



Sant Bani School Notes

Celebrating 36 years

December 2009

www.santbani.org

Calendar of Events

- 12/3 Pizza Lunch
- 12/7 Senior Project Presentations 7 p.m.
- 12/11 Chamber Music Concert 6 p.m.
- 12/16 Parent Committee Meeting 6 p.m. (with school photographer)
- 12/17 Pizza Lunch
- 12/17, 12/18, 12/19 High School Play
- 12/22 Winter Break begins--
No school

Kent Heads to Conference in Asia to Learn and Share Sant Bani School

by Kent Bicknell

Owing to the good graces of Bunker Roy of Barefoot College in India the doors have been thrown open for me to attend an extraordinary conference that is taking place in Bhutan in early December.

The government of Bhutan has assembled a cast that looks like a who's who of visionary thinkers to come and assist their department of education design a school system that will support the country's commitment to measuring itself on a scale other than GDP, the GNH or Gross National Happiness Index. The king of Bhutan came up with this phrase a few years back, and I have heard it referred to in one-liners that usually get a lot of laughs.

The reality is that Bhutan has been seriously examining what it is they need to do as a country to ensure that not only the current population will be happy, but future generations as well. I.e. how do you create the conditions for a sustainable, spiritual life for all?

The king and his ministers see education as the key, and with the help of a very cool group I'd never heard of (GPI-Atlantic...

Genuine Progress Index for the Atlantic out of Nova Scotia) they planned a conference where 25 or so visionaries from around the world are spending five days meeting with ministers of education, administrators, and teachers from Bhutan in the capital, Thimphu.

The list of these presenters is impressive. A number of others have been invited as "observers" and it is in that capacity that I will be going. Bunker thought I would add value... but, no matter what, I am certain I will learn a ton.

I have received several hundred pages of material that GPI-Atlantic has put together and from what I see it is fabulous. The spirit is a lot like our Vision Plan in many places, but the varied approaches and voices are stimulating and inspirational. Think of Sant Bani's mission statement and then ask how would a country go about creating a school system that would carry out this mission? That is exactly what they are trying to do.

Editor's note: The conference is by invitation only and the school is honored to have Kent attend.

Editor Jyoti Demian

Sant Bani School Notes is published monthly during the school year to share news of the school community. We are grateful for contributions from staff, friends and the Parent Committee.

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Sant Bani School Holiday Catalogue Can Help You Find the Right Gift

For many years now the Sant Bani School Holiday Catalogue has compiled the fine products of local artists, artisans, musicians and craftspeople, as well as products created in other countries by artisan collectives working toward self-sufficiency.

Proceeds from Holiday Catalogue sales benefit the Sant Bani Financial Aid Fund.

Many items are created by parents of alumni and former students, current parents, friends of the school and alumni. Items crafted by artisan collectives support both the artisans and students at Sant Bani who

benefit from the Financial Aid Fund.

This year's catalogue products range from original albums by alumni musicians and musicians who have performed in the Sant Bani Chamber Music Series to amazing toys provided by alumna and parent Emily Galvin who owns the children's store Fairy Wings and Elfin Things in Franklin.

If you have not yet received the Holiday Catalogue, you can pick one up at the Front Office.

Please be sure to think of this fundraiser when you buy gifts this season.

Holiday Catalogue Needs Shippers

As orders are received the Sant Bani School Holiday Catalogue needs people to wrap, pack and ship items to customers.

The dates shippers are needed are December 5, 12 and 19. The need on December 5 is particularly urgent. If you could help out, please e-mail parents Jo Elliott or Lea Smith.

A Teacher Learning

Sant Bani faculty continue to develop as teachers by learning in and out of the classroom. They take classes toward advanced degrees, attend workshops, travel to faraway schools and more. All these experiences impact their teaching and their students' learning at Sant Bani School.

On November 13 Jyoti Demian headed to Plymouth State University's Concord campus to attend the Plymouth Writing Project's annual Fall Conference. PSU is the New Hampshire site of the National Writing Project.

I had been looking forward to this writing conference both because I always like to learn more about teaching writing and because I love to discuss teaching with teachers. Conferences always allow me to hear and share practices and ideas, which really fuels my teaching.

My children's Sant Bani second grade teacher, Kari Allen, was a conference organizer and also presented a workshop. It was fun to see her there.

Plymouth Writing Project Director, Dr. Meg Petersen (parent of Sant Bani high schoolers Max and Marc Gonzalez), opened the conference with statements about the importance of writing in the lives of writing teachers and our students.

