

# SANT BANI School Notes

April 2009

Sant Bani School  
19 Ashram Road  
Sanbornton, NH 03269

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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.

<b>April 1</b>	Family Writing Night 6-7:30 p.m.
<b>April 2</b>	Senior Dinner
<b>April 4</b>	6th Annual Walk for Haiti
<b>April 11</b>	Admissions Open House 2 p.m.
<b>April 15</b>	Parent Committee Meeting 6 p.m.
<b>April 16</b>	Parent Conferences 5-8 p.m. <i>School out at noon</i>
<b>April 17</b>	Chamber Music Series
<b>April 20</b>	Writers Festival K-6
<b>April 22</b>	Earth Day - Half Day Celebration
<b>April 23-25</b>	High School Play Production
<b>April 27-May 1</b>	April Vacation
<b>May 20</b>	Parent Committee Meeting 6 p.m. General Parent Meeting 7 p.m.
<b>May 25</b>	Memorial Day - No School
<b>May 26</b>	High School Art Opening
<b>May 29</b>	Sant Bani Chamber Music Series - Early Music Concert

**April 16**  
**Parent Conferences**  
5-8 p.m.  
(school out at noon)

## Parent Committee Notes

— *Emily Galvin*

Spring is FINALLY in the air... and mud is on the road to school! Mud aside, it is certainly exciting to see so many signs of life springing forward!

With the change of season, the Parent Committee is working away to make our next few fund-raisers better than ever! Our biggest upcoming event of the year is the auction and cabaret, and while it is still a few months away, there is plenty to do to get ready. As we did last year, each family will be asked to solicit or contribute at least one item to the auction, and to provide one item for the class basket. For any businesses outside of the Sant Bani community that donate to the auction this year, we will be offering a pair of free tickets (which include dinner) as a thank you for their contribution. If you're not certain where to turn to look for donations, we have lots of ideas... please let us know if you need help. Of course, there are MANY additional ways to lend a hand, and we'd love to have you join in the fun and excitement of planning this great event.

We have a few great changes planned this year, including a new layout of the event. We will be renting round tables, so you'll be better able to socialize with your friends and family, as well as have a place to rest your plate. This will also lend itself to our traditional "cabaret" type setting. During the first part of the evening, you'll enjoy a fabulous Chinese dinner and the silent auction. During the latter part of the evening you'll enjoy the incredible entertainment, live auction and a snack and dessert buffet will be served. You will be hearing more about this event and receive information and packets for soliciting donations shortly. Watch e-mail, Listserv and report card envelopes for the details. The auction will be held on Saturday, June 13th at Sant Bani School. Please mark your calendars now, and plan on inviting friends and family from outside our community... we really want to share how wonderful our school is with everyone!

Other special events for the spring include the annual Perennial Sale, which will be held at Shaker Village during their Perennial Day or Herb Day. We don't have a date from Shaker Village yet, but if you have plants that you've kept over the winter or enjoy starting plants, keep the sale in mind. We are also hopeful to provide "worm tea" at this event. You may

*(cont'd on p. 5)*

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

—Hillary Pincoske

### *Sunglasses Needed*

A family at the Sant Bani School has a connection with a group of doctors going to Central America on a mission in the middle of April. Last year, the doctors brought reading glasses for the local farmers they were working with. They found that many of these farmers have damaged their eyes from the sun exposure. This year, they would like to bring them sunglasses to help prevent further eye damage. If anyone would like to bring in new or gently used sunglasses and/or glasses cases to send with these doctors, we will make sure they get them. We need to have them by Monday, April 13th so they can get to the doctors before they leave.

### *The Preston Center*

The Family Service article from January gave information about the Preston Center at the Pines Community Center in Northfield. The Preston Center serves children in need in the Northfield, Tilton and Sanbornton area by providing free clothing, toys and necessities from birth to age 12. So, after letting everyone know about this great service in our community, I found out that Jo Elliot, mother of Trevor and Sloane Frederick, is on the board.

The Preston Center is having an open house on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> from 3-6 and all are invited to go visit and find out more about them. They accept donations of new and gently used infant and children's clothing, toys, shoes, backpacks, diaper bags, blankets, etc. They are open the FIRST and THIRD Wednesday of each month from 3-6. Because this is a new organization, they are also looking for book cases, children's hangers, and plastic totes to help them get more organized.

If anyone would like to donate any of the above listed items, you can bring them to Sant Bani and we can make sure they get to the Preston Center for those in need. If you have a large donation, please contact Jo directly to make arrangements. If you have any questions or know of someone in need of their help, please contact SBS parent Jo Elliot. The Preston Center now has a web site at [www.prestoncenter.org](http://www.prestoncenter.org).

