

Note from Administration

As Lent comes to a close we hope everyone enjoys the blessings that the Easter season brings upon us.

This issue is packed with information, celebrations, and more insight into the lives of the Saints here at St. Benedict.

As always enjoy the BENN and be sure to have a neighbour or friend share in the good news from Bennies.

- Mr. J. McKinnon, Principal

Administrative

CHANGES TO ST. BENEDICT UNIFORM COMING IN SEPTEMBER

By MR. J. MCKINNON

We would like to announce that we will have a new uniform supplier for September 2009. R.J. McCarthy School Uniforms will be our official school supplier. McCarthy's supplies uniforms to our other 4 secondary schools in the W.C.D.S.B.

McCarthy's is located at 44 Saltsman Drive in Cambridge or you can visit their web site at www.rjmccarthy.com to register. Entering your contact information will assist with your "Check In" with the receptionist at the store and for future on line purchases.

We will have flyers and promotional information to be distributed with report cards in April.

We would like to thank Marks Work Wearhouse for their support of our community over the past years. They will be selling off the remainder of the Bennies uniform clothing at 50% off until the remaining inventory is depleted.

We will be expecting all Grade 8's to be in McCarthy uniforms. We will permit next years grade 10-12 to wear existing uniforms from Marks, but all future purchase will be from McCarthy's. By September 2010, all students will need to be in McCarthy's uniforms. It is also important to note that the style and uniform expectations will not be changing, except for the addition of a navy blue jacket with B logo to be added for September.

The uniform is an important part of our community culture at Catholic Secondary Schools. Although much has been written about the safety issues it supports, a primary purpose of the uniform is to identify ourselves as a community. The uniform represents a community that shares values and beliefs of a Catholic education. We believe it must be worn with the dignity and respect that our young people deserve in their education.

Thank you for your continued support.

NEW ST. BENEDICT PRICING AND INFORMATION FROM R.J.MCCARTHY'S IS AVAILABLE IN PDF FORMAT IF YOU [CLICK HERE.](#)

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 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 Warehouse.

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](#).

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.

CHAPLAIN NEWS AND NOTES

By MR. B. REMPEL, CHAPLAIN

The season of Lent has created many opportunities to celebrate our Catholic Christian faith:

LENTEN CLASSROOM PRAYER: Each homeroom class has several students that serve as class ambassadors. These students collect donations for our Thursday mission collections and they lead their students in prepared prayer services twice per week. It provides students an opportunity to spend a few more minutes in prayer at the beginning of the day.

RECONCILIATION: Priests from local parishes came to our school April 1 to provide students and staff with the Sacrament of Reconciliation. All students who wished to participate were given an opportunity to confess their sins and receive divine absolution.

MISSION PROJECT: This year's Lenten mission project is to support the Ryan's Well Foundation. Specifically, we are raising money for rain catchment systems in Kenya. For \$952, a village house is given a special corrugated roof to catch rainfall and channel it into a 10,000-litre holding tank. This saves people approximately 3 hours each day walking to collect dirty water and helps eliminate water borne diseases which kill 28,000 children daily.

HOLY WEEK: Each day during Holy Week, we begin Period Two with a Stations of the Cross PowerPoint presentation. We remind ourselves that Jesus intentionally entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday in order to make the ultimate sacrifice on Good Friday. At the end of the day on Holy Thursday, we turn our atrium into a crime scene and remind ourselves that the death of Jesus on the cross was a travesty of justice.

GOING GREEN FOR LENT: This year giving something up for Lent meant lessening our carbon and ecological footprint. The Social Justice Club brought in a guest speaker from Wellington Water Watchers. Nestle Waters Canada's headquarters is in Aberfoyle and pumps its water from the local aquifer. Nestle pays \$3.17 for the rights to each 1 million liters in pumps. Much of that water is exported to other provinces and even other parts of the world. Approximately 80% of recyclable water bottles land up in local landfills. The Social Justice Club is encouraging Bennies' students and staff to use metal water bottles and has sold 300 bottles to date.

THE EDGE

LUCAS MOREY, ST. BENEDICT SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR GRADUATE

By MR. B. BRIERE



In today's competitive market, getting a good job might be considered one of the most challenging hurdles students have to face after graduating. A diploma these days may not be enough to secure a job. Making students aware of the opportunities and programs available while at St. Benedict may give students "The Edge" they need to land a great job after they graduate.

