

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

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ALUMNI

...For generations to come...

The Tiger's Roar

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

Welcome back to Saint Bernard's Catholic Grade School

My name is James Palmer and I am the principal at St. Bernard's. I have embraced many challenges during my three years here. I came from Sioux Falls, South Dakota. My first year here I wanted to find out how the school started and where it was headed. I soon realized that St. Bernard's has a rich history in the Benson community and its ties to the larger community of Omaha were greater than I could have imagined. I haven't been able to go anywhere without running into someone who went to St. Bernard's.

The St. Bernard's community started renovating the cafeteria the summer (1999) I came to Omaha. This was a huge undertaking. I was a little nervous around the beginning of August, afraid that the school wouldn't be ready for the teachers students in the fall. A great group of volunteers worked long and hard to complete the project. When they were done, the cafeteria had a new, white tile floor and freshly painted white walls and ceilings. Many parishioners commented that the "dungeon" was

gone. New fluorescent lighting brightened up the area and the spirits of the parishioners. We also erected a large play equipment set on the north side of the school. The field needed to be expanded and more fencing was needed. The new field is now larger and safer than it has been for many years. We still have dreams about how to continue to improve the functionality of the field and to bring all of the students back to the school grounds (not the church parking lot) for recess. Landscaping in front of the building has enhanced the aesthetics. Many people have volunteered time and money to improve the school climate. The interior of the school had a few changes also. The school office now opens up to the front entry way so that the secretary and the principal are able to see the main entrance. Gone are the days of the green and peach colored walls. All of the classrooms have been painted a bright white to improve the lighting and atmosphere. All of the incandescent lights in the halls and stair-

wells have been replaced with fluorescent lighting. This has brightened up the building tremendously. Many alumni would be hard pressed to recognize the building today, compared to twenty or thirty years ago. We have about 325 students with signs that the numbers will be increasing. This year we have an increased kindergarten enrollment. This is due in part to the enhanced surroundings, and to the new childcare center that is located in the lower level of the building. The childcare center was opened in the fall of 2000 and we serve families that will make St. Bernard's their home for the schooling years of their children. We welcome alumni to visit the school when you are in the area. We believe that you will like what you see for the future of St. Bernard's. Come, visit and see how St. Bernard's has changed to meet the needs of the Benson neighborhood and surrounding community. I look forward to meeting past families and new friends.

Sincerely,
Mr. James Palmer

Alumni Reunion Set For Saturday, December 29, 2001

An all-school reunion for St. Bernard's Grade School is planned for Saturday, December 29 from 2 until 5 p.m. This is a new undertaking in an effort to create a strong alumni association for St. Bernard's School. Please RSVP to 561-6826 if you plan to attend.

Volunteers have been working diligently to find correct names and addresses of alumni. Finding correct addresses for thousands of people is no small task. The history here at St. Bernard's

School is almost endless. It was here before St. Pius and before St. James. Literally thousands have walked through the halls and played in the lots around the building. There have been many First Holy Communicants and many students who received the sacraments for the first time here at Saint Bernard's.

The history to be shared among these many alums is one of pride, hope and a sense of loyalty and belonging. Eight years of grade school is a long time to be in

school. One cannot help but make friends. One cannot help but make memories.

That is exactly what we are after. Call your former classmates and plan to meet for the reunion. The afternoon time was specifically scheduled to accommodate a busy family and holiday schedule. We'll have tours of the school and plenty of time to socialize. This will be the start of something great. We look forward to seeing you. Don't forget to RSVP 561-6826 or bklug@marian.creighton.edu

Fundraiser Success

The St. Bernard's Dinner/Auction Fundraiser, held November 3, was deemed a huge success. The Italian theme, "That's Amore" allowed for decorations that turned the gym and cafeteria into a romantic Italian Bistro. A Frank Sinatra impersonator, parishioner Bob Catton, was part of the evening's entertainment. Attendees were able to bid on silent and oral auction items. Among the most popular auction items were Tom Osborne autographed footballs, a Bobby Knight autographed basketball and a basket filled with everything a Husker fan could ever want. Hundreds of other items were open to silent bids, including art work by Saint Bernard's students. The chairpersons for this year's event were Jody Macaitis and Sherri Rudloff Peterson. Close to 300 people attended the event and almost \$24,000 was raised, shattering records from the previous year. We hope more alumni can get in on the fun next year.

