students & Alumni Support

Jacob Rivet, Hurtado Class of 2017

We’d like to congratulate alumnus Jacob Rivet on his acceptance to **Williams College**!

Upon graduating Nativity, Jacob attended the Providence Country Day School in East Providence, Rhode Island. Having always enjoyed school, Jacob found the freedom of being able to choose his own classes in high school empowering; he elected to challenge himself by doubling up in science courses and taking advanced English classes. During his freshman year, Jacob joined PCD’s student council program, eventually serving as the editor in chief during the following two years.

As a senior, Jacob took on the role and responsibilities of the student council president. However, his leadership and active involvement at PCD extends even further. Jacob played four years of varsity soccer, captaining for two, three years of varsity basketball, captaining this year, and played baseball all four years. After an active tenure at PCD it was time to look ahead. Although appreciative of Providence and New Bedford, Jacob wanted to venture further, ideally surrounded by nature. Williams offered not only that, but the opportunity to do research with other like minded, motivated individuals.

**Congratulations Jacob and good luck at Williams! Go Purple Cows!**

“Without Nativity, I don’t think I would have ended up at PCD which enabled me to even consider a place like Williams. Both my younger brothers went there, Noah ‘18 and Simon ‘21, and it really is a family. I think the single gendered education fostered a competitive spirit and the academic rigor had me prepared for all the APs and college prep work I did in high school. I am thankful for the opportunities to try new things like sailing and going on the field trips, having a mentor as well as being with a unique, funny, diverse tight-knit group of kids every day.”

- Jacob Rivet, Hurtado Class of 2017

(Spotlight Continued Next Page)
David Arruda, Marquette Class of 2013

Additionally, this past holiday season, an unexpected, but much appreciated letter from a NP graduate arrived on campus, with the following message:

“To all the staff here at Nativity Prep, I would like to thank you for all that you have done for me. It has shaped me into the person I am today. The lessons and memories will not fade but rather grow with me. All of the “JUG”s and demerits have served their purpose to become good quality morals I carry in life. The friendships and connections I made still thrive today with some. It all starts with a firm handshake and a look in the eyes. Keep doing what you guys do best! It did and still does not go unnoticed. Never forget where you come from!”

- Best wishes, David Arruda, Marquette Class of 2013

David currently works with the New Bedford Police Department, answering 911 calls as a cadet while awaiting a date to join the academy. He describes his work as humbling and eye opening! We’d like to thank David for the kind and uplifting words; they are a helpful reminder that the work being done each day by students, faculty, and staff alike goes a long way, especially during a particularly tumultuous time as we are in now. Additionally, we like to thank David for the positive, impactful work he does for our community!
Would you prefer to receive your Nativity Newsletter via the internet? If so, please e-mail tallan@nativitynb.org or call the school at 508-994-3800.

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