

Note from Administration

Mr. McKinnon could not be reached for comment...

Happy Earth Day, and enjoy this issue of BENN [our little contribution to the environment]. ;-)

Administrative

CATHOLIC TRUSTEES REVISE 2009-10 SCHOOL YEAR STUDENT START TIME

STUDENTS TO BE IN CLASS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 8, 2009

By BOARD STAFF

Trustees of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board tonight revised their March 30 decision regarding the 2009-10 school year student start time. Classes for students will now commence on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 rather than Tuesday, September 1, 2009 as previously decided.

The change will mean the WCDSB school year will begin for school staffs with professional development days on Thursday, September 3 and Friday, September 4, 2009. The last school day for Catholic students will be Tuesday, June 29, 2010. School staff will end the year with a professional development day on Wednesday, June 30, 2010.

The original school year calendar was recommended to Trustees of both the Waterloo Catholic and Waterloo Region District School Boards (WRDSB) by their respective senior educational staffs.

The senior officials believed a September 1 classroom start date would best meet the educational needs of students – particularly regarding maximizing the use of professional development days throughout the course of the school year.

Catholic Trustees supported the joint staff recommendation for a September 1 student start date unanimously. Public Board Trustees -- voting after having been apprised of the Catholic Board's decision -- instead chose a school start date of September 8.

"We stand fully behind the sound educational reasons the staffs of both boards recommended a September 1 school start date," said Board Chair Marion Thomson Howell. "However, the WRDSB's decision to choose a school start date significantly different than the one recommended by our staffs has created a great deal of uncertainty and confusion in the community. It has recently become clear that the community wants both Boards to begin classes on the same day and does not wish to see transportation funds needlessly wasted by the Boards starting on different dates. We are addressing those concerns by revising our classroom start date from September 1 to September 8, 2009".

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board, representing more than 100,000 Catholic school supporters, operates 52 schools and five adult education facilities serving more than 30,000 elementary, secondary and continuing education students in Waterloo Region – continuing a tradition of quality, inclusive, faith-based education first begun in 1836.

COURSE CHANGES FOR SEPTEMBER 2009

By MR. S. KRITZ, GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR

This week students will receive a *credit counselling summary* in their period 1 class. This summary contains the following course information:

1. Courses that have been completed.
2. Courses currently being taken.
3. Compulsory courses achieved as well as what is still required.

4. Elective courses that have been completed.
5. Courses that have been selected for next year.

Students who wish to make changes to their courses for next year are asked to make an appointment with their guidance counsellor ASAP.

In September 2009, the process for course changes will be modified. We are recommending students make the changes NOW ... more information about our new process for course changes will follow.

ST. BENEDICT GUIDANCE STAFF

Counsellor's Name	Last names
Ms. Wehrle	B - C
Mrs. Klassen	D - H
Mr. Kritz	I - O
Mrs. Menjolian	P - S
Mr. Ambeau	A & T - Z

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 started on April 21, 2009. Questions? Call the Immunization Information Line at 519-883-2006 ext. 5273.

HELP US CELEBRATE EXCELLENCE AT ST. BENEDICT C.S.S.!

By MR. D. GROVES



We at St. Benedict are looking for ways to recognize the hard work and dedication of our students.

Certain young people are selected on the basis of academic excellence, dependability, stewardship, or for establishing positive relationships.

If you, your business, or your family are interested in contributing gift certificates, merchandise, or donations to make our on-going celebration more memorable for some particularly excellent students, such donations would be greatly appreciated.

In addition to playing a vital part in this celebration, you would be eligible for public recognition in our monthly e-newsletter, a printed quarterly "Lives of the Saints" newsletter, and signage, all visible to 1763 students and their families. (Also, such excellent students might make excellent future employees!)

For further information, please contact the school at (519) 621-4050.

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.

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.

Academic

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR RECALLS HORRIFIC WAR EXPERIENCES

By ANGELA BRUCE

Recently we were blessed with the presence of two holocaust survivors at our school: Faye Schulman and Mendel Good. Both told their stories of hardship and suffering.

