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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 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](#).

BENN Staff

[Mr. Anton Milardovic](#)

Next Issue

August 30, 2017

Have a safe, relaxing summer!

To our graduates: congratulations and all the best, and to students returning in the fall, we look forward to seeing you in September!

- Editor

Report card and registration package pick-up

This year, report cards and registration packages will not be mailed out. You can come to the school to pick them up July 18, 19 or 20, or August 8, 9 or 10 between 7:30 and 2:30.

Bennie's in the Media

CAMBRIDGE TIMES: [Three Cambridge high schoolers named t...](#)

CAMBRIDGE TIMES: [Happy Face Hill makes good impression o..](#)

CAMBRIDGE TIMES: [Ghosts grad ready to rain down buckets i...](#)

Administrative

Congratulations graduates!



BY MR. A. MILARDOVIC

Last night at the Conestoga College Athletics Complex, the St. Benedict community celebrated graduation. Nearly 300 students proudly crossed the stage to receive their diplomas, along with various awards and accolades. It was a very fitting final tribute to students who will be leaving us for higher academic pursuits.

The master of ceremonies for the evening was Mrs. Lisa Ann Kukwa Flynn, who not only performed the regular duties of an MC, but also provided some light-hearted humour and messages for our graduating class. The evening was filled with laughter, joy, and at times tears. The first diploma to be conferred was to the late Ryan Basra, a student whose life was cut short, and would have been a part of this year's graduating class. His diploma was received by his brother to a rousing applause and standing ovation.

From the passing of the candle ceremony to the Valedictorian address by Sarah Joseph, the evening epitomized what it meant to be *a celebration of people*. Celebrating the accomplishments of students in the college, university, or workplace stream again demonstrated how hard we work to be the *heart of the community: success for each, a place for all*.

To our graduates: congratulations once again on your accomplishments. We hope that you will cherish your years at St. Benedict and will continue to be Saints in all you do, wherever you go!

St. Benedict's awarded \$545,000 from Hallman Foundation for Phase III of Community Project

St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School's Healthy Living and Learning Community Hub has just received a major boost of \$545,000 from the Lyle S. Hallman Foundation Children and Youth Capital Grants Program. The purpose of this grant program is to increase access to facilities offering recreation and character-building programs for children and youth in the community.

Aimed at enhancing the Heart of the Community partnership started in 2015, phase III of the project provides children and youth with an accessible community hub through the renovation of indoor and outdoor facilities by removing barriers while enhancing and supporting healthy living and lifelong learning in the community.

The successful application, facilitated by the Waterloo Region Catholic Schools Foundation, is the result of a partnership between St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School, Idea Exchange and Region of Waterloo Public Health and Emergency Services. The funds awarded will optimize infrastructure at St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School and Idea Exchange Clemens Mills Library to create a multi-generational, year round fully accessible and functional centre that supports the needs and interests of children and youth and fosters relationship-building with their families and neighbours of all ages. With a focus on accessible spaces and free services, the project will support a variety of healthy living (physical, social, mental, spiritual) and learning opportunities. One of the highlights of The Healthy Living and Learning Community Hub is that it is designed to encourage families to participate in formal and informal activities together; “the family that plays together stays together”.

The Healthy Living and Learning Community Hub project is undertaking the challenge to enhance community connections, socially, intellectually and physically. “By providing diverse, balanced and accessible options to the community, we believe that multi-generational role modeling of active and social lifestyles will support all ages to build strong relationships, understanding and respect for all. Through the creation of a safe and welcoming centre of recreation and learning that attracts multi generational use, the interests of differing cultures and abilities, we can generate a more robust experience for all persons to become physically, emotionally, spiritually and socially well, learning and playing together,” says principal Dan Witt.

The modifications and enhancements of the facility will be determined through a community consultation process planned for this fall. This consultation will engage community members from the surrounding area as well as students, teachers, parents and community partners to inform both the design of the facility and related programming opportunities.

***Funding for the third phase
brings the total scope of the
project to \$1,010,000***

The \$545,000 awarded from the Hallman Foundation builds on the second phase of the project through the \$300,000 generous donation of the Lyle S.Hallman Foundation Children in Youth Capital Bi-Annual Grant in 2015. The success of this project came to fruition through the success of the AVIVA Community Fund. St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School was awarded one of the \$100,000 grand prizes through the AVIVA Community Fund contest -- contributing to a \$165,000 overall budget for the first phase of the project which included enhancement of the track and sports field with an electronic scoreboard and fitness stations. This second phase was launched in May 2017 and has demonstrated much use from the community.

