

Nativity Preparatory School New Bedford

FALL NEWSLETTER 2022



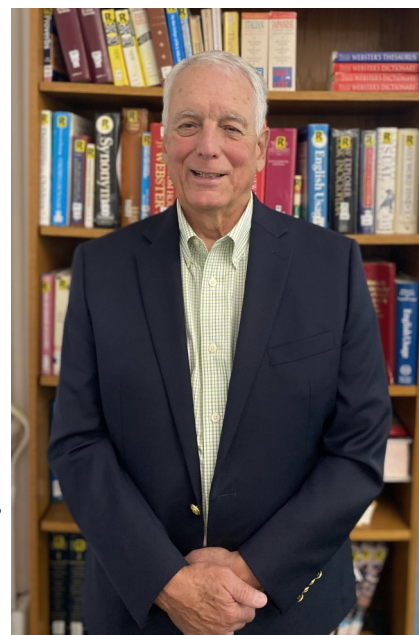
Letter from Rich Roller– *Chair of Nativity's Board of Trustees*

Throughout the forty-six years I spent working in schools, I never tired of the excitement surrounding a new school year – new students, new dreams, a new start. Now, in my fifth year as a Nativity Trustee, that excitement continues as I watched our young men report for their first day of classes this August. Like each of them, I am in a new role this year serving as the Chair of Nativity's Board of Trustees. I am both humbled and excited by the opportunity to help lead such a talented Board and such an amazing school. Today, I would like to share with you why I joined the Nativity community as I feel it speaks directly to what is so special about this place.

I was invited five years ago by then Head of School John Martin and Board Chair Jim Feeney to spend a morning at Nativity to learn a bit about the school. The day began with morning meeting, at the end of which the entire school community – including visitors – joined hands in a circle. Jay Goldrick, our current Head of School, then our Principal, asked each person in the circle to share something for which he was thankful. Jay started and then we all spoke in turn. When I was a fifth grader, I did not want to speak in public nor share personal thoughts with others; I wanted to be invisible. Obviously, that was impossible for the young men in this circle. What impressed me so much that day was that each student, regardless of age, had a “voice,” the confidence to use it and the trust in the setting in which they found themselves to be open and honest. In one case that morning, a young sixth grader with incredible candor expressed appreciation to two specific members of the Nativity Community for supporting him through a particularly difficult family situation. I was blown away.

I was moved not only by what that young man shared, but also by what his and others' sharing said about this school, about the trust these young men clearly felt for each other and for their teachers. For these students, Nativity was a “safe” place; a place where they felt the freedom to be themselves; to be open, honest, vulnerable. A culture like that does not just happen. It is nurtured daily and evolves through hundreds of interactions between all members of the community characterized by respect, acceptance, care, accountability and, again, trust. As I stood in the circle that morning holding the hands of two young men, I knew I wanted to be a part of such a special place; I remember saying to myself, “I belong here.”

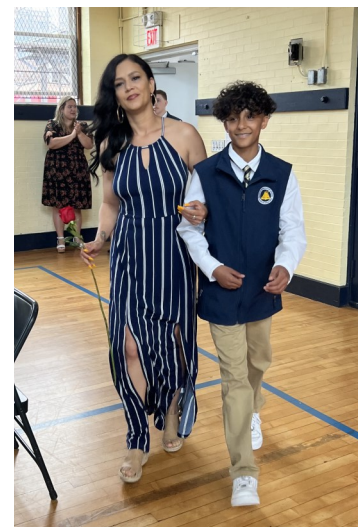
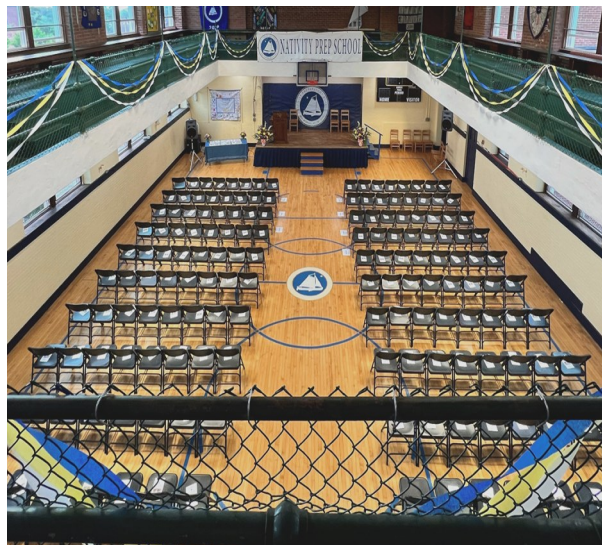
Five years later, I am still inspired when I attend morning meeting and I continue to marvel at the power of the Nativity experience. If you have not been to Nativity, I invite you to contact us to arrange a visit, attend an open house, come to a morning meeting, share your talents as a volunteer, or join our mentor program. Our strength as a school comes largely from the support of our friends and our community; I hope you will become a part of the extended Nativity Family. If you do, I think you, too, will be blown away!



