

## Note from Administration

At the time of distribution we are in the midst of final summative evaluations. We hope students find time to prepare and focus on finishing off a successful first semester. We would like to emphasize to parents and students the importance of regular attendance all semester, but particularly during evaluation time.

We would like to remind parents that if a student is signed out of school they are not to stay at school or the library to study. Students who are signed out of school are expected to be under the care of their parent or guardian. Students at school are expected to be in all assigned classes during the day. We appreciate your support in keeping the students focused on their studies at this critical time of the semester.

Also a reminder to all grade 9s of the *Cookies and Cram* scheduled for Thursday evening January 15, a study period with the support of LINK student leaders in our cafeteria in the evening. Good Luck Saints, remembering that luck is what happens when hard work meets opportunity!

- Mr. J. McKinnon, Principal

## Administrative

### FINAL EVALUATION

NOTE: ALL STUDENTS ARE TO BE IN FULL UNIFORM DURING FINAL EVALUATION AND CREDIT RESCUE CLASSES

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

8:21 - 9:37 Period 2 class  
9:42 - 10:58 Period 1 class or 76 min. Final Evaluation  
11:03 - 12:10 Lunch  
12:20 - 2:20 Period 1 - 2 hour Final Evaluation or Credit Rescue (if required)  
2:30 Bus Pickup

#### FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

8:21 - 9:37 Period 3 or 4 class  
9:42 - 10:58 Period 2 class or 76 min. Final Evaluation  
11:03 - 12:10 Lunch  
12:20 - 2:20 Period 2 - 2 hour Final Evaluation or Credit Rescue (if required)  
2:30 Bus Pickup

#### MONDAY, JANUARY 26

8:21 - 9:37 Period 5 class  
9:42 - 10:58 Period 3 or 4 class or 76 min. Final Evaluation  
11:03 - 12:10 Lunch  
12:20 - 2:20 Period 3 or 4 - 2 hour Final Evaluation or Credit Rescue (if required)  
2:30 Bus Pickup

#### TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

8:30 - 9:46 Period 5 - 76 min. Final Evaluation  
8:30 - 10:30 Period 5 - 2 hour Final Evaluation  
11:00 - 1:00 Period 5 Credit Rescue (if required) 1:10 Bus Pickup

#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

### WHO IS YOUR ADMINISTRATOR?

The administrative contact for your son or daughter is based on your last name:

A to F - [Mrs. Daly](#)  
G to O - [Mr. Bellini](#)  
P to Z - [Mrs. Leusink](#)

As always, feel free to contact our principal, [Mr. McKinnon](#).

8:30 - 10:30 Credit Rescue as arranged by teacher and student  
10:40 Bus Pickup

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES DURING EXAMS**

In the event of a bus cancellation or school closure, the Final Evaluation and classes scheduled for that day will be moved to the next day. If there is a second bus cancellation or school closure, the Final Evaluation and classes will be moved to the next day. For students that do attend school on the bus cancellation day, we will be following a "regular" schedule and you are encourage to use this time as a study period.

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

**UNIFORMS** During the winter season, we remind students that non-uniform clothing is not permitted in the classrooms, and should be left in your locker. This includes hats and scarves. 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 Wearhouse.

## **CHAPLAIN NEWS AND NOTES**

By **MR. B. REMPEL**, CHAPLAIN

As the semester comes to an end, a few final reflections on recent events:

Benny's Christmas Basket and Red Stocking Campaign included 36 baskets and 36 stockings. Approximately \$8000.00 worth of items and money were raised for these impactful projects. Because of the Christmas baskets, Cambridge children had Christmas presents to open and enjoy. The stockings provided African school children with school supplies, which allow school staff to buy food for lunch programs. Thanks to all who contributed.

Our most recent project is one that began in 1998 when Nicaragua was hit by Hurricane Mitch. As a result, Israel, William, Anelica and Aurelis were orphaned. Since that time our school community has financially supported these siblings by providing funds that go to their education. We have been very generous in the past and anticipate the same again this year.

## **Academic**

### **MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE**

By **MRS. D. LOWE**

Students of Mrs. Lowe's grade 12 Religion course (12UC) period 5, are working in cooperation with the grade 7's of Mother Teresa School on an important environmental initiative. In alignment with the course curriculum, students know that it is their responsibility, as stewards of the Earth, to take care of the wonderful planet that God has created. It is their hope to drastically decrease the use of plastic water bottles by bringing awareness to both school communities, as well as to members of the city of Cambridge. This project will connect the elementary students with the secondary students in a positive and pro-active way. Look and listen in the coming months for our campaign and, if you would like to become involved, contact [Mrs. Lowe](#) at St. Benedict.

