



## NEXT YEAR AT A GLANCE:

- Monday, January 18  
•School Holiday  
*Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*
- Tuesday, January 19  
•Communion Service,  
7:30am
- Wednesday, January 20  
•Communion Service,  
7:30am  
•Art Club  
•Forensics
- Thursday, January 21  
•Communion Service,  
7:30am  
•Spelling Bee, 9:30am
- Friday, January 22  
•Communion Service,  
7:30am



# THE BEAR FACTS

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## *A Note from Mr. Sabo . . .*

Dear Parents,

Aside from the two snow days and a broken starter on the bus SBA is off to a great start in 2010. Thank you for all of the encouraging notes. There are a few things on the horizon that I would like to tell you about.

First of all, Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> is MLK Day. Teachers have been instructed to talk the struggles and accomplishments of such a great American. Next, your 5-8 level children should have an idea of what their science and engineering fair project should be for this year. The fair is scheduled for February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19 in the SBA gym. As always we appreciate your support and I ask for anyone who can serve as a judge for this year's event. Please let Mr. Clapp know if you are able to help.

Catholic Schools Week kicks off on Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup> with Mass and Grandparents Day. We will also have the book fair again this year.

Basketball is in full swing and your favorite Bears team schedule can be found by checking the schedule out online at <http://nashvilledac.org>

Mrs. Wilson and I are happy to report success so far with this year's Annual Giving Campaign. Year to date contributions have surpassed \$80,000 and 40% of our families have contributed. Our target goals are \$100,000 and 85%. We have received wonderful support from our alumni as well as our grandparents. Thanks to all who have contributed. A complete list of giving by grade level (percentage of each group) will appear in next week's letter.

Projections for next year's enrollment promise a wait list at nearly every grade level. The admissions team of Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Rogers and Miss Robinson are busy everyday with tours and with testing. Thanks for being such great ambassadors for the Academy.

Finally, the student council will be taking up a special collection for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti sometime next week. This collection will be sent to the Diocesan office and expedited to the relief program. I know that many of our families have a special connection to that country through their mission work and many examples of volunteerism. Fr. Kibby has made several trips to the island nation throughout the last year. Everyone there is in our collective prayers.

Enjoy the long weekend, be safe (summer's back) and as always. . . GO B3ARS!

# National Geographic Bee 2010



4th—8th level students recently competed in their social studies classrooms to determine two finalists from each level for the school level winner of the GeoBee. Congratulations to all our winners, and especially our 1st place winner, **Audrey Shinar**. Audrey will take a written exam to qualify for the state bee. Good Luck, Audrey!

**Back Row:** Audrey Shinar—(1st place winner), Maire Amlicke, Wil Landers, Ryan Herrmann, Katie Landers, **Front Row:** Candice Chen (2nd place winner), Ryan Horn, Nicolas Vernali, Ryan Crews, Chris Rose

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**F**or some time now we, the administration and the staff, have questioned the benefits of using the IOWA tests to assess our student learning. Our real concern about continuing to use the IOWA's involves the idea that we may be "over teaching/under assessing". This implies that we're not really measuring what the students know, simply their aptitude for the basic skills.

With that in mind we have begun to evaluate the Education Research Bureau (ERB) CPT IV test as a replacement. The CPT IV test measurements include achievement tests that check student learning in the areas of reading and mathematics. Early grade level testing (grades 1 and 2) evaluate word analysis and listening skills. Beginning with grade 3 (introduced in the spring of grade 3) there are also tests that measure verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, certain kinds of writing skills, and vocabulary.

I am sending this letter because we have the opportunity to evaluate the tests (and our students) for levels 2, 3 and 4 this month. This testing will be administered electronically with each child sitting at a computer. In addition to providing parents with full reports on child achievement, we will provide valuable benchmarking data for the ERB. Students will use the new laptops, and older laptops and possibly the computer lab. Additionally, we will ask the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> level students to take the CPT IV exam at the end of January. Their scores will be used to benchmark current student performance and allow for an apple/orange type of comparison. We will still administer the IOWA tests in March to the entire school.



All students (k-7) will take the IOWA's in March as usual. If we make the switch then we will administer the CPT IV in the fall from here on out. We prefer the fall testing because it gives us the opportunity to get test results back in November which will then allow us to develop plans to better meet the students' learning needs.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, Miss Robinson or Mrs. Rogers.



Saint Bernard Academy  
Student Council Talent Show  
Tuesday, February 2

*Form is DUE Friday, January 15*

**The Student Council is looking for individuals or groups in levels 3-8 who would like to participate in a talent show.**

- Students may wish to sing, play a musical instrument, perform a short forensics piece or comic routine, or dance.
- No lip-synching or songs performed over voices on a CD
- A performance should be no longer than 3 minutes long.
- No skits longer than three minutes or needing elaborate stage settings
- All lyrics, dances, jokes, etc. should be appropriate for our SBA audience.

**Students who wish to perform in the show must prepare their act for tryouts. Acts, including costumes, must be ready on the tryout date in order to be eligible for the show.**

Return the following registration information to Mrs. Knox by: **Friday, January 15.**

You will receive a note about the exact date and time of the tryout after all registration forms have been received.

Thanks!

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Name of student: \_\_\_\_\_ Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of performance \_\_\_\_\_

Title of musical piece or act \_\_\_\_\_

