



Sant Bani School Notes

Celebrating 36 years

May 2010

www.santbani.org

Calendar of Events

- 5/3 School back in session
- 5/3 Art Reception with Ann Saunderson 5-7 p.m.
- 5/12 General Parent Meeting with Eat Right America presentation
- 5/13 High School Open House 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- 5/16 Music Recital 2 p.m.
- 5/20 Lower Building Museum and High School Art Opening
- 5/21 Chamber Music Series 6 p.m.
- 5/31 Memorial Day--
No school

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 Allen Taylor Shares Post-Sant Bani Adventures at Morning Session

On Friday, April 16, alumnus Allen Taylor, SBS class of 2005 and UVM class of 2009, presented one version of what is next after graduation from Sant Bani School. After completing an internship in forestry, Allen headed to northern India and Indian Kashmir for two and a half months with some friends to explore the Himalayas, the highest mountains in the world, and find what they have to offer for backcountry skiing.

Allen played a short video of skiers in that region soaring down mountains and rooftops and then showed with maps where he skied and travelled. He explained the history and tensions of the region, dating back to the partition between India and Pakistan. He spent much of his time in Hindu or Indian Kashmir at the only really big ski resort in India. Indians come there to escape the heat and often stay in houseboat hotels, which Allen showed. He explained the common sight of Indian military personnel bringing explosives to the resort's ski patrol to trigger avalanches when no one is skiing.

When he was backcountry skiing he went down mountains of
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Chamber Music Series to Present the St. Petersburg Quartet May 21

On May 21 the Sant Bani Chamber Music Series will present the last concert of the year: the St. Petersburg Quartet.

One of the world's leading string quartets, the St. Petersburg was founded in 1985 by graduates of the Leningrad Conservatory in Russia and went on to win numerous international chamber music competitions. The quartet has built a reputation of worldwide proportions, including a Grammy nomination and several "Best Record" honors. It was Quartet-in-Residence at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music from 1999 to 2003.

Audiences from Toronto to Tokyo, from Lithuania to London and in concert halls across the United States give the St. Petersburg Quartet standing ovations.

The school is pleased to be able to host two area schools, the Shaker Road School and Andover Elementary School, at one in-school performance only for grades seven and eight.

In the evening, the reception begins at 6 p.m., followed by the concert at 7 p.m. Adult tickets \$15; children free.

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April Brings Choices for Sant Bani Seniors

April brings more than showers for the Sant Bani Senior class: It brings big decisions. Continuing with Sant Bani's one hundred percent college acceptance rate, the Class of 2010 has a wide array of choices. The eleven students have to choose from over thirty colleges. Some are East Coast schools; others are on the Pacific Ocean; some are in between. North, South, large and small, from LA to the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, art schools, polytechnic institutes--this class hasn't gone for uniformity. These are the upcoming choices: Bates College, Bentley University, Boston University, Colby Sawyer College, College of the Holy Cross, Cornell College, Facultes Universitaires Notre-Dame de la Paix, Emerson College, Hofstra University, Keene State College, Loyola Marymount University, New England Institute of Art,

Ohio Wesleyan University, Savannah College of Art and Design, Sterling College, St. John's University, Suffolk University, Unity College, University of Central Florida, University of Charleston, University of Michigan, University of New Hampshire, University of Puget Sound, University of Vermont, Uppsala Universitete, Wheaton College, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Guidance counselor Susan Dymant says she isn't surprised. "The school supports individual differences and helps students develop their unique talents. This, together with a strong academic base and the value placed on service, makes my job easy. By the time they are seniors, these students have a strong sense of who they are and the skills to get where they want to go." Susan went on to point

out that even though Sant Bani begins at kindergarten for many, students can join at any point where there are openings. "It looks like our lower school will be full in September but there is still room in the high school for new applicants." She urged interested families to visit soon and announced that there will be a high school open house on May 13, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. "Three quarters of our students get financial aid, so concern about paying tuition shouldn't stand in the way of applying."

May 1 is around the corner; that's the date when seniors have to make their choices. We expect a lot of sunny faces come May when the visits are complete and the decisions are finally made. Congratulations, seniors, and good luck with your choices!

Save the Date: The Sant Bani School Spring Recital for all music and voice students is Sunday, May 16, at 2 p.m. All are invited.

Driving alert! SBS athletes on 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.

Seventh Graders Shine in Shakespearean Skits

In early April the sixth grade heard a knock at the door during Language Arts class; it was their English teacher for next year, Karen Bicknell, inviting them to be the audience of scenes from all five acts of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* that the seventh grade had prepared and rehearsed.

Eager to see where they will be next year in their learning, and curious about the performances, sixth graders filed into the Studio to watch the scenes performed on stage.

