

SANT BANI School Notes

February 2009

Sant Bani School
19 Ashram Road
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Sant Bani School Notes is published monthly during the school year to share news of the school community. The School Notes are edited by Arlene Taranow with contributions from staff and friends, and with help from the Parent Committee. The Parent Committee supports the school through fund raising and by serving as a sounding board for parent concerns. Meetings are held monthly during the school year; all are welcome to attend.

- February 6-** Kirpal Singh's Birthday - No School
- February 12-** Family Writing Night at 6 p.m.
- February 15-** Reenrollment Registration Deadline for 09/10
- February 18-** Parent Committee Meeting at 6 p.m.
- February 18-** Grades 3-6 Performances at 7 p.m.
- February 19-** Grades 3-6 In-School Performance
- February 23-March 6-** Projects Period and Vacation
- March 9-10-** Projects Sharing
- March 11-** Projects Display and Pizza Cafe
- March 17-** Winter Sports Banquet
- March 27-** Staff Development - No Classes

February 18
Parent Committee Meeting
at 6 p.m.

Parent Committee Notes

— *Emily Galvin*

Hello all, and Happy New Year! It's 2009, and everything is going to be fine...my new mantra! I think we all need to look at this year as a time of both challenge and adventure, and face it all with a positive attitude. We're looking ahead at the Parent Committee calendar, and getting all those plans in action so that regardless of the tough economy, our fund-raising efforts will continue to be successful.

Mark your calendars. Plans are underway for our annual Auction and Cabaret! A wonderful time was had by all that attended last year, and with a little more effort, we can continue to see this event flourish. Our efforts last year raised over \$10,000, more than double the year before! The auction will be held on Saturday, June 13th at Sant Bani. We will be utilizing the tent from graduation again, as we found this allowed for plenty of parking and lots of space to move around. We encourage you to please invite your friends and family members as well...the more the merrier! We'd love to see this event grow well beyond the Sant Bani community! If you have expressed an interest in helping with this event, you will be contacted via e-mail within the next few weeks. If you don't hear from us and would like to join in, please be sure to contact the Parent Committee as we certainly don't want you to feel left out. We're going to need many people to help with the following tasks: musicians, data entry, soliciting donations, assistance with food prep, event set-up and clean-up, photography, publicity, displays, thank you notes, and I'm sure a few other tasks that aren't springing to mind at the moment. There will be lots of guidance provided.

I have also mentioned in past newsletters that we are looking for someone or a few people to organize the production of the Holiday Catalog. Please note that this doesn't mean you'll be doing it all yourself, we need someone with great organizational skills to help pull everyone that is involved together. We are also looking for product ideas for the catalog, so if anyone out there has any suggestions, please take a moment to share them with us.

Join us for an Introduction to Scrapbooking Workshop on Friday, March 6th from 5:30-8:30. Create 4-6 scrapbook pages while you learn about basic scrapbooking techniques! More information will be sent out on Listserv regarding this event. Stay warm!

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

—Hillary Pincoske

The town of Sanbornton now has a food pantry located at the 2nd Baptist Church on Upper Bay Road. It is called the First Fruits Food Pantry. They do what is called “Brown Bag Sunday” on the first Sunday of every month. This is the time when food donations are accepted. They are in need of non-perishable food items, but they really need personal hygiene items like shampoo, deodorant and toothbrushes, also. They also need sugar free items for those who are on restricted diets. If you would like to drop off your donations on the “Brown Bag Sundays,” that would be great. We will also keep a small box here at Sant Bani that will be picked up regularly and delivered to the pantry. Please be sure all food donations that are dropped off at Sant Bani School are vegetarian.

Thanks for you help – If you have any questions about the First Fruits Food Pantry you can contact Melanie VanTassle at 286-8303 at extension 7.

Family Writing Night

Thursday, February 12

6-6:30 p.m. Dinner

6:30-7:30 p.m. Writing Night

Join us as we share an evening with our children in the joy of writing. We’ll begin with a pasta dinner, and then warm-up with a quickwrite and share in small groups. Then we’ll listen to a story and take a block of time to write from ideas that the story may have generated. After our writing time, we’ll share with the whole group and then enjoy dessert together. Sharing your writing is always optional.

This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with our children through the writing process. Look for more information to be sent home including a reservation form.

For more information contact staff members Kari Allen or Arlene Taranow.

Gift Cards Work Just Like Cash!

Shaw’s Gift Cards are available at Roxanne’s desk during school hours. For more information or to make special arrangements for purchasing/picking up your Shaw’s Gift Cards contact Roxanne at the front desk. Gift cards are sold in \$50 increments.