Do you remember:

- * When hemlines had to be long enough to touch the floor when you were kneeling?
- * When Saint Bernard's was known as "The Sailors?"
- * When the school enrollment was so large, you either attended morning or afternoon sessions, or you went to class at St. James Orphanage?
- * When the girls had to wear white gloves and hats to church?
- * Guitar masses in the 1970's? ...And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love...
- * When St. Bernard's had bus service for the students?
- * Sr. Carlyn, the science teacher?
- * Mrs. Catton coaching the volleyball team?
- * When Saint Bernard's had five Simon families here at the same time?

*** Send us your ideas for the "Remember When" column. We'll print them as space allows.

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:

Dear Alumni:

My name is Father Jerome Spenner. I am the Pastor of St. Bernard's Parish in Omaha. When Archbishop Curtiss appointed me Pastor in June of 1997, he gave me several strong directions. One of these was: "Do everything you can to keep the school open at St. Bernard's."

I am learning that St. Bernard's school has a long, wonderful history. There are tens-of-thousands of children who spent the early, formative years of their lives in this

building and in this Parish. There are now about 325 students who are now living and growing in our school building.

They are good children. They are Catholic (mostly), respectful, and trying to prepare for a faith-filled and productive life. We even have a few out-of-parish students whose parents see a need for the quality education we offer.

You may be surprised and I hope you are pleased when you see some of the changes that are happening to your old

building, and the ways in which those who follow you are learning. Rooms have been moved around, new colors have appeared, lights are brighter, and there is even a new Child Care Center. We hope you like what has been done to keep your old building in shape, and the new ways in which we are educating and building the faith of the generations following you. Welcome back! And enjoy!

Rev. Jerome Spenner

From the Development Director: Beth Klug

I can hardly begin to tell you how delighted I am to be the Development Director at St. Bernard's Parish. I work with great people. The volunteers who give their time to this Parish are a remarkable group. If I had to describe them, I would say that they hang the sun in the sky for us everyday. They are so critical to the success of this place. I am overwhelmed by the blessings that come our way due to their hard work.

This school has quite the his-

tory. This past summer I was at a development workshop when someone stopped me to ask about St. Bernard's. She was an alumni, and she was excited to hear about the plans for an association, the reunion and the newsletter. Her exact words were: "Everyone went to Saint Bernard's!"

She was right! So many feet have walked these halls, played ball in the gym and run across the playground. So many have been baptized here at St. Bernard's.

Thousands have discovered their deep faith in spirit and humanity because of the commitment of former and current staff and faculty. This year we have 2 teachers who have each committed 25 years to this school. That is proof positive that we are alive with history and tradition and our future is bright. I welcome you all back to this incredible place. I hope you will renew old friendships and recall some fond memories. This is a place to call home. You are our heritage.

The Way Home

All roads lead home at Christmas;

The waiting houses stand

Bravely decked with colored lights

Tonight across the land.

Rooftops nestle to the hills

Awaiting Christmas Day:

The following roads will bring them

back— my own, from far away.

All hearts lead home at Christmas

The lonely and the far

Turn swiftly with eager happiness,

To where the loved ones are:

And though the roads be high and wide,

Or narrow, twisting lane,

God bless the ways of those who tread

The paths to home again. -anonymous

We hope you'll come back to visit Saint Bernard's School.

The Graduating Class of 2001

Congratulations!

Saint Bernard's graduated twenty-six students this past 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 a crucial part of their children's success.

