

SANT BANI School Notes

May 2009

Sant Bani School
19 Ashram Road
Sanbornton, NH 03269

Kent Bicknell, Ed.D.
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.

- April 23-25** High School Play Production
April 27-May 1 April Vacation
May 4 School Resumes
May 14 Lower Building Opera Evening Performance
May 20 Parent Committee Meeting 6 p.m.
General Parent Meeting 7 p.m.
May 25 Memorial Day - No School
May 26 High School Art Opening 5-7 p.m.
May 29 Sant Bani Chamber Music Series -
Early Music Concert
June 2 Move Up Day
June 2 Spring Sports Banquet
June 3 Chorus, Band, 8th Grade Play 7 p.m.
June 4 All School Beach Day Noon-4 p.m.
June 5 End of Second Semester
June 5 Sant Bani 8th Grade Graduation at Morning
Session
June 8-9 8th Grade Class Trip
June 12 Sant Bani Class of 2009 Graduation
4 p.m.
June 13 Sant Bani Parent Committee Auction
June 14-16 High School Martha's Vineyard Trip
(optional)

Parent Committee Notes

— Emily Galvin

Hello everyone! We're certainly fast approaching one of our busiest times of the year! Thank you to all who attended the Parent Committee meeting last week. We covered a great deal, and I will try to touch on everything that was covered.

As many become accustomed to collecting those box tops, our Box Tops for Education program seems to be growing. There are many of you out there that are sending along e-mails and requesting family and friends to save them for our school. Don't forget to shop online through boxtops4education.com as well. We also have several collection boxes to place in area businesses. If you or someone you know owns a business, please consider picking up a collection box from the Parent Committee so they can be displayed in multiple locations. Thank you for your continued efforts.

Interested in doing something different this summer? How about hosting a child through the Fresh Air Fund? You can request a boy or girl, and a specific age range. The journey to our "country" setting is a wonderful experience for these great kids. They enjoy doing the activities that you and your family normally do. If you would like more information, contact SBS parent Sherry Bogacz. Their family has hosted a child for many years now, and they have formed a wonderful relationship with her!

Just a friendly reminder regarding bus stops. In the morning, PLEASE stay at the bus stop until the bus has arrived, and in the afternoon, PLEASE be there on time! If you are unable to stay or are going to be late, please make arrangements with another parent and provide them with written permission to do so. In the event that the bus is late or doesn't arrive due to mechanical trouble, bad weather, traffic, etc. we don't want there to be kids left at the bus stop with no way of getting to school. Thank you!

(cont'd on p. 9)

Sant Bani Class of 2009
Graduation
June 12, 4 p.m.
All are Welcome.

Sant Bani School Graduation

Class of 2009

June 12, 2009

4 p.m.

Sant Bani School
Allen Field

Refreshments will be served
All are welcome

This community-wide event captures much of the spirit of Sant Bani School.

Please consider attending even if you don't have a graduate.

There is plenty of room and a great reception hosted by the Juniors and their parents.

**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

For program information contact
Rose Marie Marinace
934-4240
or Heidi Freeman

Chamber Music Series at Sant Bani School

Early Music Concert

Friday, May 29, 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

Family Writing Night

—Arlene Taranow

Our final Family Writing Night of the Year was wonderful! Dinner was delicious and a special thank you to Shane McNamara's (3rd grade) Grandmother for the delicious homemade spaghetti sauce. What a treat! After dinner, we got right down to writing. Our quickwrite focused on writing about something we've always wanted to do in our lifetime. Families shared at their tables, and then Kari read *Pigeon Wants a Puppy*, by Mo Willems. This was great fun to listen to and giggle to! Ideas were sparked and a longer writing session ensued. After a twenty minute writing session, we had whole group share. Both children and adults shared their stories, pictures, and ideas. How wonderful!

So, on this muddy spring day, we celebrated our last Family Writing Night with a dirt and mud cake (chocolate cake and chocolate pudding) and bid farewell to our roomful of writers.

Don't wait until next year! Keep on writing as a family throughout the summer...

Come Celebrate!

Auction and Cabaret

The Sant Bani School is celebrating its 36th year, on the field, under the tent, the day after graduation!