The "Specialist High Skills Major" is one of those programs that gives students additional skills and certifications to show prospective employers. The pathway consists of 9 - 11 core courses in grades 11 and 12. Areas currently offered at St. Benedict are Construction, Hospitality, Transportation, and Manufacturing. Certifications are also required for the SHSM. In Construction for example, students are required to complete certifications which may include Fall Protection, First Aid, CPR, WHMIS, and Scaffold Safety. All certifications are listed on the students' transcripts and if the SHSM package is completed, students will receive a red seal on their diploma.

Lucas Morey graduated St. Benedict in 2008 with a Specialist High Skills Major in Construction. Lucas started dropping off resumes after completing high school and was called in for an interview at the Local Cambridge Carpenter's Union. Lucas came back to Bennies excited that he was not only offered a job but was signed up as an apprentice carpenter. In the interview, one of the questions the employer asked was "Do you have any certifications?" Lucas was able to show the prospective employer the certifications he obtained in the SHSM program. Lucas also was able to show that he had some experience in construction with his participation in the Homebuild program.

Lucas was quoted in saying, "I credited my success to St. Benedict High School, the Homebuild and Specialist High Skills Major program, and especially the certifications I earned through the SHSM program."

We are very proud of Lucas' accomplishments and wish him all the best in his new career.

For more information about the SHSM program, visit <http://www.highskills.ca/> or call the school and ask to speak with your Guidance Counselor.

WHAT'S COOKING?

By MRS. L. O'NEILL

The Grade 11 and 12 Hospitality and Tourism classes are working hard to produce quality food for our Restaurant and To-Go meals. Bennies' Place has been a great success with the students serving on a weekly basis and preparing the food that the guests will eat. The students enjoy creating a menu and taking ownership over the menu to see it through the production and service stages. They always hope there is just a little bit left over to give them a taste!


The Grade 10 classes have just finished a quick unit on vegetables where they made an assortment of potatoes, perogies and carrot muffins. They are excited to move on to breakfast foods and taste scones, basic eggs, cinnamon buns and pancakes from scratch.

Tourism has been a hot topic with all the classes, as we discussed Air Canada and their possible restructuring. The Grade 10's are getting ready to research Foods around the World and the Grade 12's are busy working on menu planning.

There is always something in the oven - come by and check it out.

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>.



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

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 TEST DAY FOLLOW UP

BY MRS. L. TEMPLE

Thanks to all staff and students for their work, efforts and support leading up to the literacy test. It is amazing what can be accomplished when we all come together.

The literacy lunch and learns, extra support in SST, as well as the literacy prep class after school were well attended and supported by many staff.

A big thank you to my co-chair Mr. Jaeger and the entire literacy committee for their efforts all year, but especially on literacy test day.

Another huge thank you to Mrs. Ahrens, Mrs. McLaughlin and Mr. Milardovic for their work in helping all students get ready for the test.

WCDSB STUDENT SUCCESS SITE

<http://bss.wcdsb.ca>

Resources to help you help your son or daughter succeed.

MATH CONTEST MADNESS

MISS C. STOCKIE

This year has been a very busy one in the math department at St. Benedict. Beginning in November, two students completed in the Canadian Open Mathematics Challenge - and both Ara Cho and James Kyeong fared extremely well!

Math @ MAC - a newer on-line contest offered through McMaster University - saw 18 teams from Bennies competing. While no one from our school took home the big money prizes, a number of teams had impressive showings.

Then in February, Grade 9 and 10 students (sadly, no grade 11's came out this year) competed in the University of Waterloo's junior series of math contests. Weekly Math Club practicing certainly helped our grade 10's - Daniyal Abdali, Evan Peng, Ara Cho, Gabriel Desousa and Nathan Tierney all posted impressive scores! Congratulations also goes out to our top finishers in grade 9: Sabrina Sikora, Peter Reynolds and Talal Abdali!

Our next big events occur on Tuesday, April 7th and Wednesday, April 8th, where Grade 12 students will be completing the Grade 12 Euclid Math Contest, and Grade 9, 10, and 11 students will be working on the U of W's "elite" series of contests. Good luck to everyone, and don't forget to come out on every Tuesday and Wednesday after school to room 310 to practice and prepare with Dr. Chernysh!

NEW THIS YEAR - FIRST TIME EVER - ATTENTION MATH GEEKS.....

MISS C. STOCKIE

This year, the Waterloo Catholic District School Board is hosting the first annual Problem-Solving and Mathematics Team Competition! This amazing event will happen on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 from 9:00 - 12:30 at the School Board Office in Kitchener. Our St. Benedict team, consisting of 16 students (4 from each grade) will be competing together on problems that will be hands-on, MAY require technology, involve group solutions, and are engaging and intriguing.

Transportation is being organized and paid for by the school board, a keynote address will take place, and prizes are awarded for the most impressive team scores.