Mendel Good was born on March 26th 1925 in Nowy-Sancz, Poland, he is the survivor of two ghettos, was imprisoned twice, and survived seven concentration camps. Before September 13th 1939 Mendel had two brothers, a sister, a mother and father and many aunts, uncles and cousins. By the end of the holocaust on May 8th 1945 Mendel was liberated and did not have a single relative left.



In 1939 Mendel's father was to be taken by the Germans and forced to work. However his older brother insisted on replacing his father and since Mendel was only a year younger, he was adamant to take his brother's position. Mendel talked about how that was his culture and he knew it was the right thing to do for his family. "When you speak about love, that was true love," Mendel said.


Mendel talked about how horrible the Germans treated the Jews even from the beginning: school was forbidden for him; he had to wear an armband with a Star of David to show everyone he was Jewish; when Germans were coming towards them on a sidewalk they would have to step down

and walk in the middle of the street. Mendel spoke how this whole experience made him feel:

"We had to walk on the road like animals." The Germans forced the Jews to be in their houses and have their doors locked by 6pm, and they were not allowed out on Tuesdays and Fridays until all the farmers had left, so they were unable to get food.

Mendel told many stories about how his father was taken to jail for no reason, how he was taken to camps alone when he was fourteen, and how he moved from camp to camp. One story he told was quite outstanding. When he was fourteen, he and eleven other kids around his age were told to stand in a line and were to be shot. Mendel was shot in the ear, fell to the ground and pretended he was dead. He was taken by truck to a grave site and thrown into a grave full of dead bodies; as he lay there he looked up and saw a familiar friendly face. The man who had thrown him in the grave was a Jewish man who worked at his family's bakery. Mendel was helped by this man and later ran home to the Jewish ghetto and met up with his brother.

Mendel Good told many inspirational stories and we can learn about our world's past from him. As one of the few survivors able to tell his story his audience comes away with a sense of astonishment that such a tragedy occurred, and how a man could survive everything that Mendel went through.

 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.

WCDSB STUDENT SUCCESS SITE

<http://bss.wcdsb.ca>

Resources to help you help your son or daughter succeed.

EQAO MATH TEST INFORMATION....

By Miss C. Stockie

All grade 9's enrolled in either Grade 9 Applied or Academic Math classes during semester 2 will be writing the EQAO's provincial Math Test over two days - on Tuesday, June 9th and Wednesday, June 10th. This test will be written during their regularly-scheduled Math class, and will take the full period on both days. It is important that students be prepared for this test, since the EQAO is worth half of their final exam, or 15% of their final, overall mark. Students should already be preparing in their classes by working on practice materials provided by their teacher, but there are also tonnes of on-line resources available to families so that students can practice at home. Just check out the official website..... www.eqao.com for tests from previous years, complete solutions, tips and reminders, as well as useful links. Lots of luck to all those Grade 9's participating.

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

By 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. Meet with Dr. Chernysh after school in room 310. See you there!!

Clubs & Athletics

SENIOR BOYS SOCCER SEASON STARTS TODAY

By Mr. D. Vrabec

The senior boys soccer season starts on Wednesday, April 22 in Waterloo against Rockway. The team showed plenty of character on a cold, wet and windy Monday, defeating Waterloo-Oxford in an exhibition match 3-0 with goals by Randy Ribeiro, Marvin Alyas and Vlad Mestacanean. Great team play by all and solid defensive showings by Justin Corbett and Ryan Da Silva gave goalkeeper Brendan Chaves his first shut out of the season.

Check <http://www.cwossadistrict8.com> for updated standings and a schedule.

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

The Fitness Centre is open Monday through Thursday from 2:30 to 3:30. There is still lots of time to get in shape for the summer! Bring a friend and work out after school.

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.

Our last dance of the year is tomorrow night. A Night at the Roxbury is scheduled 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!