Funding for the third phase brings the total scope of the project to \$1,010,000, moving the vision of the project forward significantly with a focus on supporting the integration and accessibility of youth and families in the Cambridge community.

Completion of the project’s third phase is targeted for August, 2018.

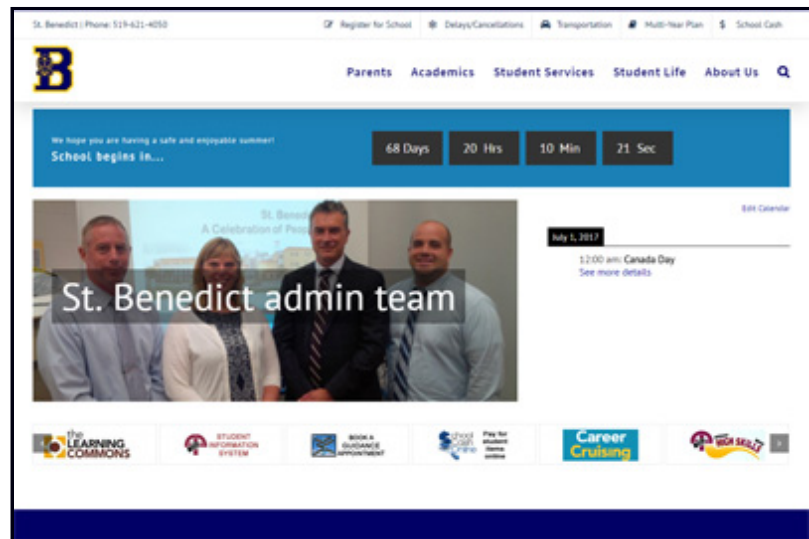
Website 3.0 ... almost ready!

By MR. A. MILARDOVIC

Over the last few weeks we have been working on transitioning our school's website to the WordPress platform. This will make our site more platform-independent (easy to view and navigate on any device), and help us attain compliance with AODA standards. This will also mean a change to the BENN newsletter.

The image to the right is a sneak preview of what our homepage will look like. The website will be more robust with information, and easier to navigate. An expanded announcement system is being developed to ensure you get the latest, most up-to-date information possible.

The exact launch date has not been set, but we are hoping sometime within the first two weeks of August. Stay tuned!



Community Supports

By MS. S. AYERST, SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

CRISIS SUPPORTS Here 24/7 at 1(844) 437-3247 or www.here247.ca
Kids Help Phone at 1(800) 668-6868

Is your family struggling with conflict or parenting challenges? If so, the walk-in counselling program at Front Door can help.

Front Door (519) 749-2932

Tuesday: 12pm – 6:30pm at 35 Dickson St., Cambridge (Lutherwood)

Wednesday: 12pm – 6:30pm at 1770 King Street E., Kitchener (Front Door)

Thursday: 9am – 3:30pm at 1145 Concession Rd., Cambridge (Langs)

Saturday: 9am-3:30pm at Front Door, 1770 King Street E., Kitchener (Front Door)

* Free/No appointment necessary – for families with children up to 18/ students 17 years and under

Looking for ongoing counselling – call the Family Counselling Centre of Cambridge and North Dumfries (FCCCND) at (519) 621-5090. They also have a walk-in counselling clinic on Thursday's

from 1–7:30 pm. They are located at 18 Walnut Street in Galt. FCCCND offers a sliding scale for fee payment, can work with some EAP programs, OW and ODSP benefits.

Are you concerned about your teen’s substance use but aren’t sure how to share your concerns or what to do to help? Call St Mary’s Counselling for information on their parent group (519) 662–9555. You can also contact the Youth 180 program at Ray of Hope (519) 578–8018.

The Community Outreach Program helps families link with community resources such as: recreation /summer camps – fees and subsidies, food supports, clothing supports, child care and other family needs.

