

Note from Administration

A special welcome and note of gratitude to those of you who have come out to join our School Council. It is an important part of the partnerships that help build and focus the work of a community school. Our next meeting is Nov. 27th at 7:00 pm. We hope to build on the great work of our staff, students, and parents as we build a Celebration of People and success for every student here at Bennies.

Please take time to check for report cards being sent home this Friday. Although we do not schedule formal interviews at this time of year (they did occur in Oct.), we do encourage parents to contact teachers with any questions and information that will help support your child's progress. Their email addresses are on the website under **About Us > Staff**.

We would also ask parents to support our students in arriving to school in proper uniform. With the change to cooler weather, a reminder that only school sweaters are permitted in school during the school day, as well any T shirt worn under the uniform for warmth must be plain white or navy blue matching the uniform blue. We all appreciate the need to arrive to school prepared and ready to learn.

Thanks for your continued support.

- Mr. J. McKinnon, Principal

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.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGNALS

BY MR. L. BELLINI, VICE-PRINCIPAL

Recently, the Region of Waterloo's Traffic Department installed new pedestrian crossing signals at the corner of Franklin Blvd. and Saginaw Pkwy. The newly installed crossing signals have a numeric display which counts down. The crossing signal indicates to the pedestrian how much time they have left to safely cross the roadway.

We have also contacted the Traffic Department to increase the crossing time at this intersection. The Region conducted a brief study of the pedestrian traffic at the intersection during the school's two lunch periods. They agreed to extend the crossing times at the intersection between the hours of 11 AM and 1 PM. An announcement has been made to the student body regarding the new crossing signals and extended crossing time. We hope with the installation of the new pedestrian crossing signals and extended crossing times this will help in keeping your child safe.

Academic

LEST WE FORGET

BY MR. T. MUKHAR

Ninety years ago, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, the guns of August were silenced putting an end to WWI. On November 11th to remember the sacrifices and dedication of our fallen and current soldiers,



grade 10 history students were busy putting together an unforgettable display of honour and remembrance of our brave Canadian men and women.

As students arrived to school on the morning of Remembrance Day they walked into the atrium to see a table set for a meal with empty chairs and a visual display of Canadian engagements past and present. The significance of the empty table became clear to the students during an extremely impressive video display put together by grade 10 history students Catherine Umolac, Deanna Kerr, Lucas Pisciueneri, Jessica Benoit and Andrea Baron, under the

direction of videographer Andrew Kolacz. This video was followed by a moment of silence at approximately 11am to honour our Canadian soldiers and veterans.

During WWI approximately 60,000 of our 600,000 men who went to war did not return home or survive the war; in the 1330 days of battle this works out to approximately a Canadian soldier fallen every half hour. To remember these fallen men every half hour of the day students were reminded of a fallen soldier through an announcement made to the whole school by grade 10 history student Chantale Pomerleau.

Overall, in the halls of St. Benedicts on November 11th the sacrifices and dedication of past and present Canadian soldiers were definitely not forgotten!

SAINTS LEADING BY EXAMPLE

By Mr. A. MILARDOVIC, with files from Miss C. STOCKIE

SBCSS Staff have embarked on a new initiative to celebrate student accomplishments. Recently, they received several business cards with which they could nominate a student--in any grade--for demonstrating excellence in one or more of the following categories: academic excellence, dependability, accuracy, working relationships, and respect.

The purpose of this school-wide, year-long initiative is to celebrate the accomplishments of those students in our community who are truly exceptional, but who may get "missed" at an academic awards night, or an athletic banquet, or even an arts banquet. They may have perfect attendance, or be strong academically (but not #1), or be a very responsible young adult, or be able to create wonderful and respectful relationships with students and staff alike, or be dependable--always!

Teachers are asked to take a moment to consider nominating their "best kid" (not top 10), fill out a card, give it to the student, and they can drop it off in the container in the main office. It is the intention of the committee to have bi-weekly draws for student winners. Prizes will include gift certificates, spirit wear, or other merchandise from businesses in our community.

If you have a business and would like to make a contribution to the prizes for our students, please contact [Miss Stockie](#) or [Mr. McKinnon](#).

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

A hearty congratulations goes out to our first-round winners - some truly excellent students:

Grade 9 - P.J. Gorman (for dependability and demonstrating respect at all times)

Grade 10 - Daniyal Abdali (for academic excellence and demonstrating respect) and Sarina Dolch (for academic excellence and dependability)

Grade 11 - Victoria Volk (for academic excellence and exemplary behaviour) and Kass Fernandes (for academic excellence and building strong relationships)

Grade 12 - James Kyeong (for academic excellence, accuracy and dependability)

Watch for new names coming up in our next issue, and details about a school-wide "Wall of Fame".