Shaw’s gives 5% to Sant Bani per gift card.

Why not purchase a few gift cards at a time?

It’s an easy and convenient way to support Sant Bani!

Where did your donations go?!

—Arlene Taranow

Over 750 pounds of citrus was donated to local food pantries from December’s Sant Bani School citrus fundraiser. Thank you to Anne Dancewicz-Helmers for bringing citrus to the Bristol Food Pantry and thank you to Todd Schongalla and former Sant Bani parents, Wayne and Shirley Blanchard (Christa ‘12) for making sure the citrus made it to the First Fruits Food Pantry in Sanbornton (even through a huge snow storm). So many families will benefit from your generosity.

NHIAA / NHADA Scholar Athletes

—Maya Hardcastle

Each year the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association and the New Hampshire Athletic Directors Association name deserving high school seniors as Scholar Athletes at a ceremony that takes place at the Capitol Center of the Arts in late Winter. High academic achievement and participation in two sports in their senior year are required to qualify. This year Sant Bani is pleased to name Nate Houran, Alec Peters and Sarah Fox as our scholar athletes. Congratulations!!!

The Peabody Essex Museum Field Trip

—Arlene Taranow

On Thursday, January 8, Beth Robinson led the sixth grade class, two teachers and a parent to the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts. This trip was an extension of the Geography unit on China which the sixth graders had been studying.

The main attraction for this field trip was to view the Yin Yu Tang House. This two-hundred-year-old house was brought from China to the U.S., piece by piece, brick by brick. Now this house is an entire wing of the museum.

The Ying Yu Tang House was in a small town in China called Hunag Cun. The Ying Yu Tang House is unlike other traditional Chinese houses because it had two floors, five bays, and an upper and lower hall. The first and fifth bays had stairs going up and down. If a bandit attacked the house residents would put down a gate on the stairs to give them time to go through a secret door in their house to get to another house that was connected to theirs. The Ying Yu Tang House has two halls and it is divided by the courtyard or “sky well.” The courtyard has two fish pools with goldfish in them; and the water from the pools could be used in case of fire.

The true main entrance to the house has a huge wooden divider, located just ten feet inside of the house. This was placed strategically because the tradition was that evil spirits could only enter a home and move in a straight path. The entrance opens to a sky well and reception area. This room was considered the most significant room in the house. In this room, the family members hung pictures of their ancestors and worshiped their ancestors during the New Year and many other times of the year. The reception hall was not only

used for formal events, but also as a living room, a dining room, or a relaxing place for playing a game called Mahjong, a tile game. The tiles in Mahjong are made of bone or ivory.

There were many generations of the family living in this house. Each family had its own kitchen area that was located outside. There were sixteen bedrooms in this large house. In one bed, five people slept together. Bedrooms were given out according to the person’s age and importance in the family. The older the person, the better the bedroom.

The walls were made of hundreds of columns that supported the ceramic roof. The roof was designed in a v-shape so that the rain could be caught in central pools. Water was important and valuable.

In traditional Chinese architecture, orientation and location of the house is the first step to building a house. A harmonious relationship among the surroundings of the house was most important. The Chinese tradition of *feng shui* suggests that the structures should be aligned with the environment to create harmony with the five elements of the universe. This is a complex task, which involves finding the best direction to build, and the best time of year.

This field trip not only exposed us to the architecture of the Chinese, but it also helped connect what we studied about their culture and history.

At the Peabody Essex Museum we even had time to explore photographs of the Maori, Asian art, maritime artifacts, paintings, and even an Antarctic exhibit. What a wonderful museum!

Geography Bee

—Beth Robinson

During the week of Nov. 18-21, the fourth through eighth grades participated in class bees in their Social Studies classes. On January 12th, the winners of the class bees participated in the All-School Bee. The participants in fourth grade were Lindsey Tarbin and Sohani Demian (with Lindsey Tarbin as the runner up, who filled in for Cameron Lamprey and Alyssa Bernier). In fifth grade the participants were Sophie Marinace and Louis Bernard (with Liam Conkling as the runner up). The participants in sixth grade were Stefanie Schechter and Zach Cote (Zach filled in for Marshall Bordeau who was absent that day and Marin Smith was the second runner up). The participants in seventh and eighth grade were Kelly Nix, Kate Robinson, Colby Clark, and Matt Sweeney. There were many tied for runner up in seventh and eighth grade. Cameron Lamprey and Marshall Bordeau were unable to participate due to illness.

