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The BENN newsletter is a publication of St. Benedict CSS. It is distributed every second Wednesday during the school year using the WCDSB News-wire service. Any questions or comments pertaining to this publication can be sent to the editor [Anton Milardovic](#) or the school's principal [Dan Witt](#).

BENN Staff

[Mr. Anton Milardovic](#)
[Mrs. Jennifer Jackson](#)
[Ms. Laura Varriano Lane](#)

Next Issue

March 26, 2014

Why is this purple?

Saturday is [International Women's Day](#). At Benny's, staff will recognize the day tomorrow by wearing purple, which is one of the colours associated with IWD.

The plight of women in society does not go unnoticed in our school, as many history, sociology, and religion classes look at this social injustice—locally, nationally, and internationally. We recognize that many girls around the world do not have access to the education which we almost take for granted, and we encourage students to take a stand for this, and other causes which attack the dignity of the human being, woman or man.

This Saturday think of a woman who has inspired you, or supported you. Look around you. We have many female heroes; from the soccer mom to the CEO, from Mother Teresa to Kayla Baker ... women have impacted our world profoundly, and for the better. Let's celebrate their accomplishments, and work to provide all women with equality and respect.

— Editor

Women's equality has made positive gains but the world is still unequal. International Women's Day celebrates the social, political and economic achievements of women while focusing world attention on areas requiring further action.

- International Women's Day website

Benny's in the Local Media

THE RECORD: [Saints 1-for-3 in finals](#)

CAMBRIDGE TIMES: [City wrestlers medal at Winter Games](#)

CAMBRIDGE TIMES: [The WCDSB Specialist High Skills Major Progr...](#)

CITY NEWS: ['CityNews at 6' wins Best Local Newscast at Canadian...](#)

Administrative

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test Thursday, March 27, 2014

By Mrs. L. CRAFTCHICK

Overview of the test and its purpose:

- The OSSLT is written by grade ten students who are working toward an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).
- The OSSLT is based on the curriculum expectations of all subjects up to and including grade nine. It is not solely based on English curriculum expectations.
- Students are required to meet Ontario standards—the passing grade is the equivalent to 75%. Students must pass both reading and writing activities to fulfill their literacy requirement.
- Students receiving Accommodations or Special Provisions will receive a letter in the mail outlining their available accommodations. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these accommodations please contact your son/daughter's special education monitor or email Leisha.Craftchick@wcdsb.ca to discuss.
- Students who are unsuccessful on their first attempt may write the test the following year. If they are again unsuccessful, they may enrol in the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (the OSSLC) with principal's approval. If a student passes this course, he / she will fulfill his/her literacy requirement.

Additional Literacy Supports Available:

- The Student Success Centre will be offering after school prep sessions for all students. No prior arrangements necessary just drop in Monday – Friday from 2:30–4:00.
- The Student Success Centre will also make available a number of support resources (e.g. Don't Panic 2.0 On-the-Go Practice for the OSSLT Print Edition) that students are welcome to access.
- Information sessions will take place in all Grade 10 homerooms leading up to the test. Additional sessions are offered for all senior students who still need to fulfill the literacy requirement.
- Grade 10 students will also participate in prep sessions during their regular scheduled classes leading up to the test.
- Students and Parents are also encouraged to visit the EQAO website (www.eqao.com) for additional Student and Parent Resources.

Special Schedule for the OSSLT on March 27, 2014

Warning Bell: 8:15 a.m.

Morning Exercises: 8:20 a.m.

Grade 10 and Previously Eligible Students

Instructions: 8:25 – 8:30 a.m.

Booklet # 1: 8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

Break: 9:45 – 10:00 a.m.

Booklet # 2: 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.

Questionnaire: 11:15 – 11:25 a.m.

Lunch: 11:25 – 12:05 p.m.

All St. Benedict Students

Period 3: 12:10 – 1:15 p.m.

Period 4: 1:20 – 2:25 p.m.

Download our

OSSLT Tip
Sheet

in PDF format

** School and GRT buses will follow their regular schedule on this day.*

News from the Guidance Department

BY MRS. P. KLASSEN

Thanks from the Guidance Department

The Guidance Department would like to extend a huge “thank-you” to the entire St. Benedict Community – students, parents and staff – for their help and support during the course selection process. The vast majority of students completed the task of choosing their courses, using the on-line program for next year by the deadline of February 26. This has given our department time this week to contact students who have yet to complete this important task. If your son or daughter has not returned their paper copy, signed by a parent or guardian to the guidance office, please encourage them to do so as soon as possible.

Are you planning to graduate in June? Get your Community Service Hours finished!