Food
Entertainment
Great Items for Auction

Saturday, June 13th
5-10:00 PM

*Please join us
For
The Annual High School
Art Opening
At
The Sant Bani School
On
May 26
5 to 7 pm*

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

—Hillary Pincoske

I just found out about this wonderful web site called UmadeMyDay.com. Many of us do small deeds every day for others and don't even think about it. The idea behind UmadeMyDay.com is "to spread random acts of kindness to make the world a more positive place." It not only makes the recipient feel great, but the experience of making someone's day a little brighter feels great, too. A win-win for everyone. If you go to their web site you can purchase or just print UmadeMyDay cards that are about the size of a business card. You write your initials and a number on each card, and as you do a random act for someone you give them the card to go with it. It could be simple like paying for the person behind you at the toll and giving the toll booth person the card to give to the driver behind you, buying someone a coffee in the morning, helping someone carry something heavy into work, purchasing a handful of gift cards for \$5 or under to give to people... That person hopefully will be inspired to go the UmadeMyDay.com and see what it is all about and participate as well. The recipient can use the code on the card to write a thank you back to the person who made their day. The thank you notes on line are inspiring and offer some great ideas.

We all should try it!

Parent Committee Notes *(cont'd from p. 1)*

We have a date for the Plant Sale at Shaker Village. Saturday, June 20th will be the big day. If you are able to provide plants or other products that are in keeping with a plant sale, please contact SBS parent Kim Monfet. If you can help “babysit” plants, we need centrally located spots where plants can be gathered.

The Yard Sale is tentatively set for Saturday, May 30th. We are awaiting confirmation on the location. Last year, things went very smoothly with items being dropped off at our yard sale location the day before the sale. This saved a tremendous amount of time transporting items, and we greatly appreciate the time and effort you spent in bringing your items directly to us! Please **DO NOT** put items in the Shipping Shack on Osgood Road. If you are unable to bring your items on Friday, May 29th, please contact Emily Galvin and we will make arrangements to assist you. Reminder: No computers or electronic equipment. Please be sure items are clean and in good condition.

Mark those calendars for Saturday, June 13th! The Auction & Cabaret is nearly here! Information regarding gathering donations went home with report cards. If you did not receive this information, please contact us and we will get the information to you. Some of the top favorite items from last year included things like a few hours of yard work, a certificate for cleaning the school, light housekeeping, child care, pet sitting, etc. Hand made items are lovely and greatly enjoyed, as well as gift certificates, art work, vacations, etc. Feel free to get creative! If you need ideas or guidance, please don't hesitate to contact parent Anne Dancewicz Helmers at or Kim Monfet. If you feel comfortable with approaching businesses for donations, please let Anne or Kim know. They could use some extra help with this giant undertaking. Don't forget to mention attending the Auction & Cabaret to friends and family. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we're making many improvements to this event, and it is sure to be a great deal of fun for the whole family!

As always, thank you again for all of the effort everyone puts into making our fund-raising efforts successful. Many hands make light the work, and that certainly holds true as we tackle the upcoming events! Our next Parent Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20th at 6pm before the General Parent Meeting. Please join us!

Happy spring!

Book Review Corner

Call It Courage

By Armstrong Sperry

1941 Newbery Award Winner

Call it Courage by Armstrong Sperry is a Newbery Award winner based in the Polynesian Islands. Mafatu, a twelve-year-old boy was always afraid of water where the sea killed his mother and almost killed him. This book is all adventure and never gets boring.

Mafatu struggles to gain back his courage and make his father proud. Mafatu is lonely and all the other children make fun of him. Mafatu decides to leave the island and go to a different island.

In this book and in *Where the Red Fern Grows*, both boys are facing hard times. Both main characters struggle with responsibility.

I like this book very much; it's an emotionally powerful book. It changed my outlook on life. I now question if I want something or if I truly need it. Armstrong Sperry puts a lot of excitement into this book and uses a lot of cliffhangers to keep the reader interested.

Reviewed by Myles Virgin, 6th Grade

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Thank you to all who have sent in your Box Tops coupons and participated online at www.boxtops4education.com!

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.

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!