After it was all over, Colby Clark was the runner up; Kelly Nix was second place Finalist; and Matt Sweeney was the winner of the National Geography Bee this year. Congratulations to all of our participants and good luck to Matt as he takes the written test to determine his participation on the state level.

The Championship Round consisted of three questions which were as follows:

1. *Wapusk National Park, located on the southwest shore of Hudson Bay and home to one of the largest polar bear denning areas in the world, is in which Canadian province?*

Answer: Manitoba

2. *The Gulf of Guinea is a major offshore oil exploration and drilling zone off the west coast of what continent?*

Answer: Africa

3. *Mexico City is located on the site of Tenochtitlan, the island capital of what empire that was conquered by Spanish explorers in the 16th century?*

Answer: Aztec Empire

Craig Jaster read the questions aloud. Beth Robinson and Brenda Diederich were judges and Lorraine Jones was the time keeper. Deb Asbeck provided cookies for all to enjoy!

Congratulations to all of the students who participated. Good luck next year! If parents want suggestions on how their child can better prepare for the bee, please ask your child's Social Studies teacher.

www.goodsearch.com

—Allyn Dokus

Feeling Left Out of the Loop? Join the Sant Bani listserv!

If you're not getting exciting informative emails with late-breaking Sant Bani news, sign up today!

Send a message to
SantBaniSchool-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
and you'll be automatically added.

Sant Bani is a listed charity on the website GoodSearch. Their slogan is "you search, we give". For every web search done through this site, approximately one cent is donated to the school. Here's an example of how much we can earn. If Sant Bani has 100 supporters using GoodSearch an average of 2 times per day, the yearly amount raised would be \$730. The more people use GoodSearch, the more money will be directed towards the school. This is a very simple way to raise money for the school. A major grassroots effort is required for GoodSearch to be productive, so please spread the word! www.goodsearch.com

www.boxtops4education.com

—JoAnne Bousquet

Thank you for collecting Box Tops and sending them to school with your child. It's been about a year since we started collecting Box Tops for Sant Bani School and to date we have raised almost \$220.00. Approximately \$30.00 was earned via the Box Tops Marketplace.

Be sure to visit www.boxtops4education.com to sign up as a member! We currently have 14 members registered online; once registered you can view our current earnings. You may also shop the Marketplace where a percentage of your purchase from a large list of quality stores will be added to the number of box tops coupons we submit. You just have to remember to visit the Marketplace before you shop online to see if the store you shop at participates. You can also print valuable coupons (up to \$1.00 OFF!), for those commonly purchased items that hold Box Tops coupons! You even have the opportunity to win BONUS Box Tops!

Every little bit helps ...continue to send in those Box Tops coupons and sign your self up today at www.boxtops4education.com!

Ann Saunderson, Art Dept. Chair, in Three Upcoming Exhibits!

Prints of the Year, Franklin Pierce College, Concord

Opening, Feb. 13th 5-8
Exhibit runs Jan. 5- April 3
Open 8-5 weekdays, 10-6 weekends

Love, Lust and Desire, McGowan Fine Arts, Concord Prints in different mediums by different N.H. artists

Exhibit runs Jan. 27 -Feb. 27
Open Tues. through Fri. 10-6 and Sat. 10-2
an alternative Valentine theme...many, many small,
unframed works of art for sale as an alternative Valentine
gift! Go to their website to see examples!

Figure It Out, New Hampshire Institute of Art, Manchester

Opening, Feb 13th 5-7p.m. French Building
Exhibit runs Jan 10- Feb 10
open 9 to 5 Mon. through Fri. and Sat. 9-12
Juried exhibit of various artists working with the figure.

Projects Period... is just arond the corner...

—Karen Gregg

Projects period is coming up. Your children should have submitted a proposal by now and it is in the approval process. Committee members read the proposals and hand them back to the student when it is either approved or if it needs corrections. If it needs corrections please try to get it back within a day or two.

Once again this year the proposals look exciting and educational. The first two days back in March are our sharing days so make sure your child comes prepared. The Wednesday night café will be our usual display of all projects and presentations by various students. Please come as it is always inspiring to see all the work and it gives us all ideas for future projects as well.

If you have any questions or if your child needs to change his/her proposal for some reason please contact a committee member by phone. They are Karen Gregg and Beth Robinson, (grades K-2) Robert Schongalla, Deb Stanton, Linda Peck, Ann Littlefield (grades 3-6), Richard Danahy and Maya Hardcastle, (grade 7-8), Ann Saunderson, Rose Marie Marinace, and Jen Schongalla, (High School).

Most importantly remember to have fun during the process.

Recess Duty...Fun?!?!