### **GET YOUR BIT CERTIFICATE**

Before you know it, it will be time to select courses for next year. Students who are interested in business and computer courses should consider getting the BIT certificate. The Business & Information Technology Certificate is a certificate that complements your high school diploma with an area of concentration.

#### **WHY GET IT?**

- Acquire knowledge and skills suited to the workplace or for further study at the post-secondary level
- Photocopy and include with applications for employment

#### **HOW DO YOU ATTAIN IT?**

- One Business Technology course (BTT or BTA) or Computer Science course (ICS 3M)
- One additional "B" coded Business course

Plus any three of:

- All Business Studies courses ("B" codes)
  - All Computer Science courses ("ICS" codes)
  - Economics (CIA4U)
  - 1 Law course (e.g. CLU3M)
  - Mathematics for Personal Finance (MBF3C)
  - Business or Information Technology Co-Op (counts as 2 credits)
- And a minimum average of 60% across the five eligible BIT courses*

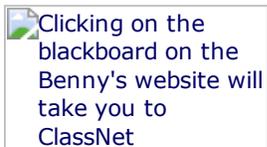
For more information, please have your son or daughter talk to one of the Business Teachers, or visit <http://stbenedict.wcdsb.ca/business/> for details.



**LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATIONS** All students and parents are encouraged to read for at least 15 minutes a day. Pick a book, magazine, newspaper and enjoy!

Students in grade 10 and their parents are reminded that the Literacy Test will occur on April 2, 2009. In addition to in-class activities, there will be multiple preparation opportunities so stay tuned for details.

And the ski trip to St. Donat Quebec (Feb. 22-25, 2009) is fast approaching!



### 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** Homework Club is a Volunteer Tutoring Centre run by St. Benedict Teachers. It takes place Monday to Thursday every week from 2:30 to 3:30 in Rm 224. The room is staffed with a minimum of two teachers at a time and these teachers have expertise in math, science and the arts. Students can come to utilize the many computers in the room, seek assistance from teachers, work with friends or just have a quiet place to go each day to complete homework. It is a great program that many students are using but more are always welcome.

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

### IMPORTANT LITERACY TEST DATES

**Literacy Parent Night** for all grade 10 parents will occur during the interview night March 9th from 6:30-7:30, weather date the Tuesday, March 10th (we thought having it during the interview time may encourage more parents to come to the meeting and/or interviews)

**January 13:** all grade 9 English classes wrote a practice literacy test- all classes in first semester

**February 16 to March 25:** every Monday and Wednesday - after school literacy prep in room 210, 2:30-4:00

**Beginning the end of February until the test date:** period 1 and 5 Grade 10 classes using the computer lab for test practice and skill building.

**March 3:** all grade 10s will write the literacy practice test in period 2- we can then mark the test and have some directive support for those students who were unsuccessful

**March 11:** grade 9 English classes will write a practice literacy test- all classes in second semester

**March 23 to 27:** Literacy Lockdown week- all program areas reviewing and preparing for the test- various periods during the week

### LITERACY TIP #5

*To boost comprehension...*

An active reader is an inquiring reader.  
Have your son/daughter, when they are reading to ask themselves or to tell you:

What is this all about?

Who are the main characters?

What is going on here?

What is going to happen next?

What is really meant here?

**March 24:** Grade 10 information session period 2 for the literacy test- set up in the caf (30 minutes)

**March 25:** All students who are writing a second time- information session in the chapel period 1 (30 minutes)- slips will be handed out via homerooms for attendance purposes.

**March 30, 31, April 1:** Lunch time test practice, free pizza and literacy help

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## WCDSB STUDENT SUCCESS SITE

<http://bss.wcdsb.ca>

Resources to help you help your son or daughter succeed.

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**MATH CREDIT RESCUE** The math department is running Math Credit Rescue after school Mondays and Thursdays. Students from **any grade** can receive tutoring, support, or be given the time 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

### SAINTS GIRLS HOCKEY OFF TO WINTER MELT-DOWN

By KYLA TANNER

The St. Benedict Varsity girl's hockey team was up early on the morning of Wednesday January 8th, leaving the school at 6:15 am for the 3rd annual Winter Melt-down Tournament in Waterloo. Two years ago the girl's won gold in this tournament, with hopes to repeat. In regular season they are 4-4, having won their first two games, going through a four game losing streak, and ending the season with another two wins.

