

Note from Administration

Welcome to the latest edition of BENN. I continue to meet parents who are not signed up to receive the BENN news letter. If you are reading this I will once again ask that you inform a friend of the value of having this information sent home every few weeks. The research is very conclusive that parents engaged and informed of school life have a positive impact on the success of students at school. We will continue doing our best to keep you informed.

This week has two very important events. The first is the **due date for course selections for next September. All returning students must have their course selections in by today, Wednesday, March 4.** Grade 12 students not returning must also complete the form indicating they are not returning. Students have been informed in classes, by announcement, information evening, by phone calls home, and now in the BENN. This time line is critical to planning of staffing and course offerings for next school year. Thank you for your support and diligence in completing this task.

The second important event is **parent/student/teacher interviews next Monday, March 9th, 3:00 to 8:30 and Tuesday March 10th, 8:30 to 2:30.** All students should be bringing home an early interim report to indicate how the semester is starting out for them. Interviews are booked by the students with their teachers directly. Again this is an attempt to make early intervention and communication with home to support a successful semester. I caution parents to not be focused on a grade so much at this time in the year, but on the learning skills, the habits, routines, and practices in place that are going to provide the foundation for learning throughout the semester. Thanks for joining us on these dates. Enjoy the rest of the BENN.

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- Mr. J. McKinnon, Principal

Administrative

ANNUAL REQUEST FOR STUDENT IMMUNIZATION RECORDS - UPDATE

Under the Immunization of School Pupils Act, Region of Waterloo is required to maintain the immunization records of all students in Waterloo Region. Enforcement of this Act ensures that students are immunized to protect both the student and the public from vaccine preventable diseases. Region of Waterloo Public Health collects and analyzes the immunization records of those students in elementary and secondary schools.

Secondary students will start receiving requests for immunization information in the mail in March 2009. Students who do not have complete records or legal documentation for exemption at Public Health may face suspension from school up to 20 days or until the records are completed and documentation is received.

Suspensions for high school students will occur on April 21, 2009. Questions? Call the Immunization Information Line at 519-883-2006 ext. 5273.

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

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](#)

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.

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

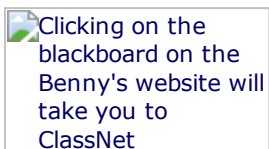
WHAT'S IN THE OVENS?

BY MRS. L. O'NEILL

The ovens are HOT in Hospitality and Tourism! We are off to a great start to the semester; everyone has covered the safety and sanitation and we've started our food preparation. The grade 10's have already made muffins, rice krispie squares and chocolate chip cookies. Grade 11's are starting out with some basic baking as well making pretzels, muffins and cookies. The grade 12's are tempting their taste buds and started the semester with a Broccoli, Potato Curry Pizza - yum!

All of the students will be busy throughout the semester learning new cooking techniques and a little bit about tourism. We are already looking for volunteers to help serve at the Athletic Banquet (June 4) - let your teacher know if you are interested!

Make sure you check back to see - What's in the ovens?



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.

BUSINESS STUDENTS COMPETE AT DECA PROVINCIALS

BY MISS B. BESTER

On January 29th, roughly 5000 students from across Ontario converged at the Sheraton Center in downtown Toronto to compete in DECA's two day provincial competition. The weekend was filled with academic activities, as well some fun with hypnotism by 'The Incredible Boris'.

For DECA, students study various areas of business ranging from accounting, to marketing to finance. With this knowledge they then compete in events ranging from quiz bowl, oral presentations, exams or they participate in leadership development activities.

This year St. Benedict's sent 36 students to this competition. The weekend was a great learning experience and the dedication and hard work paid off for a few of our students who received top honours. Rachel Turner finished in top ten for her case presentation of food marketing services. Janine Chaves finished in both top ten for her oral presentation and written examination in the same category.

A final student also had some tremendous success; congratulations to Tong Shi who finished fourth overall (combination of two presentations and an exam) in the business services category. The teachers, Frank Wittmann, Jon Fage, Bobbi Bester and Justin Meyer would like to send a congratulations and thank-you to all students who participated this year. They all worked hard and made it a great experience.



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 #8

Traits of Good Writing

There are many traits of good writing which are assessed on the literacy test. The focused traits are:

- **Ideas:** ideas make up the content of the piece (main idea and supporting ideas)
- **Word Choice:** can refer to subject specific vocabulary or words that paint a clear picture of what is being said
- **Sentence Fluency:** sentences flow without hesitation, tying words from one idea to another, ideas blend and flow well together
- **Organization:** the piece leads from an interesting opening to a thought provoking conclusion- follow a logical framework
- **Conventions:** grammar, punctuation, paragraphing, capitalization- all of the mechanics of writing

To ensure you are ready for the test, be sure to look over your pieces of writing to see if they flow well, follow the mechanics of writing, include a main idea with supporting arguments, as well as a solid introduction with a conclusion.

Taken from: Improving Student Writing Skills

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 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 students who want to preview and prepare for up-coming math contests. University of Waterloo Grade 12 Euclid math contest is on Tuesday, April 7th. Meet with Dr. Chernysh after school in room 310. See you there!!

Clubs & Athletics

SAINTS BASKETBALL

2009 HOUSE LEAGUE BASKETBALL PROGRAM

THIS 10 WEEK PROGRAM IS DESIGNED FOR BOYS AND GIRLS ATTENDING A
ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC SECONDARY FEEDER SCHOOL.

No basketball experience is necessary.

Players must be prepared to learn, try their best and make new friends from other schools.