Most seventh graders performed two to three separate roles per scene, switching seamlessly from one role to another. Many had memorized lines and students' practice was evident. They took their performance seriously and put their own new characterization into tragic figures that have been presented on stage for centuries.

Marshall Bordeau did a fine job in the performance of Juliet's nurse, who has to be both serious and comical. Peter Duff added song to his performance of Mercutio, the highly witty and wordy friend of Romeo, and Stefanie Schechter danced her way through the masque scene, in which Romeo first sees Juliet and falls in love.

Bravo to the seventh grade for their work on blocking and acting out scenes into which they put their own ideas to create unique and new presentations of this tragedy.

Students and Teachers Celebrate Writing at 22nd Annual Writers Festival

After weeks of story preparation in Language Arts classes involving writing instruction, planning, revision, editing, sharing, illustrating and drafts upon drafts, students in grades one through six were proud of the final products they presented to small groups at Sant Bani's 22nd annual Writers Festival.

Stories that students write and illustrate for the festival are highly polished pieces that are published with book cover designs, author's notes and sometimes dedications. Children read and discussed their stories with mixed-age groups during two separate sharing sessions.

In addition to these sessions,

students were lucky to meet a New Hampshire author, Marie Harris, author of *Give for Granite*, in one session for grades one through three and another for grades four through six.

Fifteen writing-based workshops led by Sant Bani teachers, parents and guest instructors, including past Sant Bani teachers Heidi Freeman, Kari Allen and Arlene Taranow, were offered as well. Students each chose two workshops to attend during the festival, ranging from stone-writing to nature journaling to sonnet composition.

Thank you from all involved to second grade teacher Carol Dulac, who took over Writers Festival orchestration this year.

Shaw's gift cards work like
cash and benefit SBS!

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.

Upcoming Events

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 Eat Right America 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.

Auction and Cabaret Set for Saturday, June 12--What Will Your Family Contribute?

The Parent Committee is hosting its fourth annual Sant Bani Auction and Cabaret Saturday, June 12th.

This important fundraiser depends on involvement of 100% of Sant Bani families.

This year's goal is to raise \$15,000, and to do this the Parent Committee needs every family to contribute a minimum of one item or service for the auction. Whether you have a talent or service you can provide, or if you would like to go out and ask businesses for donations of items or gift certificates, the possibilities of donations are numerous. Here are some ideas:

BIG TICKET ITEMS: canoe, kayak, sporting goods, ski packages, vacation condos, boat trips, bed and breakfast stays, sports tickets, electronics, concert tickets, international items, heating oil, firewood, wood pellets, gas

cards, golf packages, spa or massage packages, appraised antiques.

GIFT CERTIFICATES for 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, 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, pet

sitting, school cleaning, baking, running errands.

The Parent Committee has a list of all previous donors and over 150 more potential donors grouped by town to make soliciting easy. Contact Cass Walker

Brenda Schechter

There will be a simultaneous silent and on-line auction as well as a live portion the night of the event. Look for more details with the link to give family and friends so they can preview items.

The auction solicitation form was enclosed with the April school newsletter. This easy form with all items/services donated gives the Parent Committee the information it needs to place items on the auction site and thank the donor by linking its site to the auction site.

Student-led High School Open House Scheduled for Grades 9-12

Sant Bani School will be holding an informational High School Admissions Open House on Thursday, May 13 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. If you know anyone who has ever considered an independent education for their children, an open house is a great way to explore what Sant Bani School has to offer. Come hear what current students and faculty have to say about the school.

Sant Bani is a fully accredited day school offering a college-bound curriculum within a warm and welcoming community. Since 1973 the school has educated students from central New Hampshire in the classroom, on the playing field, on stage, in the studio, and through service projects around the Lakes Region. A generous scholarship program means the school is affordable to all families, ensuring a diverse student body. International students housed with local families add much to the mix. With support from our college counseling program, all Sant Bani graduates are accepted to colleges of their choice.

For information about the upcoming Open House call (603) 934-4240 or visit the school's website at www.santbani.org.

Students Compete in State Geography Bee

Sant Bani School recently competed in the State Geography Bee at Keene State College. Eighth grade student, Javin de Mello-Folsom of Sanbornton won the School Geography Bee and then took the written test, scoring very well and qualifying to participate in the State Bee at Keene State College. De Mello-Folsom went behind closed doors with fourteen others for the preliminary competition at the State Bee. Ten students qualified to participate in the final competition. Although de Mello-Folsom did not make it into the top ten, being invited to participate in the state bee was a big accomplishment for this eighth grader and he said, "It was a great experience--it was super fun!"