The girls' first game was against Waterloo Collegiate (WCI), whom they lost to in the regular season 3-0. They started the game off on the right foot when Lisa Donachy scored just a minute into the game. Only two minutes later defenseman Beth Keller scored for the Saints, with Nicole Mercer and Katie Woods earning assists. At half time the score remained 2-0. WCI was quick and popped in a goal in the second period but the Saints answered with a goal from Lauren Hummel, assisted by Tori Collins. Less than two minutes later Alex Jaworski scored from Lauren Ruf and Lorelle Dyer. Donachy then pocketed her second goal, Saints win 5-1. Kyla Tanner played well in net with a strong team in front of her.

An hour later, the Saints were back on the ice to play Collingwood. During the first ten minutes our girls dominated play. Finally, a goal was scored by Kayla Carnegie, Collins and Hummel assisting. Donachy got the Saints' second goal with two minutes to go to the half, Mercer assisting. A minute into the second, Donachy scores again, Hummel earning another assist. Thirty seconds later Ruf scores, assisted by Dyer and Jaworski. Collingwood scores later in the period, setting the score at 4-1, spoiling Tara Tyler's near shutout game. With three minutes left in the game Donachy scores for a hat trick and the game ends with a second 5-1 win.

The Saints' third game was cancelled with Waterford pulling out of the tournament, so the girls got an opportunity to rest before playing Regina Mundi from London at 2:30. With lightning speed the girls proved they came out to win with four goals in the first three minutes: Jaworski from Dyer and Jill Wybrow, Carnegie from Donachy, Donachy from Mercer, and Jaworski again. The Saints kept Regina Mundi off the scoreboard until 11 minutes into the second half. Two and a half minutes to go Ruf scores from Jaworski making the game 5-1. With forty seconds left Regina Mundy manages to get another past Tanner but loses to our Saints 5-2. The Saints finished Wednesday undefeated.

There are fifteen girls' teams in the tournament, divided into three pools. The top two teams in each proceed on and the top two of these final six receive a bye into semi-finals, the other four having to play quarter finals. The girls' four wins combined with their goals for-and-against earned them a bye to semi-finals and so played Mother Teresa from London, at 12:00 on Thursday. Tara Tyler stood on her head in net, yet the Saints were down 3-0 after the first period. Half way through the second Donachy scored an amazing goal and on the ensuing faceoff scored with a slap shot to make it 3-2. Despite all the girls' hard effort they fell short, having taken some unjustified penalties early on. They lost the game 3-2 and would now play for the Bronze.

After a hot game, Tyler started the last game of the tournament against Waterloo Oxford. Donachy started the scoring with less than six minutes to go in the first after the Saints pounded countless shots at their goalie. The second period went on much in the same way, with numerous close calls to score on WO. With one minute to go in the game Jackie DiCarlo scored on the empty net giving the Saints the win, 2-0.

The Saints Girls' won Bronze, were awarded t-shirts to wear for spirit days, a banner, and a pizza lunch also! They left the arena with smiles and a promise to win the gold next year.



## BOYS' HOCKEY UPDATE

BY MR. N. O'CONNOR

The boys' hockey team has enjoyed a great start to the season. The boys started the season by travelling to Ottawa in November where they won the Bell Sensplex Tournament. The Saints have cruised to a 6 and 2 record beating formally unbeaten Bluevale and WCI in the process.

Last week, the boys played very well in the Winter Meltdown tournament in Waterloo, which was hosted by the Catholic Schools Foundation. The Saints qualified for the gold medal game of the eighteen team tournament. However, they fell short of winning their second tournament of the

season, losing 3 to 2 in an exciting championship game.

The Saints are finding success beginning with a strong defensive core and solid goaltending from Taylor Dilks and Micheal Harrison. Team captain, and league leading scorer, Chris Vasile is leading the way on offense for the Saints. The Saints look to enter the exam break on a winning streak vs. Sir John A. McDonald and Cameron this week.

The Saints final two games of the season are home games at Hespeler arena at 2:30pm. Resurrection will be visiting on February 3rd and Eastwood will be in town on February 5th. Come out and check out of of the best varsity boys hockey team in the region.

