

Note from Administration

COMMUNICATION + SUPPORT = SUCCESS

We hope everyone is having a good start to semester II.

This year we are committing to increase the communication between school and home. This BENN newsletter is one way (please encourage a neighbour or friend to sign up), we also have our curriculum/registration information evening this Thursday Feb. 19th, early interim reports being sent home in two weeks as well as parent/student/teacher interviews March 9th and 10th. All these events are opportunities for parents to hear from us and communicate with us regarding your child's education early in the semester to support a great start.

As well as all those opportunities to engage with us we also have supports in place for the up coming Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test to be written April 2nd (look for an altered school day schedule), for all grade 10 students and previously eligible students. We have many supports available to students preparing for the test. There is preparation support every Monday and Wednesday after school in room 210 until the test date as well as several web links on our school site to support preparation at home, check them out!

We enter the season of Lent remembering how fortunate we are to share the many gifts bestowed upon us. Our faith calls us to reflect on our relationship with God and others, to do good works, to practice discipline, that makes our world a place of greater love, justice, and peace. What a great way to start a semester!

- Mr. J. McKinnon, Principal

***EDITOR'S NOTE:** In the last issue of BENN, the article about the school year calendar was inadvertently attributed to our principal, Mr. McKinnon. The original document regarding the potential early start for the 2009-10 school was actually written by our Board's Director of Education, Mr. R. Lawler. We apologize for any inconvenience or confusion that this may have caused.*

Administrative

A Message To All Secondary School Students & Parents Regarding A Possible Strike By Grand River Transit

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, WCDSB

A strike disrupting Grand River Transit service could begin as early as 12:01 a.m, Sunday, February 22, 2009.

Should a strike occur, please be aware that Waterloo Region's five Catholic high schools will continue operating on their regular schedules and all students – including those who normally use Grand River Transit -- are expected to attend school as usual.

Students who normally rely on Grand River Transit buses for their transportation to and from school are advised to begin exploring alternative transportation options.

Students who take orange/yellow school buses to and from school will not be affected.

Please monitor local media for updates or visit the Grand River Transit website at www.grt.ca and plan accordingly.

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.**

WHO IS YOUR ADMINISTRATOR?

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

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.

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](#).

HATS AND CELL PHONES: PUT THEM AWAY, OR LOSE FOR A DAY!

Students are reminded to keep hats and cell phones in their locker during the school day. Hats are not part of the school uniform, so they should not be worn in the school. Cell phones are distracting and hinder student progress, they should be off and put away.

Students who choose to wear hats or use cell phones in the school will have those items confiscated for the day and will be consequenced.

Academic

COURSE SELECTION FOR THE 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR IS STARTING ... HAVE YOU SPOKEN WITH YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER? JOIN US FOR COURSE SELECTION NIGHT THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 7:00 - 8:00 PM

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?

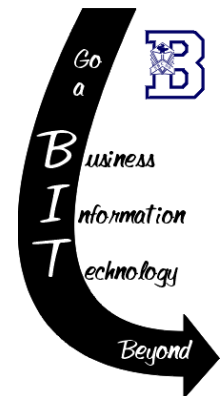
- One Business Technology course (BTT or BTA) or Computer Science course (ICS 3U or C)
- One additional "B" coded Business course

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.



ADVERTISEMENT

DOES YOUR CHILD EXCEL IN BOTH THE ARTS AND SCIENCES?

Saint Benedict offers a course for those students who excel in both the Arts and Sciences, and enjoy examining issues from a variety of perspectives. An interview for placement may be requested.

GRADE 12 INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES: IDC4U

The Interdisciplinary Studies Course is appropriate for students with diverse abilities, interests, and learning styles. In their focus on real-life contexts, interdisciplinary studies courses tend to be highly motivating. They help students develop their knowledge and skills as a result of working on meaningful projects. They also provide opportunities for students to explore issues and problems that interest them from a variety of perspectives. This course is offered to students who wish to pursue advanced-level studies and theories in thinking, learning, and leadership. Students should be self-directed, autonomous learners. You must show excellence in both academics and learning skills:



- Ability to work independently
- Ability to work in teams
- Organizational skills
- Initiative
- Effective work habits
- Homework completion

THE PLACE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN THE CURRICULUM:

Our world is increasingly interconnected and interdependent. Communications networks exchange information around the globe, creating new forms of collaboration and transforming the nature of work and learning. New areas of study develop to advance human knowledge and respond to the challenges of our changing world with insight and innovation. These include areas that often combine or cross subjects or disciplines, such as space science, information management systems, alternative energy technologies, and computer art and animation.



If the Interdisciplinary Course interests you, select it under "Guidance and Career Education" IDC4UI. For further information contact [Mrs. D. Wittmann](#).

FROM THE RELIGION DEPARTMENT...

By Miss A. Whalen

We have had an exciting few months in the Religion Department. Our very own Ms. Hunt won the OEETA Beginning Teacher of the Year Award, a much deserved title for such a fabulous and dedicated teacher.

