



# ALUMNI

...for generations to come...

# The Tiger's Roar

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

## From the Principal: Mrs. Ellie Seward

### **Advent at Saint Bernard's Grade School: A Chrismon Tree?**

Yes, that's correct. One of our school wide Advent projects was decorating a white, lighted tree with more meaningful symbols. Each class had one or two symbols to decorate in gold and place on the tree. Each teachers then taught the meaning of ALL the symbols to each class. **It is beautiful!** The children will take their symbol home to share with their parents. Some were more complicated like the *anchor/cross* and the *Chi Rho*. However, within our Catholic school, these symbols have taken on tremendous meaning. Our church has a tradition of using symbols. This activity has emphasized this use of symbols to the students and led to a better understanding of **Advent and Christmas**. Stop by and see!

### **Up Coming Workshop**

*After writing and receiving a grant, Mrs. Adkins, kindergarten teacher at St. Bernard's, will be presenting a 7-week workshop on "Love and Logic". This discipline approach has earned high marks across the U.S. parishioners, parents and faculty are invited to attend. The workshop will start in late January. Sessions will be for 2 hours, one night/week for seven weeks. Call the school for more information after Christmas at 553-4993. **Early Childhood is the time to start the most formative styles of discipline!***

### **A Successful "Fun" Raiser**

Grade 7 parents decided to have a fund raiser for graduation activities. They scheduled a volleyball evening with games between coaches and students, teachers and parents, etc.. It was a very successful event, raising over \$400 to offset graduation expenses. **Way to go! And fun was had by all.**

### **Math Students Attend "Career Connection" Workshop at Physicians Mutual**

Twelve of our 8th grade students, along with teacher, Ms. Jen Naughton, attended a three-session workshop at Physicians Mutual Insurance Company to learn about careers in actuarial science, internal auditing and accounting. In addition to the experience of a highly informative opportunity, our students were complimented for their outstanding behavior. Thanks to everyone involved in the project. It was a fantastic experience for our students.

### **The next phase in the Saint Bernard's Catholic School Continuous Improvement Plan Belief Statements**

*(These were composed by the ASIP committee and approved by the faculty.)*

- ◆ An appreciation for the gift of faith is the hallmark of a Catholic education.
- ◆ Becoming an educated,

well-prepared citizen is the accomplishment and responsibility of each student with the essential assistance of the school and the parish community.

- ◆ It is important for the entire community to recognize and take proactive measures to ensure a safe, positive, and secure learning environment.
- ◆ All parents love and support their children to the best of their abilities. It is important that education takes place in the home on an on-going basis.
- ◆ The school will be strengthened by focusing on a continuous improvement process by a faculty that sets high expectations for accomplishment and accountability.
- ◆ Teachers play a significant role in developing, implementing and accomplishing educational objectives through participation in on-going professional development.
- ◆ All students can learn both cooperatively and independently and must assume responsibility for their learning.
- ◆ Students are called to transform our world with love, dignity and justice through service.

## **From the Pastor: Fr. Spenner**

Time keeps on passing at its steady pace, and God is good. Every year we are given a season called "Advent" and "Christmas". We remember: God, the Creator of the Universe, humbled Himself to take on the same flesh that we are made of. We know that He knows us. We know that He understands the weakness of the flesh. He even died, and told us not to worry about dying. He revealed the Resurrection, and told us the same would happen to us.

This is not the understanding and the faith of the world. For the world, this time is not

Advent and Christmas. This time for the world is: "Happy Holidays", and "Listen to the sleigh bells", and "Wait for Santa Claus". This is a world where, the more affluent we Americans become, the more we think of what St. Paul called, the flesh, the material things, the temporal things that make us temporarily happy.

Our Bible tells us that God wants us to be "happy, joyous and free". Happiness is temporary. Joy is that eternal gift that comes from the Holy Spirit, that survives even the times between the happy times, and freedom from all material and earthly things is the ultimate conse-

quence of sharing that gift of Joy.

We bring about that "Joy To The World" by our sharing willingly with those who have little, by being patient with the anxious, and laying down the rocks we would still like to throw at the ones we consider enemies.

God is good. He has no enemies. He shared with us all He has....His very self. When we share with those who have less, we share God himself. What awesome trust our Creator has in us, His creatures.

Fr. Jerome Spenner, Pastor

## **From the Development Director: Beth Klug**

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at St. Bernard's School. Of course, when you have kids hurrying up and down the hallways preparing for a Christmas program, one can't help but be inspired by all the excitement and commotion. Something is on the way, and the way is being prepared.