—Arlene Taranow

Yes, indeed! Recess duty has been so much fun this winter, thanks, in large part, to the generosity of the parents of sixth graders. The parents bought seven toboggan sleds as a Christmas gift to the class. The other part of the thank you is to the sixth graders for ALL using the sleds with such gusto and revelry, as well as, sharing, laughing, and having an all-around great time. Not one-sixth grader stands by just to watch. They are all a part of this fun-loving sled-fest! These sleds are being put to great use at least twice a day by the sixth graders. The sleds are starting to show a little wear and tear, but certainly not those enthusiastic sixth graders! What a wonderful class gift! Recess duty has never been such fun! I may even take a run or two. Thank you, again.

Bringing the World to Sant Bani

—Blayne Matty

Each year students from all over the world come to Sant Bani School to learn and to teach us about their countries. They have greatly enriched our children's education and done their parts to give faces to far away places. These students find out about Sant Bani in many different ways. Their stories are as unique as they are. One way they hear is through agencies who match them with schools in this country. We have worked with many, including Youth for Understanding, Face the World and Y.E.S., among others. One agency is Cultural Homestay International. Here is a letter from Blayne Matty who is a CHI area representative.

Dear Sant Bani Families,

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Blayne Matty. You might recognize the last name from seeing my in-law's mailbox on your drive to school. My husband attended Sant Bani 15 years ago, and like many (all?) alumni is indebted to Sant Bani for an amazingly rich education. I wish I could have gone there! But I had rich educational experiences of my own, one of the most formative of which was being an exchange student abroad, both in Belgium for a summer and in Argentina for a year. I've been a vegetarian since I was 16, and was placed on a cow farm in Belgium and then in Argentina, which is essentially an all-steak all the time kind of place. For the most part, my dietary choices were accommodated, and I had really terrific experiences that are still a huge part of me.

Why am I telling you all this? Let me get to the point. I started working for a non-profit educational exchange organization, Cultural Homestay International, two years ago. When I realized that we had students who were vegetarian, I really wanted to help find a place for them where their dietary choices would be accepted. Susan Dymont and the admissions committee were kind enough to accept two of these students to Sant Bani this year, Roman and Eliot, boys some of you might know. I spent countless hours on the phone looking for families who might be willing to welcome these boys into their homes and was very lucky to meet two incredibly gracious families, the Frederick-Elliott family and the Brand-Sawicki family, who have been wonderful.

Now I'm starting the process all over again. Jo Elliot, who is the host mother for Eliot Chiang, and I will be calling around looking for homes for this year's crop of students. There will be more fantastic young men and women for the 2009-2010 school year. Not all of these students are vegetarians, and your family doesn't need to be vegetarian to host them, even if they are. Students arrive with spending money and insurance. What they need is room (they can share a room with a sibling of the same sex), board, and a family experience. Our organization is very particular about regular contact with the school, the families and the students. We provide regular and consistent counseling should a problem arise. Families are the cornerstone of our program and the reason that the program is a powerful as it is. We believe international exchange is a vehicle for peace. If your family of any size or constitution might consider hosting a student, please let me know. We are also looking for welcome families and temporary families to help out should a student need a home for the first few weeks or during a holiday if their permanent family is unable to take them for any reason. Call or e-mail me with any questions or concerns about hosting, and don't be too surprised if you get a call from Jo or me in the coming months!

Thanks again to the Brand-Sawicki family and Frederick-Elliott family. You have been terrific!

Sincerely,

Blayne Matty

207-752-2070

culturalhomestay@hotmail.com

Note: Eliot and Roman are two of our seven international students this year. Other students have come through different agencies or through word of mouth, independent of any agencies. They are hosted this year by the Sweeney/McCarthy family in Gilford and the Etchings family of Thornton. We are grateful for their support and invite other families interested in hosting to talk with them about their experiences.

Coffee Fundraiser

For several years now, Cafe Monte Alto has allowed us to purchase their wonderful coffee at wholesale prices so we can sell it to you for the same price you would pay for premium coffee anywhere and \$3.00 from every bag sold goes directly to the Sant Bani Financial Aid Fund.

Place your order today! It's Easy!

Choose from the following options:

Regular Roast - \$ 9.00 / 16 oz. bag

**Dark Roast (This is REALLY high test!) - \$ 9.00 /
14 oz. bag**

**Decaf: - \$ 10.00 /
16 oz. bag**

Indicate if you prefer whole beans or ground.

Give your order/payment to Roxanne in the middle building. The orders go to Cafe Monte Alto at the beginning of each month and the coffee is delivered to the school for pick-up.