



Sant Bani School Notes

Celebrating 36 years

April 2010

www.santbani.org

Calendar of Events

- 4/14 New Hampshire Humanities Council Presents "Rediscovering Afghanistan: Lessons from the Home" 7 p.m. Open to the public
- 4/15 Parent Conferences 5-8 p.m.--**school out at noon**
- 4/17 SBS Board of Trustees Meeting
- 4/19 Writers Festival
- 4/21 Parent Committee Meeting 5-8 p.m.
- 4/22 All-school all-day Earth Day event
- 4/22-4/24 High School Play
- 4/26-4/30 April vacation

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.

Alumnus Travis Filter Returns to Sant Bani for Environmental Education Internship

by Travis Filter

In June of 2007 I was fortunate to sit under the tent on the soccer field of Sant Bani School and graduate with sixteen other classmates. Starting off the ceremony, keynote speaker Ann Saunderson (head of the Art department) read a quote from Daniel Pink's *A Whole New Mind*, which said:

The last few decades have belonged to a certain kind of person with a certain kind of mind--computer programmers who could crank code, lawyers who could craft contracts, MBAs who could crunch numbers. But the keys to the kingdom are changing hands. The future belongs to a very different kind of person with a very different kind of mind-- creators and empathizers, pattern recognizers, and meaning makers. These people--artists, inventors, designers, storytellers,

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Save the Date: May 12 General Parent Meeting to Present Kevin Leville from Eat Right America

We are happy that Kevin Leville, CEO of Eat Right America (www.eatrightamerica.com), will be joining us again this year. Kevin was the keynote speaker at last spring's Health Education Day, "Feed Your Mind, Body and Soul," and provided students and staff with lots of great information about healthy diet choices. Following that, parents expressed interest in having Kevin come back to talk to the broader school community. We are hoping that co-director David Werthheimer, M.D., will be joining Kevin as well.

The ERA team will speak to students and staff during the day (Wednesday, May 12th), and then offer a presentation for parents in the evening. We will be opening the evening program up to the general public. Please stay tuned for details about this exciting event.

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Parent Committee News

Happy Spring! There are most certainly signs "springing" up all over the place, right down to those darling little crocuses blooming! Early spring is also the time to start really getting to work on our annual Auction & Cabaret event! Yet again, we're asking for everyone to participate, and hope to make this year better than ever!

We change and tweak things a bit each year, and we've seen tremendous growth and recognition both within and outside our immediate community regarding this fabulous event. This year we encourage you more than ever to share our beautiful school with your friends and family members, and invite them to join in the fun on Saturday, June 12th! We're moving the time up a little earlier this year so that younger children won't be quite so tired at the end. But you'll still be able to enjoy a delicious dinner and dessert, tap your toes to some great music, and witness some lively auction action!

Please see the insert in this newsletter regarding procurement of items for the event. Each year we have had each class choose a theme and collect items for baskets for the auction. This year, however, kindergarten through second grade will be creating a special item or two, and we will have three themed baskets, one for third through fifth grades, one for sixth through eighth grades and one for high school. The kids will vote on the theme but will be asked to contribute a small fee to put towards the basket this year. In the past, it's been difficult to showcase the kids' wonderful donations, so we're going to change things up a bit this year. We'll send something home with further details very soon.

It's also time to clean out those closets! Our annual Yard Sale is coming up on Saturday, May 22nd. It will be held under the tent in front of the Unitarian Universalist Church in downtown Franklin. You may drop off your items on Friday afternoon (the

21st), between 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. Please be sure your items are clean and useful. No electronics or computers please. If you have questions, you may contact Karen Krahn-Burke. *Please do not put any items for the Yard Sale in the Shipping Shack!*

Also, please continue saving your Box Tops for Education, and if you have any empty printer ink cartridges or unused cell phones, please save those as well! Thank you for saving these items, as every little bit helps.

We hope you were able to join us for our Coffee House and Family Game Night on Saturday, March 27th. I'm writing this before we gather, but I'm sure we had a great time! If you weren't able to make it but would be interested in another night, please let us know...we're hoping to make this a more regular event! Enjoy the sunshine and warmer weather, everyone! Please join us on Wednesday, April 21st from 6:00-8:00 p.m. for our next meeting. All are welcome!

