

# SANT BANI School Notes

March 2009

Sant Bani School  
19 Ashram Road  
Sanbornton, NH 03269

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Principal  
(603) 934-4240

*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 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 18** Parent Committee Meeting  
**March 27** Staff Development - No Classes  
**April 1** Family Writing Night 6-7:30 p.m.  
**April 3** High School Art Opening  
**April 4** 6th Annual Walk for Haiti  
**April 7** Senior Dinner  
**April 15** Parent Committee Meeting 6 p.m.  
**April 16** Parent Conferences 5-8 p.m.  
**April 17** Chamber Music Series  
**April 20** Writers Festival K-6  
**April 22** Earth Day - Half Day Celebration  
**April 23-25** High School Play Production  
**April 27-May 1** April Vacation

**March 18**  
**Parent Committee Meeting**  
at 6 p.m.

## Parent Committee Notes

— Emily Galvin

Greetings everyone! I'm sure you're all looking forward to the upcoming vacation and Projects Period as much as our family is. My favorite part will definitely be the Projects Period Display once school is underway again. I am always amazed at the variety and talent that I see each year, not to mention that I learn a great deal as well!

I don't have much to report at the moment, as this newsletter is going to print just before our next Parent Committee meeting. I can tell you that we're approaching our busy season with the upcoming auction, and as I had mentioned in the last newsletter, you'll be hearing details regarding that project very shortly. At our next meeting we will be discussing much about the auction, as well as any other fund raising events for the spring season such as the annual yard sale, plant sale, etc. If you'd like to be a part of any particular activity, don't forget to let us know.

Efforts are also underway to get the Holiday Catalog project into gear for this upcoming year. Product development is key, so we'd love to hear your ideas! Do you make something, know someone that does? Have a special talent like photography or other art form that might work? Have access to fair trade products, made in New England items? Please share. Ideas that might not work for the catalog may end up being the perfect thing for the auction, so please don't hesitate to let us know.

At our upcoming meeting we will also bring up the topic of organizing some sort of a fun spring get-together. I think everyone could use an enjoyable night out, and we'll try to think of something that is either free or very affordable! We had a wonderful time ice skating together at the beginning of the school year! Perhaps a potluck and talent night similar to that of a couple of years ago? We'll see what we come up with.

A special thanks to all of the parents that prepared food for the teachers on Parent/Teacher conference night. Our teachers work so hard, and that is an especially long day for them. I heard from several teachers, and the food was much appreciated!

Don't forget there will be an Intro to Scrapbooking Night on Friday, March 6th at SBS! Learn the basics of creating great scrapbook pages, including best tools to use, tips on journaling, preserving your memories with photo safe products, and create several pages yourself! This should be a fun and productive evening, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Have a GREAT vacation, and we'll see you soon!

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

—Hillary Pincoske

Project Linus is a wonderful volunteer organization that was introduced to me by a family here at school that learned about them when their child was sick and in need of something soft and cozy in a sterile hospital environment. The idea behind Project Linus is to provide new, handmade washable blankets and afghans to children in hospitals, social service agencies, or anywhere else a child might be in need of a big hug. Many of these children are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. They will accept blankets of all sizes and any style including quilts, tied comforters, fleece blankets, crocheted or knitted afghans in child friendly colors. They are given to children from infants all the way up to age 18. The blankets must come from a smoke free environment.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, open a chapter in our area or become a “blanekteer” you can go to [projectlinus.org](http://projectlinus.org) for more information. There are two NH chapters one in the seacoast area: Maureen (603) 659-5613 [nhseacoastprojectlinus@comcast.net](mailto:nhseacoastprojectlinus@comcast.net) and one in the southwest/ Monadnock region: Susan (603) 924-3995 [susanprojectlinus@myfairpoint.net](mailto:susanprojectlinus@myfairpoint.net)

## Congratulations!

Three Sant Bani High School students have had art work accepted to the annual Plymouth Friends of the Arts competition. The students, Max Duncanson, Liana Hardcastle and Emily Braconier submitted their ‘heavy’ sculptures. The exhibit is currently on display at the Silver Auditorium at Plymouth State University and will be there through the 22nd of February. If you’re in the area be sure to have a look!

## Family Writing Night

—Arlene Taranow

Thank you to all who joined us for our second Family Writing Night this school year! We had a great time and even had the opportunity to introduce our guests from Sikkim, India to this wonderful evening. They would love to begin a tradition of family writing nights at their school in India! How great is that!

