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The Benny's Electronic News Network newsletter is a publication of St. Benedict C.S.S. in Cambridge, Ontario. It is distributed every second Wednesday during the school year using the WCDSB Newswire service. Any questions or comments pertaining to this publication can be sent to the editor [Anton Milardovic](#) or the school's principal [Dan Witt](#).

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NEXT ISSUE

November 17, 2010

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM TODAY'S NEWSLETTER....

He looks good for fifty: St. Benedict C.S.S. turns 50 in two years, the preparations are beginning.

Mr. Bellini gets a sign: could it have been divine inspiration that led to the new LED?

Chaplain's chat: Bob tells of the fantastic things staff and students are doing for the school, community, and world.

Sports: Saints' teams are proving to be quite a challenge for the other schools.

Who's the new guy? The staff bio section features our new principal

Plus clubs, student activities, and more! Happy reading!

The BENN staff

ST. BENEDICT IN THE LOCAL MEDIA

CAMBRIDGE TIMES: [Food for kids: Food bank effort targets kids' lunches](#)

Administrative

NIFTY, NIFTY, LOOK WHO'S (ALMOST) 50!

BY MR. A. MILARDOVIC

It's hard to believe that it has been 50 years, but "the old St. Benedict" first opened its doors to Catholic students in Cambridge in September of 1962. This means that in a few short months, St. Benedict C.S.S. will be celebrating its 50th anniversary.

One of the initiators of this project is Mr. Ron Martinello, a long-time—and current—law and history teacher. "I think as a school community we should do something to celebrate those 50 years," he said in an email to staff soliciting help. His request did not fall on deaf ears: "I was taken aback by the number (of current staff members) who have shown interest. I know that there are some former staff who are also interested, and I am also hopeful others including other

staff and some students will also want to participate."

Are you a Benny's grad? Do you have other family members who walked either the old carpeted or the new tiled halls of either building? We are in the process of collecting email addresses and will soon start sending out information using a similar newsletter style to the BENN. To get your name on our contact list, please go to <http://stbenedict.wcdsb.ca/50/>, where an online form has been created to gather information. Eventually, information about the 50 year festivities will also be placed on the page.



We will eventually start asking to borrow pictures, memorabilia and your stories of your days at St. Benedict, whether as a student or a staff member. So dust off those old yearbooks, pull out that old photo album, and start taking that walk down memory lane with us!

There has been one informal organizational meeting already, and many more to follow. Several events have already been tentatively pencilled into a "reunion weekend" type of structure (such as an open house, assembly, and liturgy); many more things will be planned. If you are interested in helping out, or simply taking part, please complete the online form and someone will get back to you.

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

BY MR. A. MILARDOVIC

No one ever said our vice-principal Lou Bellini is not a bright guy. But several months ago while driving by the University of Guelph he saw a pixel board sign in front of one of the buildings, and a light bulb went on in his head. Some research, some phone calls, and some months later, the corner of Franklin and Saginaw sported a new pixel board sign.

The original sign—one of those backlit ones where you had to slide the letters in—was in poor repair. It was also a real pain to update, especially in the winter. "The information to the community was very limited. I wanted to move the school into the 21st century," says Mr. Bellini. "The sign also allows us to proclaim who we are as a Catholic school."

The sign is updated using a laptop in the office which has the sign software and wirelessly sends content to the sign.

The LED message centre is built by Hamilton Digital Design in Burlington, ON. "Buying local was one of the main reasons for going with this sign," added Mr. Bellini. "It was also highly recommended by several of the sign installers."

The sign was purchased through a partnership between the school and the Cambridge Public Library. In return, the Library has access to the sign. Student Council also contributed some of the funds.

Our former principal was integral in the project says Bellini: "Jamie McKinnon was a huge supporter of the new sign. He saw the potential benefits to the school and how it would improve our public trust." On seeing the new sign, Mr. McKinnon was quick to add that, "he (Bellini) really worked hard to get this in place to communicate better with our community ... I think it's great to partner with the library, Student Council, and School Council in this venture."



Greg Bester, Manager of the Clemens Mills branch of the Cambridge Public Library, has seen the advantages of the sign, which has been in operation for about 6 weeks. "The new sign has made an immediate impact, in terms of customer awareness," he says. "I have had several people approach me about programmes they have seen advertised on the sign. I consider it a great success."

NEWS FROM THE CHAPLAIN

BY MR. B. REMPEL

FOOD BANK

Once again St Benedict supported the Cambridge Food Bank food drive by donating 1932 pounds of food. On Halloween night, the MAD Movement (10 students and 2 staff) went trick or treating in the Bennie's neighbourhood and collected an additional 658 pounds of food.