Urban Walk for Haiti

—Jen Schongalla

Hundreds of people gathered last weekend in Cambridge, MA, to celebrate the tiny nation of Haiti, to learn about Haitian culture and to raise awareness about, and money for a successful organization that works together with local communities to transform the lives of thousands of rural Haitians. Partners In Health (PIH) has been working in Haiti for over 25 years, and has pioneered a model for comprehensive healthcare that is currently being replicated in more than nine countries worldwide, including the U.S. The theme of this year's walk was the Haitian proverb "Tout moun se moun," every person is a person.

On Saturday April 4, a group of more than 50 people from the Sant Bani School community rallied to affirm "Tout moun se moun," by participating in the sixth annual Urban Walk for Haiti in Cambridge, MA. More than 30 students, along with staff, alumni, parents, relatives and friends joined forces to raise over \$4000 for Partners In Health. This year marks the fourth year that Sant Bani has been involved with this event. This year's Walk raised nearly \$40,000, to be used for rebuilding homes in rural Haiti, destroyed by last September's hurricanes. This total is the second largest in the history of the event.

Since 2004 Sant Bani students and teachers have

unofficially donated \$12,000 to PIH through their work with the Mooseman Triathlon and the "Walk For Haiti." That might not sound like a lot of money, but considering that the size of the Sant Bani high school is 47 students it's proportionally impressive.

Last fall, when PIH medical director Joia Mukherjee spoke at Sant Bani's "Conversations in a Changing World" conference, she wove the concept of "Tout moun se moun" into the rich tapestry of "ubuntu" which shares a root with the Creole word "moun." "Ubuntu" is a Bantu word common to at least 50 African languages, and it means essentially that a person is a person through other people. We are human precisely because we love and serve one another.

Through their commitments to cultivate the best in themselves and ultimately to put their knowledge and talents to use in serving others, Sant Bani students demonstrated "ubuntu" in action at the Walk for Haiti, just as they do whenever they undertake a project in our local communities. Mesi anpil (many thanks) to everyone who participated, whether you walked, raised money, bought soup or donated crafts, money or positive energy. You have made a real difference in many lives.

The Mooseman Triathlon

June 6th and 7th

—Jen Schongalla

The Mooseman Triathlon at Wellington State Park is right around the corner! Student volunteers worked at this race back in 2004 for their initial fundraising effort to support Partners In Health. They return each year to the Mooseman in order to continue supporting the transformative work of this organization. Race director Keith Jordan has shown unwavering support for the Sant Bani groups and their consistent efforts in helping at the race while helping PIH. In addition to the yearly stipend paid to the group, Jordan also donates a booth to the students so that they can sell crafts and baked goods and educate people about PIH.

Save the date! This exciting event is coming up on June 6 and June 7. It is a popular service day for high school students. We help the race go smoothly and

we also help people around the world through Partners In Health.

We need a few parent volunteer chaperones to help out with our group. This mainly involves shepherding and periodic head counting. We report to the volunteer coordinators, who give us a variety of duties according to what they need. We need one person to volunteer for the Saturday shift (7a.m. – noon) and one person to volunteer for the Sunday shift (7a.m.-3p.m.). Please contact SBS staff member Jen Schongalla ASAP if you are interested in helping by phone 934-5928 or email. It's a super fun day of cheering on athletes, getting free cowbells, snacks and t-shirts, and going swimming in the delightfully brisk water of Newfound Lake!

Sant Bani Auction

Get Ready, Get Set, Go... The count down is on... It's time to think AUCTION!!!!

Attention all parents, grandparents, alumni, parents of alumni, and friends of Sant Bani. The parent committee is hosting the third annual Sant Bani auction on Saturday, June 13th.

There will be a simultaneous silent and on-line as well as a live portion. The on-line bidding will start on Saturday, May 30th at 7 am.

We are asking for 100% involvement of the Sant Bani Community to help make this auction a great success. Last year we raised over \$9,000! If each family and teacher contributes a minimum of one item we will have over 150 items! We are looking for donations big and small. Check with businesses you frequent for donations of items or gift certificates. The possibilities are endless! Here are some ideas:

BIG TICKET ITEMS: canoe, kayak, sporting goods, ski packages, vacation condos, fishing trips, boat trips, bed & breakfast and inns, sports tickets, TV's and electronics, international items, heating oil, firewood, wood pellets, gas cards, golf packages, spa or massage package.

