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The Benny's Electronic News Network newsletter is a publication of St. Benedict C.S.S. in Cambridge, Ontario. It is distributed every second Wednesday during the school year using the WCDSB Newswire service. Any questions or comments pertaining to this publication can be sent to the editor [Anton Milardovic](#) or the school's principal [Jamie McKinnon](#).

Note from Administration

We look forward to the celebration of Advent over the next few weeks in anticipation of Christmas. These will be a busy few weeks. Already this week we had reconciliation opportunities for students, and our Leadership class just wrapped up a successful Warmth Drive to support Cambridge's St. Vincent de Paul Society. Coming up are: our Christmas basket campaign in support of the Cambridge Fire Fighters Christmas Campaign, the Red Stocking project in support of a mission of St. Mary's Parish, the ongoing M.A.D. (Make A Difference) project to support Free the Children (supported by our Junior Achievement classes and their entrepreneurial spirit) and a number of other Christmas activities leading up to the Christmas break ... WOW!

In addition to all of these initiatives, we have a solid couple of weeks of school work to get through. We encourage everyone to continue staying focused and productive and enjoy the joyous spirit of this season.

- Mr. J. McKinnon, Principal

Administrative

RED STOCKING CAMPAIGN BEGINS

BY MR. B. REMPEL

Like last year, the St. Benedict community is once again collaborating with St. Mary's of the Visitation parish to fill red Christmas stockings with school supplies, small toys and a few candies for school children in Africa. Canadian Food for Children is distributing these supplies to needy children in various countries.

Father Freitas has dropped off 50 stockings, so individuals and classes are free to fill more than one stocking if you feel led. This may be a more manageable project for classes that felt that the Christmas baskets was too much.

HELLO FROM THE SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT!

BY MRS. N. OFFAK

Over the past few months, we have been busy writing, revising, distributing and collecting our Individual Education Plans (IEPs). Here at St. Benedict's, we use a team approach involving parents, teachers, administration and the student, in the ongoing development of the IEP. The IEP

is a flexible working document, a written plan of action. It outlines strengths and needs and lists specific accommodation, instructional and assessment strategies that are important for successful student learning.

At the end of October, completed IEPs, reflecting the 2009-2010 school year, were sent home with students. We hope you had a chance to review the new IEP and felt comfortable with it. If you have not done so, please make necessary changes, sign the school copy, and send it back to the school with your son/daughter. We appreciate your time and support.

Group	Teacher	Ext.
A-C	Miss L. Pieper	ext. 205
D-O	Mrs. N. Offak	ext. 654
P-Z	Mr. M. Olinski	ext. 434
Full Essential/Active & Community Living	Mrs. L. McLaughlin	ext. 185

For our students who are on a gifted IEP, we are actively promoting enrichment opportunities as they become available. There are community and outside of the Board opportunities that involve contests, competitions and challenges. Conveniently enough, our school website has a list categorized into sections that encompasses many interests and includes enrichment opportunities in the following areas: Math, Language & Literacy, French, Media & Technology, Science, the Arts, and Enrichment Programs/Camps. We hope that there is something of interest for all students. For more information, please see the school website. As always, if you have any comments or questions regarding your son or daughter's IEP, feel free to contact their IEP Program Support Teacher.

ATTENDANCE ISSUES

If your son or daughter is absent from school on a particular day, parents should make every effort to call the school by noon **that same day. The direct phone line for the attendance office is (519) 621-4001.** If you get voice mail, please leave the student's name and grade, your name, and the reason for the student's absence.

THINKING ABOUT TAKING CO-OP?

Come and check out our Co-Op Career Fair Thursday, December 3 during lunch in the Atrium. You can speak to students currently taking Co-Op to get ideas and information.

HELLO FROM STUDENT SUCCESS!

By Miss A. Gleiser

Student Success is a program that aims at fostering an environment that provides extra support for students to ensure overall success in school. The Student Success office is located on the 3rd floor in Seminar Room 3.2 (beside the Chapel).

6 WAYS TO STUDENT SUCCESS

Student Success Teams - Each team works with school staff, students, and parents to ensure that together we help more students earn the credits necessary to graduate.

Specialist High Skills Major - For students who already have a career path in mind, this program is an opportunity for students to customize their learning according to their career goals.

Lighthouse Projects - Is a piloted project to help students stay in school, accumulate credits that are needed, and link specific college programs to learning to encourage students who have left school, to return.

Expanded Co-Op Credit - Co-Op is a great way for students to expand their knowledge on the workplace. Students can now include two Co-Op credits in their 18 Compulsory credits needed to graduate.

Dual Credit Program - High school students can now earn credits by participating in apprenticeship training and post secondary programs that count towards their High School Diploma, Post Secondary Diploma, Degree, or Apprenticeship Certification.

Grade 8-9 Transition - Students who have difficulty in the transition from elementary to secondary school will get the support they need through increased individualized attention and programming tailored to fit their individual situation.