MONTH OF REMEMBRANCE

November is the month when Catholic Christians pray for those they know who have died and passed on before them. As a Bennies community, we invite students and staff to write down the names of family and friends who have died. We then pray for some of those people each day by reading their names as part of our opening prayer.

GIVING PROJECTS

Our giving projects to the end of the calendar year involve supporting 2 students and one staff member who will be traveling to the Dominican Republic on a social justice/solidarity trip.

For the 21st year, we will collaborate with the Cambridge Fire Department in providing Christmas boxes for local families who are struggling financially.

St. Benedict will also work with St. Mary of the Visitation parish in Hespler, by filling red Christmas stockings with school supplies which will then be sent to school children in Africa.

JUSTICE INITIATIVES

On November 16, students will be invited to wear blue shirts (uniform pants) as a united stand against bullying.

On November 19, students will be encouraged to take a 24 hour vow of silence as an act of solidarity with the millions of people in our world who have no voice.

WHO IS YOUR ADMINISTRATOR?

The administrative contact for your son or daughter is based on your last name:

A to F: [Mrs. Beaucage](#)

G to N: [Mr. Bellini](#)

O to Z: [Mrs. Leusink](#)

As always, feel free to contact our principal, [Mr. Witt](#).

HATS AND CELL PHONES: PUT THEM AWAY, OR LOSE FOR A DAY!

Hats and cell phones should be off, and in student's lockers during the school day. Hats are not part of the school uniform, so they should not be worn in the school. Cell phones are distracting and hinder student progress, they should be off and put away.

Students who choose to wear hats or use cell phones in the school may have those items confiscated for the day and will be consequencesd.

BENNY'S STAFF BIOS



Dan Witt has been our principal since the start of this school year. He was born in Cincinnati and moved to Kitchener when he was 7 years old. He started the teaching profession in September 1988 at St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary



Frank Adamo has been dazzling us with his creative talents as part of the technology and arts departments at St. Benedict for the past 10 years. He brings music to life for students in his guitar classes and helps direct

School in Dufferin-Peel C.S.B. and then moved to St. Mary's H.S. in September 1989.

Mr. Witt taught Mathematics and Computer Science until 2003 when he then moved to St. David's CSS for one semester and then to Resurrection as Vice-Principal until this past June.

In the past he coached both boys and girls volleyball at all levels, as well as baseball and the computer programming teams. The first hockey game he ever watched was Boston beating Toronto with Phil Esposito and Bobby Orr playing in the game. At that point he immediately became a Bruins fan. Sorry Habs and Leaf fans. GO BRUINS!!! "Since I first arrived I have been continually impressed with the strong sense of community and solid leadership that exists among staff, students, parents and community partners. St. Benedict's truly is a celebration of people."

the amazing SBTV television show that broadcasts throughout the school as part of the communication technology program.

Mr. Adamo is also involved in performing for school plays, coffee houses and pep rallies. Move over Jimi Hendrix!!! What he enjoys most about our school is that it's about people serving our students with gospel values, quality education and caring hearts. Mr. Adamo has found the teachers and administration as being supportive. He is pleased to call them his friends. "St. Benedict is just a great place to be. God has blessed me to be teaching in an area that I really enjoy. Students are very receptive to the material presented in the course. Personally I see my work as playground for learning."

Academic

ENRICHING THE LIVES OF STUDENTS

BY MRS. D. WITTMANN

GIFTED EDUCATION SERVICES SECONDARY FIELD TRIPS

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board provides opportunities for identified gifted and academically talented students who need opportunities to explore future educational paths by visiting university campuses or other idea-centered venues in southern Ontario. Two or three field trips are coordinated with the assistance of each secondary school enrichment contact teacher per school year.

<http://www.wcdsb.ca/spec-ed/gifted/pdf/Secondary%20Field%20Trips%202009-10.pdf>

UNIVERSITY CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM (UCEP)

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board offers the University Cooperative Education Program (UCEP) in partnership with St. Jerome's University, University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University for identified gifted and academically talented students.

This program provides students who have achieved high academic success to experience university life before leaving secondary school. In this program, students can earn a university credit, one or two Grade 12 secondary school credits (taught by secondary school teachers at the university), and two Co-op credits.

