

† St. Bernard's School
School Office 553-4993
3604 No. 65th Street



Volume 1, Issue 3
Summer Issue 2002

ALUMNI

For Generations to Come

The Tiger's Roar

The Newsletter for Alumni and Friends of Saint Bernard's Parish and School

Congratulations to St. Bernard's 2002 Graduates!

Saint Bernard's graduated thirty-five students in May. They are our newest addition to the Alumni Association of Saint Bernard's Grade School.

We also send congratulations and thanks to the parents of these students. Their understanding of the commitment to Catholic education is an integral part of their children's success.

* Children of St. Bernard's Alumni

Kimberly Rae Adkins
Richelle Lynne Anderson
Paul Huston Banark
Courtney Shane Barber
Rebecca Jo Cumberland-Markey
Kara Marie Dickey
Krista Margaret Dickey
Ashley Anne Lynn Doan
Kimberly Ann Dunn
James Everett Goodroad *
(son of Tim Goodroad 1976)
Scott Dean Gordon
Mary Marcella Gregory
Marissa Lee Halterman
Marcy Rae Huntimer

Danielle Christine Jareske
Katie Lee Kafka *
(daughter of Karen Lee, 1976)
Daniel Jacob Kempkes
Kyle Thomas Klabunde
Sean David Leahy
Jeffrey James Magnuson
Jacob Paul Marquiss
Ashley Nicole Metzler
Meghan Marie Nelson
Mark Christopher Palacio
Aaron Rolf Peterson
Marissa Ann Queen *
(daughter of Mary Alice Mikkelson Queen, 1966)
Scott Michael Ray
Christopher Michael Reber
Carley Jo Rief
Jake Alan Ryan
Ashley Marie Scott
Brian Mathew Smith
Rachel May Utecht *
(daughter of Kathy Avino 1978)
Elizabeth Ann Von Dollen
Daniel Joseph Yribar

From the Principal : Jim Palmer

It's unbelievable how fast another school year has slipped by us. This year ended with the typical flurry of activity and we are busy planning for next year. Several groups of students made their annual field trip to the Henry Doorly Zoo as well as trips to the SAC Museum and points all over the area within a hundred mile radius of Omaha. The students are always anxious for the summer. They don't realize the teachers are just as anxious! It's also hard to believe that the staff will start returning in just five short weeks, with school starting in just eight weeks (those weeks will go very fast!). We will have a few staffing changes for next

year. Several teachers are leaving us. Three of our teachers decided to stay home with their children and three others moved to other teaching jobs. We have hired some new teachers. We are very fortunate to have a new teacher who just finished college but has spent many years at St. Bernard's. Kristen Lebeda will be our new third grade teacher. Kristen and her family have a long history here at St. Bernard's. She is a welcome addition to our staff. We also extend a warm welcome to our new technology teacher, Mrs. Rita McKinney. It is with mixed emotions that I announce that I will be leaving St. Bernard's. I

have accepted a position in Colorado that will help our family achieve our long-term goals. We have accomplished many things in the last three years at St. Bernard's. There will be challenges for the new principal down the road. I know we are stronger today than yesterday and tomorrow will continue to bring added strength. I leave knowing that we have been successful in affecting positive change and a renewed pride in our school. I want to thank everyone who has helped us take forward strides over the past three years. I will miss the St. Bernard's community!

Alumni Reunion Information

As this newsletter goes to press, the class of 1972 is holding a 30 year reunion and the class of 1977 is holding a 25 year reunion. They have sent alumni information to the development office, and it is greatly appreciated. We have also received information on alumni from the classes of 1952 and 1940. As of this mailing, we have over 1300 alumni in our data base. Special thanks goes out to Russ Leger for sending programs from the 1967 and 1968 St. Bernard's Men's Club Athletic Club Banquets. The information in them is great, and all of the names are recognizable. Some of these nostalgic bits and pieces are in this newsletter. Thanks to everyone who has provided names and addresses of alumni. We still have a long way to go, but with this 3rd issue of the newsletter, we are well on the way. Happy summer!



1967-68 Athletic Club officers

Back row: Carroll Jones, Bill Dowd
Front row: Dan Simon, Joe Gasnick
Not pictured: Tom O'Doherty
(Remember when the coaches wore suits?)