We began the evening with a hearty pasta dinner, and followed our dinner with a quickwrite and small group share. Then we listened to a touching story and took a block of time to write from ideas that the story may have generated. After our writing time, we had a whole-group share. Children and adults shared their writing. It was beautiful to hear so many different voices and styles. What a treat! We topped off our evening with a make-your-own-sundae buffet. Yum!

What an incredible opportunity to connect with our children through the writing process. If you missed this writing night, look for the next writing night coming up on April 1 (no joke!). Everyone is welcome.

**Last Family Writing Night**  
of the Year  
Wednesday, April 1

### **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!

# Words Abound

—Becky Beane

The Dictionary Project came to the third grade at Sant Bani School, as alumna Mackenzie Hussman, class of 2006 and her mother, Vicki Hussman of Tilton, returned to Sant Bani recently to present Sam Conkling's third grade class with a very special gift. The Hussmans came on behalf of Harmony Grange #99 in Sanbornton to give dictionaries to every student in the 3rd grade as part of The Dictionary Project being held by granges throughout the state. The New Hampshire Project originated with the Pemigewasset Valley Grange and is supported by many local Granges. It was to be a five-year project and is now in its seventh year and going strong.

Mackenzie Hussman had come to Sant Bani when she was in the third grade so it only seemed fitting that she return to her beginnings at the school to deliver such a wonderful gift. She and her mother are both members of the Harmony Grange and Vicki is the Grange Master this year. Throughout the years the Grange has donated over 250 dictionaries to many schools in the local area including Tilton, Belmont, and New Hampton. Private schools are also among their recipients.

Harmony Grange #99 purchases the dictionaries by holding small fundraisers. This year because they were unable to raise the necessary funds, they also accepted personal donations in order to keep this tradition going.

By giving the gift of a dictionary to every third grader, the Grange hopes to promote literacy through reading and further promote a successful educational experience for all children. In February of 2007 the Dictionary Project celebrated the donation of its five millionth dictionary.

**Sant Bani School  
Summer Program  
Grades 3-4 and 5-8  
August 10-14, 2009  
&**

**August 17-21, 2009**

**Sant Bani School  
19 Ashram Rd.  
Sanbornton, NH  
(603) 934-4240**

**[santbani.org](http://santbani.org)**

For program information contact

Rose Marie Marinace

934-4240

or call Heidi Freeman

www.goodsearch.com

—Allyn Dokus

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](http://www.goodsearch.com)

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## *Not About Heroes*

By Stephen MacDonald  
Performed by the Aurea Ensemble  
of Providence, Rhode Island

—Arlene Taranow

This compelling two-act play set during World War I was performed by a professional troupe on February 16 at Sant Bani. The seventh through twelfth grades plus numerous staff and guests were given a glimpse into the lives of poets Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon.

The play takes place in Sassoon's home and unfolds through his memories using poetry, letters and dialogue. The juxtaposition of the simplicity of the stage, the moving music, and just two actors who gave an incredible performance made the complex and forceful ideas within *Not About Heroes* a most memorable theater experience. Owen's rise to fame and Sassoon's anti-war sentiment are powerfully and poetically conveyed to the audience. The misery and annihilation of soldiers during WWI as expressed through this play was emotionally overwhelming. What an incredible performance and piece to bring to Sant Bani School. Thank you to all who made this possible. This lesson in poetry and history will not be soon forgotten

## Book Review Corner

*Hitty: Her First Hundred Years*

By Rachel Field

1929 Newbery Award Winner

*Hitty: Her First Hundred Years* is a beautifully written Newbery Award winner about a sensible turn-of-the-century doll. Rachel Field captures snapshots of history around the life of this doll. Slavery, the Civil War, the invention of trains and more are woven into this book.

When she is made in 19<sup>th</sup> century Maine, Hitty belongs to Phoebe Preble, whose father is a whaling ship captain. When Phoebe's family goes on a whaling trip, Hitty is swept into an eventful, exciting adventure.

Hitty becomes a "heathen idol," a Quaker doll, a doll of fashion, a bride doll, and finally an antique doll. Many more adventures happen, like getting picked up by Charles Dickens' right hand, having a poem written about her by John Greenleaf Whittier, and standing on stage with Adelina Patti.

The story is sometimes made suspenseful by Hitty's constant hope that she will fall into the hands of someone who loves her.

The storyline and characters are much like *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo. All in all, it's a treat for adults and children alike!