Graduation- Temple Class of 2022

On June 18, we celebrated the graduation of the thirteen young men of the Lewis Temple Class of 2022!

The ceremony was filled with positive energy, fond memories, and laughter as teachers spoke of each graduate's best qualities and tremendous growth over the past four years. The Temple Class has begun a new chapter of their lives at four different area high schools, and we wish them the very best!



Back to School Summer Programming



Community Boating Center

On August 22nd, students returned for three weeks of fun-filled summer programming at Youth Opportunities Unlimited and Community Boating Center. Students participated in a variety of activities including sailing, windsurfing, and biking around New Bedford. It was a great way for students to bond and get to know each other before the academic year began.

Youth Opportunities Unlimited



Farewell to Claire & Chris

Chris Cruz served as the school's Business Manager for 13 years, retiring earlier this spring. Chris was responsible for doing so many of the essentials to keep our program running and our finances sound. Despite her work not being directly with students, she still regularly found time to make everyone feel welcome, whether contributing to community service projects, helping art classes, tending the garden, or lending a helping hand or a listening ear. We thank her so much for her dedication to Nativity Prep!



Claire Carvalho served as the school's Director of Development for 17 years, and is retiring at the end of the month. Claire brought in many supporters to the school community, raising substantial funds to keep the school strong. Claire helped develop programs that support our school, such as the Student Sponsorship Program and the Mentoring Program. Claire said, "As the mother of 4 sons, it has been an honor and privilege for me to work with our young men and help provide support for the school so our students can thrive and succeed. I will miss the many miracles large and small that happen at this wonderful school."



Class Namesakes



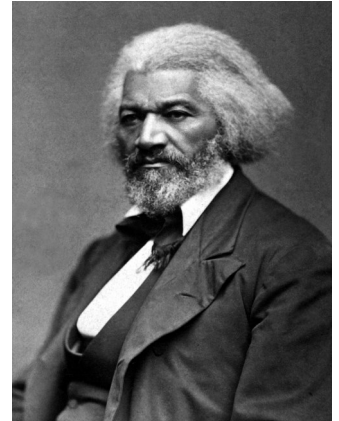
AMOS HASKINS



WILLIAM CARNEY



MARTHA BRIGGS



FREDERICK DOUGLASS

5th Grade: Amos Haskins (1816-1861) was a Gay Head Aquinnah from Martha's Vineyard who advanced through the ranks and became a ship captain – one of a few Native Americans to do so. Haskins may have served as a sailor on several ships before joining the crew of the brig Chase. The Chase was abandoned at sea a week later, but Haskins continued to work as a first or second mate on the brigs Annawan, Willis, and Triton. By the age of 35, Captain Haskins had taken command of his first whaleship, the bark Massasoit. He oversaw a 22-person crew, 12 of whom were men of color. Two years into a voyage on the bark Oscar, Haskins was reported by the New Bedford Republican Standard to have died at sea. This was untrue, and Haskins returned safely to his family. Haskins shipped out once more and is believed to have died at sea in 1861.