Attention Former Athletic Club Members

Were you a member of the Athletic Club? An athlete? A coach? Were your parents members and/or were they coaches? Do you remember the incredible sporting rivalries between Saint Bernard's and other schools? We are trying to assemble a list of all club members. A possible reunion may be in the works. Please contact the development office if you have names of former students who were involved in the athletic programs here.

If we have made any errors in the spelling of names in this issue, we apologize. Please let us know and we will make corrections.

From the Pastor:

Time passes, day by day, whether we like it or not: God is our Creator, and is always in charge, whether we know it or not. God is good.

Several days ago, shortly after I got out of bed, I looked in the mirror and asked God: "What do you want me to do today?" After a long pause, God responded: "Brush your teeth". I immediately brushed my teeth. I then dared once again to ask God: "Now what do you want me to do today?", and God replied: "It would be good if you put on some clothes."

God lives only in the present moment. I believe He asks us to do the same, and to not plan too far ahead. I believe He asks us to do our best with all He has given each of us, knowing we each play an important part in the whole picture, which only He knows.

Each of us in the Saint Bernard's family is important in God's picture. My prayer is that each of us will share our gifts the best we can for the good of His picture.

Rev. Jerome Spenner

From the Development Director: Beth Klug

The long hot days of summer have descended upon us here in the Midwest. Summer brings the sound of the crack of the bats at the College World Series and all over ball fields in Omaha. Do you remember playing ball in your own neighborhood? Swinging at that pitch, hearing it meet the bat just right, running like heck, and hoping you don't hear the sound of shattering glass if the ball goes into the neighbor lady's living room window. Ahhhh, ya gotta love summer!

In the background of all this summer fun is the constant drone of air conditioners that never seem to get a break. We have that here at the school too. I don't mean central air; Whew, no way, are you kidding? I'm talking about window air conditioners. Usually they work pretty well, except for the occasional fuse that blows if someone presses "print" on their computer. Then the power goes off and in unison, all of the office staff step out into the hallway at the same time as if we had choreographed it, and wonder "Who did it this time?" Fortunately, we all have a sense of humor here, so we take these little blips in stride. Ya gotta love summer.

Even though there is baseball to be played, and air conditioning to be fixed, there is a great deal going on here at St. Bernard's. Most notably, the capital campaign to restore the church to its original Spanish

Mission style is underway. Over one-hundred volunteers are hard at work on the campaign. This is really about heart and soul, and I am overwhelmed by the generous gifts of time and talent which pour forth from the parishioners here.

Last Spring I knew we were on the brink of an exciting adventure for Saint Bernard's, and now we are well on our way. I don't dwell too much on the issue of the air conditioning or lack thereof here. When we have volunteers willing to show up for the evening meetings to find ways to make St. Bernard's better and stronger, I know that everything will work out.

I have noticed that many of the volunteers here at Saint Bernard's play in family baseball games after the meetings. They give as much effort here as they do in their baseball games. They all know the way it is, are true to their team, and they do whatever it takes. They always show up, play fair and give it their all. Maybe those are lessons they learned about baseball while attending a Catholic grade school. Or maybe those are lessons learned about faith while playing baseball. So here's to showing up and stepping up to bat every day in this game of life. Just remember—Always swing hard, and run till the 3rd base coach tells you to stop. Slide if you have to.

Ahhhh, ya gotta love summer!

Dinner Auction Date Set for Saturday, October 26, 2002

The Dinner-Auction fund-raiser at Saint Bernard's is set for Saturday, October 26. A fun filled evening with dinner, silent auction and oral auction is planned. This event is always a sell out, so plan early if you want to come. Save the date. Call the school office (554-4993) for reservations. Don't miss out!

Capital Campaign Kicks Off

Saint Bernard's Parish has officially kicked off its Capital Campaign with the theme, "For Generations to Come", to restore St. Bernard's Church. Built in 1939, the church was originally a Mission Church of Saint Cecilia's Cathedral. Its beautiful Spanish Mission style with its distinctive red clay tile roof was one that parishioners were proud of. The church quickly became an Omaha landmark.

Through the years, the church underwent several renovations, the most recent in the 1970's. The interior was changed to a monochromatic design with moveable chairs and altar.