Teachers then broke into smaller groups to attend small workshops. My first was "Pithy Quotes" and was led by a 40-year veteran teacher from the ConVal School District. What an honor to learn from someone with so much experience teaching English! We learned how she has students choose the most pithy quote in a night's reading, analyze it in several ways and then connect to it personally. It was a great way

to connect reading and writing. I got some great ideas that my sixth, ninth and tenth graders may see in assignments soon.

Next I attended a workshop on teaching grammar through students' writing. One idea I took from this workshop was to have a small library of books on style and grammar available for my students to use as references.

Finally, I attended Meg Petersen's workshop, "Writing to Learn." We explored how Language Arts and English teachers as well as teachers in other disciplines can use writing as a tool for deepening comprehension.

I am so glad I attended this conference and feel very inspired.

Give Coffee This Holiday Season

Purchase New Hampshire Roasted Peruvian coffee for holiday gifts and \$3.00 from every bag sold will go directly to the Sant Bani Financial Aid Fund. This wonderful coffee comes from Cafe Monte Alto in Plymouth. Check out their web site www.montealto.com and read about their efforts to support the coffee community in Peru.

Regular Roast: \$9.00/16 oz. bag

Dark Roast (REALLY high test!):
\$9.00/14 oz. bag

Decaf: \$10.00/16 oz. bag

Orders/payments go to Roxanne in the front office. Specify whole beans or ground. Orders go to Cafe Monte Alto at the beginning of each month and coffee is delivered to the school for pickup soon after.

Contact Sherry at sherry.bogacz@dsbnh.com with questions.

Don't get left out of the loop--
sign up for Sant Bani listserv!

To receive informative emails with late-breaking Sant Bani news, sign up for the Sant Bani listserv. You will be added to an email address list of members of the Sant Bani School community. To be added to this list, send an email to

SantBaniSchool-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Ski and Snowboard Club Reminders

DATES: January 8, 15, 22, 29; February 5

TIME: Friday afternoons
leaving school at 12:00;
finished at Gunstock at 4:30

Each ticket each week will be valid from open to close on the day it is issued.

TRANSPORTATION: Grades K and 1: parent(s)
Grade 2: teacher's car or parent
Grades 3-12: school bus

Questions? Call Anne Danciewicz Helmers

Motorola Gives Money to Schools for Old Cell Phones

Paula Samson, host mother to Sant Bani alumna Magbe Savane, recently came to the Parent Committee with an idea for fundraising at the school. She found out that Motorola will give money to schools for collecting old cell phones.

Sant Bani will begin collecting cell phones to be redeemed for cash. How many old cell phones can students, school families and

friends collect? If you have an unused cell phone you would be willing to turn in to benefit the school, please send it in with your child for collection in individual

classrooms. Asking family and friends over the upcoming vacation could yield a lot of old cell phones. Putting the word out to coworkers and neighbors could as well.

Hillary Pincoske will have one class create a thermometer gauge for everyone to see the collection progress.

Help the collection effort by sending in old cell phones!

Upcoming Events

SBS Chamber Music Series Presents the Tempest Trio December 11

Don't Miss a Lively
Drama!
High School Play
December 17, 18, 19
by Craig Jaster

The High School play this December is a Yiddish folk play entitled *Farvorfen Vinkel* (roughly translated, "In a Forgotten Corner").

Written in 1917, it is a lively drama about two families in a tiny Jewish village in Europe long ago. Two neighbors, a gravedigger and a miller, get into a conflict that threatens to ruin both their families' happiness.

The wives try to bring common sense into the picture, and of course the miller's son and the gravedigger's daughter are in love. There is plenty of sarcastic classic Yiddish humor and some poignancy (a madwoman wanders the cemetery and occasionally intrudes on the action).

There also is a melee (just offstage) in which a window gets broken, but all ends happily thanks to old Reb Todros's most reasonable solution.

Alon Goldstein, piano, and Amit Peled, cello, are both well-known musicians at Sant Bani School and as international soloists and chamber musicians.

In the second concert of the school's Chamber Music Series, they are joined by Ilya Kaler, a Russian violinist, who has been compared to the likes of Heifetz and Perlman.

The Tempest Trio's reviews range from "breathtaking" to "their phrasing is elegant; their attention to dynamics is scrupulous."

Goldstein and Peled's youthful energy is blended with Kaler's experience and consummate musicianship.