6th Grade: William Harvey Carney (February 29, 1840 – December 9, 1908) was an American soldier during the American Civil War. Born as a slave, he was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1900 for his gallantry in saving the regimental colors (American flag) during the Battle of Fort Wagner in 1863. The action for which he received the Medal of Honor preceded that of any other African American Medal of Honor recipient; however, his medal was actually one of the last to be awarded for Civil War service. African Americans received the Medal of Honor as early as April 1865.

7th Grade: Martha Bailey Briggs (March 31, 1838 – March 28, 1889) was an American educator who was born and educated in New Bedford, Massachusetts, where she taught formerly enslaved men and women to read and write. In 1869, she moved to Washington, DC, where she taught and served as a principal at Anthony Bowen Elementary School until 1873, when she began work at Howard University. At Howard, she trained teachers and taught math. In 1879, she was hired to serve as principal of the Miner Normal School. She stepped down from Miner Normal in 1883 and returned to Howard, where she served as Principal of the Howard Normal Department until her death in 1889.

8th Grade: Frederick Douglass (born Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey, c. February 1817 – February 20, 1895) was an American social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer, and statesman. After escaping from slavery in Maryland, he became a national leader of the abolitionist movement in Massachusetts and New York, becoming famous for his oratory and incisive antislavery writings. Accordingly, he was described by abolitionists in his time as a living counterexample to slaveholders' arguments that slaves lacked the intellectual capacity to function as independent American citizens. Likewise, Northerners at the time found it hard to believe that such a great orator had once been a slave.



Alumni Spotlight– *Darius Cortez-Riccio, Aquinas Class of '08*

Darius graduated as a member of the Aquinas Class in 2008. He went on to Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech, where he excelled in the machine tech shop. He's returned recently as a volunteer, but has since become their Athletic and Student Life Coordinator. Wherever he's gone, Darius has found a positive way to interact with and impact his community, so we are very glad to have Darius back in the area and as a new member of our school's board! Read about his story below!

Can you tell us a little about your background, where you're from and grew up?

I came to Nativity as an 8th grader in 2008. Played Soccer, Basketball and baseball as a student. Grew up in New Bedford went to Voc Tech graduating in 2012 and from the machine tech shop. Got accepted into Penn State and ended up going to CCRI and Finishing my schooling at RIC. I lived in Rhode Island from 2012-2019 living on my own and paying for college slowly. I coached boys football at Bishop Hendricken High winning three state championships in five years. I also coached 10 years of girls basketball and helped create a Rec program in Rhode Island for Cranston. I just recently moved back home to New Bedford purchasing a house and working as a machinist. I volunteered at Voc -Tech as a football coach. A job opportunity came up at Voc I then was hired as the Athletic and Student Life Coordinator.



Where are you currently working/what do you do for work?

Right now I am the Athletic and Student Life Coordinator at Voc-Tech. I currently run student activities with Ryan Methia, the Athletic Director, and take care of all sports teams when it comes to equipment and jerseys. I also run our athletic social media accounts, google calendar and athletic rentals.

How did you get into your line of work/what inspired and prepared you (i.e. voc classes, teachers you had, family, etc.)?

Sports have always been a big part of my life especially at Nativity. When I came to high school I immediately fell in love with sports. During high school I made so many friends and life long friends that inspired me to work hard and always give my full effort in life and sports. Unfortunately my friend Andrew Mccann passed away my senior year, he inspired many athletes young and old including me. I vowed to work in sports and give kids the same experience I had when I was at Voc.

What does Nativity mean to you? How did your education at NP prepare you for what you are doing today? What influenced you to join the board?

Nativity is home!!! It is a place where dreams come true and lessons are learned. My education at Nativity prepared me to work hard and stay organized. Nativity gave me an upper hand in life. It allowed me to be a great public speaker, hard worker and also Nativity gave me a perspective as a young child to be open to new things and also new experiences.

What advice would you give to current Nativity students?

Take one day at a time. Take advantage of all the opportunities that Nativity gives you. Never forget where you came from and what you have done to make it to where you are today.





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