The entrance to the school has signs about upcoming holiday performances. The staff is dressed in holiday attire. It's a sure thing that we will see a Santa hat or two roaming the hallways. Surely, something is coming.

A white tree adorned with white lights stands in the hallway outside the principal's office. The hallway lights are dimmed so that the lights from the tree can illuminate the area. It's almost a magical touch. All the students pass that tree throughout the day. The youngest will look at it most intently as they walk toward it, and then, turn their heads as they walk past, caught up in something

more than the twinkling of lights. The reflection of the tree lights in the eyes of our littlest students is a delight to see. There must be something they know. Something is coming.

We take on Christmas the way we always have: with prayer, decorations, shopping, gifts, and cookies, cookies, lots of cookies. These are all familiar to us. But something greater is coming. We all know it. However, maybe as adults, we forget the magical side. For sure, we know the familiar quotes: "And this shall be a sign unto you. You will find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger," and "There shall be peace, led by all the children." There is something magical about the eyes of a small child at Christmas time. The way they sparkle can outshine any Christmas tree. It all starts with a child.

This truly illustrates just how special this place is. It is more than classrooms, books, tests, papers and graduations. It's more than

report cards and basketball teams. It is the spirit of the thousands of children who have walked these halls through the years. Our students today have the guardian angels of all the past students watching over them, strengthening them and inspiring them for great things. They all start small, in these hallways, with twinkling eyes and bright smiles, heading in the same direction.

So the story is told: "And a little child shall lead them." And surely, something is coming, and we all wait and we all prepare the way. We are surrounded all the time by the children in our lives; our own children, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, the neighbor's little ones, and the students in our school. The bright light shines from each of them as they help us to remember. Something is coming. Prepare the way.

Happy Christmas to all of you, and peace in the New Year.

Beth Klug

# † St. Bernard's School

December 2004

Dear Alums of St. Bernard's Catholic School

As this most special season of Christmas approaches, we look back over another year of many challenges and successes at St. Bernard's Catholic School. Again, we are blessed in so many ways. Each year our students achieve at higher levels in both academics and social skills. Higher percentages attain honor roll status and meet our behavioral objectives. The number enrolling in Catholic high schools remains at 80%, indicating how our parents and students view the need and benefits in continuing a Catholic education. Our faculty continues their professional growth, earning more masters degrees, obtaining grants for special projects and growing spiritually through in-service activities and personal commitments. Our Campus Ministry groups that rotate each quarter are involved in projects ranging from campus maintenance to St. Vincent de Paul outreach to senior parishioner projects. We call on them for many tasks. Learning to serve at this age is critical as they grow to adulthood.

St. Bernard's School also benefits from the support and commitment of the Catholic Schools Office. Each year another area of the curriculum is updated and written; new assessments accompany the curriculums; standards are available to all school making our "system" more of a true system whereby all school schools are equipped to meet the needs of all of our students. In addition, an Archdiocesan School Improvement Plan (ASIP) has been formulated, and each school has chosen a curriculum area to study and enhance over a period of years. At St. Bernard's, our goal is for all students to improve their writing skills. At the present, a profile of our school is being completed.

All these "Great" things are happening at St. Bernard's. However, our financial needs continue to increase. Our computer system is becoming outdated, the old boiler requires more upkeep, and the demands being made to reach fire code loom over us. Annually, we work to provide a just wage for our teachers, attempting to remain within 89% of the public school base salaries. (Notice I say attempt.)

I pray that you will add St. Bernard's School (or continue your support) to your list of gift-giving entities. Your past support is greatly appreciated and we keep you in our prayers daily. May the Christ Child fill your heart and life with peace and love. As you cherish your years at St. Bernard's Catholic School, I thank you in advance for assuring future generations of this opportunity. There's no place like St. Bernard's!

Yours in Christ,

Mrs. Ellie Seward

Please accept my 2004 Annual Fund Gift of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**St. Bernard's School Annual Alumni Fund**

3604 North 65th Street \* Omaha, NE 68104

Development 402-561-6826 \* School 402-553-4993

Email: bkflug@marian.creighton.edu

This gift will be matched by \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please make your check payable to St. Bernard's.**

Preferred e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

To ensure proper crediting of your gift, please return this card with your payment in the envelope provided.

## *A Century of Faith, A Community of Hope.*

We mark certain points in our life with celebration. Birthdays, anniversaries, graduations...these all warrant recognition. The way age and the passage of time are discussed allow for artistic license. St. Bernard's parish will be 100 years old next year. The following discussion of age and birthdays is credited to George Carlin. It's worth a grin or two.

