

Note from Administration

Hard to believe it is May already. It has been a wonderful Easter season; we continue to build on the hope and joy that comes to us as we live out our mission as an Easter people.

May is a very busy month, spring sports, drama production, band trip, student council elections, and this year a special focus on being "Road Smart". This week we will be focusing prayers, announcements, atrium displays, memorial run, and special assembly Thursday on keeping our youth safe on the roads. In partnership with parents, Waterloo Region Public Health, Waterloo Regional Police, O.P.P., our school social worker, and various social agencies we hope to inspire our students to keep safety of themselves and others on their minds as they head outside to enjoy the warm spring weather. Our faith teaches us to honour the dignity and respect of all, and we focus our attention this week to safety and respect for transportation, cyclists, pedestrians, drivers, passengers, and families that can be impacted by the trauma of accidents on our roadways. Help keep our community safe. Be Road Smart.

A quick reminder to parents that report cards were distributed to students at school Monday April 27th. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's progress please do not hesitate to contact their teacher. We are only a month away from the beginning of final summative assignment time and six weeks to final evaluations. Time to focus on a strong finish to semester II.

- Mr. J. McKinnon, Principal

Administrative

HELLO FROM THE STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE

By MRS. L. TEMPLE

WHAT HAPPENS IN SST ONE MAY ASK?

Well, we have lots of supports in place trying to help students be the best students they can be. First of all, we still have math credit rescue running out of room 310 and 308 Monday and Thursday's after school.

Homework club in room 224: free teacher support and access to computers. This runs after school from 2:30-3:30 Monday to Thursday. As well, Mr. Malnerich and Mrs. Temple are available throughout the day to help students who do not have an IEP, complete projects, get some help studying, as well as write tests.

We were recently lucky enough to be funded by Nutrition for Learning to run a snack program to help students keep focused on school work if they come in at lunch for some extra support. Yummy snacks to energize the students to keep working...fuel their minds and soul, so to speak :)

So, encourage your son/daughter to drop by Seminar 3.2, right by the elevator to find out what we do...or simply show up on your lunch, or to homework club, or math credit rescue. We will be happy to see you.

COURSE CHANGES FOR SEPTEMBER 2009

By MR. S. KRITZ, GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR

Students who wish to make changes to their courses for next year are asked to:

1. pick up a PINK course change form in guidance
2. complete the form
3. get it signed by a parent or guardian
4. return it to guidance ASAP

In Sept. 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 be available at a later date.

**ST. BENEDICT GUIDANCE
STAFF**



HOMework CLUB

When? Mondays through Thursdays,
starting on February 23rd (2:30 – 3:30)

Where? Room 224

Who? Teacher volunteers from all subject
areas – MATH too!

Why? To get help with homework,
assignments, test preparation, editing essays,
etc.... (Computer access too!)

How? Just show up!

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.](#)

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 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.

Academic

AUTONOMOUS INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IDC4U

By MRS. D. WITTMANN

Brain researcher Jill Bolte Taylor studied her own stroke as it happened -- and has become a powerful voice for brain recovery.

As part of the Autonomous class, the students study the workings of the brain. When looking at the functions of the left and right hemispheres, we watched the TED conference presentation of Jill Bolte Taylor. She herself is a neuroanatomist who had a stroke.

Why you should listen to her: One morning, a blood vessel in Jill Bolte Taylor's brain exploded. As a brain scientist, she realized she had a ringside seat to her own stroke. She watched as her brain functions shut down one by one: motion, speech, memory, self-awareness ...

Amazed to find herself alive, Taylor spent eight years recovering her ability to think, walk and talk. She has become a spokesperson for stroke recovery and for the possibility of coming back from brain injury stronger than before. In her case, although the stroke damaged the left side of her brain, her recovery unleashed a torrent of creative energy from her right.


Her book, [A Stroke of Insight](#), is a best seller. Take a peek!