## Chamber Music Series at Sant Bani School

Beth Guterman, viola  
Randall Hodgkinson, piano

Friday, April 17, 2009

Light refreshments will be served at a reception at 6 p.m.  
and the concert will begin at 7 p.m.

Students are free, adults are \$16 and senior citizens are \$13. For tickets and information call (603) 934-4240 or visit the school's website at [www.santbani.org](http://www.santbani.org)

## Congratulations!

Alec Peters and Nate Houran were awarded the NHIAA Male Scholar Athlete Award on March 16 at the Capital Center for the Arts in Concord, NH.

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

# **The Brutebeast, the Witch and the Monister**

—*Mary Vaiden*

This year, the spring musical is a group effort incorporating staff as well as middle grades and high school students. "The Brutebeast, the Witch and the Monister," written by Karen Boettcher Tate and directed by Mary Vaiden, is especially designed with children in mind.

The village of Mickleville — home to assorted trolls and a loony witch named Mabel (played by senior Rachel McCarthy) — is celebrating the grand opening of a Vegetable Soup Bistro. Mabel and her assistant, the once fearsome Brutebeast (Nate Houran), now tame and meek and rather slow on the uptake, are hosting the villagers when a horrible Monister appears. He threatens to pig-out on his favorite delicacy — troll sandwiches — until the combined magic, bravery and wit of the villagers saves the day.

Please bring your kids and your own inner child along on our little adventure. Performances will be Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 23, 24, and 25 at 7 p.m., with a special Saturday matinee on the 25th at 2 p.m.

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

—*Anne Dancewicz-Helmers*

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 be 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!

**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

# National Geographic Bee

—Becky Beane

Sant Bani school eighth grader and Gilford resident, Matthew Sweeney, has been notified by the National Geographic Society that he has qualified to represent the school and will participate in the state level of the National Geographic Bee sponsored by Plum Creek and Google. Sweeney will attend the state bee on Friday, April 3, at Keene State College in Keene, NH. The state-level bee will be held at the Lloyd Young Student Center at the college. Sweeney won the championship round consisting of three questions. Eighth grader Colby Clark was the runner up and seventh grader Kelly Nix was the second place finalist. Sant Bani School Geography teacher, Beth Robinson, coordinates the Geographic Bee each year. Bees were held in schools with fourth through eighth grade students throughout the state to determine each school's Geographic Bee winner. School-level winners then took a qualifying test, which they submitted to the National Geographic Society.

## 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 or email Arlene Taranow at school.

# Book Review Corner

*Rules*

By Cynthia Lord

2007 Newbery Honor Book

*Rules*, a Newbery Honor Book and Schneider Family Book Award, is based loosely on a true story. Catherine, a 12-year-old girl lives in a small town with her brother, David who has autism. He's a lot to handle, especially with her best friend Melissa in California. Catherine practically raises David with her rules for life.

Catherine meets two new people, a girl named Kristi who moves in next door and Jason, a boy at David's speech lessons, who can't talk, but has a book that he points to in order to be heard. The problem is Catherine wants to be friends with Kristi, but David gets in the way and embarrasses her. Also, Jason seems to like Catherine, but she is afraid people will look at Jason like they do with David.

Lord is an amazing children's author. She tackles the powerful themes of acceptance and being different. She lures the reader right in. Lord wrote this book because there were none like it and her daughter wanted to read something more interesting. Lord has an autistic son, so she was inspired by him. These rules are for David, but we can all use them.

*Reviewed by Stefanie Schechter and Caroline Sweeney, 6th Grade*

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## BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Thank you to all who have sent in your Box Tops coupons and participated online at [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com)! Since enrollment our Box Top earnings are \$258 and we now have 16 online supporters.

Box Tops offers three easy ways to earn cash for our school through everyday activities like buying groceries, shopping online *and* purchasing books – **all at no additional cost to you**. Plus, you can sign up for regular email updates on our school's progress if you sign up online.

Exclusive online benefits:

- Track our school's Box Tops earnings.
- Print money-saving coupons for your favorite

Box Tops brands.

- Enter to win Bonus Box Tops for our school.
- Shop at the Box Tops Marketplace.

Do you often send flowers to family and friends on birthdays or around the holidays? FTD is just one of the few florists available at the Marketplace and they'll donate 7.5% of your purchase to Sant Bani! Happy Spring!

Keep the Box Tops Marketplace in mind the next time you shop online! If you have any questions about signing up, don't hesitate to contact SBS parent JoAnne Bousquet by phone or email.

Thanks again for your participation!

## Boys HS Basketball

—Chris Demian

The boys basketball team (grades 7-12) has finished its first season! With great support from parents and an alumni donation we were able to buy uniforms and play a seven game season this winter. While we didn't manage to win a game all 12 players learned a lot about basketball, improved their skills and had a great time. We held practices at all hours of the night at local gymnasiums and it was a real joy for me to spend time with these enthusiastic student-athletes and share my love for the game of basketball. I hope all of my younger players work hard over the summer and come back next winter ready to be even more competitive. Stay tuned for great things to come!