## Student Activities

### BACK FOR A BLAST

BY TONG SHI, SAC EXECUTIVE

The individual speeches of students fuse with each other like Lego® bricks, and fill the halls with indistinct clamor. Locker cleanouts finally evict that month-old sandwich/science experiment. And the eyes of students are once again filled with the honeyed glaze of mild confusion.

Yes, it is that time again. The time for students to showcase their talents, abilities, and memory of the textbook to the world. The time for teachers to crush dreams and shatter hopes. Crunch time. Exam time.

But not all is lost in the Armageddon a week from today. There are tonnes of activities to serve as analgesics.

January 14th is the Free Winter Cake Raffle, where students get the FREE chance to win a FREE cake for FREE.

The upcoming Grade 8 Parent Night is a great way for parents to celebrate their final tidbit of communication with their school. On January 15th, parents have the opportunity to explore the school without the constant embarrassment of their kids, and watch a fashion show of uniform combinations.

The first week of second semester ends with DECA Provincials, a business-oriented competition for students hosted in Toronto. Good luck to all the participants!

On February 4th and 11th, Candy grams and Crush® can pops go on sale to celebrate Valentines Day. At 50 cents and \$1.00, both will be delivered to those lucky guys and girls to help end Singles Awareness Day!

Friday the 13th of February marks the lucky night of St. Benedict's Semi-Formal at the Armenian Hall, the second largest hall in Cambridge. With fine dining and free coat check, what could possibly be more exciting? Tickets go on sale this week!

Finally, February 18th is Matchmaker, where all participants are matched up with others in the school based on interests and personality. This is sure to produce some hilarious results!

There are more activities coming up, so look forward to future updates!

## Other News

### SAINTS WELCOME JAPANESE STUDENTS WITH OPEN ARMS

BY KYLA TANNER

On Monday morning of December 15th, 101 Japanese students arrived at St. Benedict Catholic School. These students came to Canada on the previous Friday and had been introduced to their host families whom they would be living with for the next nine days. It was in hopes that their visit would give them a better understanding of what the English language was like, not a simple class about grammar and proper punctuation, but to truly appreciate a completely different culture.

The students came from La Salle, a private, Catholic high school for boys. La Salle is in the city of Hakodate, which is on a northern island in Japan, Hokkaido. It is the third largest city on the island. The school is divided into junior and senior years, junior being grades seven through nine and senior being ten through twelve. The students who visited us from the other side of the world are in grade nine and are either fourteen or fifteen years of age. All 101 of them are in grade nine and every student came to visit us. Although they are considered a Catholic school it is only because the founders were, long ago. Today approximately 3% of the boys themselves are Catholic. They do not have the same education about the Catholic Religion as we do at St. Benedict. Their religion study is a world religions class.

The main comment that was stated about our Japanese visitors was how extremely well behaved they were. Their sense of self-discipline was incredible. I learned that while they are eating in their cafeteria at La Salle there is no need for any supervision. The boys must take several tests before their acceptance into La Salle. Approximately 70% of them live in dormitories while at school. Every day they also wear uniforms, which consist of dress pants, a blazer with the school's coat of arms over their heart, a collared white shirt and a tie. The boys wore these while they stayed at our school for the week.



While visiting Canada the boys stayed with their host families across the tri-cities, Cambridge, Kitchener, and Waterloo. They would then have transportation to St. Benedict where they were paired with another buddy whom they would follow to their classes and eat lunch with until the end of the day. There were about thirty Japanese visitors who stayed with their buddy's in the evening also, having their host family's teenager go to St. Benedict. On Wednesday the students, and the administration from their school that also came to visit, went on an excursion to Niagara Falls for the day. When I asked how they enjoyed it I got many responses of "beautiful", "large", "wet", and "cold".

The students who came had a range of experience with speaking English. Some would grasp many words and understand a good deal of what went on in classes while others had a more difficult time. Although there are some similarities between our culture and theirs, throughout the week both English and Japanese learned how different our two ways of life are.