Age Divisions: Grades 4, 5, 6
Sundays from 1pm to 2:30pm
From March 29th to May 31st

Grades 7, 8
Sundays from 2:30pm to 4pm
From March 29th to May 31st

Cost: \$35

Registration: Wednesday, March 11, 2009
7pm - 9pm
St. Benedict Atrium
(enter through front doors
by the library)

PROGRAM FEATURES

- ☛ *Emphasis is on developing solid fundamentals and basic principles of play in a fun and encouraging environment*
- ☛ *Fundamental stations and/or large group instruction emphasizing offensive moves and defensive footwork*
- ☛ *Daily League games and team competitions*
- ☛ *Will be grouped according to gender if numbers permit*
- ☛ *League T-shirt for each player*
- ☛ *Certificate of Achievement*
- ☛ *Awards and Prizes*

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

JOHN MALNERICH
AT:
ST. BENEDICT C.S.S.
519-621-4050 ext 250
Or
John.Malnerich@wcdsb.ca



Coaching staff includes

John Malnerich,
(Sr. Boys Coach)
and
Former and Current
Senior St. Benedict
Players

BENNIES' GIRLS GEAR UP FOR RUGBY!

By MR. M. HUEMILLER

The Girls Rugby season is underway with what appears to be a committed group of young ladies. The girls will prepare to hit, tackle, fling, sting, try, fly, maul, ruck, scrum....and no, we are not talking about street fighting here! There aren't any league games until May, but hopefully the old adage will hold true - that practise does make

perfect! Stay tuned for updates about the season in future issues of BENN.
Coaches Huemiller, Meyer, Miller, and Conde

GIRLS' HOCKEY AT ST. BENEDICT

By MRS. L. O'NEILL

The Girls' Hockey Team had a terrific year - Gold at the Queen of Hearts Tournament in Burlington, Bronze at the Winter Meltdown Tournament in Waterloo, and a fifth place finish in the league standings. Unfortunately, we lost in the first round of playoffs to a strong Bluevale team.

Girls' hockey has come a long way at St. Benedict. We started seven years ago and we had trouble putting together a team. We had a figure skater we turned into a hockey player and managed to convert some ringette players along the way as well. We have come together as a team and have gone from not making the playoffs to winning tournaments and finishing fifth in league play. We can only hope that the team will continue to grow as we look forward to next year's season and we hope to welcome a new batch of rookies. It is also with some sadness that we look toward next year, as we say goodbye and good luck to some of our veterans. We have one last tournament to finish off this season - Toronto on March 30th.

Thanks for a great season girls! Coaches Jaeger, O'Neill, Temple and Huemiller.

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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.

WAYVE WORKING AT BENNY'S

By IREAN RAHAMAN

WAYVE, which stands for Working Against Youth Violence Everywhere, is a youth-based committee working to prevent violence. The WAYVE committee began its activities at St. Benedict last school year. The first event that the committee hosted was the candle light vigil against violence (VAV), something that WAYVE hopes to be make into a Benny's tradition. The Vigil caught the attention of the local media, and was covered by Lisa Rutledge of the Cambridge Times.

One of the most recent events was the guest speaker Rick Osbourne who told us his life story, from being hooked on drugs to being a federal convict and spending 24 years locked in prison.

This year the committee will hold a few other events including crazy hair day, which will be held on Friday, March 13th. This campaign is trying to further the message that it's okay to be different. WAYVE will also once again hold the VAV at a later date.

Student Activities

By TONG SHI, SAC EXECUTIVE

Ah, 'tis the season that students love. In February, students had Family Day and PA Day off, and can look forward to Parent-Teacher Conferences Day on the 10th, and March Break from the 16th to 20th in March. But while students were in school, SAC had many activities in store.

You may recall the Valentines events of February, and we are pleased to say all of them were successful! From the sold-out Semi-Formal to the candy gram sales, the school community was all about love and friendship. Shrove Tuesday was a filling success, with all pancakes completely exhausted in minutes. Coffee House is currently being rescheduled.

Coming up in March, the school community is working a Lent project for Ryan's Well Foundation, providing clean water to communities all over the world. All donations are appreciated, and plus, you can enter in a draw to win a laptop!

From Social Justice Club and religion teacher Mrs. Lowe, metal water containers are going on sale this Thursday the 5th at \$5 (5th @ \$5, pretty catchy...). Help curb environmental damage from plastic use and tap that!

After March Break we have the Multicultural Week, celebrating the many diverse cultures of the world through a variety of activities.

Planning further ahead? On April 9th is the last school dance of the year, so be there! Stay tuned for more news!

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, April 23 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

March 4: OPTION SHEETS DUE

March 5-6: Sears Play

March 9: Conferencing, 3:00 - 8:30pm*

March 10: Conferencing, 8:30am - 2:30pm*

March 14-22: March Break

March 23-27: Multicultural Week

Be sure to check the calendar on the school website for more information. Over the last few weeks our school's webmaster, Mr. Milardovic, has been revamping the calendar. It now has some really neat features, so keep your eye on it!

* Need to find a teacher during the conferencing sessions? Go to the school website, click on **Benny's News** >

Calendar of Events > and then on the  logo, and select the teacher from the drop down menu. To see all the teachers at a glance, click on **Show all**.

Miscellaneous

WE'RE SKIPPING! Since our next biweekly date falls during March Break, we will be pushing our next issue to March 25. You can also use that time to encourage other parents who have sons or daughters at St. Benedict to register online for BENN!

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 **236** 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](#)

