



Volume 5, Issue 1
Winter 2005

ALUMNI

...for generations to come...

The Tiger's Roar

From the Principal, Mrs. Ellie Seward

It's All About Outreach

“Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters you do to me.”

As you enter St. Bernard Catholic School, you will notice these words at the top of the hallway. It is our theme for the year, and during the closing months of the year, there are even greater opportunities to reach out to others.

Each month, through out Take-Home-Tuesday, our families are asked to contribute some item to the St. Vincent de Paul food closet. It may be spaghetti sauce, toilet paper, soup, whatever is needed most.

This November, each classroom provided Thanksgiving dinners to families at another church where one of our families worships. The Campus Ministry elective group along with Mrs. Naughton did all the work organizing and carrying out the mission, and the students contributed what was needed. Thirteen families were provided with complete dinners plus extras.

The Campus Ministry group also had a great idea to do something for the Poor Clares in the convent across the street. They beautifully illustrated and bound a calendar that includes all our students and faculty birth dates. The Sisters have promised to pray for each person on their birthday, and we will be praying for them. They were delighted that the people at St. Bernard School were thinking of them.

Giving continued for Christmas as we joined the St. Vincent de Paul project called “The Giving Tree.” Over two-hundred ornaments from the trees in church were brought over to school and each child had the opportunity to take an ornament and provide a gift for that person. The students especially enjoyed having a choice for whom they were purchasing a gift. This was a great success, and we learned that with a little effort from many, much can be accomplished. Thanks to all the families who participated.

When we enter the season of Lent, we will do more with our outreach practices. We are trying to make a difference.

Advent Activities

shouting, inn doors slamming, just to mention a few. Each day was a surprise.

Each student also had a journal in which to keep track of a special activity they would be expected to do each day. Some activities involved hugging family members, smiling at someone as well as a thank you to the persons preparing his/her lunch. A special Christmas Pledge was said each morning in an attempt to keep Christ in Christmas.

What is most wonderful is that we can do these things much more because we are in a Catholic school. What better way to learn about and practice our faith than through daily prayer, conversation, and actions. God is so good!

“Teacher-of-the-Year,” Mrs. Marcia Regan!

St. Bernard Catholic School has been blessed again with recognition of a Teacher-of-the-Year. Mrs. Regan teaches Literature and English in the Middle School and facilitates many other projects and competitions at St. Bernard which include the Archdiocesan Spelling Bee, the Bible Bowl, and Speech competitions. She is the editor of the



Mrs. Marcia Regan at the “Teacher of the Year” award dinner.

weekly *Take Home Tuesday*, and plays her flute regularly at week-day school liturgies and many other occasions. Marcia is highly involved in our fine arts music programs and uses many resources and contacts to enhance these

programs for the students. Her son, Chris, is a freshman at Creighton Prep and her husband Michael works at Ameritrade and Borders.

We congratulate her and feel honored to be working with such a qualified teacher. She makes the classroom come alive and is a true role model to her students.

Last year, Mrs. Ann Adkins received this year award. We are blessed with such amazing teachers!

Dinner/Auction Fundraiser Celebrates 100 years of tradition at St. Bernard Parish

This year, the St. Bernard's dinner auction took on a nostalgic theme. "Times Remembered, A Celebration of 100 Years" took everyone on a stroll down memory lane.

As part of our celebration, we honored the legacy of Monsignor Edward McCaslin for his guidance as Pastor of St. Bernard Parish for almost twenty years.

The McCaslin family provided photographs of Monsignor. Our super-talented decorating committee scanned and copied the photos and they were used all over the gym as center pieces, bidding paddles, and posters. The gymnasium was decorated in black and white, creating the perfect backdrop for photographs from 100 years gone by. Several of Monsignor McCaslin's siblings attended the event, including Dr. Joe McCaslin and his wife Theresa, Fr. Jack McCaslin, Sr. Clare McCaslin, and

Peg Dineen. They were very moved by the show of sentiment toward Monsignor. Volunteer Sherri Rudloff Petersen read a touching dedication to Monsignor McCaslin, inviting those whose lives were touched by his efforts to stand. It was a great testimony to the effect he had on this parish.