GIFT CERTIFICATES: restaurants, supermarkets, bookstores, yarn shops, car dealerships, car detailing, home improvement stores, greenhouses, nurseries, movie theaters, boutiques, coffee shops, shoe stores, ski and sport shops, hair, nail, or tanning salons, and athletic clubs.

CRAFTS: jewelry, pottery, quilts, knitted and crocheted items, paintings, prints, and rugs.

SERVICES: lawn mowing, painting a room, painting a house, planting a vegetable garden, spring cleaning (indoor or outdoor), renting out vacation homes.

We have a list of all the previous donors and over 150 more potential donors grouped by towns to help make soliciting easy! Please contact Kim Monfet or Anne Dancewicz-Helmets.

Please tell your friends and send out e-mails with the web-site link so they can preview items and bid on-line. There is a link on the Sant Bani website (www.santbanischool.org) or you can go directly to: www.livecharityauctions.com/?AuctionCode=43365113 Bidding starts May 30th!

Invite everyone to come and join the fun on Saturday, June 13th! If you have any questions contact SBS'08 pernt Linda Shelley at 528-3330 or e-mail at Linda@livecharityauctions.com.

Just Like Alice's Tea Party, But Better!

—Dave Coulter

Through the help of the Bynum Family, Sant Bani is experimenting with worm tea. Students working with Barry Draper (science teacher) have begun brewing batches that will be used in the garlic garden and on the soccer/field hockey fields.

This is an ongoing experiment, and thus far we have been challenged with a need for better filtering and better trailer stability for dispersing the worm tea - yup, we had a mishap.

We will keep you posted as we progress.

Stock up with Coffee for the Summer! Order Today!

\$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.

The Music Series Continues...

—Judy Davidson, Board Member

It was a perfect spring day, sunny and warm, post mud season, pre black fly season, when Beth Guterman and Randall Hodgkinson came to the school to perform viola and piano music for the students during the school day, and for the larger community in the evening.

As one student put it, they were “awesome.” At 28, Beth Guterman didn’t look much older than some of the high school students, and they could relate to her. They thought they might know her from somewhere, though that is quite unlikely, as Beth live in New York City, where she plays with the Lincoln Center Society Chamber Players, and tours frequently, having just returned from the Far East.

The in-school program began with the prelude to a Bach Suite, and then Beth described some of the movements of the Rebecca Clarke and Shostakovich sonatas and asked the children what they would like to hear. The students liked being involved in this way and also asked many good questions between hearing movements of their choosing. Beth and Randall appreciated what an attentive audience they had. In a follow email Randall wrote, “I really loved playing at Sant Bani. The feeling of nurturing creativity are almost overwhelming in your school. This is a very rare and inspiring place in the world.”

The full program, performed in the evening also included a piano piece written by Clara Schumann when she was only 14 year old! Many of the students came back with their parents and grandparents to hear more. Since this concert was preceded by a reception, lovingly prepared by the Hanrahans, with many delicious and beautifully presented hot and cold hors d’oeuvres, it was an excellent opportunity to meet old and new friends and enjoy the last of the sun streaming in the library windows.

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 934-4240 or by email contact@santbani.org. Gift cards are sold in \$50 increments.

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

HELP WANTED

Holiday Catalogue
2009-2010

The holiday catalog is currently looking for people to join our dedicated group of volunteers to help with this fabulous fundraiser for Sant Bani.

We are in a transition year. Sara Rosenbloom has stepped down as coordinator of the Holiday Catalog. Jo Elliott, mom of Sloane and Trevor Frederick, is attempting to fill some pretty awesome shoes as the new coordinator.

We have special needs of people in the following areas.

Immediately:

Product Producers – People to assist in developing products for the catalogue. We need people with ideas, connections or skills!! Great products make great sales. A very important category that needs immediate attention. Product selection has started! The current leader of this category would like to step down – if you would like to head up this category, please let Jo know. If you would like to join this category – we need you now.