In addition to earning 30 credits and completing the Literacy Requirement, all potential graduates must complete 40 hours of Community Service to be granted their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Grade 12 students who are planning to attend the June 25, 2014 graduation ceremony at Conestoga College, need to have these hours completed and documented in order to meet graduation requirements. It is our expectation that Community Service Hours will be completed, documented and handed in to the main office by Friday, May 30, 2014.

Looking for a Summer Job??

Cambridge Career Connections is hosting a March Break Summer Job Fair on March 13th from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM at The Royal Canadian Legion. The Legion is located at 4 Veterans Way, just down the street from Cambridge Career Connections. Come out to this event and meet many employers with a variety of available positions. For more information, call 519-622-0815 or stop by the office at 40 Ainslie Street South – just across from the bus terminal.

Grade 11 Catalyst Conference for Girls

The University of Waterloo is hosting the 4th Annual Catalyst Grade 11 Girls Conference from May 2 to May 4, 2014. Attendees will experience what it means to be an engineer and what it is like to be a student at the University of Waterloo. By participating in a number of hands-on workshops, meet and greets with female engineering students, competing in a design competition and experiencing life in residence, they will build a better understanding of the profession of engineering and post-secondary education.

The registration fee for this event is \$100 and includes meals, some snacks and residence accommodations. All students are responsible for their own travel to Waterloo. Interested students are asked to submit an application which can be found on the University of Waterloo Catalyst website.

Conferencing coming up!

As you know, our annual spring Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences are coming up on Thursday, March 20th. This is an excellent opportunity for parents to meet with teachers and have a dialogue which will ultimately lead to your son's or daughter's success.

Students will start the day with shortened 55 minute periods. The schedule for the day is as follows:

Period 1: 8:20 to 9:15

Period 2: 9:20 to 10:15

Lunch: 10:15 to 11:05

Period 3: 11:05 to 12:00

Period 4: 12:05 to 1:00

Interviews: 1:30 – 8:00

Parents who would like to book an interview time with teachers can do so by emailing teachers off the staff page on the school website; About Us ► St. Benedict's Staff

Oh say can you..... TWEET?

By MR. A. MILARDOVIC

With the explosion of social media and communication technologies over the last few years, we at St. Benedict's have looked for better and more effective ways to provide both parents and students with more timely announcements, information and updates. In an attempt to focus those messages to specific groups which may be interested in only certain pieces of information, several groups in the school have created their own Twitter feeds.

@StBenedictCSS

Our school's "official" Twitter feed.

@SAC_Updates

A Twitter feed run by our student activities, directed mainly at students.

@sbcssathletics

Athletics department

@decasbcss

St. Benedict's DECA business club

@BennySkills

St. Benedict Skills Canada info; used primarily to keep in touch with our competitors along with their teacher mentors.

@BenniesLinkCrew

St. Benedict's Link Crew feed; used primarily to communicate to members of Link Crew.

@StBen_Bdmntn

The source for announcements and schedule changes to practices for the Junior and Senior Badminton Team.

Catholic Board Seeks Nominations for Annual Distinguished Graduate Award

Grads making a difference locally, nationally & internationally

SPECIAL FROM THE WCSDB

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board is seeking nominations for its annual Distinguished Graduate Award. Deadline for submissions is April 15, 2014.

The prestigious award was initiated by the Board of Trustees in 2005 to honour graduates of Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to their faith and have made significant contributions to their community. Past award recipients are:

- Mary Jo Fedy, Managing Partner, KPMG -- Waterloo (2013);
- Rev. Toby Collins, C.R., Vocation Director for the Congregation of the Resurrection (2012);
- Teacher / missionary Sister Barbara Paleczny, SSND (2011);
- David Eby, Executive Director of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association - and current B.C. MLA (2010);
- Rev. Paul Voisin, C.R., Vicar General of the Diocese of Hamilton (Bermuda) (2009);
- Ontario cabinet minister Dr. John Milloy (2008);
- CTV National News Anchor Lisa LaFlamme (2007);
- University of Waterloo professor Dr. Brian Orend (2006);
- Ontario Superior Court Justice Patrick J. Flynn (2005).

Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region update

The Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region would like to invite you to follow us on Twitter @STSWR to receive transportation cancellations, transportation and safety news which are all relevant to your school community.

We will not be tweeting delays for individual routes. Continue to use the subscription service, as well as <https://bpweb.stswr.ca/Cancellations.aspx> for delays on your individual bus route.

We strive to continually find ways to meet your needs better.

