

# SPECIAL EDITION

## Half-million dollar grant received by St. Benedict

Some news is too exciting to keep a lid on

By ST. BENEDICT ADMINISTRATION

St. Benedict school is pleased to announce that they have received a \$500,000 grant from the recently announced Federal Infrastructure Program to make improvements to the building. The school is already almost 20 years old, and is starting to show its age.

Principal Dan Witt was asked by local reporters, "How do you plan to spend a half-million dollars?" Mr. Witt replied that he has struck a committee and they are taking suggestions. When pressed further, he did divulge that the leading idea is to install a washroom in every classroom and instructional area of the school. "It might require re-plumbing the entire school over the summer months", acknowledged Witt, "but the educational time gained by eliminating time-consuming strolls to the washroom are immeasurable."

Vice-Principal Mark Sauve was quick to add, that "staff supervision of hallways could be significantly reduced, and such staff could be re-deployed as teaching assistants in classrooms where they are needed most."

Vice-Principal Lorrie Temple chimed in, "If adding washrooms in classrooms is what's best for students, then I think we have to add washrooms to classrooms. You can't put a price on improving student achievement".

As a St. Benedict graduate from the old Bennies, Vice-Principal David Jaeger is the only dissenting administrative voice. Jaeger said "Hey. We only had 6 toilets in the old building, and I think we turned out O.K."

Over the next several weeks, teachers will engage students in conversations to determine optimal placement of the bathrooms in each classroom. The committee will consult with the Board's engineering



Last month as part of the Federal budget PM Trudeau and Finance Minister Bill Morneau announced a special fund to improve building infrastructure. St. Benedict's is the beneficiary of \$500,000 of that infrastructure money.

team to make the final decision. "We are excited to be part of this pilot project," says Mr. Witt, "it will certainly help us in our pursuit of the idea of *leaving no students behind*."

The project is still in its initial phases, but we are flushed with excitement. For more information about this project and to see design ideas, [click here](#).

## THE END of the story for the Library

By SBCSS STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Last week, the Clemens Mills branch of the Cambridge Public Library closed its doors at the St. Benedict building. The new tenant, "Idea Exchange", wanted to make their presence felt immediately. Within 45 minutes of occupation, an organized band of technicians with sky-jacks took down the old signage in broad daylight, and quickly replaced it with the new letters. Students interviewed at the school were somewhat confused with the mysterious, unannounced change.

Although there was no official statement from the Library, insiders believe the library lost the fight with the digital world.

"(The library) really tried to stay relevant by adding new computers, a music playing area, and permitting food and drinks," commented SAC Co-President Tyler DeSousa. "I guess the winds of change were too strong". Tyler's fellow Co-President Trevor O'Hagan agreed with his peer, but pointed out that, "at least nobody lost a job." All former Library employees have been re-hired by the new tenant.

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Bye bye books; with the advent of the digital age it was bound to happen...

The school staff had similar reactions. "Students seem to be accessing the new service, almost as if the old library never closed up shop," said John Curtis, SAC Director. He did lament, though, that most of the "exchanging of ideas" seems to happen without face-to-face interactions, and the dialogue abruptly stopping at 140 characters. "Who knows if this change is for the better?" he asked rhetorically. "It's one for the books, that's for sure."

Cambridge Mayor Doug Craig was approached for commentary, he has issued a statement which you can [read here](#).

## Environment Canada finds high levels of chemical in yesterday's rainfall

By WCDSB NEWSWIRE

A leaked document shared with school officials early this morning indicated that an Environment Canada monitoring station at an undisclosed location recorded a significant level of dihydrogen monoxide in yesterday's rainfall. Authorities are in the process of verifying these results.

Several studies on dihydrogen monoxide seem to be watered down with unimportant facts, and evidence is mixed as to whether or not there should be concern by these findings. Environment Canada

also noted that the level of this chemical has been increasing in lakes and rivers since the start of the spring thaw.

We reached out to several of our science teachers for their input. Their general feeling is that it is not the first time that this chemical has been found in precipitation. One teacher did say that, "I'm not sure whether this level would be harmful, but since no one has mentioned it until now is there really a potential health risk?"

Environment Canada measures quantities of elements in precipitation on a regular basis, quoting values in parts per million (ppm). It is clear that dihydrogen monoxide levels are significantly higher than any other chemical found in yesterday's rainfall, although not quite as high as 1,000,000 ppm.

Much research has been done about dihydrogen monoxide, which—in its purest form—is colourless, odourless, and tasteless. Some scientists have done studies on the benefits of the chemical, while some have chosen to remain silent.

The most comprehensive study to be done about the effects of dihydrogen monoxide on human health can be found on the [Swedish National Organization of Physical and Environmental Sciences](#) website.

## Miscellaneous

### We want to know...

Thank you to those who have taken time to provide us with feedback. Especially if you thought our April Fools stories were funny and entertaining. 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.