The silent auction was set up in the cafeteria and featured items of every genre. Each classroom donated items for gift baskets that had a twist on history. Guests could bid on classroom baskets with themes such as classic games, sentimental holidays, classic movies, religious items, summer fun, and many others.

Guests were served a fabulous dinner of Chicken Cordon Bleu with all the fixings. Decadent Cheese Cake with caramel sauce topped off the meal. Our auctioneer extraordinaire (and school parent), Brett Pofahl, started off the oral

auction in style. Brett proceeded to talk circles around everyone at the event.

Behind the scenes, this event was carefully orchestrated by Sherri Petersen, Laretta Simon, Laurie McNeil, Jodi Macaitis, Laurie Simon, Tricia Pofahl, Kari Meisenbach, Rhonda Pofahl, Mary Lou Sorenson. Alum Krista Malcolm Friemuth stepped forward as auction chairperson. A score of others helped with set up, take down, clean up and a myriad of other tasks. This event would not have happened without all the planners, doers, movers and shakers who worked for months in advance on this event. Over \$30,000.00 was raised with all proceeds benefiting St. Bernard Parish. Be sure to be part of it next year's event. Our theme will be "Happily Ever After." That's what we are here at St. Bernard Parish. Join us for the fun.

From the Development Director: Beth Klug

This note marks the fifth holiday newsletter to St. Bernard alumni. Thanks to your efforts, much has been accomplished. Our alumni data base has grown from four-hundred to over two-thousand. Generosity abounds amid our alumni, with donations to the alumni appeal and to the church restoration fund. Our alumni have come back to celebrate with us for Catholic Schools Week, to celebrate teaching milestones for our loyal faculty, and to celebrate holidays and milestones for their own families. Alumni have taken a personal interest in researching alumni addresses for their graduation year. This re-commitment to St. Bernard School is validation for the work that began years ago and continues today.

With this loyalty, most any day can feel like Christmas here, and the date on the calendar has very little influence. It was Dale Evans Rogers who said "Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas." That is what happens all the time at St. Bernard School.

If you walk through the main hallway, you'll be greeted by the soft light of an advent tree as it glows and illuminates the

way for all the students.

Stories for children illustrate ways to find the light. Dr. Suess spoke of the transformation of the Grinch: "Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more." And the Grinch came to know the true meaning of the season.

Charles Schulz shared how Charlie Brown was depressed at Christmas time, searching for the true meaning of the holiday amidst the glitz and commercialism of the modern age. He asks out loud with exasperation, "Can anyone tell me the true meaning of Christmas?" He finds his answer when his friend Linus recites the passage below:

"And there were in the same country shepherds, abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them! And they were sore afraid ... And the angel said unto them, "Fear not! For, behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all my people. For

unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ, the Lord."

"And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." And suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the Heavenly Host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the Highest, and on Earth peace, and good will toward men."

"That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown." - Linus Van Pelt, with a nod to Charles Schultz

It doesn't matter if you hear it in church, read it in the Bible, or see it in a child's cartoon. What matters is that we hear the message, and know that, like a child, we are so loved by God. That is the gift and it does not change. We celebrate one birth. We are the lucky ones when we recognize the Christ Child in the face of each person we pass, and know that they light our way in this world.

Peace to you, with blessings and blissings in 2006.

Class of 1960 Makes Reunion Plans, Issues A.P.B. To Find Alumni

In early October twelve members of the St. Bernard Grade School Class of 1960 got together to begin planning a reunion. Present at the meeting were: Gene Kathol, Dave Badura, Mike Nolan, Fred Otterberg, Colleen Baylor Stephens, Carol Kunz Barry, Patty



Class of 1960 reunion committee

Mack Schwartzbaugh, Betsy Marshall Post, Bobbie Mowery Wingate, Patty Schlesing Cowell and Janet Tobin Presser.