BENN Poll

By MR. A. MILARDOVIC

In our last issue of the *BENN*, our poll question was how many medals Canada was going to finish with. We presented a range from 20-25. Nearly 30% of respondents predicted 23 or 24, and only one respondent successfully predicted 25. After the "double-double" with hockey and curling, along with the other success stories of our Olympians, we were left with much to cheer about.

The *BENN* Poll

This poll is closed.

March Break!

What are you doing this March Break?

sleeping	3
working	1
getting caught up on (school)work	3
traveling in Canada	0
traveling to the U.S.	4
traveling beyond the U.S.	3
haven't thought about it yet	0

Enriching the Lives of Students

BY MRS. D. WITTMANN

The Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities created a website for students interested in enrichment and summer opportunities.

Take a look: <http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/career/enrich.html>

Students Participate in U of W Math Contests— Round 2

BY MISS C. STOCKIE

On Thursday, February 20th, we had over 75 students from Grade 9, 10 and 11 competing in the University of Waterloo's Pascal, Cayley and Fermat Math Contests—quite an amazing turnout!! Results are not expected for a few weeks, but stay tuned for details soon...

Round 2: The U of W also hosts a slate of high-profile Elite Math Contests, including the Grade 9 Fryer, Grade 10 Galois, and Grade 11 Hypatia contests. This event is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, April 16th. Students who are interested in participating in this second round of contests are asked to sign up in the Math office. A \$5.00 deposit is required—and the your money will be returned on the day you write the contest. Deadline to register is Friday, March 21st! Don't delay!

Finally, Grade 12's have been waiting patiently for their turn... and it's finally here! Any Grade 12's interested in writing the 2014 Euclid Math Contest are asked to sign up with their Grade 12 Math teacher, or to come to the Math Office. Once again, students will be asked to make a \$5.00 deposit when they sign up. Deadline to register is on Friday, March 21st. (Remember that some schools and some programs state that students applying to their programs MUST have participated in the Euclid contest (including Math and Engineering at the University of Waterloo)). Being a participant in this even also opens the door for several scholarship opportunities.

Please talk to your Math teacher about accessing past copies of contests and full solutions in preparation for these dates.

Programmers write UW Canadian Computing Contest

BY MR. A. MILARDOVIC

Last Wednesday, four of our grade 11 and 12 students wrote the prestigious UW programming contest. The contest—where students are given three hours to complete five problems—challenged the students' mathematical, logical, and other problem-solving skills.

By the end of the three hours, all four students managed to complete several of the questions, with Barry Rastrullo successfully completing 3 programs and partially completing a fourth to get our highest score.

We also commend Danny Cheng, Ryan Briones, and Fan Zhao for strong showings. Programming on your own under a strict time constraint and with a high level of difficulty did not deter these boys from trying their best, and the boys can be proud of their accomplishment.

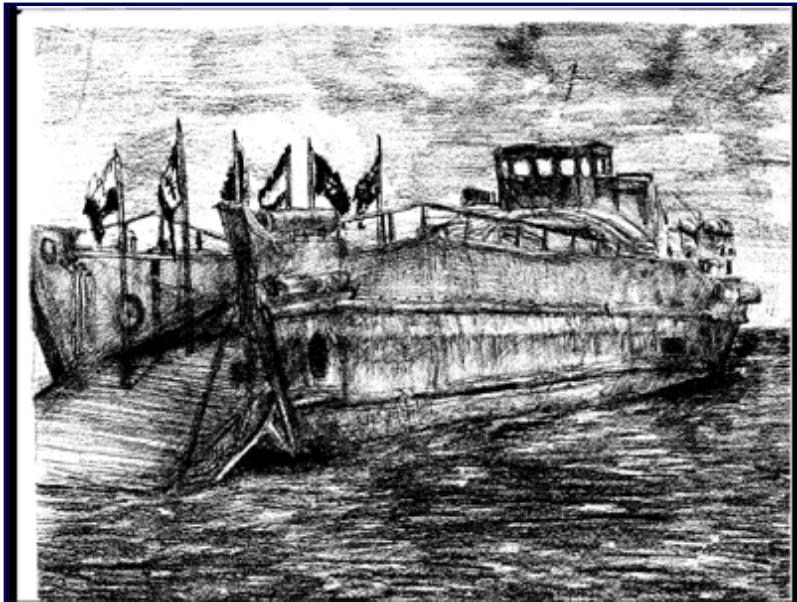
Our next computer contest action will be after March Break when we get the opportunity to participate in the ECOO programming contest, a team-based programming contest where our competition will be teams from the other four high schools in our Board.