Several years ago, a strong outspoken group of parishioners emerged from Saint Bernard's. This group had a plan and a dream to restore the church to its original and traditional Spanish Mission style. Old photographs and old church plans were pulled out of dusty closets, and an architect was called in to look at the possibilities. Yes indeed, the church could be restored to its original beauty. However, it would not happen without hard work and a big expense. A capital

campaign would be needed to accomplish this.

Almost two million dollars is needed to fully restore the church. This includes starting with the repair of the clay tile roof, sealing the exterior walls and windows, and replacing the HVAC system. After that exterior first phase, work will be done on the inside. The design of the interior will revert to a traditional Spanish Mission style in harmony with the historic exterior of the church, while providing for the needs of modern Catholic liturgy.

Our Honorary Chairs for the Capital Campaign are Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Steier and Mr. and Mrs. Walt Lamoureux. Our general chairpersons are Dr. and Mrs. Dorothy Engler and Mr. and Mrs. Tim McNeil. They and countless others have exemplified strong leadership as the campaign gets underway.

Included with this newsletter is a campaign brochure detailing the work to be accomplished for the church. You can see from the picture how beautiful the church will be upon completion of the project.

This is a very grass roots approach to fund a restoration campaign. No major develop-

ment company was hired to run this effort; it all comes from the development office to keep expenses low. However, the truth of the matter is that it started with people who had fire in their hearts and a burning desire in their soul to make this dream come true. It is not so much about bricks and mortar as it is about the people who are excited about the project; the parents who were here when you were young and played baseball in the neighborhoods around Saint Bernard's. They have wanted this restoration to happen forever. Then I consider the young families with toddlers and children in the religious formation program and our five-day school. I see the tradition of the past, the strength of the present and the bright future of Saint Bernard's Parish, all rolled in to one faith-filled community. It is a parish for all generations that will make a difference for generations to come.

A donation form is included with this newsletter. Please consider making a gift to the Saint Bernard's Capital Campaign for the church restoration. Fill out the donation form and return it in the enclosed envelope to Saint Bernard's Development Of-

Teacher Profiles: Meet Judy Hermsen

It is hard for me to believe that I have just finished my 25th year of teaching! I guess if you truly enjoy what you are doing, a career does not feel like a job. It is more like a calling. In all my 25 years of teaching I have never regretted choosing teaching as a career and I have always looked forward to the beginning of each new school year.

I completed a bachelor's degree at UNL, and I began teaching at a two teacher school in Bruno, Nebraska. I taught grades Kindergarten through 4th grade. After two years, I decided to move to Omaha. Being a product of Catholic elementary and high school, I felt something was missing in a public school. Consequently, I chose to interview with the Omaha Archdiocese. I was hired to teach first grade at St. Joan of Arc. After one year, due to small class sizes, I found myself looking for a new job. Fortunately, I was hired to teach first grade at Saint Bernard's. My first four years of teaching had created a "seven year itch" and I was ready for a change. There was a fourth grade opening, and I continue to

teach fourth grade at Saint Bernard's today.

Teaching at Saint Bernard's has truly been a calling to me. I have the opportunity to share my faith with my students, staff and parents. I cannot imagine teaching without the faith element in our daily routine. I have been a sponsor for RCIA and a Confirmation sponsor a number of times. It is quite an honor to be asked to be a sponsor. Each of these experiences have been opportunities for growth in my own faith.

What do I do in my free time? I attend students' soccer, basketball and baseball games and I do volunteer cleaning and painting at the school. I tutor students during the summer, as well as after school during the school year. I am a member of the choir at St. Elizabeth Ann Church where I am also a part of the parish's prayer line, perpetual adoration and funeral committee. When the opportunity is available, I attend various workshops expanding my knowledge in Math, Reading, and Computer technology. I love to read, and it's the enjoyment of

reading that lead me to decide to get my master's degree in reading from UNO. My added knowledge guides me as I work to instill that same joy of reading in my students.