They will play Bloch's "Three Nocturnes for Piano Trio," Schumann's "Piano Trio in D-minor" and Dvorak's "Dumky Trio."

The reception will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the concert will commence at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults; children are free. Contact Roxanne at 934-4240.

Sant Bani Students
Will Dance in the
Season December
19 in Franklin

Numerous Sant Bani students participate in extracurricular activities. Many of these are not connected to the school, yet enrich the school through students' involvement in them.

One activity in which students are currently involved is dance. Eighth grader Olivia Etchings, who dances with the Ninth State Dance Studio in Plymouth, will play Clara in that company's production of *The Children's Nutcracker*. Seventh grader Fiona Barker, also from Ninth State, will play a doll, a snowflake and a Spanish chocolate dancer.

The performance will take place on December 19 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Middle New Hampshire Arts and Entertainment Center (formerly the Franklin Opera House) in Franklin. Tickets are available at the Center's web site.

Lots of Questions and Learning about "Satchmo," Louis Armstrong

On November 10 students in grades three through twelve and excited teachers filled the Studio to hear, see and experience a presentation on Louis Armstrong by Louis Armstrong House Museum curator Michael Cogswell, an authority on Armstrong or "Satchmo."

Just before the presentation began, cheers and applause erupted spontaneously in the Studio at the entrance of Sant Bani's own trumpeter, Barry Draper, who retired last year from teaching science at the school. Barry's enthusiasm for Armstrong helped channel younger students' attention toward the stage and screen as the presentation began.

Michael Cogswell taught the audience the many innovations that Armstrong contributed to jazz to make it what it is today. When he explained what quotation and scat are and how Armstrong used them he showed various clips from Armstrong's performances and had the audience listen for these. Many students and teachers learned to listen in a new way to a familiar genre, to hear all the parts that must come together to make the final sound of the music.

Even before the end of the presentation students had their hands raised to ask questions ranging from, "Did Louis have any kids?" to "Was his trumpet solid gold?" Students had been very interested throughout, a sign both of an engaging presentation and curious, thoughtful minds.

High School Cross-Country's Season

by Scott Clark

The feeling of strength, power and control that ebbs from your legs and lungs--those are the results of training, and lots of it. Smooth, effortless stride carrying over hill and dale, mud and grass, attaining goals only you know, dealing with as much discomfort as you can put yourself through. Cross-country continues the discipline of distance athletes in the fall, and Sant Bani had athletes striving for their best.

Emotion plays a huge role in this sport, and the ability to control this emotion and make it work with you is a deciding factor in how well you perform. For me, when Seniors have been working hard for four years I find it a melancholy event when their last race is run. Mira Carey-Hatch ended her four-year odyssey in true colors at the New Hampshire Meet of Champions (MOC), finishing 29th overall. Mira has led her teammates for four years by example and action, competing at the top level of NHIAA competition her sophomore year (80th in the New Englands). She has five of the top seven times ever run by a SBS girl on Manchester's historic venue, and holds many course records. Her wonderful athletic performance shows consistency and determination.

Taylor Clark had a great fall in '09, finishing 25th in the Class M-S Championships, just missing the top twenty going to the MOC. Taylor p.r'd on four courses this fall and was fourth at the Class S State Championships.

The boys team was a huge surprise for most at the Class M-S Championships, just missing by four (!) points the chance to compete as a team in the MOC. Led by Sophomore Andres Orr (13th place, 18:28) and Freshman Colby Clark (26th place, 18:56) all season, the boys dealt with duel athletes, sickness, Agriculture Fairs and youth to put it all together and race great when they had to. Andres, by virtue of his top- 20 place went on to compete the following week at the MOC, placing 80th in 17:13! Sophomore Adison Linter had a great season, consistently placing well and running strong. Newcomers Julius Janos and Max Duncanson ran together and improved dramatically all season long. I found it hard to believe that both these athletes never had competed in Cross-Country prior to this year, as they showed poise and determination usually reserved for veterans. As usual, I am humbled and always hold in awe the determination and courage our athletes show.

Meet the New Girls Basketball Coaches

Sant Bani Athletic Director Chris Demian is excited to announce the hiring of coach Matt Allen for High School Girls Basketball and Craig Gamble for Middle School Girls Basketball.

Matt attended Sant Bani for many years and we are excited to have him return in this capacity.

Craig's daughter, Teagan, will play on the middle school team.

Service at Sant Bani: A Long Tradition of Giving that Enriches

Much of the teachings of Sant Bani School founder Sant Kirpal Singh centered on selfless service to all, or *seva*, giving of oneself with no expectation of payment. He said that you never lose when you give.