HOSPITALITY CLASSES CHECK OUT SKILLS CANADA

By Mrs. L. O'NEILL

On Tuesday May 5th, Mrs. O'Neill's Hospitality classes took a trip to RIM Park to take in the Skills Canada Competition. The Provincial competition is held over two days and students will have the opportunity to see students from all over the province competing in technological skills competitions such as Restaurant Service, Home Build, Photography, Welding, and many more. We paid particular interest to the Restaurant Service competition where Alicia Whalen of St. Benedict hopes to achieve Gold for a second year. We also checked in on the Culinary Skills and Baking competitions to see what's happening in the kitchens!

We hope the students enjoyed seeing the trades in action and possibly even take an interest in competing next year!



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.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

By Mr. B. BRIERE

From time to time, the Technology shops are asked to build items for other departments, or in this case for Mr. Bob Rempel. Everyone has noticed that the morning "O Canada" song, the prayer, and the announcements are much more clear on the PA. The morning broadcast is now in a different room and there was a need for a cabinet to hold CD's and binders. We had just the right students to build this unit for Bob. Pictured from right to left are: Colin Newinger, Mr. Bob Rempel, Jesse Melo, and Daniel Moriz from the Period 1 Grade 9 Integrated Technology Course. These students were extremely proud to present Bob with the cabinet this morning. Meaningful projects keep students engaged and this is something that Colin, Jesse and Dan will always remember.

LINK CREW: SAINTS LEAD BY EXAMPLE

By L. TEMPLE

The Link Crew program is coming once again to St. Benedict this September!

It is a program created to help Grade 8's in their transition to high school. This program is designed to help create a school environment where Grade 9 students learn that people at the school care about them and their future by removing any concerns and replacing it with support, connections, and a sense of belonging.

Link Crew helps ease this transition by having grade 11 and 12 students be Link Leaders – a link to the Grade 9 students coming into our school. We had over 100 candidates apply to be this September's Link Crew - that is incredible!!! These leaders are trained to be positive role models, motivators, and teachers who guide the Grade 9's in their discovery of what it takes to be successful in high school. The program continues throughout the year with academic and social follow-ups. At St. Benedict's we are convinced that the program will make a lasting impression



on the character of our students and the environment of our school.

WCDSB STUDENT SUCCESS SITE

<http://bss.wcdsb.ca>

Resources to help you help your son or daughter succeed.

EQAO MATH TEST INFORMATION....

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: 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.....

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

GIRLS RUGBY BEGINS SEASON WITH BIG VICTORY!

By MR. HUEMILLER

The St. Benedict Girls Rugby Team began their season with a whopping 20-0 victory over St. David C.S.S. Needless to say, the girls were excited to start the year on a winning note after struggling in the point-producing category last season. Try scorers for Game #1 were Jordan Worrell, Olivia Eddy, Lisa Lourenco, and Annelise McAllister. Game #1 MVPs were Annelise McAllister and Olivia Eddy.

In their second game of the season, Bennies fell to a tough St. Mary's team on our home field. No tries were scored, but game MVPs were awarded to Amanda Conde and Monica Pickering.

Coaches Huemiller and Meyer and assistants Miller and Borba are looking for a strong outing from the girls against top-seeded Rez on Wednesday, May 6 at the St. Mary's field (Game Time 4:30 p.m.).

Special mention to coaches Pat Martin and Melissa Conde whose experience has proven to be an invaluable asset to the development of our team.

SENIOR BOYS' SOCCER

By MR. D. VRABEC

The senior boys soccer season is well underway. After starting the season on a winning note against Rockway, the team played hard, but ultimately came up short, to St. Mary's and Resurrection.

An excellent win against cross-town rivals Monsignor Doyle restored a lot of confidence into the team, who now take on Pere Rene and St. David to close out the week.

The final league game against Woodland Christian on Monday will hopefully be followed by a quarter-final game, and from there...who knows? The team is hopeful for a semi-final appearance, and with some hard work and good luck, maybe a spot in the District 8 final.



UNITED CULTURES CLUB INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL PIEROGIES, SAMOSAS, AND FRIED RICE...OH MY!