I have had family members ask me why I have stayed 22 years at Saint Bernard's, instead of getting a job in the public schools where I would receive better pay and better benefits. It is because I have learned "Let go (of the worries) and let God" (take care of me). Saint Bernard's has become a family to me. It is the students who return to see me, send me graduation invitations, letters or e-mails. It is the tears on the last day of school, and knowing a bond formed during the year that will last forever. I tell my students on that last day that although they will not be in my classroom the next year, they will forever have a special place in my heart. This is my family. Saint Bernard's has touched my life. I just hope that I have, at least in some small way, made a difference in the hearts of my students.

Judy Hermsen

Alumni News

Congratulations go out to Alumni, Stephanie Stephens and Jill Klich who graduated from Duchesne Academy in May. Stephanie received the "Athlete of the Year" Award and Jill received the "Sportsmanship" Award at Duchesne's Athletic Banquet for 2002. That's quite a tribute to the athletic programs here at Saint Bernard's. Stephanie and Jill were the only two seniors from Saint Bernard's who attended Duchesne for the 2001-2002 school year. Congratulations Stephanie and Jill!

Do you remember?

These team lists are from the 1967 Athletic Club Banquet program.

**1967 Intramural Basketball
RED DEVILS 4th grade**

Coach:
Mr. Joe Roh
John Walz
Jim Niemann
Gary Carlson
Carl Vint
Dan Anthone
Mike Roh
Dave Fitzpatrick
Joe McConnel
Joe Kalina
Tim Donovan

**1967 Intramural Baseball
DODGERS 2nd & 3rd grade**

Coaches:
Mr. Jack Simon
Mr. John Pesavento
Mr. Dan Simon
Kevin O'Doherty
Tony Pesavento
Paul Piotrowski
Steve Martin
Paul Simon
Joe Simon
Richard McChane
Tom Feldman
Billy Bowes
Bryan O'Doherty
Mickey Finn
Joe Orsi

1967 Volleyball Team

THE RED HOTS

Coach: Sr. Mary Kennan
Nancy Uryasz
Colleen Murphy
Kaye Van Osdel
Linda Von Dollen
Kathy Kennedy
Kathy Wieceyorek
Mary Pat Hillyer
Mary Ann Murtaugh
Renetta Frick
Mary Ann Lee
Denise Brennan
Debbie Dozler
Kathy Tegels
Lori Hajenga
Linda Rudloff
Carmen Catton
Corrine Serterrrh

The Geek Principle Contributed by Sherri Rudloff Petersen

There are two words in the English language that can bring fear and anxiety into the lives of all: Class and Reunion. Apart they are harmless, but put the two together in alphabetical order and watch the nervous sweats begin.

I know people who begin to prepare for high school and college reunions months in advance. They diet, take foreign language or art courses, go on exotic vacations, change jobs, divorce or get married, make multiple visits to the tanning salon and practice idle chit-chat. I know of spouses who plan out-of-town business trips to avoid the awkwardness of meeting people they will not see again until the next big event. Even the most confident of professionals can be reduced to lost freshman with all the feelings of inadequacy that automatically follow.

I think the problem is that as humans we aspire to be the most we can be. In high school I remember hearing the grandiose plans of all my classmates: surgeon (of which there are a few), attorneys (a few others), actress (one that I know of), independently wealthy through no real means (yes, my class has a couple of these). One of my high school chums is married to a lawyer who has family money and a thriving practice of his own. She makes numerous weekend trips to New York with her kids to see the latest Broadway plays. High school is the breeding ground for big plans. The problem lies in the fact that not everyone attains their goals. Not everyone is comfortable with who they are. Not everyone can live up to great expectations. Most people have to

wait until their 25th year reunion to really enjoy the experience. After 25 years, things are different. People grow and goals change.

As hard as high school reunions can be, grade school reunions are the opposite. They are fun and easy. The secret is that in grade school, we were all geeks. All the boys put straws up their noses in the cafeteria and all the girls wore shorts under their skirts to prevent the boys from sneaking peeks while going upstairs. The cliques were apparent only at recess, where one group of girls walked around the playground and talked, another group played hopscotch or drew with colored chalk, the boys (and a few of us competitive girls) played "Kill the Man with the Ball." We were more often than not too shy to speak to those of the opposite sex, as we suffered from inferiority complexes brought on by parents who mastered the art of Catholic guilt, which I have come to believe was a good thing! We were embarrassed of our parents and siblings, yet highly protective of them. We ate lunch without hesitation and without any thought of dieting. One boy in my class was highly regarded because of his ability to eat an apple in one bite. The boys were always shorter than the girls, and the girls giggled...constantly.