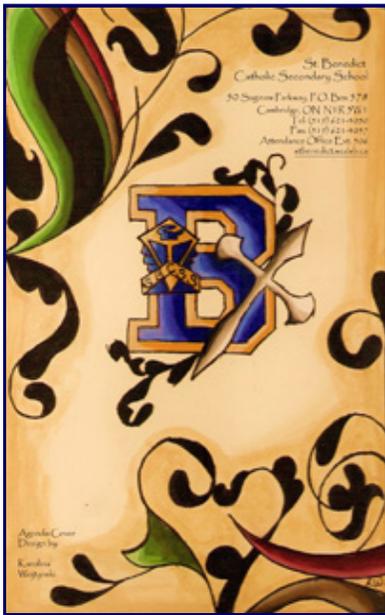
On Saturday night there was a farewell ceremony that had been rescheduled from the original day of Friday due to a snow storm. The students received pins with the Ontario flag and trillium from the government and entertained us by playing four beautiful songs on their recorders; the final one was our Canadian national anthem. Words of extreme gratitude were said from both nations. Their Vice Principal, Osamu Inoue, whom I had the pleasure of speaking to, joked about how the students said it would be hard returning to a school of all boys, though they wouldn't miss our current cold weather. He continued to say that although they were leaving, no matter what, there were now bonds of friendship to last a life time. No one could disagree.

That week opened the eyes to many people, both from Canada and Japan. It was with heavy hearts and many hugs and waves that our friends left Saturday night. Sayonara (goodbye) students of La Salle! Until we meet again.

## **BENNY'S AGENDA COVER DESIGN - THE RESULTS ARE IN!**

**By MR. HUEMILLER**

The votes have been tallied from the six Grade 12 Design students whose proposals were submitted for consideration for next year's agenda cover design. Congratulations to Karolina Wojtynski, whose elegantly-themed design won the contest hands-down! Also a big congratulations to the other five AWD4MI students for their superb designs - Diu Bui, Yazmin Butcher, Amber Schouten, Andrew Silver, and Michelle Sterba. Thanks to all those students and staff who took the time to come out and vote!



## NOMINATE A SPECIAL TEACHER

Parents, students, teachers and individuals in the community can offer a well deserved pat on the back to teachers who make a difference in developing young minds by nominating them for an Ontario premier's annual awards for teaching excellence.

Nominations are being accepted until January 31 for the prestigious award that recognizes outstanding educators, as well as school support staff.

There are six nomination categories, including teacher of the year; new teacher of the year; excellent support staff; excellence in leadership; lifetime achievement and team of the year.

In the last two years, more than 2,000 nominations have been received and more than 30 educators and support staff have been recognized. Information kits will be sent to every publicly funded school in Ontario.

For information on how to nominate someone and download a nomination package, visit the Ontario Ministry of Education's website at [www.edu.gov.on.ca](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca).

## NEWS FROM SCHOOL COUNCIL

### CUPCAKES WERE A HIT!

BY MRS. B. LUTES, SCHOOL COUNCIL CO-CHAIR

Thank you to all the staff and students for helping St. Benedict School Council have another successful cupcake bake! We raised \$322.80, which will be going towards the Grade 12 Graduation Awards!

A HUGE thank you to the following bakers... students: Rebecca, Katelyn and Sam; past students: Adrian and Rebecca; members: Sandy, Wilma, Laura, Michael and Sam's dad Gary. We could not have done it without you!!

Many thanks to Wilma, Sandy, Laura and Janet for taking the time to help sell cupcakes on Wednesday - you are awesome!

Thanks again and All the Best in 2009!

Belinda

phone: 519-740-2169

email: [dolphins@rogers.com](mailto:dolphins@rogers.com)

**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, January 29 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](mailto:Mr. McKinnon), or to one of the school council co-chairs, [Andrew Bagley](mailto:Andrew Bagley) or [Belinda Lutes](mailto:Belinda Lutes).

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HOSTS NEEDED** Is your family interested in hosting an international student in your home? We are looking for people to make a commitment to hosting a student from September 2009 to June 2010. If you are interested, please contact: Margo Jones, Coordinator, International Program, 519-578-3660 x 2332, email [margo.jones@wcdsb.ca](mailto:margo.jones@wcdsb.ca).

## Dates to Remember

January 15: Grade 8 Parent night, 7:00pm  
January 15: Cookies and Cram - grade 9 study session, 7:00pm  
January 22-28: Final evaluation days (attendance required)  
January 29: School Council, 7:00pm  
January 30: Professional Activity Day  
February 2: Semester 2 begins

## Miscellaneous

### NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

***I appreciate receiving the Benn Newsletter via email. I take a few minutes to read through it and feel a little more 'in the loop'. Thank you for providing this service to us parents/the school community, it is very helpful!***

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.

**TWO HUNDRED AND GROWING!** 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 **201** 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!](#)