* Children of St. Bernard's Alumni

Jodee Rey Babcock *

(daughter of Theresa Reynek)

Raymond William Costello *

(son of Bob Costello)

Krista Nichole Deane

Yvette Garrett

Breann Nicole Godoy

Daniel Roger Goodroad *

(son of Tim Goodroad)

Megan Renee Halterman

Mykala Jane Hanson

Ashley Marie Herber

Stacey Lynn Klich

Korie Ann Lebeda *

(daughter of Cindy Rudloff)

Amanda Sue McNeil

Bridget Maryalice Mueiting

Thomas Joseph O'Neill IV *

(son of Jacque Zuerlien)

Donalisa Chisom Okereke

Aimee Christine Parish

Joshua Paul Peyton

Salvatore Nuncio Pomodoro

David Ryan Richardson

Zachary Michael Sharp

Richard Matthew Simon *

(son of Rick Simon)

Teresa Faye Smith

Elisha Rene' Utecht

Michael Andrew Von Dollen

Alexis Zandra Suzanne Warman

Sarah Jane Zink

Alumni: Maureen Lamoureux has 25 Years of Teaching

When Walt and Pauline Lamoureux moved to Omaha in 1954, it was important to them to find a home near a Catholic school. They wanted to give their children the opportunity to have a Catholic education, so they joined St. Bernard's Parish and have been members ever since. Each of their seven children attended St. Bernard's School for all eight grades of their elementary education. Each went on to a Catholic High School, and each one graduated

from Creighton University. Walt and Pauline credit their children's educational success to the excellent foundation they received while attending St. Bernard's School.

After college, their daughter, Maureen, returned to St. Bernard's as a teacher. She began her teaching career teaching 3rd graders, moved up to 6th grade, and is currently teaching 5th graders. Upon completion of this school year in May, Mau-

reen will have been teaching at St. Bernard's for 25 years! During that time, Maureen has had the opportunity to teach siblings and children of her fellow classmates at St. Bernard's, as well as children of her former students. In her spare time, Maureen spends time with friends and family and she is an avid reader.

Thanks for all you do Maureen. We're glad you stayed here at St. Bernard's.

Teacher Profiles: Mrs. Helen Peyton has 25 Years of Teaching

Helen Peyton has been a teacher at St. Bernard's since 1977. She taught 5th grade for 14 years and then moved up to Junior high, teaching both math and science.

She is a recipient of the Archdiocesan Metro Teacher of the Year Award and the Congra Creative Educator Award, both in 1994. She was also selected by NASA as an Educator Workshop Participant. She has attended various educator workshops around the country.

Helen has been an integral part in getting thousands of dollars in science equipment donated to our school. It is not unusual to see her students out on school property, checking for potential radiation levels. She makes Science come alive for her students.

Helen is married to Rod Peyton and they have 4 children: Kristen 21, Laura 18, Josh 15 and Jenna 12. They are all graduates of St. Bernard's or are still attending the school.

Helen is an active member of St. Bernard's Parish: She lectures at Saturday evening Mass (her husband Rod is an EME), is a member of the Parish Council and she also serves as Chairperson to the Policy Committee and is Vice-President of the Archdiocesan School Board.

Her family likes to camp and is particularly fond of hiking through the back country of the National Parks. Wild life viewing is a favorite activity.

Thanks for all you do Helen!

Who's who on staff?

Pastor: Fr. Jerome Spenner

Assoc. Pastor: Fr. Ryan Lewis

Principal: Mr. Jim Palmer

Administrative Assistant:

Mrs. Jody Mangiameli

School Secretary:

Mrs. Mary Ann Peter

Director of Religious Formation:

Mrs. JoAnne Raleigh

Parish Bookkeeper:

Mrs. Sharon Perrigo

Parish Secretary:

Mrs. Jacque O'Neill

Liturgist: Mrs. Pat Malcolm

Pastoral Minister: Sr. Susan Ivis

Child Care Director:

Ms. Valerie McClain

Development Director:

Ms. Beth Klug

We here at Saint Bernard School were deeply affected by the tragedy of September 11. We want you to know how our students responded to that trying event:

**The students held a prayer service to pray for those who died and their families.*

**The students had a dress down day and each was asked to bring a quarter to donate to the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army. However, the generosity of our students and their families was overwhelming, as over \$1300 was collected for the fund.*

**The students tied red, white and blue ribbons to the fences lining the perimeter of the school property.*

Our prayers are with all those whose families have suffered a loss in the terrorist attack on America. We vow to remain a bright, Christian light for all families. Faith, hope and love will persevere, as it has in the past, for generations to come.

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We wish you and your loved ones a happy and holy holiday season.

Stay safe. Stay in touch.

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? _____
