

Giving Thanks....

We hope that your Thanksgiving weekend was filled with grace and gratitude. The school year is certainly in full swing. Thanks to all the parents and students that attended our teacher conferences to begin October. We had a very solid turn out and appreciate the support you have demonstrated to build a strong foundation for learning in the early weeks of the semester. October is another busy month of play off dates for fall sports, auditions for the grade nine play, Academic Awards Night, and Graduation for the Class of 2007–2008. Please tell your friends about the BENN and how to register. We would like to build our distribution list.

As always we appreciate your continued support and involvement in your child's education.

Administrative

WHO IS YOUR ADMINISTRATOR? The administrative contact for your son or daughter is based on your last name; for A to F your contact is [Mrs. Daly](#), for G through O your administrator is [Mr. Bellini](#), and for P through Z your administrator is [Mrs. Leusink](#). As always, feel free to contact our principal, [Mr. McKinnon](#) if you need to.

If your son or daughter is absent from school on a particular day, please try to call the school by noon that day. **The direct phone line for the attendance office is (519) 621-4001.**

As the weather starts to get cooler, students will start wearing coats and sweaters for warmth. We take this opportunity to remind you that non-uniform clothing is not permitted in the classrooms. Students who want to wear a sweater in class must wear a Benny's sweater with the **B** logo. These can be purchased at Mark's Work Warehouse.

Academic



WHAT DO YOU HAVE FOR HOMEWORK? NOTHING? Ah, that timeless answer students give to parents... Many of our teachers are now posting homework assignments on the board's homework repository, ClassNet. In order to get to ClassNet to check for homework, assignments, or other information for classes your son or daughter has, go to <http://classnet.wcdsb.ca>.

On the Benny's website, simply click on the blackboard in the bottom left corner of the screen and it will take you there.

HOMEWORK CLUB We have started again after school in room 224. Get some free teacher support after schools from Monday to Thursday each week. Computers are available for students to do and print assignments.

LITERACY CORNER >>>>>>>>>>

In preparation for the OSSLT (literacy test) we will be running literacy tips in each newsletter courtesy of the Literacy Committee. These tips will help prepare your son/daughter for the test and will enhance literacy skills if your son/daughter has already passed the OSSLT.

OSSLT (LITERACY TEST) Attention all Grade 10 parents! The literacy test will be written on April 2, 2009. Stay tuned for information on a parent night as well as handy tips to help your son or daughter prepare for this test.

LITERACY TIP #1

Encourage your son/daughter to read magazines, newspapers and books, both in hard copy and on-line. As they read, ask them to predict what will happen next? Or identify the main character, the plot and/or theme of the story, article or chapter.

Your children could also try to relate what they read to what they have learned in school, various courses or units of study, thus making connections and applications to the real world.

Being able to identify, predict and make connections are vital skills to have in order for your children to be successful on the literacy test

MATH CREDIT RESCUE The math department is running Math Credit Rescue after school on Mondays and Thursdays from 2:40-4:00. During this time, students from ANY grade level can receive tutoring, homework support, or be given the time/opportunity, in consultation with their classroom teacher, to "rescue" summative assessments (test, quizzes, assignments) that students have had difficulties with. To participate, a student must get a letter from their math teacher, and must return it signed by a parent or guardian.

Clubs & Athletics

STUDENTS RAISE A RACQUET AT TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Congratulations to the Senior Tennis team for their hard work at the Northfield Racquet Club on Wednesday, October 8. Special mention to Julia Sigurdson who made it to the girls' singles quarter finals, Shane Martin and Nick Romero who made it to the boys' doubles quarter finals, and Kate Burns and Yazmin Butcher who lost a close match in the girls' doubles semi finals.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL TEAM SUCCESS CONTINUES

Congratulations to the Junior Football Team as they ran their record to 3 wins 0 losses with a 36-18 win over Waterloo-Oxford two weeks ago. The Saints were led by Kyle Americano (5 touchdowns) and a strong defensive effort led by Warren Harwood.

CROSS-COUNTRY RESULTS Top Finishers: Alexa James, Catherine Umolac, Alysha Smith, Megan Mason, Peter Reynolds, Justin Power
Gutsy performances by our Grade 9 Girls: Brittney, Jessica, Alison, and Gennie

OKTOBERFEST MEET X-COUNTRY NEWS: Top 20 finishers included: Catherine Umolac, Alexa James, Jonathon Van de Graaf and Graeme Macdonald. Senior Boys placed 3rd at this big meet.
Best of luck to whole team at D8 this Thursday!!

BASKETBALL All grade 9 & 10 boys' basketball players are invited to come out to open gyms every Wednesday morning, 7:00am – 8:05am. Get ready for November tryouts! For more information see Coach Fratarcangeli.