By MRS. R. MISITI-GARCIA

The United Cultures club is planning their annual Multicultural Food Festival for Tuesday May 26th.

Staff members have always been great at helping out by bringing in some tasty foods to sell during the lunchtime event, and we hope their contributions will again help this year to be a success! It's a great chance to showcase their diverse cultures and culinary skills while helping raise money for a great cause. Most of the money raised will be donated to the Mr. Milardovic's Million Penny Project to raise funds for Michaela Kameka. See her site at www.hopeformichaela.com.

A MUSICAL MELEE ON THE CLEVELAND BAND TRIP

By LISA LOURENCO

After a seven hour bus ride, a sketchy border guard, and fast food breakfasts, we arrived in Cleveland, Ohio. Unpacked, excited, and completely awake, we had a couple of hours to explore the town. Once we let loose, the fun began, complimented with food from Fat Fish Blue. The next day, finely dressed in our black-on-black regulations, we were nervous and aware that the judges, with recording devices to their mouths, were watching our every move. With Miss Parkinson at the podium, we started strong, and kept it going right from "Air for Band" [Symphonic Band] until "Rolling with the Punches" [Jazz Band]. Then, presented with award ratings of "Excellent" for our spectacular performance, we were given an hour to get ready to eat - this time, the destination was the Hard Rock Café - and were then ushered to enjoy a performance from a much more experienced band: the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra.

On Sunday, now packed and sadly leaving the Hampton Inn for the last time, we boarded the coach bus and made a stop at the Cleveland Art Museum. Finally, our destination was home - back to Cambridge Ontario while singing loudly (and ironically) out of tune. We can always look back on our Cleveland Trip as an excellent experience, and I can guarantee that if you ask any music student about it, they will respond with a smile, saying: "Well, this one time, in Cleveland..."

OUTERS CLUB

The outers club participated in another FANTASTIC camping trip on May 1 - 3. From hiking through swampy waters with 50 lb packs, to hiking along the Niagara Escarpment and camping at Cyprus Lake Provincial Park, fun was had by all. Awe-inspiring views, an amazing hike, camp fire songs, and sleeping under the stars were just a few highlights of this years' spring Outers Club trip. The students who participated in this trip represented St. Benedict's well, and did a great job ensuring that we left the park cleaner than when we got there!

Special thanks go out to all of the students for their great teamwork, enthusiastic participation, and continuing positivism. The bottle of Nugatti, which provided ENDLESS hours of amusement and even a song, is something that also needs to get a special mention.

It was a pleasure to go on a trip with all of the students who participated!

Ms. Dutka, Ms. Novakovich, Mr. O'Connor, and Ms. Rolt

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.

Other News

INVITATION TO OPEN HOUSE

Rex Barger, volunteer with Grade 8 Retreats at Mt Mary for 30+ years, has retired. The current WCDSB Elementary School Chaplaincy Team is hosting an Afternoon of Appreciation Saturday, May 9, 2-3:30pm at the Board Office (St Mary's Hall), 35 Weber St. W. It will begin with an Open House and a chance to speak with Rex, and conclude with a few tributes and a very special announcement. Please RSVP to mary.dinner@wcdsb.ca if you wish to attend. Thank you.

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

- May 8:** Prom
- May 11-14:** Co-President Campaign Week
- May 15:** Co-President Assembly and Election
- May 18:** Victoria Day
- May 20:** Barbecue fun day
- May 21:** COPA Arts Night

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

I'm going to start my piece the same way Jamie did: hard to believe it's May already. Sadly, that means that we're nearing the end of this inaugural year of the BENN Electronic Newsletter. With the next issue, we will be sending a link to a survey about the newsletter; we hope you'll be able to find a few minutes to complete it. This will help us assess how well we've done up to now, and provide us with guidance as we move into our second year.

- Anton

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 **258** 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](#) | [Mr. Michael Huemiller](#) | [Miss Bobbi Bester](#)