WHO ARE YOUR STUDENT SUCCESS TEACHERS?

Dave Jaeger (A-L)
John Malnerich (M-Z)
Amy Gleiser (Grade 9 Transition A-Z)

UNIFORMS

A reminder to students that non-uniform clothing is not permitted in the classrooms, and should be left

LINK CREW PROUDLY PRESENTS... BACKWARDS LUNCH DAY FOR ALL GRADE NINES!

We are excited to announce that the Link Leaders will be hosting our 3rd Annual Backwards Lunch on Tuesday, December 8th! Period Two Grade Nine Classes will be called down to the cafeteria to enjoy in a tasty treat before their lunch!

in your locker. Pants and shorts are to be worn properly, not rolled.

Homework Club

ARE YOU IN NEED OF SOME EXTRA HELP WITH HOMEWORK? NEED A QUIET PLACE TO WORK? DO YOU HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER AT HOME?

Located in Room 224, Homework Club provides students with an alternative quiet area to complete homework after school with the help of some really great teachers from all learning areas! Please stop by and check it out!

Where? Room 224
When? Monday - Thursday
Time? 2:30 - 3:30

WHO IS YOUR ADMINISTRATOR?

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

A to F: [Mrs. Beaucage](#)
G to O: [Mr. Bellini](#)
P to Z: [Mrs. Leusink](#)

As always, feel free to contact our principal, [Mr. McKinnon](#).

BENNY'S STAFF BIOS



Vice-principal **Lou Bellini** has been teaching since 1991. He is a familiar presence at St. Benedict, as this is his third time here. He has been at Benny's for a total of 12 years. His first time here, he taught in the grade 7 & 8 technology transition program. His



Pat Klassen has been teaching since 1981 and with St. Benedict for the past 13 years. She is currently the Program Head of Guidance. Prior to moving to guidance she was SAC Director for 5 years and Athletic Director for 5 years. During her years in the

second time he was the program head of Technological Studies teaching computer engineering, construction, technological design and mathematics. Currently he is an administrator. When asked what makes our school unique, he promptly answered, 'A caring and dedicated staff. The students are down to earth and for the most part "tell it like it is".'

With so much time, energy, and heart invested in St. Benedict's, Mr. Bellini knows that Benny's is a great school that has lots to offer students. Because of his experience with a broad range of student abilities and challenges, he believes that this has made him a better teacher and empathetic administrator.



Wendy Schuster has been a Youth Care Worker with the WCDSB for the past 20 years. She began her career with the board as an itinerant Youth Care Worker, supporting six of our St. Benedict's elementary feeder schools and now has been a familiar face at St.

Benedict since 2007. Wendy believes she has one of the best positions in the school community. Everyday, she has the opportunity to work with students, guidance, administration, and special education as well as classroom teachers. Wendy brings the greater community into our school by collaborating with many of our social community partners to provide programming and further support to students. Her job description is vast and varied. Youth Care Workers support students struggling to cope with any number of social, emotional and mental health concerns. This can look like small group work, class wide programming or one to one support.

"I am blessed with the gift of being able to make even the smallest difference in a student's day!"

Wendy is also a member of the Faith Formation Committee and the Family Advisory Committee for the school board. When not at school, this busy lady and her husband enjoy nature and the outdoors -hiking, camping, snowshoeing and kayaking.

classroom, her main teaching area was physical education but she also taught career studies, peer leadership, geography, music and in her early years of teaching typing—on manual typewriters even! Currently she is chair of the awards committee and a member of the graduation committee. Although she is not coaching now, she has been very involved in athletics over the years. She continues to serve as an executive and board member of CWOSSA and OFSAA.

"I love the enthusiasm of the staff and students at St. Benedict. We truly are a 'Celebration of People' and I can't imagine working at any other school."

Pat marks a special milestone this year and so we join with Pat's two university aged daughters in congratulating her on her 25th wedding anniversary.



This is **Damir Vrabec's** 7th year of teaching, five of which have been at St. Benedict's. Although Damir has taught math for a semester, science is where he earns his keep. He has taught the junior as well as senior Science courses. After school, Damir brings

his love of soccer to the junior and senior boys soccer teams. What he particularly appreciates about coaching is the different coach-athlete relationship that is fostered, instead of just the teacher-student relationship. When asked about his feeling about our school, Damir shared these thoughts with us. He believes that the staff is very dynamic and everyone really seems to get along with each other. In terms of the school itself, it is enjoyable to see student-athletes who share the same passion for soccer. As well, the students seem to respond to Damir's style - he injects humour into every class. Not surprisingly, his cheery demeanor comes from the conviction that every day is a new day, one of hope and opportunity.

He likes to think that if he makes the world a little bit better or brighter for at least one student, either by what they have learned that day or what he has done for them, then he has made a worthwhile difference that day. 'As long as I can continue to do so, it makes what I do rewarding.'