CURLING Curling has experienced a large increase in interest at St. Benedict School in recent years. Each year, the Galt Country Club generously offers its ice surfaces to Cambridge high school students at a subsidized cost. Curling at St. Benedict is open to all students, regardless of skill or experience. Our focus this year is been on recreation and skill development, in order to build a strong foundation for teams in the future.

We are looking forward to several exciting upcoming curling events, such as the "Teacher vs. Student" bonspiel and the city-wide playdowns, with students participating from five Cambridge high schools.

Parents and students that would like to find out more about curling at St. Benedict are encouraged to contact Mr. Fage or Mrs. Vopni. Curling begins on Thursday, November 6.

GET FIT! The **Fitness center** is up and running! Muscles have grown in the fitness centre since the last newsletter! Come in to see for yourself. Better yet, come grow some of your own! We are open to all seedlings, students or staff, Monday through Thursday, 2:30 to 3:30.

CALLING ALL NERDS!!!! Are you the next Ken Jennings? Is your life in Jeopardy? Do you want to be a millionaire? **Junior and Senior Reach for the Top** Meeting Thursday, October 16 in room 312 at 2:30. BYOB (Bring Your Oversized Brain) - no loaner brains available at this time.

If you can't make it to the meeting see Mr. Billo or Mrs. Rickert in the Science Office.

GUITAR CLUB runs every Monday, 2:30 to 3:30 pm in room 103. Everyone is welcome!

Other News

STUDENT VOTE 2008

By MR. R. MARTINELLO

**Benny's Student
Vote**

St. Benedict took an active role in this year's federal election. First we hosted an all-candidates debate. Approximately 160 students listened to the four federal candidates: Gary Goodyear of the Conservatives, Scott Cosman of the Green Party, Max Lombardi of the New Democratic Party and Gord Zeilstra of the Liberal Party. The debate was well received by the candidates, the media and the students. We followed this up with a school-wide mock vote sponsored by Student Vote Canada. About 300 votes were cast school-wide. The results were as follows: Scott Cosman with 93 votes, Gary Goodyear with 71 votes, Max Lombardi with 58 votes and Gord Zeilstra with 37 votes.

Green Party	36%
Conservatives	27%
NDP	22%
Liberals	14%

ST. BENEDICT TO HOST JAPANESE STUDENTS

St. Benedict's will be host to a group of 106 boys aged 14/15 and their teachers from Hakodate La Salle Catholic High School in Japan. They will be visiting from December 13th to 21st. Host families are needed to billet one boy each and are paid \$200.00 to help with their additional expenses. If you have room to take one of these boys and would like to make a new friend and have an amazing cultural experience please contact: [Ev Widarski](#), MLI Homestay Coordinator, 519-624-8316.

ST. DONAT SKI TRIP

By Miss A. Pawlowski

Your French teachers are organizing a ski trip to St. Donat from Sunday, February 22nd to Wednesday, February 25th, 2009 for grade 10 to 12 students enrolled in French semesters 1 or 2. This is the only ski trip of its kind! Highlights include:

- Mont Garceau skiing
- Ice and snow follies
- Ecolo-Rally, Quebec Folkloric show, and much more!

For more details, please contact Ms. Annette Pawlowski by phone at (519) 621-4050 ext. 149 or by email at annette.pawlowski@wcdsb.ca.

IS YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER GRADUATING THIS YEAR? Get a Jostens School Ring! Order new designer rings in the atrium on October 20/21 during lunch! Minimum deposit of \$40 required.

RANGER ANNOUNCEMENTS In an effort to keep you up to date with what is going on at St. Benedict, we will be posting the Ranger Announcements on the website. They can be found by clicking on **Benny's News**.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING Parents are invited to get involved in the St. Benedict community by joining our school council. Our next meeting will be Thursday, October 23 at 7:00 pm in room 103. New members are always welcome.

SAVE THOSE ZEHRS TAPES! Period 1 homerooms will be saving Zehrs tapes beginning next week. The homeroom with the highest total receipts will win a class-wide prize before Christmas holidays! Money raised goes towards the Math Department's purchase of Ti-Nspire CAS graphing calculators!

Dates to Remember

October 16: Academic Awards night
 October 17: Opening assembly
 October 22: SAC Spirit Day
 October 23: School Council, 7:00pm
 October 24: Graduation

Miscellaneous

NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

I think that this newsletter is fantastic!! I love to know things that my lovely children forget to inform me of. Thank you!!!!

Thanks for the feedback! We want to know what you think and how we can improve communication with you. Please email the Newsletter editor from the link below.

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

Pass it on! Encourage other parents to join our emailing list! We've now put an image right on the Benny's homepage--click on the icon, and fill in the form, and voila! There are currently **159** people on the list.

This newsletter is also available on the school website if you [click here](#). To see the second issue of the newsletter, [click here](#). Our premier issue is still available if you [click here](#).

Any comments? [Send us an email!](#)