Interested? Please see your math teacher or someone in the math office - workroom 3.1. More information on our Board-wide Math Contest info is also at <http://math.wcdsb.ca/>.

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

OUTERS CLUB

By HAYLEY WEINER

The students in the Outers Club are getting prepared for their next trip to Cyprus Lake in Tobermory. They will be hiking for 6 hours along the Bruce Trail, in the Bruce Peninsula National Park, where they will set up camp and spend two nights 'roughing it' in the wilderness. They will have to hike with all their gear, sleep in tents, and make food over the fire. Everyone is getting very excited for the upcoming trip! They are all crossing their fingers for good weather ...!

Looking for something fun and exciting to do this summer!

St. Benedict Basketball Camps 2009

July 6 – July 10
For Boys & Girls
Entering Grades 1 to 9



PROGRAM FEATURES

- ✦ *AGE SPECIFIC DIVISIONS*
- ✦ *CAMP T-SHIRT FOR EACH CAMPER*
- ✦ *CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT*
- ✦ *COACHES' INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION*
- ✦ *PACKAGE OF AGE SPECIFIC DRILLS AND FUNDAMENTALS TO TAKE HOME*
- ✦ *INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM COMPETITIONS*
- ✦ *AWARDS AND PRIZES*
- ✦ *SPECIAL GUEST LECTURERS AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!*

*FOR MORE INFORMATION OR APPLICATION BROCHURE CONTACT:
JOHN MALNERICH AT
ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC
SECONDARY SCHOOL
519-621-4050 EXT 250
OR
SEE OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE AT
and select "ATHLETICS".*

AFTER SCHOOL FITNESS CLUB

Summer, and the time to sport that new bathing suit, will soon be upon us. Come out to the Fitness Center after school Mon.-Thurs. from 2:30-3:30 to get that fabulous body in shape for the season!

Student Activities

By MISS A. PAWLOWSKI, SAC DIRECTOR

Parents, mark April 27 down on your calendars! Circle, highlight – do whatever it takes to remember that the 27th is "Report Card Distribution Day," quite possibly the fundamental opposite of a national holiday. But before Armageddon, there are a plethora of updates and events!

The grade tens just finished their Literacy Test on April 2, while the rest of the school enjoyed their half-day (thanks!). This week is Holy Week, leading to Good Friday and Easter Monday in commemoration of the Resurrection of Christ. We will be holding an Easter liturgy on the 21st when school resumes. In recognition of

Holy Week and St. Benedict's core Catholic values, we will be postponing the last dance of the year. A Night at the Roxbury is dated for Thursday, April 23, from 6:30 PM to 10:30 PM at the school. Since the 24th is a PA day, there is no reason not to come! April 7 and 8 are the senior and junior math contests. Good luck to all the participants!

Looking to the horizon, May is perhaps the climax of the year, with Prom (May 8), Co-President Campaign Week (11-15) which will wrap up on the last day with an assembly, interschool Battle of the Bands competition (May 14), BBQ Fun Day (May 20), and COPA on the 21st.

If there are any students reading this, check the Ranger for more information as they come! And remember parents: April 27!

LINK CREW APPLICATIONS!!!

It is that time of year again.

Hey Ho! Hey Ho! Want to apply to be a Link Crew Leader?

Here is how.....

Come to SST and pick up an orange form. Answer the one question on the top of the page and get three teacher references. You also need to complete a self-evaluation section.. After you are done that, please bring the completed form to SST by this Thursday! No late applications will be accepted.

We are looking forward to another great year.

If you have any questions, please see your Link Crew Coordinators

Mrs. Temple, Ms. Gleiser, Mrs. Leusink, Mr. Paolo, Mr. Curtis and new to the team- Mr. Riso!

Other News

BENNY'S STUDENTS EXPERIENCE SOCIAL JUSTICE HERO

By MR. N. BETIK

On March 3rd, over 150 students and staff from St. Benedict took busses to the Centre in the Square to partake in a presentation by world renowned Social Justice advocate, Craig Kielburger. The trip, organized by the Religion and Family Life department, provided an awesome opportunity for S.A.C. members, Grade 12 Religion students and members of the Social Justice Club. Also in attendance were students from around the region.

Craig Kielburger and his brother Marc are the architects behind the organizations "Free the Children" and "Me to We". Craig inspired the packed auditorium with stories and video outlining the works and experiences that these organizations have engaged in. The audience was vividly reminded of the astounding number of gross social injustices that occur daily throughout the world including poverty, child labour, child soldiers and the demolishing effects of H.I.V./AIDS, particularly in Africa. In his presentation we were

greatly reminded of our relative wealth compared to the majority of people in the world. "We have way more than enough!" emphasized Kielburger. Although reminding us of those who suffer, Craig's heartfelt message was geared towards motivating action towards alleviating the suffering. This was highlighted by Craig's message that *'we all need to do something by finding our passions which inspire us to act'*.