Waterloo County English Awards submissions due soon

BY MR. R. O'DACRE

Submissions for the Waterloo County English Awards are due the day of the Literacy Test, Thursday, March 27. There will be a meeting where category winners at the school level will be invited to that event. Students are encouraged to submit their own and recent works of poetry, short story, prose, or drama for the contest where their work will be professionally reviewed and judged. Prizes will be awarded to category winners. Contact Mr. O'Dacre to get further details.

Student Art



"Unity of War"

A rendering of a landing craft in World War II

By Laura Bradbury, grade 10

Athletics

Wrestlers have mixed results

BY MS. D. COSTA

A big congratulations goes out to Harvir Lall and Maddison Braga who wrestled hard and represented the Saints with pride. During her first match, Maddison wrestled with finesse and confidence and won the match 10-0. Her next two matches were tough and while she wrestled hard, she was unable to secure herself a spot in OFSSA.

After a long day of battle, Harvir Lall placed bronze and was then afforded the opportunity to a challenge match where he won and secured a spot in the OFSSA wrestling meet. We wish him luck for his tournament in two weeks...Go Harvir!!!

Powerlifters achieve personal bests

By MR. J. FIGUEIREDO

Please congratulate the following students for a great performance at their first Ontario Powerlifting Regional Meet at Glenview Park Secondary School held Saturday, March 1: Jason Falco, Jordan Bilado, Yousif Hassan, Brent Moore, and Abdallah Hassan. All lifters reached personal bests at the event.

Brent Moore, Abdallah Hassan, and Jordan Bilado each received a silver medal in their respective weight categories. Abdallah also set a regional record for the Deadlift by successfully lifting 435lbs with relative ease.

Track and Field training begins!

By MR. F. WITTMANN

Track and Field indoor has started. It is from 2:45-3:45 Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays until March Break. Meet near phys ed office prepared for an indoor workout.

Stay up to date with District 8 Sports

Now receive sports updates in your email or on your mobile device!

The new [District 8 website](#) now allows you to sign up themselves for nightly e-mail updates. You can select the school (or schools) you want to follow, and all the sports results will be sent to your email address.

The service is free. Sign up by going to <http://district8.ca/admin/emailSignUp.php>.

Girls Hockey Team to compete at York

By MRS. L. O'NEILL

A reminder for the girl's hockey team we will be competing in the York University tournament on March 19. Please ensure you have a ride and are ready to go. There will be a brief meeting on Monday, March 17 (the Monday after March Break) at lunch in room 107 to discuss the schedule and confirm rides.

Clubs

A Fresh Idea

By MRS. R. CURRIE

Do you Love good food? Do you love watching documentaries? Do you want to learn more about vegetarianism, animal welfare, and the environment? Then you belong at the BRAND NEW FRESH CLUB!

The first meeting for this BRAND NEW CLUB is Thursday, March 6 @ lunch in room 310. All are welcome!

Outers Club Spring Hiking Trip

By MR. A. REITZEL

The OUTERS CLUB is gearing up for a spring hiking trip. First weekend in May. Listen to the announcements, watch the BENN, or talk to Mr. Fratargangeli, Ms. Novakovich, or Mr. Reitzel for more information.

Doctor Who Club

By MR. D. KUKWA

Attention Doctor Who Club members: a reminder that, due to the shortened week, we will be meeting today, after school. There will be a March Break prize raffle, to celebrate the beginning of the holiday.

Student Activities

Saints savour some Sears success

By MR. A. RENNER

Please congratulate the cast and crew of School for Scandal, this year's entry in the Sears Ontario Drama Festival. They performed brilliantly last Monday, and while they did not advance to Regionals, they made our school proud, both on stage and off stage.

Special congratulations go to the following award winners: Chris Fuellos, who won an Award of Merit for acting—Chelsea Leite, who won an Award of Excellence for directing—the entire hair, make-up and costume crew, who won an Award of Excellence for design—Mrs. Ildi Kloiber, Addison Berry, Yollanda Chakabveyo, Abby Ferguson, Sarah Huddleston, Tamara Lapinsksa, Victoria Pelley, Fabiola Pierre, Raquel Moniz, Jenn Cuda, and Emily Riga.

Thank you especially to Ildi Kloiber, for beautiful and professional costume work, and to Mike Berger, for helping us in the shop.

Finally, a HUGE congratulations and thank you to Jan Cox, who chose and cast the show, supervised the kids during rehearsals, and poured her heart and soul into making a high school play look like a show at the Stratford Festival. St. Benedict is so blessed by all the work you've done!