Last month, we had the fortunate experience of having the Sacred Encounters Experience presented to all Grade 11 students in the World Religion courses. The presentation involved various artifacts representing the five major religions from around the world.

This semester, we look forward to more retreats, and several guest speakers, including Holocaust survivors.

Also, stay tuned for our very exciting Social Justice work led by the wonderful and passionate Mrs. Lowe! She has been leading the "Message in a Bottle" campaign in partnership with students from Mother Teresa school. This initiative has been bringing awareness about the environmental impact that plastic water bottles have on our planet. This campaign has ignited controversy which has even gained the attention of Canada's own David Suzuki. Way to go Saints! This just goes to show we really can make a difference.

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Clicking on the blackboard on the Benny's website will take you to ClassNet

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.



Literacy Prep

When? Mondays and Wednesdays, starting on February 16th until March 25th (2:30 – 4:00)

Where? Room 210

Who? Any student in grade 10 or any student writing the literacy test on April 2nd

Why? To get some help studying, practicing and preparing for the literacy test

How? See Mrs. Temple in the SST office or Mrs. Ahrens in the main office to register

LITERACY TIP #7

Strategies for Understanding

Help students understand what strategies are used by effective readers by modeling and identifying the following taken from Subjects Matter: Every Teacher's Guide to Content-Area Reading by Harvey Daniels and Steven Zemelman.

- visualize (make mental pictures or sensory images)
- connect (connect to own experience, to events in the world, to other readings)
- question (to actively wonder, to surface uncertainties, to interrogate the text)
- infer (to predict, hypothesize, interpret, draw conclusions)
- evaluate (to determine importance, make judgments)
- analyze (to notice text structures, author's craft, vocabulary, purpose, theme, point of view)
- recall (to retell, summarize, remember information)
- self-monitor (to recognize and act on confusion, uncertainty, attention problems)

WCDSB STUDENT SUCCESS SITE

<http://bss.wcdsb.ca>

Resources to help you help your son or daughter succeed.

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)

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

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

MATH CLUB Every week ... Tuesdays and Wednesdays, we especially invite grade 9, 10, 11 or 12 students who want to preview and prepare for up-coming math contests. University of Waterloo math contests will be held as follows: Grade 9 Pascal, Grade 10 Cayley, Grade 11 Fermat on Wednesday February 18th; Grade 12 Euclid on Tuesday, April 7th. Meet with Dr. Chernysh after school in room 310. See you there!!

Clubs & Athletics

SAINTS GIRLS HOCKEY TEAM AS GOOD AS GOLD

By KYLA TANNER



On February 11th, the Girls Hockey team travelled to Burlington to win gold in "The Wave Senior Girls Queen of Hearts Jamboree" tournament.

The girls' first game against Holy Trinity, from Simcoe, finished in a 3-3 tie. Lisa Donachy, Kayla Carnegie, and Moe Lusty, scored with assists from Carnegie, Emily Fleury and Donachy.

The Saints beat Assumption 2-1 in game two. Alex Jaworski scored both goals with assists from Lusty and Lorelle Dyer; and Dyer and Lauren Ruf.

In the final game of the round robin the girls lost to MM Robinson 4-2. Jaworski scored from Ruf and Dyer while Donachy scored from Lusty.

Coach Jaeger had good news for the team afterwards, saying they made it to the championship game due to goals-

for-and-against. After a brief rest they were to play Robinson for gold.

After numerous shots, Tori Collins scored from Donachy and Carnegie. Jackie Dicarlo popped another in from Lauren Hummel. Robinson put in one of their own but Jaworski scored from Dyer and Ruf, ending the first period with a 3-1 lead.

Robinson made it close, scoring with six minutes left. The game's intensity heightened with a time out and Robinson pulling their goalie. The Saints held their ground and won the game 3-2. Kyla Tanner played strong in net all day. The team received their golden trophy and Coach Jaeger stated, with a laugh, that they can never do things the easy way.

In the final game of regular season the girls' beat KCI 4-1; placing fifth overall with 7 wins and 5 losses.

The girls will be playing Bluevale on Tuesday at Hespeler at 2:00pm to start the playoffs.

This tournament is to be the start of a golden end of the season for the girls.

AFTER SCHOOL FITNESS CLUB

It is that time of year to start thinking about bathing suits and beaches!!! Come to the weight room after school to start working on those rippled abs. Students and teachers welcome. Open 2:30- 3:30 Mon - Thurs.

Other 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, February 26 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, [Andrew Bagley](#) or [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.

Dates to Remember

- February 18:** SAC Spirit Day
- February 18:** Jr. Math Contests
- February 19:** Course Selection Night
- February 24:** Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast
- February 25:** Ash Wednesday
- February 26:** Coffee House
- February 26:** School Council, 7:00pm
- February 27:** Professional Activity Day

Be sure to check the calendar on the school website for more information.

Miscellaneous

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 **227** 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!](#)

BENN STAFF: [Mr. Anton Milardovic](#), [Miss Bobbi Bester](#), [Mr. Michael Huemiller](#)