In the fall:

Shipping Shack Leaders – One or two persons available to work a day or two each week during the catalogue shipping season (from approx Nov. 15 to the beginning of our holiday break). Duties would be overseeing the filling of orders to be picked up or shipped. Recruiting and organizing the packers. Getting orders shipped out. Record keeping and attention to detail are important as well as ability to explain things to shippers and organize them efficiently.

If you are interested in helping in these or *any* capacity, please contact SBS parent Jo Elliott by phone or email.

If you signed up to help on the catalog but have not been contacted – please email Jo as soon as possible to let her know how you would like to help. If we haven’t contacted you, it is merely due to the transition process. There are many jobs to do. We want your help. We need your help. Just let us know how you would like to help or ask us what we need. Any and all help is appreciated.

Thank you!!

State Level Geography Bee

—Beth Robinson

Matt Sweeney, Grade 8, was part of an elite group of students who competed at the State Level Geography Bee on Friday, April 3rd. The one hundred students who were chosen to go to the State Bee were seeking a spot to participate at the National Geography Bee. Matt competed against eleven returning “Geo Bee” participants at Keene State College, where the bee was held. Matt nearly made it to the Tiebreaker Round, which had 17 participants. Matt remembers these questions at the end of the first round:

1. “Who is the new President of the island of Palau?” Answer: Johnson Toribiong.
2. “Where is Crater Lake National Park?” Answer: Iowa.
3. “In what country do its citizens speak German, Italian, and French?” Answer: Switzerland.

There were five groups of twenty students in each and Matt was in Letter “D” Group with 19 other students. Teachers and parents had the opportunity to participate in the Geo Caching Workshop (Global Position System) sponsored by the NH Geographic Alliance while the students completed the first round. The Alliance has GPS’s on loan for Geo Caching purposes in the classroom. It was fun trying to plug in coordinates to locate a geo cache as a group. We learned about all the rules and jargon for this really fun activity for families and school groups.

A round of questions in the final bee focused on questions about bridges in the world. Pictures of bridges using Google Earth were projected on a screen for all to see. Questions were read to provide clues about the bridges’ locations. Auckland Bridge (New Zealand), Vasco de Gamma Bridge (Lisbon, Portugal) and the Palace Bridge in Winter Palace (St. Petersburg, Russia) are examples of bridges the contestants were asked to identify.

Analogies made up another round of questions for the final contestants. For example, the peso is to Mexico as the yen is to Japan. A part of each of the following was missing and the student had to complete the fill in the blank. Padre Island is to Texas as Cape

Hatteras Sea Shore is to North Carolina. Mount McKinley is to Alaska as Mt. Washington is to NH. The Trail of Tears is to Oklahoma as the Mormon Historical Trail is to Utah.

There was a round that focused on “Potential Sources of Renewable Energy.” Another round included questions about borders between countries. With what country do Thailand and India share a border? Answer: Myanmar. With what country do Guinea Bissau and Gambia share a border? Senegal. With what country do Mongolia and Vietnam share a border? China.

Finally, here is another type of question: What is the peninsular country, which was partly controlled by Bahrain in the 18th and 19th Centuries, and is also located on the Persian Gulf called? Answer: Qatar.

Matt commented that his “experience was nerve wracking at first, but it got easier as time went on.” Matt said that he wished he had learned the names and locations of all the National Parks. “Even though I didn’t get to the Tie Breaker Round, it was still a great learning experience!”

Matt came into the 6th grade class last year to share his project’s period project which was memorizing all the capitals of the nations of the world. He knew every one! In his studying for the geo bee, Matt knew he would need to study more than capitals. He studied current events, oceans, mountains, top ten rivers, economies, populations and much more. Matt also watched the DVD of the national contest two year’s ago when NH’s winner came in 5th place. Matt would definitely go to the Geo Bee again but because he is in the 8th grade he won’t qualify next year. Congratulations, Matt! We’re proud of Matt and his interest in geography.

Try these:

Pula, on the Adriatic Sea, is a resort in an industrial center, in which country?

Answer: Croatia.

What is the largest city in Siberia on the Tran-Siberian Railway?

Answer: Novo Sibersk.