MATH@MAC

By Miss C. STOCKIE

MacMaster University is sponsoring their 3rd annual Math @ Mac on-line competition, to be held on November 19th, 2008. CASH PRIZES AWARDED for top finishers! Sign up alone or in a team of 2. This contest of open to any student - grades 9 through 12. See your Math teacher or go to the Math Office for more details.

THE END RESULT IS..... COMPLETE

By Mr. R. PALECZNY

Here at St. Benedicts we are trying to increase students success by offering struggling students support during lunch through the Credit Enhancement initiative. Credit Enhancement is a program designed to facilitate the completing of summative assignments that would otherwise go unfinished, and avoid the resulting mark of "incomplete".

Run during 3 & 4 lunch periods, it is currently a mandatory destination for many history, geography, and religion students behind in their summative assignments. They must attend each session, during their lunch period (Tuesday through Thursday), until the assignments are complete, replaced with an earned mark. It is both an incentive program to encourage credit completion, as well a method of character building. Attending Credit Enhancement sessions helps to engender respect and responsibility in students who might otherwise be unwilling to live up to their obligations. It is a great way to stay on top of assignments and to foster your independence for completing work on time. Come out and join the FUN, RESPONSIBILITY & MORE SUCCESS IN CLASS.

ST. BENEDICT'S 2008-2009 MATH LEAGUE

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.

THE GAMES CLUB is hosted by Mr. Riso in room 227 every Thursday after school. Students will have the chance to learn and play new strategy games and compete in various tournaments.

Other News

"SAY HI" DAY

BY MR. D. VRABEC

The school celebrated "Say Hi" day with many fun activities that were enjoyed by many at the school. The "Random acts of Hi-ness" game challenged students to say hi to as many people as possible, in order to gain their buttons. During lunch, the atrium was full of students signing the fantastic posters that will be proudly displayed in the near future. This initiative is designed to encourage people to be courteous to others in the school and the community at large.

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, November 27 at 7:00 pm in room 103. New members are always welcome.

If you are interested in helping with school council activities, but cannot commit to the monthly meetings, we still want to hear from you! Send an email to our principal, [Mr. McKinnon](#), or to one of the school council co-chairs, [Belinda Lutes](#) or [Andrew Bagley](#).

"HELP IN UNDERSTANDING YOUR TEEN"

A PRESENTATION BY DR. JEAN CLINTON

On November 19th, you are invited to a joint presentation of the Monsignor Doyle and St. Benedict school councils. Dr. Jean Clinton, Child and Adolescent Psychologist, will be giving a talk for parents and teachers. If you have not heard her before, she is very entertaining, informative and straight to the reality of understanding adolescent development and brain research. The presentation will take place at Monsignor Doyle at 7:00pm. The poster for the event in PDF format can be downloaded [here](#).

SAVE THOSE ZEHRS TAPES! All period 1 homerooms recently received a shoe box for their Zehrs tapes. 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

November 14: Report Card Distribution
November 18-20: Grade 9 play
November 19: Canadian Open Math Contest
November 21-22: Junior boys' basketball tournament
November 27: School Council meeting, 7:00pm

Miscellaneous

A Note From the Editor...

TRYING TO BE ALL THINGS TO EVERYONE is not an easy task. Our school improvement team, which focuses on communication, is trying to tackle the issue nonetheless. We are dealing with two specific challenges when putting together this newsletter: trying to provide

information to all those who have an interest in the success of our students, and developing a visually appealing document accessible to people reading this file on different computer platforms using different software (browser, email program, etc.).

I would like to take a moment to thank those of you who have provided us with feedback on how we are doing with both of these challenges. We welcome your input, and to quote Mark Hebscher from *CH Live*, "you don't just make our show, you make our show better."

As a business teacher, specifically marketing, there are two important things that I make sure the students remember: 1. To build a successful brand, it has to be of benefit to the customer. 2. To ensure your brand stays successful, do you research, get feedback from your customers, and use that to improve your product.

The BENN Newsletter is something we hope will have a long life, but that will only happen if it's of benefit to you. Please let us know what we're doing well, and what we need to improve. While we can't guarantee we'll act on every suggestion, rest assured your voice will be heard.

- Mr. A. Milardovic

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 **177** people on the list.

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.

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