"The only time in our lives when we like to get old is when we're kids. If you're less than 10 years old, you're so excited about aging that you think in fractions. 'How old are you?' 'I'm four and a half!' You're never thirty-six and a half. You get into your teens and you jump to the next number, or even a few ahead. 'How old are you?' 'I'm gonna be 16!' You could be 13, but hey, you're gonna be 16! And then, the greatest day of your life...YOU BECOME 21! But then you TURN 30. Makes you sound like bad milk. He TURNED, we had to throw him out. What's changed? Then you're PUSHING 40. Before you know it, you REACH 50...but wait! You MAKE it to 60. You didn't think you would! You HIT 70! After that it's a day-by day thing: you HIT Wednesday. You get into your 80's and every day is a complete cycle; you HIT lunch; you turn 4:30; you REACH bedtime. It doesn't end there. Into the 90's you start going backward; 'I was just 92.' Then a strange thing happens if you make it over 100—you become a little kid again. 'I'm 100 and a half!'"

In a parish where over one-third of our members are over 60 years of age, it is worth noting the things that keep us young or feeling young. Internet messages tell us to "Keep only cheerful friends; the grouches pull you down. Keep learning. Enjoy simple things. Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath. Cherish your health, preserve it or improve it. Don't take guilt trips, take a trip to the mall, to the next county, to a foreign country, but NOT to where guilt is. Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity." Some of this advice we take. We know ourselves well, because we have been here awhile. Mark Twain told us "Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter," and Ingrid Bergman said, "Happiness is good health and a bad memory." My favorite is "Beautiful young people are acts of nature, but beautiful old people are works of art," (anonymous). I guess that means we are all on our way to being works of art, or like the old English proverb says, "The older the fiddle, the sweeter the tune."

A parish that has been around for 100 years continues to transform. Never just a building, it is the people that make St. Bernard's the amazing place it is. Time and tradition make for a strong foundation, rooted in faith. As we move into our 100th year of faith at St. Bernard's, we invite all alumni and past parishioners to celebrate this birthday. Mark your calendars now!

**\*August 19– Parish Dance, August 20—Centennial Mass/Dinner, August 21—Parish Family Picnic\***

We are interested in stories/trivia you can share about St. Bernard's parish, as well as any photos you could share with us. Please contact the development office at 561-6826 with information, or if you would like to help with this celebration. Robert Browning said, "Grow old along with me. The best is yet to be." At St. Bernard's, we have a tradition that keeps the best and gets better!

*Wishing you peace, joy and laughter in the New Year!*

# **Kodak Moments from St. Bernard's School**



*The St. Bernard's Class of 2005—  
just one more semester to go.*



*The 8th graders were commended for their good behavior on their field trip, but showed their silly side for the camera.*



*Mrs. Peyton's science class had a speaker about hazardous material. The presentation included a how to guide in "Haz-Mat" suits.*



*Honor roll students gathered for some smiles and well deserved recognition*



*The Science van visited the school and students were allowed to be up close and personal in the exhibit.*



*Mrs. Adkins' kindergarten class enjoyed making pilgrim costumes, shaking cream into butter, and working with shapes for tall towers. They also spent time with Marian High School students who showed them the "how-tos" of gingerbread house making.*



*Jr. High students help to verify a "Bingo" on St. Nick's day.*



*Christian Regan, Connor Barnes and DeAndra Richardson participated in the Catholic Schools Honor Band concert.*



*Mrs. Seward was surprised with a special presentation on Principal's Day.*

† St. Bernard's School  
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Omaha, NE 68104

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Jesus is the reason for the season.

Mankind was my business!

**Save these dates!**

Spring Carnival—May 1, 2005

Parish Centennial Celebrations—

August 19-21, 2005

We are looking for Saint Bernard's alumni. Who do you know? How can we get in touch with them? Please call the St. Bernard's development office 402-561-6826 and let us know. You can also reach us by email at:

bklug@marian.creighton.edu  
*The purpose of the St. Bernard's Alumni Association is two fold: 1) to organize, develop and build a dynamic group of alumni with opportunities for fellowship. 2) to promote the success of St. Bernard's Grade School, its students, potential students and faculty.*

If you are a parent of an alumni and your child no longer lives at your address, please let us know their current address. It will help keep our files updated.

**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](mailto:bklug@marian.creighton.edu)**

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**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade School Grad Yr.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Employer** \_\_\_\_\_

**Job Title** \_\_\_\_\_ **Work Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**What are you up to?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_