*Reviewed by Marin Smith, 6th Grade*

## 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](mailto:SantBaniSchool-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)  
and you'll be automatically added.

[www.boxtops4education.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.boxtops4education.com)!

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## Projects Period Display and Pizza Cafe

March 11

The Projects Period Display is a wonderful time to get acquainted with students' work and ideas. From kindergarteners to twelfth graders, students are invested and it shows. The Projects Display runs from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The Projects Display is also a great opportunity for service. The sixth grade hosts the Pizza Cafe and serves up pizza, casseroles, soups, and desserts. All of the profits are donated to a cause of their choice and/or an identified need of the school. So bring your appetite to the Projects Period Display!

[www.themillfudgefactory.com](http://www.themillfudgefactory.com)

—Anne Danciewicz-Helmrs

We are starting a new fundraiser through a partnership with a local business, The Mill Fudge Factory. It will be an ongoing campaign through which we raise funds for the SBS scholarship fund. For fudge orders made through their online site at [www.themillfudgefactory.com](http://www.themillfudgefactory.com), we will receive 30% of the total fudge purchase price. When ordering, simply click on "fundraisers" and a display of the SBS logo (and others) will appear. Click on the "add to cart" for our logo, and SBS will receive 30% of that order! This benefit to SBS will ongoing, so that anyone can order at holidays or just when they would like to eat some tasty, creamy fudge, the best ever — really!

We are so thankful to The Mill Fudge Factory for this wonderful opportunity that benefits SBS, so spread the word to friends, family, co-workers — anyone that would like to help our school or who enjoys delicious fudge!

The Mill Fudge Factory is owned and operated by a family in Bristol, NH, just 20 minutes from Sant Bani school. Their fudge is inspired by traditional Scottish fudge and has a melt-in-your-mouth texture that's not too sweet. They make each batch from scratch the old-fashioned way without any preservatives, artificial flavors or colors. They use only the finest ingredients such as real maple syrup, Belgian dark chocolate, natural peanut butter and pure flavor extracts. They're so proud of their fudge that they guarantee it will arrive to you fresh and delicious.

Shipping is done via Priority Mail and you can specify when you would like it to arrive by. If you're giving fudge as a gift, you can also include a free personal note. Greeting cards available too.

Just simply follow the directions on their website. It's as easy as fudge!

## Microwaves Needed

Do you have a microwave that is looking for a new home? Many classrooms could use a microwave for those quick meals or to heat up leftovers. Please call Arlene Taranow at school.

# GENERAL PARENT MEETING

## January 21, 2009

*These notes were taken by Jonathan Powell at the January General Parent Committee.*

Kent has been reading a fun and profound story at Morning Session: *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* by Salman Rushdie. When Rushdie was under the *fatwah* death threat he developed an acute case of writer's block. This book was the first thing he was able to write, and it is a wonderful celebration about the powers of imagination and creativity.

Last year at this time, there was a grim financial outlook. In spite of the successes of the Bridge of Grace campaign, we were struggling to keep up with expenses. Tuition income was increasing at a fraction of the rate of expenses, and we were dealing with greater and greater shortfalls. But there has been some good news lately, and it looks like the school has a long-range future with the help of some generous and committed donors. This has resulted in a paradigm shift from wondering what comes next to imagining the future. Other independent schools are nervous as they have serious concerns about maintaining their tuition income. These days local high schools and Catholic schools are looking like reasonable alternatives to \$40,000 tuitions at traditional private schools. The donors appreciate the work of the parents and parent committee, and the sacrifices parents make to have their children here.

Last year we announced a 20 to 25% increase in tuition over the next two years, and did raise tuition about 10% for 2008-2009. Given these challenging times the Finance Committee of the board felt another large increase was too difficult, so recommended a 3% raise with the understanding that financial aid is available for everyone. New figures were set with a 3% raise, after general board discussion around the same issues. Unlike other schools, which get 85% to 95% of their operating revenue from tuition, we get less than 30%, so we feel that we must boost the figures some. People should apply for financial aid if they feel that they need it. If your circumstances change so that you are unable to meet your commitments to the school, we ask that you communicate with us so that we can work something out, as you are all important to us. Also, it is important to spread the word to other suitable families that this private school is affordable, and people should

consider it.