Please congratulate the following students for all their hard work: Chelsea Leite, Vanessa Pires, Hailey Wright, Jenn Cuda, Julia DaSilva, Andrew Nguyen, Johnathan Lawes, Chris Fuellos,



Chris Fuellos, Darlene Spencer (the adjudicator), Chelsea Leite, Addi Berry, and Abby Ferguson.

Nicou Alizadeh, Grant Brook, Mikael Melo, Matt Horscroft, Emma Fritz, Alex Silver, Sarah Nemeth, Lucas Cesarini, Madi Morelli, Miranda Zahra, Veronica Tur, Samantha Chalmers, Mehki Watier, Jonathan Markov, Sebastian Cristancho, Emily Riga, Addi Berry, Yollanda Chakabveyo, Abby Ferguson, Tamara Lapinska, Victoria Pelley, Fabiola Pierre, Raquel Moniz, Sarah Huddleston, Evan Rodenburg, Dawson Driscoll, and Laura Shuhbauer.

Other News

Ninth Annual
Bishop's Banquet

Proceeds to Support : Faith Formation Programs
Within The Waterloo Region Catholic Schools



Tuesday • May 13th • 2014 • 5:30 pm

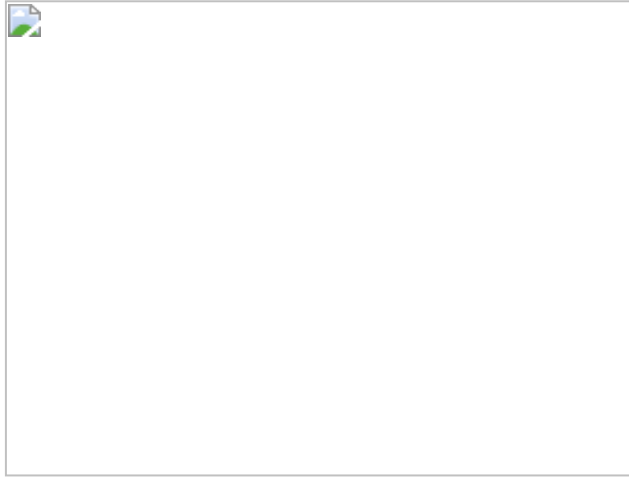
Catholic Education Centre • St. Mary's Parish Hall
35 Weber Street West • Kitchener • Ontario
(corner of Weber St. W and Ontario St.)



Tickets: \$100 per seat / \$800 per table TICKET#

A charitable receipt will be issued for a portion of the ticket price.

Remember this weekend!



Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 5

2:30pm Anime Club
2:30pm Reach For the Top
Spirit Day
Ash Wednesday
BENN Newsletter release

Thursday, March 6

8:20am Standard First Aid & CPR-C Training
8:20am Glass Fusing Workshop
8:20am Guitar Repair Training
11:00am Fresh Club
2:30pm Seams Sew Easy Club
2:30pm Girls' Workout Club

Friday, March 7

PA Day

Sunday, March 9 to Friday, March 14

March Break

Monday, March 17

8:20am Progress Reports Distributed
11:00am Guitar Club
2:30pm Camera Club
2:30pm Electric Car Club

Tuesday, March 18

9:00am Reconciliation

Wednesday, March 19

8:20am Electrical Safety, Lockout/Tagging and
Health & Safety Training
11:00am Art Club
11:20am Eco Squad
2:30pm Anime Club
2:30pm Reach For the Top
2:30pm Electric Car Club
Spirit Day

Thursday, March 20

11:00am Fresh Club
1:00pm Parent/Teacher Interviews
2:30pm Seams Sew Easy Club

Thursday, March 27

8:20am OSSLT Literacy Test Grade 10
11:00am Fresh Club
2:30pm Seams Sew Easy Club
2:30pm Girls' Workout Club
7:00pm School Council Meeting

Check the calendar on the school website for more information. New information is always being added, and more detailed information about upcoming events can be found there. To see the full calendar, go to Benny's News ► [Calendar of Events.](#)

**Keep up with what's
happening at St.
Benedict's using your
cell phone**

2:30pm Girls' Workout Club
Spring equinox

Friday, March 21

2:30pm Doctor Who Video Club

Monday, March 24

11:00am Guitar Club
2:30pm Camera Club
2:30pm Electric Car Club

Wednesday, March 26

11:00am Art Club
11:20am Eco Squad
2:30pm Anime Club
2:30pm Reach For the Top
2:30pm Electric Car Club
Spirit Day
BENN Newsletter release



Visit
stbenedict.wcdsb.ca/calendar.php
from your cell phone.
(Be sure to bookmark it!)

Miscellaneous

We want to know...

Thank you to those who have taken time to provide us with feedback. 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.