The Parent Committee

Marc Gonzalez Accepted to Breadloaf

Junior Marc Gonzalez was accepted to the New England Young Writer's Conference held at Middlebury College's Breadloaf campus. In its 26th year, this conference brings together young writers and teachers from across New England and New York to

partake in poetry, fiction and creative non-fiction workshops of ten to twelve students per workshop. Over a four-day period students meet individually with workshop leaders, share their own works, hear readings from noted writers, and attend social events.

Driving alert! SBS athletes on Osgood Road after school

Numerous athletes run on Osgood Road after school. The speed limit on this road changes to **25 miles per hour** one mile before the school. PLEASE be extra cautious when driving on Osgood Road on your way to or from school.

College Acceptances

College acceptance letters are rolling in for the Class of 2010! So far, seniors have been accepted at the following colleges and universities:

Bates College

Bentley University

Boston University

College of the Holy Cross

Cornell College

Hofstra University

Keene State College

Loyola Marymount University

New England Institute of Art

Ohio Wesleyan University

Sterling College

St. John's University

Suffolk University

Unity College

University of Charleston

University of Michigan

University of New Hampshire

University of Puget Sound

University of Vermont

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Congratulations, seniors, and good luck with your decisions!

Buy Fudge for Mother's Day and Benefit Sant Bani

If you're looking for a wonderful Mother's Day gift that will also benefit the Sant Bani School scholarship fund, just visit the Parent Committee Fundraiser page on the school website. The Mill Fudge Factory has a partnership with Sant Bani through which the school receives 25% of all fudge orders made using the link on the school website.

The Mill Fudge Factory is owned and operated by a family in Bristol, N.H., just twenty minutes from school. Each batch of fudge is made the old-fashioned way, without any preservatives, artificial flavors or colors. They use only the finest ingredients, such as real maple syrup, Belgian dark chocolate, natural peanut butter and pure flavor extracts. You also receive free shipping on orders of two or more pounds mailed within New England or four or more pounds mailed within the United States. Shipping is done via Priority mail and if you are giving fudge as a gift, you can also include a free personal note.

Please note that you must use the link to The Mill Fudge Factory on the school web page for the school to be credited with your purchase. To access the link, go to www.santbani.org and click on the "Community" tab. Click on "Parent Committee Fundraising" and then on "The Mill Fudge Factory." Order fudge using the store link found on that page. The Mill Fudge Factory will be a year-round fundraiser on the Sant Bani School website.

Spring Family Service Opportunity

by Hillary Pincoske

Many of us enjoy spending time outside, especially now that the weather is getting warm. The New Hampshire Audubon Society is looking for people interested in removing debris and trash along their nature trails. Your family could "adopt a trail" and walk it monthly to make sure everything is clean and safe. If there is large debris, they just ask you to report it so they can then remove it safely. If your family is interested in helping you could go to www.nhauudubon.org and contact Tricia Casey.

Parent Committee Hosts First Coffeehouse and Family Game Night

On Saturday, March 27, many Sant Bani families had the chance to meet and reunite with each other at the Parent Committee's first-ever Coffeehouse and Family Game Night.

Children and adults alike discovered new games. Many parents learned games from their children's schoolmates, while some parents taught each other new games to enjoy at home. Treats abounded and there was plenty of coffee (and hot chocolate and cider). A big thanks to the Parent Committee for hosting such a fun event.

Upcoming Events

Spring Ahead! Open Gardening Hours Resume

by Susan Dymant

Everyone is invited to participate in our schoolyard garden. This spring students and families will have the opportunity to work alongside two newly certified master gardeners. Travis Filter, (SBS '07, Lesley College '11), and long-time staff member Susan Dymant will complete the NH Cooperative Extension Service's Master Gardener course in May. Families are invited to learn and contribute by working alongside these experienced gardeners growing food and developing skills at the same time.

The garden's goals were outlined last fall. "A garden on the school grounds will further Sant Bani's mission by helping students and their families to view themselves as unique members of a larger social unit; to see their food as part of an interconnected network; to learn gardening techniques; and to gain an understanding of the value of physical outdoor work."

Open gardening hours will be held every Friday from 3:30-5:30 beginning April 2. The site is on the north side of Ashram Road between the road and the Upper Building. Extended or weekend hours can be arranged by

contacting Travis Filter at travis@santbani.org.

