



# Sant Bani School Notes

Celebrating 36 years

February 2010

www.santbani.org

## Calendar of Events

- 2/1 Grades K-2 projects proposals due
- 2/15 Reenrollment Registration Deadline for 2010/2011 school year
- 2/15-2/19 Bring a Friend Week
- 2/17 Grades 3-6 performances
- 2/22 - 3/5 Projects Period
- 3/1 Applications for Financial Aid due in to Princeton
- 3/8 School back in session -- project sharing
- 3/20 Admissions Open House 2 p.m.

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.

## Peter Deminico Says Thank You and Farewell at General Parent Meeting

Mention Peter Deminico to any elementary or middle school student at Sant Bani and the usual response is a look of excitement. During his student teaching internship at the school, Peter could be spotted on recess duty playing soccer while giving play-by-play commentary in a British accent, acting the role of Edgar Allen Poe in the Social Studies Department's dramatic presentation in Morning Session to celebrate Poe's birthday and of course doing a wonderful job teaching art to middle school students and worktime to Upper Building students. We will miss the kindness and fun he brings to teaching.

Peter is a student teacher in Art Education from the Upper Valley Educators' Institute who worked with art teacher Lorraine Jones during the first semester. He is originally from Sanbornton and attended school in Thailand from sixth through twelfth grade. He gave a presentation to parents and staff at the January General

*Continued on page 2*

### In this issue:

- 1 SBS news
- 4 Parent Committee News
- 5 Sant Bani Then and Now
- 6 Student Journalism

## Are Your Children Attending Sant Bani Next Year?

We need to know! It is time to re-enroll for next year. 2010-2011 Re-Enrollment Forms were mailed to parents and the due date for getting your registration to the school is February 15. The due date for the financial aid application is two weeks later – March 1. You can ask JoAnn for the financial aid forms, or you can file online at [sss.nais.org](http://sss.nais.org).

Please return the registration form in a timely manner – whether you are planning to return or not. If we don't have your information, it adds to the work load, since we have to track you down.

The same thing is true for financial aid. We have a commitment to provide financial aid in order to make it possible for everyone to attend, and we have a volunteer committee of the Board of Directors that carefully looks at the financial information that you provide through SSS in order to determine a fair amount of aid for each family. But the committee cannot do this unless you do your part, which is to file for financial aid on time.

If for some reason you cannot meet the deadline, please let us know what is happening and what

Deadline to apply for  
Financial Aid:  
March 1

# Parent Committee News

by Emily Galvin

Greetings Everyone! I'm sure you are all looking forward to vacation as much as I am! Before we "hang up our hats" for a little break from school, I would like to say hello and give you an update regarding Parent Committee activities!

We had many successful fundraising activities in the fall and would like to extend our sincerest thanks to all of your efforts and support, from the incredibly beneficial Ski and Skate Sale led by our fearless leader Kathy Robinson and her band of faithful assistants, to the absolutely stunning Holiday Catalog and the amazingly talented team needed to produce and manufacture such glorious treasures...thank you! Our Citrus Sale also was a successful endeavor, and each of these things benefits our Financial Aid Fund.

While it may appear that there is a bit of a lull between fundraising efforts, believe it or not, work is already underway in preparation for our annual Cabaret and Auction!

For the last two years there has been a class basket. However, this

year rather than having a basket for each class, there will be four themed baskets, one each for the Lower Building, the Upper Building, the Junior High and the High School.

The Cabaret and Auction will be held on Saturday, June 12th. Each year we try to improve upon or change things up a bit. We are currently looking for menu suggestions, so if you have any ideas, please feel free to share! We are also looking for any talented musicians that might like to entertain during the evening. Our goal for the auction portion this year is to offer as many unique services, handcrafted items, artwork, photography, etc. Please begin thinking about unique things you may be able to contribute. Every year each family is asked to provide an item for the auction. In the past families have donated yard work, a school cleaning, jewelry and more.

We'd like to make this the most exciting and interesting event yet! Watch for e-mailed messages about the Cabaret

and Auction. Please plan on coming and inviting friends and relatives. In the meantime, please continue to send in Box Tops for Education, as our numbers are steadily increasing. We are also working to recycle cell phones, so if you have any old ones floating around, please tidy those junk drawers and benefit a great effort in the meantime by sending in your old phones.

You'll find below a Parent Committee "Help Wanted" section, and we welcome any and all manner of assistance to accomplish Parent Committee tasks!

## Parent Committee Help Wanted:

- Collect Box Tops and old cell phones
- Menu suggestions for Cabaret and Auction
- Talented musicians to entertain at the Cabaret and Auction. (Let us know soon!)
- Begin thinking of ideas for auction items.
- Someone to organize the Citrus Sale next year – detailed instructions will be given.