We were proud of the fire patrol belts and begged our parents to let us be Safety Patrol members. The girls were jealous of the boys because they could be altar servers. We wore our Scout sashes to school, wore knee socks during gym class and suffered the humiliation of "Health Education" classes, which was the only time the boys

and girls were ever separated and we all knew why. OOOHHH, that was so gross! Remember spraying the desks and chairs with the imaginary yet potent "Anti Boy/Girl Germ Spray"? Remember having to do "Eenie Meenie" before choosing anything? How about all the stupid jokes that circulated like clockwork year after year. Social classes consisted of dorks, jocks, teacher pets and burn-outs. Each and every one of us fit into at least one of these categories. Our goals were to convince Monsignor McCaslin that cheerleading was not the work of the devil and Sr. Carlin that science was not the only thing in life. We studied rules of common courtesy to make Sr. Jean Marie happy. Our only aspiration in life was to go to high school...and eventually get married.

We were geeks, and still are to some degree. Our children are geeks, though they won't admit it until they are older and wiser. Our parents were geeks, which once bothered us; now it is a trait we proudly share with them. No matter what we end up doing with the rest of our lives, no matter if we marry or who we marry, or how many children we have. No matter where we live or what kind of car we drive, we all share the geekiness which brought us together, made us friends and continues to bind us to each other and to St. Bernard's.

Sherri Rudloff Petersen

** This is Sherri's second column as an alum guest writer. If you'd like to write a guest column, let us know. We'd love to hear what you have to say about your memories of your time at St. Bernard's.

St. Bernard's Office of Religious Formation

The St. Bernard's Religious Formation Office is involved in a variety of ministries here at St. Bernard's Parish. We take care of the formational needs of Catholic children who attend public schools with our Sunday religious formation classes. Those classes meet almost every Sunday during the school year for 1 ½ hours.

Dedicated volunteers teach these classes each week as well as take classes to help them become better at using their skills to pass on the Faith that we were given. Each grade level schedules one class for which the parents are invited to attend class with their child so that the parents can get a feel for what is being taught. We have prayer services each month for our classes. Each grade has the opportunity to plan and preside at a prayer service during the year.

The Sacraments that are received while in grade school are coordinated through this office. The five-day school students and religious formation students and their families work very closely in the preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. Family Classes are held where parents and candidates for Sacraments can gather as a community to learn more about the Sacrament that will soon be received.

The Confirmation candidates meet monthly (even throughout the summer) on Sunday afternoons to prepare for this final Initiation Sacrament. The Confirmation candidates experience the Easter Triduum in a very special way. The candidates plan, cook and serve a Seder meal on Holy

Thursday prior to the Mass of the Lord's Supper. This last year we served around 130 people and then we all went over to church to pray together. This was only the second year that the candidates sponsored the Seder meal, but it grew by leaps and bounds. The entire Parish seemed to enjoy this event and the candidates enjoyed the work together.

Each year we identify several children who would like to become Catholic. The Religious Formation Office offers classes weekly to prepare these children to be received into the Catholic Church at Easter. These children meet to experience conversion and to learn more about the Faith that they would like to embrace.

The Religious Formation Office works very closely with the five-day schoolteachers as a resource for any questions or projects that come up in the classrooms. We keep an extensive library of children's books, adult books, craft books and reference books as well as many files on teaching techniques and ideas for the teachers to use to help our children become more spiritual people.

This is a brief overview of the Religious Formation Office here at St. Bernard's. We feel that we are one of the most blessed Parishes in the Archdiocese because of the wonderful working relationship we have with all other ministries here at the Parish. The parish offices, liturgist, the school and the religious formation all work together to bring about the Kingdom of God.