Students were certainly affected by his presentation. Their responses included comments such as: "He was very moving and motivating," and "I think our school should be more proactive for this kind of stuff"; "I cried". Overall this was a tremendous experience supporting specifically the Grade 12 religion curriculum, the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations and certainly our overall call as Catholic Christians to respond with compassion to all forms of injustice. Certainly this should provide motivation and energy towards justice initiatives that are spearheaded at Bennies such as the regular missions collection which are directed towards *Free the Children*, *Ryan's Well* and several other local and global charities.

"We have way more than enough ... we all need to do something by finding our passions which inspire us to act."

MORE FROM THE "MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE" PROJECT

By MRS. D. LOWE

Continuing with our "Message in a Bottle" project, St. Benedict Social Justice Club has been working hard to raise awareness of the issue of bottled water. After researching the issue, becoming informed, and learning that our tap

water is safe to drink, our social justice club decided to act! The students started off by creating posters and informing the rest of the student body about the facts on water. Then this club organized the sale of stainless steel water bottles to use as an alternative choice. Sales were flowing! We have sold over 300 stainless steel water bottles and have noticed more and more students bringing their own refillable water bottles to school. Way to go Bennies!

The facts speak for themselves and this generation is realizing that we should not have to pay for water; it is ours for free and is our right.

To create even more awareness, we were very privileged to have James Gordon as a guest speaker on Friday April 3. James Gordon is a Guelph native and is co-founder of the Wellington Water Watchers, a group dedicated to the preservation of water. James is also a singer, songwriter, and activist. Most of James' music has a social justice theme. He spoke to a filled lecture hall of 125 students and staff about the facts of bottled water vs. tap water and entertained us with his music.

The facts speak for themselves and this generation is realizing that we should not have to pay for water; it is ours for free and is our right. Also, tap water is tested more strictly than bottled water and is safe to drink. While researching, students found that we are not the only ones trying to make a better choice: university campuses, municipal buildings, and school boards are now turning to the tap.

To read more go to our 'Message in a Bottle' website: <http://sites.google.com/site/tapinmessageinabottle/>. Watch for more follow-up from our "Message in a Bottle" project. Stay tuned for information about a possible debate and movie. Our social justice club strives to make a difference for a better world by following our Catholic Social Teachings and putting our faith into action.

BENNY'S PROGRAMMERS CODE THEIR WAY TO SUCCESS

By MR. A. MILARDOVIC

On Friday, March 27, two teams of computer students made their way to Monsignor Doyle for the annual ECOO (*pronounced 'echo'*) computer programming contest. Sponsored by the Educational Computing Organization of Ontario, the contest gives students an opportunity to test their problem-solving skills on various difficult programs.

Teams are given four problems, three hours, and.... only one computer. The team has to quickly decide the order in which they want to tackle problems, because there is a time-bonus attached to earlier submissions.

Our two teams were comprised of three members each (the rest were four), each team having a student from the grade 12 course and two from the grade 11 course.

By finishing third at the Board level, our team of Andrew Silver, Brian Machado, and Trevor Cahill will be going to the regional competition at UWO on April 25. I congratulate them on their teamwork and problem solving skills, and wish them good luck in London!



SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING Parents are invited to get involved in the St. Benedict community by joining our school council. Our next meeting **has been moved to Thursday, April 9** 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.

Dates to Remember

April 9: School Council, 7:00pm

April 10: GOOD FRIDAY

April 11: HOLY SATURDAY
April 12: EASTER SUNDAY
April 13: EASTER MONDAY
April 21: Eastertide Liturgy
April 23: School dance, 6:30-10:30
April 24: Professional Activity Day
April 27: Report Card distribution

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!

Miscellaneous

A WELCOME, AND A WELCOME BACK!

With the publication of this issue of BENN, we welcome Mrs. Sara Beyerle back from her maternity leave. We also want to welcome back Miss Bester, who will be with us for a few weeks on another long-term occasional assignment.

NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

Keep up the great work with this newsletter! There is always interesting things going on ... and sometimes I know things before my kids do!

Thanks for the feedback! This may be a good time to remind your son or daughter that you are looking forward to their report card on April 27! ;-)

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 FORTY 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 **249** 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!](#)



**HAPPY EASTER
FROM ALL OF US
AT ST. BENEDICT'S!**

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