For many years now at Sant Bani, students and teachers have participated in one-time and ongoing service projects that benefit both local community members and people living across the globe. Service has become so ingrained that students, staff and school families do not ask if they should do service, but when and how they should do it.

School life here is full of service opportunities and students expect and embrace them. Sant Bani even has two service coordinator positions. Hillary Pincoske finds, organizes and orchestrates service projects for grades K-6 and Todd Schongalla does the same for grades 7-12.

These projects range from elementary students and their parents building exercise and play structures for dogs at the New Hampshire Humane Society to high schoolers removing garbage from the Pemigewasset River to middle schoolers cleaning up the New Hampshire

coastline. The list goes on.

High schoolers have a required amount of hours to fill with service to others and one of their projects during high school must be a service project. These can be eye-opening experiences to adolescents and can start students on a lifetime of service to others.

Many Sant Bani alumni choose careers that serve others. Others donate much of what they earn to benefit worthy causes, including Sant Bani School's Financial Aid Fund. Alumni might credit their habit of giving in part to their alma mater.

Current Service Projects

Winter Coat Collection

Burlington Coat Factory in Concord is collecting winter jackets for people in need this holiday season. Jackets must be stain-free with working zippers.

Bell Ringers Needed

The Salvation Army is looking for bell ringers for their Kettle Campaign this holiday season. You can find out more information by contacting victoriamclaughlin@use.salvationarmy.org.

Toy Collection

Sant Bani School will be collecting toys this year for the Tilton-Northfield-Sanbornton Christmas Fund. There will be a

box in the Front Office for new, unwrapped gifts for children of all ages (including teenagers). We will begin collecting on December 1st and end the collection on Wednesday, December 16th. Please bring in your donations and help local children this holiday season.

Knit Hats for Newborns in Rwanda

The "Hot Heads Knitting Project" Art Block is answering a call from Partners in Health for knitters and crocheters to make hats for babies born in the Burera district of Rwanda. Burera is high in the mountains and hypothermia is a threat to newborns.

The Art Block hopes to make many hats to send to Rwanda. If you are interested in knitting or crocheting these hats, visit

http://hotheadknitters.blogspot.com/2009_08_01_archive.html (knit pattern) or <http://www.touchinglittlives.org/barbhat.html> (crochet pattern).

Fifth Grade Food Drive

It has become a fifth grade tradition to run a food drive during the holidays. Students will be collecting non-perishable vegetarian food items at school through early December.

They will be meeting with Fred Caruso from Mix 94.1 FM to donate the food to the station's Cash and Cans program, which distributes the food locally to families, soup kitchens and food pantries in need. Please help support our efforts by bringing in a few items.

Middle School Soccer Team Full of Confidence and Courage

From Coach
Jeronimo Garrigues:

The junior high soccer team had an amazing season that culminated with a jamboree in which Sant Bani won four games out of four. It wasn't just that we won (which was nice), but that the team really worked together as a team. They were being good, they were doing good and they were one!

The self-confidence kept going up and up. When a team believes that it can do it, when every single individual in the team believes in herself or himself and in the group as a team, the quality of the game increases by leaps and bounds. That is what happened at the jamboree.

For me (and Jon Engle, to whom I'm very grateful for help) it

was a gift to share the season with all of you: Harrison, Cameron, Raianna, Joyce, Javin, Liam G., Peter, Liam C., Ellen, Justine, Marshall, Zack, Josh, Mariah, Caroline, Haley and Chandra. Muchas gracias!

Thanks also for the parent support. It made a difference seeing the enthusiasm with which parents came to the games.

The season is not over! The game just started. It is about believing in your own self and the ones with whom we are working. Let's win!

From Coach Jon Engle:

Kirpal Singh once said that courage is nothing but determination. And this team in every way is one of great courage. They worked hard in practice and

they played hard in games. They were always gracious in victory and in loss they showed their hurt. I know some people say that it's only a game and get over it--but only someone who has ever put their whole heart into something knows how much it hurts to taste defeat.

To us courage is not about not feeling hurt in defeat. Courage is about picking your head back up and looking to do better. It's about showing that unstoppable determination. It's about everything that these young players did. That's why it was such a privilege for us to work with this soccer team. We felt honored to be able to work with these outstanding athletes and even more privileged that they are such extraordinary people.