## What Is Sant Bani Doing for Haiti?

For a number of years Sant Bani School has participated in activities designed to benefit Haiti. The most notable of these has been Partners in Health's Walk for Haiti.

When the cataclysmic earthquake occurred in January Sant Bani students were informed early about how they could help. The number one thing students

could do was to donate to the organization that already was on the ground with Haitians working, Partners in Health.

Teachers explained that if students could not donate, they could let others who could know about Partners in Health.

Staff organized a bake sale during the General Parent Meeting and Parent

Conferences. Seniors collaborated to hold a cake walk, as they have done earlier this year and in years past to raise money for their senior trip. This cake walk's earnings, however, will be sent to Partners in Health. So far the school has raised over \$1,050.

Staff is working to organize another fundraiser as well and will let families know the details soon.

## February Family Service Event

by Hillary Pincoske

Loon Mountain and CASA of New Hampshire are hosting their 10th Annual Snow Golf event on Friday, February 5th. The mission of CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates) is to advocate for abused and neglected children in New Hampshire. CASA is a non-profit group that recruits, trains and supervises its volunteers to advocate for children in the court system.

For the event the Blue Ox Trail at Loon Mountain is transformed into 18 holes of golf. For more information about sponsorship or participation in the event, contact Kathy Vachon at [kathy@casanh.org](mailto:kathy@casanh.org). If you would like to know more about what CASA does and other ways you can help, go to their web site at [casanh.org](http://casanh.org).

## Thank You for Plant Donations

If you donated plants to beautify the Sant Bani campus last fall, you can look around in the upcoming months to see your donation come to fruition--literally.

Your kind donation will bloom for students for many years to come and we thank you for taking the time and effort to get the plants you donated to school.

If you have non-invasive plants and would like to divide them, contact Dave Coulter or Todd Schongalla at school in the spring.

## Bring in Your Old Cell Phones to Earn Cash for Sant Bani

Sant Bani has been collecting cell phones to be redeemed for cash for schools. 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. Put the word out to coworkers and neighbors as well.

Hillary Pincoske had the third grade class create a thermometer gauge for everyone to see the collection progress. Please help the collection effort by sending in old cell phones!

## Don't Miss Grades 3-6 Performances February 17!

by Craig Jaster and Lorraine Jones

The third through sixth grades have music/movement/drama class twice a week, and during January and February classes are given over to preparing work for their annual performance, scheduled for Wednesday, February 17 at 7 p.m. They also will perform their program for the school on the following afternoon, Thursday, the 18th.

The third grade is working on creating an original movement piece using folding chairs as props. The finished piece will probably be set to music. The sixth grade has been working as a band since September, and they will be performing four pieces arranged especially for their instruments, which will include recorders (soprano, alto, tenor and bass), guitar, bass, drums, percussion, piano and violin.

Fifth graders are performing a play they've written themselves. The story takes place in an imaginary neighborhood with houses owned by Jack (of beanstalk fame), Snow White, Red Riding Hood and a mysterious family that lives in the really creepy house at the end of the street.

The fourth grade takes us to the Barbary Coast with a group of exciting songs about life on the high seas.

NOTE: On the night of the performance, performers need to arrive at school at 6:30 p.m. so they have time to warm up, go over notes, get into costumes, etc. Please be on time. Nothing makes a class more nervous than having someone not arrive until the last minute--they are already nervous and excited enough! Each class will be assigned a room on the main floor to go to.

*Continued from page 1*

Parent Meeting in which he thanked faculty and parents for welcoming him into the school. In particular he thanked Lorraine, who modeled for him every day in the classroom the values she wanted to communicate.

He explained that Jonathan Powell shared Sant Bani's Vision Plan with him and the challenge of transferring "Sant Bani" values to new faculty. Peter made the following observations as he completed his internship here.

God resides within each individual, a concept, Peter explained, "branches across humanity." He presented two quotations which express this, one by Sant Kirpal Singh, founder of Sant Bani, and one by Jane Goodall.

Peter doesn't feel school is a "one-way street" on which a teacher imparts knowledge and students listen passively. He saw that at Sant Bani teachers and students are mutually respected. The first-name basis gives value to the individual. Students reading in morning session shows how teachers value students. The Halloween skit made teachers more accessible to students. On the first day of Art, Lorraine has all students sign their names. Then she asks them which signature is right. They realize that all their signatures have value.

Peter noticed that the school values students' choices. This is exemplified in students choosing their own Art Blocks and worktime activities. Teachers, he found, also are given the choice to teach along their own lines of interest. Also, graduates' range of college choices reflects individuality.