Prior to winning the school-wide Bee, students in grades four through eight at Sant Bani participated in class bees during their Social Studies classes last November. The all-school Final Competition took place in January. Ten students competed in the Final Competition: Conor Conkling

and Katherine Sweeney for the fourth grade, Brennan Macaig and Gretchen Dancewicz-Helmert for the fifth grade, Louis Bernard and Olivia Palmiter for the sixth grade, Peter Duff and Colin Tripp for the seventh grade and Javin de Mello-Folsom and Brooke Bannister for the eighth grade. After Macaig was determined as the third place winner, we held the Championship Round with Bernard and de Mello-Folsom. Bernard, of Sanbornton, came in second place and de Mello-Folsom came in first. Sample questions included, "What is the term used for regions of reduced precipitation that occur on the downwind side of mountain ranges?" (Answer rain shadow), "Which Mediterranean country, located at the southern end of the Balkan Peninsula, is Europe's largest exporter of cotton?" (Answer Greece), and "The Garden Ring, with its eight lanes of traffic, crosses Gorky Park in which European capital city?" All of the questions were tough. Congratulations to all the contestants!!

Your Chance to Learn from Certified Master Gardeners: Every Friday from 3:30 to 5:30

by Susan Dymont

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 Dymont 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.

New Direct Link to Fudge Fundraiser to Benefit Scholarship Fund

The Mill Fudge Factory in Bristol has now provided Sant Bani with a direct link to their fudge page. The link found on our school web page under "fundraisers" can still be used as well. This partnership with The Mill Fudge Factory provides on-going support to the school's Scholarship Fund.

Click on the link www.themillfudgefactory.com/santbani.aspx,

place your order and the Scholarship Fund will receive 25% of your order (not including shipping). This fundraiser will operate year round, but for Mother's Day you can include a "mother-themed" quote that you choose at checkout and your own personal message. Be sure to order by May 3rd to guarantee arrival by Mother's Day. You can

order ahead of time as long as you specify when you order an "arrive by" date so the fudge arrives fresh just before Mother's Day. There is free shipping on two pounds or more within New England and four pounds or more nationwide.

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

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.

Continued from page 1.

up to 17,000 feet and came near the DMT fence, a ten-kilometer zone near the border of India and Pakistan that helps keep tensions down between the two countries. Electric power at the ski resort was inconsistent and there were other mountains he wanted to ski without chairlifts, so Allen travelled up winding mountain roads by motorcycle with skis on his back. Other desired locations demanded a six-to-seven-thousand-foot climb, starting at two o'clock in the morning with spiked boots. Sometimes he had to camp in the mountains, which allowed him to see sunrises he called "unbelievable."

In addition to many photos of his skiing experiences in the

Himalayas, Allen showed images of the different cultures he encountered in this part of the world. Some were of a people believed to be descendents of Alexander the Great's army, who would not touch Westerners because they believed them to be unclean.

A high-altitude trip like this could not have been taken easily without training and preparation. Allen explained how acclimatization happens to the human body and how it worked for him. He said he felt out of shape for the first few days, but that his body adjusted. He has a lot of experience backcountry skiing in the northeast and prepared here. He is glad he did and said he saw some climbers in the Himalayas who did not seem to

know what they were doing.

At the end of his presentation Allen told students and staff that the three parts of his trip in which he had the most fun were first skiing, then experiencing the various cultures he came across, and finally learning how to work with photos and video—he said he was really glad that he brought his camera. The morning session audience was glad as well, since viewing Allen's photos as he discussed his trip brought us closer to what he experienced. Many students and some teachers were inspired to go adventuring like he did, and like so many other Sant Bani seniors have, after they step out of the white graduation tent as new alumni.

Sixth Graders Reflect on Learning at Student-led Conferences

Throughout the first semester and quarter three, teachers of sixth graders accumulated student work to include in portfolios that represented each student's learning. Teachers not only chose students' best work, but also projects, daily work and essays that represented areas where the student could grow and focus learning.

The goal of the student-led conference on April 15 was for attention to be on the student and her or his self-reflection on learning this year. Students, not teachers, reported to parents. Students were pushed to show where they are in their learning and where they would like to be in seventh grade.

The conferences took place in the Middle Building's Coliseum

in the junior high wing. Tables and chairs were set up for each child to sit with a parent or parents and share the portfolios for each course this year, including Math, Science, Health Education, Language Arts and Geography. Two science experiments were set up in the hallway for students to demonstrate.

Each student prepared a script for every class that they could follow as they took parents through the journey of sixth grade. In addition to presenting their work and learning, students collaborated with parents to develop goals they would like to meet for the rest of this year and into junior high. Goals differed for every individual and ranged from

rereading assignments before handing them in to becoming better at following directions to getting more adept at organization using their Master Notebooks.

While students conferenced with parents, all sixth grade teachers also were present in the room, circulating, listening and taking in the fascinating process of a student becoming accountable for her or his own learning and being able to reflect on that with parents and teachers.

Many sixth graders were visibly nervous going into their presentations, but in the end each did a superb job that amazed both parents and teachers.