Following on the success of the first garlic planting by Todd Schongalla's Environmental Studies class, Jen Schongalla and her foreign language students doubled the planting last October and are now looking forward to harvesting one thousand garlic scapes in mid-June and mature bulbs in late July. A kale planting is developing adjacent to the garlic site. Kale ranks at the top of Eat Right America's list of nutrient-dense foods. It is a hardy crop well suited to this area. Lettuce will be planted in the early spring as a service project to enhance the salads served at Sant Bani Ashram's summer meditation retreats. Carrots and butternut squash for a fall harvest will be planted later in the spring.

Sustainability and gardening are part of the vision for the future of Sant Bani. There are many possibilities; your energy, interest and input will help direct us as we move toward a more self-sufficient future. The vision is here and all are welcome to be part of it.

High School Play April 22, 23, 24

This April's High School play production will be three one-act comedies by Anton Chekhov. Though best known for sensitive and subtle dramas like *The Three Sisters* and *The Seagull*, Chekhov's early short stories and one-act plays are pure comedy, with boldly drawn, hilariously flawed characters.

In *Two Fools Who Gain A Measure of Wisdom*, a pair of newlyweds (Caleb Jaster and Emily Monfet) visit a rich aunt, (Jenn Hammel), whose flagrant disregard for convention brings shame and embarrassment, but in the end also brings the couple closer together.

In *The Festivities* (which director Craig Jaster likens to the hit t.v. series *The Office*), a bank branch manager (Andrés Orr) is driven to distraction on the day of the bank's fifteenth anniversary by his volatile employee (Adison Lintner), gabby trophy wife (Deanna MacNaughton) and a not-too-bright but incredibly persistent woman (Lydia Walker).

The Bear is an absolute classic—a battle of the sexes in which a retired army officer (Marc Gonzalez) meets his match—to put it mildly—in a petite widow (Justine Borceux).

The plays are suitable for all ages, but there is some mild swearing in two of them. Performances are Thursday, April 22, Friday, April 23 & Saturday, April 24 at 7 pm. Admission is \$5 (\$2 for students and elders). Reservations may be made in advance by calling the school.

Auction and Cabaret Fast Approaching

electronics, concert tickets, international items, heating oil, firewood, wood pellets, gas cards, golf packages, spa or massage packages, appraised antiques.

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/tanning salons, health food stores and athletic clubs.

CRAFTS: jewelry, pottery, quilts, knit or crocheted items, paintings, prints, photography, rugs...get creative!

SERVICES: lawn mowing, wood stacking, painting a room, painting a house, planting a vegetable garden, spring cleaning (indoors or out), renting out vacation homes, petsitting, school cleaning, baking, running errands...etc.

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 either Cass Walker or Brenda Schechter

There will be a simultaneous silent and on-line auction as well as a live portion that night. A BIG THANK YOU to the donor for linking their site to our auction site. Remember that online services such as facebook, twitter, and e-mail are great and simple ways to let your friends know about this wonderful event! Please invite them to join us on June 12th! Thank you so much for your support!

From the Parent Committee:
Get ready, get set, go! The countdown 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 our fourth annual Sant Bani Auction & Cabaret on Saturday, June 12th.

This event is so important to the Sant Bani School. It provides us with a wonderful opportunity as part of the SBS community to once again raise awareness in our local communities regarding the excellence we witness each day at Sant Bani. At the same time this event raises critical funds that help support all of the wonderful things that our children experience as part of our school.

We are again asking for 100% involvement of the Sant Bani community to help make this event a great success. Thanks to your generous support, we were able to raise over \$9,000 last year!

This year our goal is to raise \$15,000. If each family and teacher contributes a minimum of one item we will have over 150 items! We are looking for donations both big and small. Whether you have a talent or service you can share with us, or if you would like to go out and ask businesses you frequent for donations of items or gift certificates, the possibilities are endless! Here are some ideas:
BIG TICKET ITEMS: canoes, kayaks, sporting goods, ski packages, vacation condos, adventure trips, boat trips, bed & breakfast stays, sports tickets, televisions and

Student Projects Showcased at Sanbornton Public Library

After the Projects Display and Parent Cafe in March, many students opted to let their projects from Projects Period intrigue a broader audience by becoming part of a Sant Bani projects display at Sanbornton Public Library.