Peter discussed the Mission

Statement's tenet of reverence for life. He believes that although a majority of students is not vegetarian, bringing out the idea of vegetarianism is a step toward reverence for life. Connecting to nature is another step in building reverence for life, Peter explained. He showed how nature promotes learning as he displayed slides of Camp Wilmot from September and the all-school mountain climb.

"Seeing what is around you builds reverence for life," Peter noted. In a trip he took with Robert students saw rocks as something the world is made of and that helped them build their reverence for life. Similarly, on a trip with Jon Engle and Beth to the vernal pool, the murky puddle did not seem impressive, but to the kids it was rich with intellectual exploration. They were curious and asked many questions.

Finally Peter discussed the Mission Statement tenet of service. He said that he constantly saw students doing service, such as helping others in class and knitting hats to prevent hypothermia in Rwandan babies. He saw that service becomes a way of life rather than just an act. It strengthens the community and school becomes not just about sports and academics. Service, he feels, broadens your world.

We would like to thank Peter for his service here. He received but also gave a lot; students won't soon forget his Art classes and soccer games. When many students study Edgar Allen Poe, they may well picture Peter Deminico.

## Assistant Coaches Needed for Spring Track and Field

Athletic Director Chris Demian is looking for two assistant coaches for the spring track and field season, one for the high school team and one for the middle school team. Head coaches are already in place; track and field experience is helpful, but not required.

If you are interested in being an assistant coach for either team, please call Chris at 934-4240 or e-mail him at [chris@santbani.org](mailto:chris@santbani.org).

## Bring a Friend Week February 15-19

From the 15th to the 19th of February, in an attempt to reach out to other students in our community, high school students are encouraged to invite their friends who do not attend Sant Bani to visit for a day.

Visitors will get a taste of the school and perhaps consider applying. Visitors should bring a vegetarian lunch. Stay tuned to hear more from your child.

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@yahoo.com](mailto:SantBaniSchool-subscribe@yahoo.com)**

# Student Journalism

Student reporters in the Be a School Journalist Art Block have been hard at work writing the news. Here are some of their stories on winter sports at Sant Bani.

## The Average Student's Favorite Winter Sport

by Luca Demian

Hockey and skiing are third grader Crosby Fay's favorite winter sports. He likes skiing because he likes going fast. He likes hockey because he likes getting goals.

Crosby also likes team sports. His favorite sport to watch is trick skiing. He likes it because they could die. He wants to be a professional skier. He got inspired by his mom.

Ninth grader Colby Clark's favorite winter sports are skiing and snowboarding. He likes team sports because he meets new people. He likes watching basketball. Colby wants to be a professional hockey player.

Sixth grader Louis Bernard's favorite winter sport is snowboarding because he never learned how to ski. He also likes team sports because you share wins and losses. He likes to watch snowboard racing. He likes playing basketball because it is a team sport. He wants to be a professional snowboarder because he likes it better than other sports. Louis's friends Alec and Chandler inspired him.

I thought more people would like basketball, skating and lugeing! I also learned that most people liked skiing.

## Winter Sports

by Liam Conkling and Louis Bernard

We went around looking for people to find out what winter sports people like and why they like them. We went to the Library to get some info. We wanted to get a good range of students, so we asked kids of different grades. We asked kids what winter sports they like and why they like them. We also asked what they like, individual or team sports, and many other cool winter sports questions.

Eleventh grader Dylan Dinger likes ice skating because it is cheap. He also enjoys skiing and likes to watch ski jumping in the Olympics.

Twelfth grader Emily Braconier

likes to ski and if she got to the Olympics she would want to bobsled because she wouldn't have to do any work.

Tenth grader Adison Lintner likes to ski because you go fast. If he could be in the Olympics he would want to downhill ski.

We asked random kids and found out a lot about what they like and why. We found out that kids like different sports and are very athletic.

This is what we think about the answers we got: We thought there would be more snowboarders, but since we asked random kids we guess we just asked kids who ski.

## Favorite Winter Sports at Sant Bani

by Caiden Gamble

Skating is Teagan's favorite winter sport. She likes team sports because they are social. She likes to watch skiing. She likes to skate and she wants to be a professional speed skater.

Ivy likes hockey and she likes

watching hockey. She wants to be a professional hockey player. Jon inspired her.

Liam likes skiing and he likes individual sports. He likes watching skiing on the half pipe.

# Sant Bani Then and Now: Projects Period

Reflections on Sant Bani School a Generation Later

by Jyoti Demian

Every day as a teacher at my alma mater, Sant Bani School, which I attended from kindergarten through grade twelve, my own memories of being a student here inevitably come up. This column is devoted to examining aspects of the Sant Bani School day as it was when I attended, from 1980 until 1993, and how it is now, as I teach here and my children attend.