*(cont'd from p. 1)*

## Parent Committee Notes

contact SBS parent Kim Monfet for details.

The Yard Sale is our other big spring event! We are still looking for someone to oversee this event, so if you are interested, please contact Emily. The format of the yard sale last year made it an incredibly easy event to run, and the time commitment was greatly reduced. There are plenty of people willing to help, we just need someone to organize the team. Lots of guidance and assistance will be provided. If you are spring cleaning, please keep the yard sale in mind. **QUALITY**, clean items are needed to make this event successful. Start a pile, let your friends and family know, and we'll give you a date and the details ASAP! Please **DO NOT** drop off items in the shipping shack. Items will need to be dropped off at the yard sale site the evening before or pick-up arrangements may also be made.

As always, we'd like to extend an invitation to join us at our next meeting on Wednesday, April 15th at 6 p.m. There will also be a few additional meetings scheduled that focus on each special event... watch your Listserv and e-mail for dates! Happy Spring!

## Urban Walk for Haiti

—Jen Schongalla

Sant Bani students are once again gearing up for the Urban Walk for Haiti. A fun-raiser, awareness-raiser and fundraiser, the Walk for Haiti is a fabulous event that takes place on Saturday April 4, in Cambridge, MA. Part Haitian festival, part rally, and all fun, the event attracts hundreds of people to raise money for Partners In Health (PIH), to learn about and celebrate Haiti, and to join together in pragmatic solidarity.

Funds from previous walks have helped thousands of children in Haiti's Central Plateau by paying for school fees, lunch programs and uniforms. Additionally an operating room was outfitted with lights. This year, due to the massive devastation from last September's hurricanes, our goal is to raise \$25,000 in order to build five sturdy concrete homes for displaced families.

This will be the fourth year that Sant Bani students, staff and alumni have participated, and we are looking forward to a huge Sant Bani presence this year. So far 24 students have signed up to go, and we hope to attract many SBS alums who are in the Boston area. The event starts at 12 noon, with Haitian music, dancing, crafts, and a photo gallery of many successful PIH projects. Later, Joia Mukherjee, PIH medical director will rally us all with a fiery speech and then we'll hit the streets for a delightful stroll along the Charles.

I encourage ANYONE to participate! Although we must limit the official school transportation to students in grades 7-12, there are many ways that the SBS community can be a part of transforming the lives of families in rural Haiti. 1) check out the website [www.walkforhaiti.org](http://www.walkforhaiti.org) for information about the walk if you would like to participate as a family...carpool with other SBS families! 2) make a donation when a Sant Bani student talks to you about the walk 3) if you live far away, you can donate online at [www.firstgiving.com/jenschongalla](http://www.firstgiving.com/jenschongalla) 4) if you cannot make a donation, keep these families in your thoughts and pass on the information about this event to friends and family.

Although we are all tightening our belts and hunkering down in these uncertain and frightening economic times, it is vitally important to continue to support our neighbors near and far. Sant Bani students have a long tradition of serving communities locally and around the world. This opportunity is one way we embody our mission to turn knowledge into action. Feel free to contact Jen Schongalla for more information.

# Sant Bani Alpine Race Team — Small, but Speedy

—Sara Rosenbloom

Making the most of another season with great snow conditions, the Sant Bani alpine race team competed in five races during the season, with trips to Gunstock, Cannon Mountain, Mount Sunapee, and Loon Mountain.

Returning veteran skiers Alec (senior) and Leah (sophomore) Peters served as captains. After a promising start to the season with top three finishes in the first two meets, Alec went on the disabled list while recovering from frostbite. He recovered in time to participate in the Division IV state meet in which he won the slalom and, while not scoring in the giant slalom because he did not finish his first giant slalom run, had the fastest time on the second run. Leah had a successful season, generally finishing in the top 5. She finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the giant slalom and 6<sup>th</sup> in the slalom at the state meet. Both Leah and Alec qualified to race in the Meet of Champions, although they were unable to attend.

Leah Peters was joined on the girls team by Isabel Bogacz (eighth), returning for her second year on the team, and Emily Fay (seventh), who raced on the team for the first time. Isabel continued to show rapid improvement, and her consistent finishes allowed the girls to score as a team and take fourth place in Division IV at the state meet out of 11 schools. Emily Fay is an experienced ski racer who excelled immediately, placing 18<sup>th</sup> in the slalom and 22<sup>nd</sup> in the giant slalom at the state meet. The girls were able to field the four skiers necessary for a team score when Mira Carey-Hatch (junior)

raced with the team, as she did at three regular season meets and at the state meet. Although Mira was the lone female skimeister from Division IV, (meaning she raced in cross country ski races as well as alpine races) her strong alpine finishes and outstanding cross country finishes would likely have allowed her to fend off any challengers to her Skimeister title. She finished 16<sup>th</sup> in slalom and 20<sup>th</sup> in giant slalom at the state meet.