Contact the Community Outreach Worker closest to you at (519) 742–8327

Cambridge Family Early Years Centre Tammy ext. 254

Cambridge Self Help Food Bank Sam ext. 250

Fiddlesticks and Greenway Chaplin Community Centre Patti ext. 252

Preston Central and Langs Farm Crystal ext. 256

Preston Heights Community Group Abby ext. 255 Hespeler/Shamrock Suzy ext. 253

Hespeler/GROW Crystal ext. 256

Dealing with Grief/Loss

Hospice Waterloo Region provides support to teens and children who have experienced the death of a loved one. Irena at (519) 743–4114; <http://www.hospicewaterloo.ca>

The Coping Centre offers a peaceful place for support, understanding, compassion and encouragement in the uniqueness of one's grief journey. (519) 650–0852; <http://www.copingcentre.com>

Academics



Enriching the Lives of Students

BY MRS. D. WITTMANN

There many opportunities for students to enhance their learning experience: Enrichment courses, LEAP, OYAP, UCEP, Co–op, Home Build, SHSM, and Skills Canada. Visit the Enrichment blog for information on all these opportunities. The Blogroll contains a plethora of learning enhancements. To learn more about what we offer, click the link. Enrichment@St.Benedict.blog.



English Corner

BY MRS. D. WITTMANN

To receive an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) each student must obtain 4 credits in English (1 credit per grade). Visit the English blog to read the course offerings provided by the Saint Benedict English Department. The Blogroll has great resources for both students and parents. Enjoy! English@St.Benedict.blog.

Coming in September ... What is Pre-AP English?

By Mrs. D. Wittmann

Students in this course will meet the same curriculum expectations as students in ENG 3UI. This course is designed for independent learners who are highly motivated in the area of communications, including reading, writing, oral communications and media studies. Course content will be studied at a deeper level to enhance analytical and critical thinking skills in preparation for university. This course will introduce concepts and assessment methods to prepare students for success with demanding courses and strengthened curriculum in order to increase the academic challenge in all areas of study.

In preparation, this summer students are reading *Frankenstein* by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelly and "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" by Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

Course Note: This course is recommended for students seeking enrichment and whose average in English exceeds the provincial average of 75% (a level 4 in English in previous years is highly recommended). Students need to complete an Application for Advanced Placement and submit it to the guidance office. (Applications can be obtained from guidance office)

Homework Help open during the summer

The Homework Help tutors will be online July 4–27, Monday through Thursday, 5:30–9:30 pm ET. This is a fantastic opportunity for grade 7–10 students who are reviewing math concepts, aiming to learn ahead, and/or enrolled in summer math courses to get live, 1–on–1 math support with Ontario Certified math teachers.

NEW this year: "Getting ready for Grade 9" and "Getting ready for Grade 11" tutoring rooms available!

Homework Help's math resources (Interactive Tutorials, Best Sessions, and Listen & Learns) are available online anytime! They are great tools for students to learn and review concepts inside and outside of the classroom.



tvo
Homework Help

Here for you all summer!
Get help with Grade 7-10 math through live chat with an Ontario teacher and interactive resources.

Math tutors online from
July 4 to July 27 | 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm ET
Monday to Thursday

Register for free math support!
tvo.org/homeworkhelp

Athletics

Clubs

Student Activities

The Arts

Other News

How *BENN*-vironmentally friendly are we?

By Mr. A. MILARDOVIC

As we wrap up this school year and start archiving issues of the BENN, I ask myself: how much paper did we save this year?

We started the BENN newsletter nine years ago as a bi-weekly e-newsletter specifically to provide parents with more timely information, and a side-effect of that has been the tremendous paper savings that has resulted.

This year we put out 25 issues, and reached the 200 issue mark. By generating PDFs of all the issues we could quickly calculate paper savings.

To print each newsletter (double-sided where possible, of course) would have taken 158 pages. Printing 1600 copies every two weeks would mean over 252,000 sheets of paper—the equivalent of nearly 51 boxes of paper. This is almost *1200 kilograms of paper that did not go into the landfill or need to be recycled.*

Thank you for being one of the 1300 subscribers to the BENN, and for helping us do our part for the environment!

1600 copies every two weeks would mean over 252,000 sheets of paper ... nearly 51 boxes ...

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, June 28

BENN Newsletter release

Saturday, July 1

Canada Day

Tuesday, July 18

7:30am Report card/Registration package pick-up

Wednesday, July 19

7:30am Report card/Registration package pick-up

Thursday, July 20

Wednesday, August 9

7:30am Report card/Registration package pick-up

Thursday, August 10

7:30am Report card/Registration package pick-up

Tuesday, August 15

Assumption of Mary

Wednesday, August 30

8:30am Registration – grades 9 and 12

Thursday, August 31

7:30am Report card/Registration package
pick-up

Monday, August 7
Civic Holiday

Tuesday, August 8
7:30am Report card/Registration package
pick-up

8:30am Registration – grades 10 and 11
2:00pm Used uniform sale

Monday, September 4
Labour Day

Tuesday, September 5
8:00am First day of school

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.