Box Tops for Education Earnings and Opportunities

by JoAnne Bousquet

Thanks for all your help with Box Tops! Since enrollment in Box Tops for Education you have helped raise \$475 for our school! The Box Tops coupons you have submitted have raised over \$124 since school started in September, a 100% increase over last year's November earnings. Keep up the good work!

Besides clipping Box Tops coupons, you can earn more for Sant Bani by

- Signing up to support our school on the Box Tops website at www.btfe.com. You'll get updates

on Sant Bani's Box Tops earnings, money-saving coupons, family-pleasing recipes, chances to win Bonus Box Tops and you will receive the latest Box Tops news.

- Shop at over 100 favorite online stores through the Box Tops Marketplace® (btfe.com/marketplace). Sant Bani School earns up to 15% of your qualifying purchases at no additional cost.

- Purchase books through the Box Tops Reading Rooms at Barnes & Noble. Sant Bani earns up to 6% of your purchase.



A Gift for You and Sant Bani

Enter for a chance to win a gift basket filled with Box Tops products, school supplies and more!

If you win, so does your school: 100 bonus Box Tops. Thirty people will win, so enter daily at www.btfe.com/30 days. The deadline is December 15th.

If you have any questions regarding Box Tops, please contact JoAnne Bousquet or visit www.btfe.com.

High School Soccer Outstanding All Season

by Todd Schongalla

Teams that lose nine players usually have to rebuild for a season. We were fortunate to add seven strong players and get help from all five eighth graders.

Our veterans also decided to take matters into their own hands this summer by coming out in force to create the largest turnout in over nine years of scrimmaging. They learned a key lesson—that fortune favors those who are prepared.

Our six-win and three-loss season shows just how prepared we were and how hard everyone worked to play beautifully together as a team.

Three games show the tremendous heart, resilience and determination of this team. In our third game of the season against White Mountain we had just thirteen players and spent most of the game behind by two goals. We kept our composure and kept pressing until our more numerous opponents ran out of gas, and we scored two goals in the last two minutes to win five to three.

The team peaked in mid-October against Proctor's JV, a team we have beaten only a few times over the last decade. The match was close for much of the game, but we wore them out and took a convincing four to zero win.

In our final game of the year Tilton's JV2 played some varsity players, including an outstanding goalie. We controlled play, but Tilton's early counterattack goal was the only one for most of the game. As the clock ticked down, we didn't lose patience and kept

our poise. We got two perfect goals in the final minutes to take the win.

Captain and sweeper Henry Trachy and keeper Dylan Dinger have brilliantly and unselfishly anchored our defense for the last two years. Veterans Marc and Max Gonzalez and Luke Kalvaitis "manned up" to create an aggressive defensive wall that kept opposing forwards frustrated and off the ball. Freshmen Obie Dancewicz-Helmers and Matt Sweeney improved a lot and provided strong defensive play off the bench. Eighth graders Javin de Mello-Folsom and Cameron Brand moved up to play like veterans in some big games.

Once again Captain Erik Braconier was the glue between the offense and defense all year at center mid. Joining him as an attacking center mid, Cullen Robinson made quick moves and his pinpoint shots netted five goals and four assists, the second highest on the team. Joining the team as a senior, Emily Braconier tied her brother for third in scoring with two goals and two assists. Micaela Brand continued to turn heads in her second year at wing mid. "Super sub" Emily Benton played tough and continued to improve.

Freshman Jen Hammel impressed everyone with courage

and progress in her first year playing soccer. Eighth graders Raianna Krahn-Burke and Joyce Hamel also did a great job helping out at midfield in the final two games of the season.

Captain Doran Timm exploded past opposing defenders to lead the team with fourteen goals and five assists. Sophomore Andres Orr showed deft moves and improved rapidly as our second attacker.

Senior Quan Tran recovered from injury to play well and score the game-winning goal against Tilton. Eighth grader Harrison Evans had an impressive debut with two goals in three games, including the game-winner against White Mountain.

Over the last decade I've had teams with better records, but none that I enjoyed coaching more. Long after the details of each game fade I'll remember the tremendous leadership from our captains and veteran players. I'll remember how this team stayed calm and collected when we were behind and how they trusted each other and had faith that training hard all summer and fall would give them a late-game edge against opponents with bigger benches. And I'll never forget how much fun they had playing beautifully together. With only two seniors leaving, next year could be an equally outstanding season!

The team especially wants to thank current Athletic Director Chris Demian, outgoing AD Maya Hardcastle and team parents and fans for all their support.