<http://coop.wcdsb.ca/ucep.html>

COMMUNITY AND OUTSIDE OF BOARD OPPORTUNITIES

<http://www.wcdsb.ca/spec-ed/gifted/pdf/Community%20and%20Outside%20of%20Board%20Opportunities.pdf>

ASSOCIATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

<http://www.wcdsb.ca/spec-ed/gifted/pdf/ASSOCIATIONS%20AND%20ORGANIZATIONS.pdf>

MATH ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITY

BY MR. M. MODOLO

The Waterloo Math Circles is a free weekly enrichment activity for grade 6 to 12 students organized by the Faculty of Mathematics of the University of Waterloo. The meetings are accessible to interested students from grades 9 to 12. Students are placed in groups based on their mathematical background and ability: a group of mostly grade 11 and 12 student and a group of mostly grade 9 and 10 students.

Math Circles meets on Wednesday evenings, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., from October to December and from February to April at the University of Waterloo.

The St. Benedict math department will be working to arrange volunteer drivers to bring students to and from the sessions. And providing optional after school follow-up for participating students.

Interested students or parents (including any parents interested in helping with driving duties) are invited to contact the math department head, Mr. Mark Modolo: mark.modolo@wcdsb.ca.

SUPPORT FOR PARENTS OF GRADE 9 MATH STUDENTS

BY MR. M. MODOLO

Is your son or daughter currently taking grade 9 math?

Are you unsure about how to help him or her with assigned homework?

Do you feel like you would like to be able to provide better homework support?

If so, you may be interested in taking part in our new Math Parent Support program. Please contact Mr. Mark Modolo to learn more about this opportunity: mark.modolo@wcdsb.ca.

HOMEWORK CLUB & CREDIT RECOVERY



Where: ROOM 224

When: MONDAYS and WEDNESDAYS

Time: AFTER SCHOOL 2:30 – 4:00

HOMEWORK CLUB

A quiet place to get your school work completed!

You can get extra help from SUPER teachers!

There are computers and a printer for you to use!

CREDIT RECOVERY

Recover lost credits while still taking a full course load.

Get back on track to graduate.

SEE YOUR GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR FOR MORE INFO AND TO SIGN UP.

Clubs & Athletics

JUNIOR FOOTBALL SAINTS FINISH REGULAR SEASON ON TOP

BY MR. A. MILARDOVIC

The Junior Boys Football team made history with a victory that capped an undefeated regular season.



Jr Boys Football

Saints 36, Galt CI 0
Saints 35, St. David's 8
Saints 32, Glendale 22

Over the last two weeks, the team played three games. They handily shutout Galt Collegiate 36-0. The Saints were led by Dequan French Gray with 3 touchdowns while Brad Vince and Brad McInnis also scored. The Saints defence dominated allowing only 4 first downs the entire game. Drew Walden led the charge with 12 tackles.

Following that victory they kept their undefeated season intact with a convincing 35-8 win over the St. David's Celtics. The Saints were led again by Dequan French Gray, Kyle Cole and Danen Lawless who each scored touchdowns. Drew Walden, Mark Ehrenfellner, and James Smith led a strong defense.

In their final regular season game, the Saints enjoyed a 32-22 win over Glenview Park. The win clinched 1st place and a 'B' Division Championship for the team. The team was led by Kyle Cole, Dequan French-Gray and Brad Vince on offence. Defensively, Drew Walden and Frank Lopez had big games.

The team now waits their opponent in the 'A' playoffs starting next week. Watch the pixelboard, and the website for more details. Good luck Saints!

Jr Girls Basketball

Saints 69, Rockway 10
Saints 68, Doyle 25

Sr Girls Basketball

Saints 26, Rockway 6
Saints 35, Doyle 44

Jr Boys Volleyball

Rockway 2, Saints 3
Saints 3, Pere Rene 0

JUNIOR GIRLS B-BALLERS STILL PERFECT

BY MR. A. MILARDOVIC

The Junior girls basketball team is enjoying a winning season, and currently sits at 8 wins and no losses.

Win number 7 came versus Rockway, 69-10. On Monday they defeated Doyle here at home 68-25.

The girls can finish with a perfect record if they can beat St. Mary's next Monday. Go Saints!

SENIOR GIRLS BASKETBALL: GIRLS NOTCH UP WIN, LOSS

The senior girls basketball team notched the second win of their season against Rockway (26 - 6). Special note goes to Alsyha Grosz who scored a game high 10 points and Andrea Zapanza for chipping in 8.

Following that game, they lost a hard one to cross town rivals Doyle 44 to 35. Special note goes to Andrea Zapanza with 19 points and Meaghan Mason with 14 points and many big rebounds.

We wish the girls luck as they travel to Rez today.

JUNIOR BOYS VOLLEYBALL VICTORIOUS TWICE

Congratulations to the junior boys volleyball team who defeated Rockway in 5 sets. Last Wednesday they defeated Pere Rene quite handily, 3 games to 0.