Librarian Cab Vinton remarked that he was pleased that the library's upstairs is being used to showcase the work of Sanbornton students. The public was invited to view the Sant Bani School projects and the school appreciated this chance to present a unique part of its program.

Drivers: Please Use Correct Exit at Middle Building

When leaving the middle building at any time, please use the exit near Schongalla's/ student parking lot.

The entry driveway is an exit *only* for buses and delivery vehicles.

People who use the wrong exit have caused traffic problems for the large vehicles that can only enter and exit through that entrance. Misuse of that entrance also causes sight problems for students and others who need to cross the road.

Help beautify the
Sant Bani School
campus
by donating
flowers and plants

In an effort to update existing gardens at all buildings, we are seeking plants that flower during spring and fall (when school is in session). Do you have non-invasive plants to donate? If you do, please speak with Dave Coulter or Todd Schongalla.

Shaw's gift cards work like cash and benefit
Sant Bani School!

Next time you buy groceries at Shaw's supermarket, consider paying with a Shaw's Gift Card. **Shaw's gives 5% of your total purchase to Sant Bani School**, which can add up to a lot over time. Gift cards are sold in \$50 increments. For more information or to make special arrangements for purchasing or picking up your Shaw's Gift Cards, contact
Roxanne at the front desk or
Roxanne@santbani.org.

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caregivers, consolers, big picture thinkers--will now reap society's richest rewards and share its greatest joys.

It is true that the leaders of the future will have to be able to look to the future, reflect on the past but they also will draw their skills and understanding from diverse pools of information and reasoning. Diversity and reasoning skills are an important part of what goes on at Sant Bani School. For me this quote by Daniel Pink holds true to my studies of the environment, and these skills can prepare future leaders to have an understanding of the land they live on and their ecological responsibility in the world. Today I find myself back at the school enjoying our campus more than ever and being an intern in environmental education.

While I know many of you from interactions at school over the years, it may be helpful to know where I come from. I have lived in Sanbornton for nine years and was first introduced to the school in 1996 when my mother, Janice Filter, and I came to a spiritual retreat at Sant Bani Ashram and met many students and teachers. The next fall I started third grade with now-retired teacher Don Turnage. The rest of the story is predictable and similar to many who have had the grace to graduate from the school. I went to college at Green Mountain College in Vermont and became very interested in sustainable agriculture. As a freshman I wanted to be an organizer and a mover in the environmental world.

While being active in the farm crew at Green Mountain I heard about a two-year environmental studies program based on travel, ecology, environment and community learning. In my sophomore year I began studying with the Audubon Expedition Institute, a collaboration with Lesley University, and read *Our Classroom Is Wild America* by Michael J. Cohen and started learning from many of our country's national parks and some of the most pertinent environmental issues at hand. I gained numerous leadership skills that I find myself applying every day.

As I enter my internship with the school I find myself rekindling relationships, being bold with my leadership and using my skills to open the doors of sustainability for our future leaders. Sustainability and gardening are an important part of the future for the school and this semester I hope to enhance some of the environmental education opportunities on campus, as well as develop new ones. I'll be working with several staff members to student teach in their classes. I'm also partnering with and supporting the Earth Support Group as students become interested in managing the greenhouse.

All are welcome to join me as the vision for sustainability is further developing and as temperatures warm up. The time is here. A part of my internship is to develop our school garden (just below the Upper Building) into a valuable educational resource. In many ways it fits with the school's mission, as it is a great service learning

opportunity. All are welcome to join me and staff member Susan Dymont during volunteer garden hours on Fridays from 3:30-5:30 beginning April 2. Also, any questions or inquiries can be sent to me directly at travis@santbani.org.

Holiday Catalogue Has Leftover Items

Catalog Leftovers!! We have some items from the 2009 Holiday Catalog that are still available.

We have the Sant Bani water bottles (blue and silver) and the Sant Bani pajama pants (adult S, M, L, XL and Youth M (10-12)--perfect for track season!

We also have Northwood Naturals Deet-Free Bug Juice--think of those pesky black flies on the track!

And to pamper yourself, we still have Northwood Naturals Tub Teas (Rosemary Lavendar and NE Shores).

For your heart health, we even have Ambassador Organics Dynamic Organic Extra Virgin Olive Oil (6.8 fl oz).

Please contact Jo Elliott for more details and to make your purchase.