...

The projects I completed for Projects Period as a Sant Bani student, were some of the most memorable independent learning experiences I had as a child and adolescent.

There was the birdhouse of second grade on which I painted, "Little birds only!" My dad showed me how to use a hand saw and my mom let me use oil paint (which took practically the entire week to dry).

In junior high I learned to sew clothing and follow a pattern. After one shirt I realized I didn't like following patterns, a good self-realization and moment of personal growth on one level; however, I also realized that without a pattern, even the most accurate estimating eye can be a little off; the two other shirts I made had sleeves that were too long.

In high school I most enjoyed the service projects I did: meal preparation, serving and cleaning at a soup kitchen in Concord and working at a nursing home also located in the capitol city.

At the soup kitchen I saw for the first time families who were not able to feed themselves. I was struck most by the children who came there with their parents and for whom this public eating place was a regular stop.

The nursing home opened my eyes to what it means to be elderly; I fed a man who, between spoonfuls, told me about life in Concord seventy years earlier. I saw a woman one day and the next day she had been moved to a higher-level nursing unit. Several days later she died.

The person I remember most is the one I met first and who greeted me as I came into the building each day: Opal. She was active and gregarious and told stories like Jessica Tandy's character in *Fried Green Tomatoes*.

This experience was enriching and helped me understand what to expect when my grandmother and later my grandfather entered skilled nursing facilities at the end of their lives. I learned what it was like to be around a very elderly person. In fact, I give this project a special place in my collection of formative experiences for how it helped me become comfortable around new people.

...

I think Projects Period today at Sant Bani is largely the same as it was when I attended. There have been some necessary details added to make the concept and process easier to plan and undertake, but the idea of this

week devoted to learning along your own lines of interest has retained its original intentions.

As a parent facilitator of the proposal and the projects of three children, the oldest of whom is in fifth grade, my role has been trying at times. The first few proposals for all kids took patience and lots of breaks, but over time projects have become much more the design of the child writer than the parent helper. Now I don't have to spell out every word a first-grader prints as his twin brother, who makes himself erase every lower-case *b* that should be a *d* throws his pencil across the room.

This year my kids had pretty good ideas of what they wanted to do, and before they wrote the first draft they outlined in their own way and wrote down all the questions they had and wanted to answer in the course of the project. They all did a lot of brainstorming about what they wanted to learn in the process and shared ideas of how they could present their findings to sharing groups. I think they will gain a lot and retain what they learn, like I did.

Unlike their mother, however, each of my kids is comfortable presenting in front of an audience of older students-- I'll never forget sharing my birdhouse in a group with some *high schoolers*. I remember explaining in the quietest voice how I sawed all the wood myself and looking down to see my foot shaking with nervousness.

# Bringing the World to Sant Bani

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

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

Why am I telling you all this? Let me get to the point. I started working for a non-profit educational exchange organization, Cultural Homestay

International, two years ago.

When I realized that we had students who were vegetarian, I really wanted to help find a place for them where their dietary choices would be accepted. Susan Dymont and the Admissions Committee were kind enough to accept two of these students to last year and two this year, Julios and Justine.

Now I'm starting the process all over again, calling around looking for homes for this year's crop of students. There will be more fantastic young men and women for the 2010-2011 school year. Not all of these students are vegetarians, and your family doesn't need to be vegetarian to host them, even if they are. Students arrive with spending money and insurance. What they need is room (they can share a room with a sibling of the same sex), board, and a family experience. Our organization is very particular about regular contact with the school, the families and the students. We

provide regular and consistent counseling should a problem arise.

Families are the cornerstone of our program and the reason that the program is as powerful as it is. We believe international exchange is a vehicle for peace. If your family of any size or constitution might consider hosting a student, please let me know. We are also looking for welcome families and temporary families to help out should a student need a home for the first few weeks or during a holiday if their permanent family is unable to take them for any reason. Call or e-mail me with any questions or concerns about hosting, and don't be too surprised if you get a call from me in the coming months!

Thanks again to the host families with whom I have worked. You have been terrific!

Sincerely,  
Blayne Matty  
207-752-2070  
culturalhomestay@hotmail.com

# Spread the Word about Sant Bani!

Even though it is winter, the Admissions Committee already is thinking about enrollment for next school year and we would like you to let others know about Sant Bani School and that we have openings.

You and your children are our

best ambassadors. Tell your neighbors and friends about us. "Talk up" Sant Bani at a sports game or community event, on the slopes, at the farmers market or on the beach. Let others know we are here and what a wonderful

school we are. Give them the school DVD (available for no charge in the front office and on the Sant Bani School website).

We are always happy to broaden our pool of applicants and ask you to help us do so.