We were fortunate to have two other experienced racers on the boys team: Cullen Robinson (freshman) and Ben Pollak (senior). Cullen Robinson improved greatly in consistency and technique, moving up from the middle of the pack to finish in the top 10 frequently this year. He narrowly missed qualifying for the Meet of Champions, with an 11<sup>th</sup> place finish in the slalom and a 14<sup>th</sup> place finish in the giant slalom at the state meet. Ben Pollak also showed great improvement this year, even while juggling skiing with basketball. Rounding out the team were freshmen Andres Orr and Julian Taranow. For both of them, it was their first experience ski racing and they both contributed consistent finishes for the team score. When not racing, they were usually off enthusiastically exploring the nearby ski runs. As a team, the boys finished 8<sup>th</sup> of 11 schools in the state meet.

Sara Rosenbloom (mom of Leah and Alec), provided guidance and on-snow assistance to the team, as well as transportation. Linda Peck helped with transportation and administrative issues. Finally, Dave Bogacz (father of Isabel) provided transportation to, and enthusiastic support at, meets.

## 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@yahoo.com**  
and you'll be automatically added.

### 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!

# Projects Period a Success!

—Arlene Taranow

I am blessed with the opportunity of being both a parent and a staff member at Sant Bani. Projects Period truly monopolizes my life for weeks. As parents, my husband Mitch and I share our own children's passions from the brainstorming of ideas and the writing of proposals to the final transportation of projects to school. As a staff member, I participate in the sharing of presentations and hear the efforts and steps that your children went through to bring them to the first moment of their presentation.

Julian, our oldest son and a ninth grader, chose to follow his passions and combine his love for music, inventions and electrical engineering. Joshua, our third grader, chose to interview his absolutely fascinating 101 year old great-great aunt and get the inside scoop on what it was really like when cars became more prevalent than horses in Brooklyn, NY, what it was like during the Great Depression, and what exactly did children do for fun without TV, computers and transportation. Unfortunately, Aunt Sarah wound up in the hospital two days before our arrival, but fortunately we were there to be with her in the hospital and get her settled back into her apartment where she lives alone in the heart of Brooklyn, NY. So Joshua had to rethink his project and start the entire process over. He came up with great ideas and saw wonderful success.

During projects period we are fully engrossed in two projects. Julian's project and its hours of research, late night kitchen table talks with Mitch (thankfully he not only enjoys this kind of stuff, but understands it as well!) learning basic electrical engineering theory, and trips to visit a local electrical engineer expert. His experience was a wonderful journey. Joshua's final decision on his project topic stemmed from wanting to please the crowd and learning more about his religious traditions. So, what could be better than feeding the crowd Jewish cultural foods? Yum! We both learned so much about Jewish holidays and the reasons behind traditional foods. We had wonderful resource people and had fun taste testing along the way. Julian liked the project, too. He became the official taste tester while he was busy at the kitchen table making his schematics and soldering diodes. All parents experience this Projects Period time, but only staff members who

have had or have children in the school experience this side of Projects Period.

On the other hand, parents don't get to experience what staff members are witness to. It is impossible to fully appreciate all of the learning and effort that goes into each project during the evening café and display. Projects are interesting to look at and read about, but it's almost impossible to appreciate all 170 projects within an evening. As staff, we experience the presentations within our sharing groups. This year, Barry Draper, Jon Engle, Pam Hunt, Sue Lewellen, Tina Busch, Lorraine Jones, and I enjoyed our group of 30 students. The energy was incredible and students were so respectful and enthusiastic toward one another's presentations. All of the children made such an effort to convey the uniqueness of their projects and how much they had learned.

Allow me to illustrate...It's so difficult to experience what third grader, Georgia Stone experienced learning about canine search and rescue and going out on a practice search with the dogs and trainers even in group sharing. Photos, stories, and techniques were explained and appreciated by all. It was the pride in her tone at becoming such an expert in this field that really is impressive. She knows her stuff and will be forever influenced by this experience. This sharing process is an incredible experience. It's a time when all of the process is verbalized and the true experience is shared. Can her poster board and photos really convey that at Projects Period Display? No. But we can appreciate her learning by watching our own children grow through this experience.

During the café I tried to read about as many projects as possible while keeping all of this in mind. From building an electric guitar or knitting for service to creating a claymation short or shadowing a physical therapist, there was just so much to see.

It's so difficult to fully capture the entire process of a project and understand the true experience and impact that project has. This will always remain unattainable for us looking in, but each student will take away that special enrichment.