We are now in a better position to see the Vision Planning move forward. We were set to convene a larger group, but postponed the December meeting. That process will begin again, reviewing past work, which now includes work from the students. The process is described in the *Trumpet*, and we are welcoming participation in the process. At all levels, there was great enthusiasm for seeing the essence of the school maintained, with the financial resources to make it happen. We can now engage in "cathedral thinking" (named for the medieval builders who worked on the beautiful cathedrals knowing well that they would not be alive to see the finished structure), building for the future, for our children's children. We are very lucky, and that brings with it a lot of responsibility.

Kent announced that Holy Cross, with the help of Prof. Todd Lewis, is putting on an exhibit of his rare books and manuscripts in their gallery, along with the work of a couple artists, Jan 28 to March 31; Kent is lecturing there Feb. 12. If you are in Worcester, check it out!

TAKTSE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL of SIKKIM, INDIA.

Karen Gregg, Ann Littlefield and Caleb Jaster presented slides from their trip last summer to the Taktse International School in Sikkim. This school is located in the Himalayas in northern India, and is in their third year of operation. The trip lasted three weeks, and Karen and Ann worked with their teachers. Two, Suman and Reshma, visited us last winter, and they will be joined by Sandya for four days at Sant Bani in mid-February of this year. Ann, Karen, and Caleb flew to Delhi and had another day of travel to Sikkim. They flew to Bagdogra in West Bengal, and took a winding trip into the mountains. The roads were very muddy and landslides were common. Gangtok, the capital, is built on mountainsides. The vegetation is lush and tropical. The school buildings are in an American-influenced style. Rows and rows of flags were hung in observance of the Dalai Lama's birthday. The school is trying to level out some land for a playing field. Mount Kanchenjunga, the world's third highest mountain at 8586 meters (28,169 feet) is visible on the rare occasions when the weather is clear. It is sacred and prohibited to climbers.

The school has a nice library space, and a computer lab. They were very welcoming. In the playground excavation  
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area there were massive rocks of mica. Plantings were to hold back the landslides. There were large and colorful moths. They traveled around the country while they were there. They visited monasteries and historic sights, large buildings with ornate sculptures, gigantic statues of Buddhas, Hindu temples. Many of the monks are children. Sikkim joined India in 1975. They visited a tea plantation; it is not far from Darjeeling. They also visited the shopping areas. The children have a long uphill climb to school. The fog came and went in the mountains.

Returning to Delhi, Ann, Karen, and Caleb went from 60 degrees to 110 degrees. They saw King Akbar's tomb and the Taj Mahal – crowded, hot and incredibly beautiful, breathtaking. It was amazing to compare cultures and to see how education systems reflect the cultures. The school is operating in a paradox – it wants to bring progressive westernized values, but is immersed in the traditional cultural viewpoint. The modern corporate commercialism that you see in Delhi hasn't reached Gangtok yet, and most of the tourists are trekkers. The Sikkim countryside is being dammed up for electricity.

**PARENT COMMITTEE.** Emily Galvin reported. Parent committee notes go out with the mailings. The holiday catalog was successful, and the citrus sale increased over last year. Boxtops for Education continues, including a shopping on line option. It was suggested that we send the link on the list served, as people forget to use it. All in all, fund-raising efforts were successful. The auction/cabaret will happen at graduation time like last year (Saturday June 13). The committee talks about how to bring in non-Sant Bani dollars to some of these events, but with limited success. Businesses need to be solicited. Ideas are welcome, and bring your friends to the cabaret/auction. Xiao will be cooking again, and the Shelleys will run the computer end of the auction again. Last year, a little over \$10,000 was made at the auction, compared to \$4,000 the previous year. Roles are constantly shifting, so new volunteers are needed.

Is anyone interested in a scrapbooking activity during February break? Emily enjoys it and will lead.

**PROJECTS PERIOD.** Proposals are due next Wednesday noon (Jan. 28), and February 2 for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades. Help your children get their proposal in. Encourage the young ones to complete some of the proposal themselves, even though they can't do all.

**SPREAD THE WORD.** Spread the word about the school to people who might be interested. DVDs are available for free. Also, consider hosting an international student.

## 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.

## Humane Society

There is another easy thing your family can do for service. If your family shops at Shaws – you can bring your receipts to school and we will collect them. When we get a big envelope full – we will deliver them to the NH Humane Society. The NH Humane Society then sends them back to Shaws, who in turn, gives the NH Humane Society 1% of the total sales. (Don't forget you can buy Shaws cards too at Roxanne's desk. You use the card like a gift card and 5% of that money goes directly to Sant Bani!)