When last we met it was twenty years ago and the list of addresses is a little out of date. We were able to update it considerably but there are still several "lost" classmates. The original idea was to get together for our fiftieth year anniversary but many of the classmates have expressed interest in making it sooner. At this time we aren't

sure just when it will be, just that there will be one. The reunion is not limited to those who graduated in 1960. Anyone who went to St. Bernard's for even the shortest time and WOULD HAVE graduated in 1960 are more than welcome.

An *All Points Bulletin* has been issued to find alumni we are unable to locate. Please check the "lost and found" list and if you can help with a valid address, phone number or e-mail we would greatly appreciate it.

Thanks to Betsy Marshall Post for her efforts with this project for the class of 1960, and a number of other classes as well. Alumni research is a big undertaking. Betsy has agreed to be a contact person for the class of 1960. Her phone number is 402.498.8910 and her email address is: postinos@aol.com

Lost alumni from the class of 1960:

*Edwin Brown
Jeff Brown
Mike Carper
Don Catlin
Sharon Irwin Carter
Russ Devoran
Pat Schlesing
Theresa Phipps Sleek
Eileen McGill Umbach
Mary Ann Johnson Wolowitz*

Children's Scholarships Awarded

The Archdiocesan Children's Scholarships were awarded to thirty-seven of our students this year. The fund originated through the Waltons of the Walmart stores and matches other money donated to the fund. This helps St. Bernard School tremendously, as well as our families. Applicants are randomly chosen, and we are fortunate to receive a high number of scholarships.

High School Recruiters

Six local Catholic High Schools have sent recruiters to visit our 7th and 8th grade students. The competition between schools is healthy, and 80% of our students attend Catholic high schools as a result.

Entrance tests are given in January, and scholarships are awarded in February.

New Program for Vocations

All sixth grade classes in the Archdiocese were recently invited to spend the day at St. Leo or St. John Vianney to be introduced to all aspects of the religious life. Large and small group sessions were held, lunch was served and Mass was celebrated. What a wonderful opportunity for our students!

What do you want to know? A New Web Site For Parish Tells It All!

www.stbernardomaha.org

This is the new St. Bernard Parish website. Thanks to the effort of alum Krista Malcolm Freimuth, the web site is up and running. It's also a very fun adventure for those of you who have been away from St. Bernard's for awhile.

On any given day, you can find out what the students are having for lunch, what days they are out of school, when the uniforms need to change from shorts to long pants for cooler weather, and numerous other facts about the school. Click back to the main page and you can check in on liturgy times, adult and religious formation office, youth ministry details, and even download the weekly parish newsletter.

There is a section on the church renovation. For those of you who

have not seen the inside of St. Bernard church in some time, you will be pleased to know that phase two, the interior ceiling restoration phase, has been completed. The web site will even lead you to the restoration site. It includes pictures of the entire project as it was worked on through the summer.

You can also find fun pictures from the 100th anniversary celebration for the parish. Maybe you'll recognize some of the names and faces. Take a look at the parish dinner auction pictures and read up on plans for next year's event.

This site should re-acquaint you with St. Bernard School and Parish, and all of our happenings.

Click on the development site for information about the many ways you can help support the ongoing mission at St. Bernard Parish.

If there is something you would like to

see on the website, please let us know at bklug@marian.creighton.edu. Again we send a big thank you to alumni Krista Freimuth for her efforts to get this site up and running, as well as keeping it current.

Look for more alumni information on our website. Coming soon: a lost and found list to help us locate St. Bernard alumni.

R.E.S.P.E.C.T

(Relationship Empowerment for Students, Parents, & Community through Theater)

Through a grant, our teachers were trained, and our students were presented with an anti-bullying program on November 11. Actors role-play situations and students were asked to choose the best action taken to bullying. Follow-up will be provided.

Thanks to Pat Keyes, Patricia Newman, and many others who contributed to this program. You might have even seen it demonstrated on the local news stations. Through the grant, CORE schools were offered the program free of charge. Thanks again to many!