JoAnne Raleigh

Who's who on Staff

Pastor: Fr. Jerome Spenner

Assoc. Pastor: Fr. Ryan Lewis

Asst. Pastor: Fr. Paul Hoelsing

Principal: Mr. Jim Palmer

Administrative Assistant:

Mrs. Jody Mangiameli

School Secretary:

Mrs. Mary Ann Peter

Director of Religious Formation:

Mrs. JoAnne Raleigh

Cafeteria Manager:

Netty Peters

Parish Bookkeeper:

Mrs. Sharon Perrigo

Parish Secretary:

Mrs. Jacquie O'Neill

Liturgist: Mrs. Pat Malcolm

Pastoral Minister: Sr. Susan Ivis

Child Care Director:

Mrs. Diane Frizzell

Maintenance: Mr. Mike Bolter

Development Director:

Ms. Beth Klug

** Fr. Lewis is in Washington D.C. studying Canon Law and Fr. Hoelsing is at St. Bernard's for the Summer.

St. Bernard's students win Bible Bowl

The 11th annual St. Bernard's Bible Bowl was held at St. Bernard's on Saturday, March 23rd. Thirteen Catholic schools sent 78 contestants to compete in this event, which is similar to Wheel of Fortune, but with all the puzzles coming from the Bible.

Saint Bernard's won the team competition. Team members pictured in photo are: Brenna Reynolds, Trevor Crowell, Ruthie Markey, Kathy Goodroad, Katie Kuhns, and Kara Grasmick. The home team scored 3,590 points, beating out the next closest team by 300 points.

According to contest directors Judy Hermsen and Marcia Regan, the competition is run like the game show, "Wheel of Fortune," with the

students rolling for point values and then guessing letters and trying to solve Biblical puzzles.



Alumni Updates From Near and Far

Bill Heydon, class of 1944. Bill is in Omaha and has been working as an insurance agent for AAA for 46 years.

Patricia Ward, class of 1946 (?) is retired in Santa Monica, CA.

Connie Pfeifer Dolan, class of 1959. Connie is in Kansas City, MO, enjoying her horses and retirement from John Deere.

Kenneth Sharp, is an attorney with an Omaha law firm.

Robert Edmundson, class of 1960. Bob is a sales consultant.

Mile Ballweg, class of 1967, is with the Athletic Media Relations office at University of Rhode Island in Kingston.

Sandra Bachman Foster, class of 1972 lives in Columbus, Montana. She is a Dexa technologist and patient educator for the Arthritis and Osteoporosis Center and is completing her eighth year of home-educating two teenagers.

Karen Ann Lee Kafka, class of 1976.

Karen is a registered nurse with Nebraska health System. She and her husband have 4 children, 1 a graduate of St. Bernard's and the other three enrolled here.

Margaret O'Leary Falck, class of 1977. She is in Omaha and is Associate Counsel with Jefferson Pilot Financial. She and her husband welcomed their third son, Andrew Christopher in April.

Clete Menke, class of 1979. Clete is Executive Director of Canyon Acres Children's Services in Mission Viejo, CA. He and his wife Gynjer have 2 children, Joshua and Peter.

Andrew Travis, class of 1992, lives in Chicago. He is finishing his Bachelor of Fine Arts and is training for opera and musical theatre, and dancing with Ballet Chicago.

Thanks to everyone for writing. We love hearing from you and send you every good wish!

† St. Bernard's School
School Office 553-4993
3604 No. 65th Street
Omaha, NE 68104

Address Service Requested

Office of Development
Phone: 402-561-6826
Fax: 402-551-4939
Email:

bklug@marian.creighton.edu

NONPROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Omaha, Nebraska
Permit No. 482

We are looking for Saint Bernard's alumni. Who do you know? How can we get in touch with them? Please call the development office at Saint Bernard's at 561-6826 and let us know. You can also reach us by email at:

bklug@marian.creighton.edu

Let us know what you would like to hear about in this newsletter. Would you like to help with organizing the alumni files? We are searching for volunteers who remember the names of students. If you can help, or if you have new ideas, give us a call. We are excited, we are going forward, and we would love to have you come along.

Keep us updated! Complete this form and mail to:

**St. Bernard's Grade School
Alumni & Development Office
3604 North 65th Street
Omaha, NE 68104**

Call us with any questions! 402-561-6826 or email: bklug@marian.creighton.edu

Full Name _____ **Maiden** _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Home Phone _____ **Grade School Grad Yr.** _____

Employer _____

Job Title _____ **Work Phone** _____

What are you up to? _____

Email Address _____