GIRLS' FIELD HOCKEY TEAM FINISHES FOURTH

Please congratulate our girls field hockey team as they finish this year's season in fourth place. A special congratulations to Symara Cyr who scored a well-earned goal in their last game against the first place team Resurrection. Go Bennies!

DISTRICT 8 X-COUNTRY RESULTS

BY MR. F. WITTMANN

Senior Boys - 1st: Santo Dak (2nd), Nathan Schmidt (4th), Justin Power (10th), Kyle MacFarlane, Peter Reynolds, Shakur Tag-el-din, Blake Schuett, Christian Gomes, Nick Porter, Andrew Sharp, Irfaan Rahaman, Cameron MacArthur

Midget Boys - 2nd (missed 1st by 1 point): Colton Dorion (4th), Erwin Zapanza (6th), Jonathan Reinhart (9th), Mitchell Hall (10th), Michael Burgess, Kevin Irwin

Junior Boys - 2nd (missed 1st by 3 points): Alex MacDonald (2nd), Keith Tanner (6th), Nathan Cumber (8th), Marcus Noble (9th), Ben Taborek, Tully McWatters, Lucas Wozniak, Jason Wozniak, Robbi Hiff, Alex Silver

Midget Girls - 3rd: led by Allie Amaral (4th)

Overall Boys - 2nd

Combined Overall - 3rd



"The loneliness of the long-distance runner" was not the case this year at St. Benedict's, where sixty runners from across all grades came together as a team on a daily basis for fun, fitness, friendship, and frivolity.

The team had many highlights including the Senior Boys District 8 Title – won by the narrowest of margins. Several teams were second at D8 including the Midget Boys, Junior Boys, and Overall Boys. If it wasn't for some key injuries, the team would surely have captured even more titles. Individually, several runners had top 10 performances including Santo Dak, Alex MacDonald, Nathan Schmidt, Allie Amaral, Colton Dorion, Erwin Zapanza, Keith Tanner, Nathan Cumber, Jonathan Reinhart, Marcus Noble, Justin Power, and Mitchell Hall. Congratulations to the whole team on a great year!

INTRAMURAL HOCKEY IS STARTING

Please pick up an info package and permission form from Mr. Jankura or Mr. Offak. Act fast! Spots are limited.

ARE YOU A TRIVIA BUFF?

All students interested in the Reach for the Top Team (senior and junior) should meet on Thursday, November 4 after school in room 319. If you cannot make this meeting please see Mr. Billo in the science office.

JOIN THE KNIT WITS!

Be a knit wit. Join the knit wits and learn how to knit your own Christmas gifts. Our first meeting will be held this Thursday November 4, after school in room 112. For more information see Mrs. Missio or Mrs. Friedrich.

Student Activities

Wow, what a great month we just had! Yearbook day, grad robes, and of course Halloween were some awesome events. But this month is going to be just as good, if not even better. Coming up this week, on Thursday, November 4th is the first school dance of the year! It is black and white themed, so if you wear black, or white, or both, you will get a dollar off your entry fee! The

dance will go from 6:30-10:00pm, and it will be \$5 to enter, or \$4 if you dress in black and white. Your student card or timetable will be required to enter.

Another reminder is of the annual fall fair which is fast approaching on November 17th. It will happen during period 3 and 4 lunch, and it is sure to be awesome. There will be food, games, prizes, and maybe even a demolition derby! Also, there will be spirit wear for sale for only \$10! So make sure you bring some money, and I will see you there.

Upcoming Events

November 3: SrG Bask @ Resurrection

November 3: JrB VB vs RCSS

November 3: Grade 9 "Take our kids to Work Day"

November 4: Fall Dance, 6:30-10:30

November 5: Professional Activity Day

November 7: OFSAA

November 8: SrG Bask vs St. Mary's

November 8: JrB VB @ SMHS

November 11: Remembrance Day

November 17: SAC Fall Fair

November 18: DECA Regionals

November 18: Report card distribution

Be sure to check the calendar on the school website for more information. You can find it under **Benny's**

News > Calendar of Events.

Miscellaneous

WE WANT TO KNOW...

Your opinions are important to us! Please [email us](#) with your comments and suggestions. If you like our newsletter, tell others; if you don't like it, tell us!

Check out our school website at <http://stbenedict.wcdsb.ca> for news and information updates.

This newsletter is also available on the school website if you [click here](#). You may want to send this link to other parents rather than forward your email—doing so may alter the layout and generate the page incorrectly.