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!

Other News

ST. BENEDICT'S SPECTACULARLY SKILLED SAINTS

BY KYLA TANNER

In April, fifteen students from St. Benedict gave it their all in the Skills Canada regional competition at Conestoga College, winning a total of four gold medals, four silver medals, and a bronze.

Skills Canada is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to promoting the skilled trades and technologies as career options for youth. This annual competition allows students to win medals doing what they enjoy.



"Seeing how well they can do is my

favourite part of the Skills Canada competitions," said Mrs. Crowell, Business and Co-op Program Area Head. The fact that students can win awards and be excited not only for themselves but for the other winners too is the real accomplishment.

Careers involving skilled trades and technologies are growing in society and by promoting them in a competition, students are being given a chance to prove just how well they can do. "Skills Canada is an excellent opportunity for students," Mr. Adamo, T/V video production advisor, stated.

Students have an equal opportunity to show their talents in these competitions. They can improve them with help from teacher advisors outside of school hours to prepare to compete. Skills Canada has provided a way for students to excel and feel great while doing it.

"They have taken this sense of accomplishment back into the classroom where it is having a positive impact on their learning," says Mr. Fage, Office IT advisor.

The competitions are catching on and as Mrs. Crowell states: "I like to see that it is growing." She has been involved for over nine years now and has seen St. Benedict start with five students entering the challenge - this has now risen to fifteen.

Provincials will take place at RIM Park in Waterloo on Monday May 4th and Tuesday May 5th. This is the largest skilled trades competition in Canada with more than 1 500 competitors, 30 000 spectators and more than 60 skilled trades contests. Elementary, Secondary and Post-Secondary students will all be involved and full of activity this day.

Last year Alicia Whalen competed in Restaurant Service and made it all the way to nationals in Calgary, winning a bronze medal.

With high hopes Alicia Whalen will be compete again along with the Home Build Team of Four: Sebastian Carvalho, Cody Cole, Kurt DaCosta, and Martin Vlcek at RIM park in May for provincials. Nathan Teixeira, Kyle Mackie, Nelson Monteiro, Amber Al-itawi, Michael Davison, and Brandon Finlay competed at Fanshawe College on Saturday, April 18th against several other school boards to try to gain a spot at the provincial OTSC to join Whalen and the Home Build Team.

Julia Sigurdson also exceeded at regionals. Sean deLottinville as well as Andrew Wanklin won medals and will hopefully compete again next year. All the students involved were able to gain valuable insight not only about their contest but also about themselves along the journey. Luck goes out to them all from St. Benedict in the future competitions and wherever else their skills will lead them.

AUTONOMOUS INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSE IDC-4U OUR "EGGHEAD ACTIVITY"

By Mrs. D. Wittmann

As part of the Grade 12U Interdisciplinary Course, the students complete a Unit of Study on "The Brain." One of the activities in this unit involves creating an egg "helmet." The students designed a protective covering strong enough to keep an egg from breaking. It had to be durable enough to withstand a three-storey drop from high above the atrium to the floor below. Did the eggs survive the fall? To our great pride and pleasure, the protective gear did prevent egg trauma for three of the ten eggs. Congratulations to Jason Charbonneau, Sara Radko, and Maryl Eva for successfully launching their eggs over the railing to land unbroken on impact. Wow!

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.

GOOD LUCK to Andrew Silver, Brian Machado, and Trevor Cahill, who will be going to the regional competition of the ECOO programming contest at UWO on April 25.

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, May 28** 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](#).

Dates to Remember

April 23: School dance, 6:30-10:30

April 24: Professional Activity Day

April 27: Report Card distribution

April 30: School Play

May 8: Prom

May 11-14: Co-President Campaign Week

May 15: Co-President Assembly and Election

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

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 FIFTY 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 **255** 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](#), [Mrs. Sara Beyerle](#), [Mr. Michael Huemiller](#), [Miss Bobbi Bester](#)