Kodak Moments at St. Bernard School



Mary Gurney & Mallory Huntermer



Farewell to student teacher Ms. Sara Magnuson (St. Bernard alum 1998)



Christmas program singers



Reed Felderman, DeAndra Richardson & Alex Galbraith



4th grader Katie Newlin reads to her kindergarten chum, Thomas Spoehr



Fr. Hoelsing winds up for a serve



Teacher of the year, Marcia Regan and her husband Michael



The Christmas Program celebrated Christmas in Hawaii



We celebrate one birth!



Mrs. Frohman's Kindergarten Pilgrims



More of the Christmas program

An Encore For Our Most Requested Information From Alumni

You asked for it! Of all the information that has been published in the alumni newsletter over five years, the recipe for oatmeal chocolate chip cookies has proved to be the most popular. Or at least, those who like cookies are the ones making inquiries. With the holidays upon us, this is the perfect chance for baking. So have fun. And remember, this recipe serves 500, so be prepared for a crowd...a happy crowd!

I guess the stomach really is the way to the heart! ♥

Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookies

Servings: 500

6 pounds Shortening
2 quarts Brown Sugar
2 quarts Sugar, confectioner's
1/2 cup Vanilla (scant)
25 Eggs
4 quarts and 2-3/4 cups Flour
12-1/2 teaspoons Baking Soda
12-1/2 teaspoons Salt
6 quarts and 1 cup Oatmeal
6 quarts and 1 cup Chocolate Chips

Blend shortening, brown sugar, white sugar, vanilla and eggs. Add flour, soda and salt. Add oatmeal and chocolate chips. Scoop with #40 scooper. Bake 10 minutes at 340 Degrees in a convection oven or 375 Degrees in a regular oven.

Annual Alumni Appeal—A Word From Our Pastor!

Dear Alumni and Friends of Saint Bernard School:

I don't know most of you and most of you don't know me. However, for a short time (probably about 12 years) I have been and will be the pastor of St. Bernard Parish/School.

All of us are grateful for the people who were here in 1949 when the first half of our building was built, and for those who are responsible for the second half. I am so grateful we do not have to build these buildings today, at today's prices. However, we all know it would not cost any more to build them today than when many of you built them in 1949 and in the fifties.

Some things have changed, however. We no longer have the committed generosity of those living the consecrated life. Now our teaching staff are raising families and paying tuition for their own children, even high school tuition. Besides all that, we are required to offer the benefit of health insurance. That alone all of a sudden added \$80,000.00 to our budget. It now takes more than one million dollars each year to run our school.

I take this opportunity to offer to you the opportunity to help financially with our budget. If St. Bernard was instrumental in making it possible for you to be successful, financial gifts to St. Bernard School will help some who are struggling to receive an education as good as yours.

We really appreciate gifts that are unrestricted. It simplifies our book keeping system, and it makes it possible to meet unexpected larger expenses (like after the visit from one or another inspector). We think out heating system could quit at any time, Presently we are operating by the use of a line of credit (\$100,000.00 limit). We really don't want to raise tuition fees. So...we live day by day, and are hopeful that you will have something to generously share. Thank you for your generosity and support!

Rev. Jerome Spenner, Pastor
St. Bernard Parish

Please accept my 2005 Annual Fund Gift of: \$_____

This gift will be matched by _____
Company Name (Please enclose your company's form.)

___\$50 ___\$100 ___\$250 ___\$500 ___1000 ___\$2500 ___Other

Full amount enclosed.

\$_____ is enclosed. Please bill me for the remainder in _____ installments in the following months: _____ (to be paid by June 30, 2006).

**Please make your check payable to St. Bernard's.
Your contribution is tax deductible.**

St. Bernard's School Annual Alumni Fund

3604 North 65th Street * Omaha, NE 68104

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

Email: bklug@marian.creighton.edu

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

Preferred e-mail: _____

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

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

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Jesus is the reason for the season.

Mankind was my business!

Save the date!

Spring Carnival—May 7, 2006

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

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 _____