Academic

ENRICHING THE LIVES OF STUDENTS

BY MRS. D. WITTMANN

LEARNING CHARACTERISTICS OF GIFTED CHILDREN

Gifted children are natural learners who often show many of these characteristics:

- They may show keen powers of observation and a sense of the significant; they have an eye for important details.
- They may read a great deal on their own, preferring books and magazines written for children older than they are.
- They often take great pleasure in intellectual activity.
- They have well-developed powers of abstraction, conceptualization, and synthesis.
- They readily see cause-effect relationships.
- They often display a questioning attitude and seek information for its own sake as much as for its usefulness.
- They are often skeptical, critical, and evaluative. They are quick to spot inconsistencies.
- They often have a large storehouse of information about a variety of topics, which they can recall quickly.
- They readily grasp underlying principles and can often make valid generalizations about events, people, or objects.
- They quickly perceive similarities, differences, and anomalies.
- They often attack complicated material by separating it into components and analyzing it systematically.

LITERACY CORNER

BY MR. D. JAEGER

There are many traits or characteristics of effective writing. Some of these include:

1. The writer uses original ideas that are supported by relevant, detailed information
2. The writer selects appropriate words for the grade and audience
3. The writer's sentences 'flow' from one thought to another and seem natural, not forced
4. The writer's voice is evident, with interest and passion

More characteristics next time!



By Miss C. Stockie

This week's Math League winners:

Grade 9 - David Li
 Grade 10 - Sabrina Sikora
 Grade 11 - Daniyal Abdali
 Grade 12 - Sean Delottinville
 Teacher - Mrs. McCaffery

Overall Leaders:

Grade 9: David Li, Jasmine Cowen, Patricia Santos, Matt Lawes

Grade 10: Sabrina Sikora, Dana Kim, Nilda Duong, Sarah Simone

Grade 11: Daniyal Abdali, Evan Peng, Kevin Lee

Grade 12: Jason Blais, Danny Ram, Abdo Nayfeh

Teachers: Mrs. McCaffery, Mr. Kritz, Mrs. MacDonald

NIPISSING STOCK MARKET COMPETITION

Congratulations to our top performers!

1. Sean McCann (+ 13% in six weeks)
2. Drew Wanklin
3. Brendan Leonard
4. Brandon Senwasane

WCDSB STUDENT SUCCESS SITE

<http://bss.wcdsb.ca>

Resources to help you help your son or daughter succeed.

GRADE 9 MATH EQAO TEST

By Mr. M. Modolo

Grade 9 students who are currently taking an applied or academic level math class will be writing the provincial EQAO math test on Tuesday, January 19 and Wednesday, January 20. Students have been preparing for these tests throughout the semester in their math classes. Parents interested in getting more information about the EQAO test can visit www.eqao.com or e-mail [Mark Modolo](mailto:Mark.Modolo), the program head of mathematics.

NEW GRADE 9 MATH PARENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

By Mr. M. Modolo

There are many supports in place at St. Benedict to support your child in his/her math learning:

- Classroom teachers who are regularly available outside of class time;
- Homework Club which runs after school from Monday to Thursday in room 224;
- Credit Rescue which is available on Mondays and Wednesdays in room 310;
- Study Hall for missed assignments which will be assigned during lunch periods.

Notwithstanding this available support, students may have difficulty when completing homework and look for support from their parents. Often, as teachers, we hear parents comment that they have difficulty helping their children because it has been too long since they have looked at the math concepts being presented. To help address this common issue, we will be launching a new Grade 9 Math Parent Support program which will run on a weekly basis in the evening here at the school. As a parent of a grade 9 student you are welcome to come to learn about the concepts that are being taught in math class so that you can feel greater confidence supporting your son or daughter at home.

I hope you will consider joining us as part of this new program. To get more information about the parent support program or any of the other supports offered, please contact [Mark Modolo](mailto:Mark.Modolo), the program head of mathematics.

Clubs & Athletics

BOYS VARSITY HOCKEY

By Mr. N. O'Connor

The Saints lost their season opener 2-1 to the Forest Heights Trojans. Scott Thompson had the lone goal for the Saints and Jordan Ironside played a strong game in net. The boys are back in action on Thursday, November 26th for their first home game at Hespeler arena vs the St. Mary's Eagles.

GIRLS HOCKEY OFF TO A WINNING START

By Mrs. L. O'Neill

The Girls hockey team has started the year in a winning fashion. Our first game of the year was a 3-2 win over Sir John A MacDonald. In a game that could have gone either way Alex Buffone came up with a key save in the dying minutes of the game to secure the win. The Saints overcame a number of penalties and worked well as a team. Goals were scored by Alex Jaworski, Jacqueline DiCarlo and Brooke North with assists being



Jr. Boys Basketball
SBCSS 38, MDCSS 28

Sr. Boys Basketball
SBCSS 64, MDCSS 54
Exhibition Weekend
SBCSS 71 vs Wloo Oxford 57
Preston 35 vs SBCSS 41
Lourdes 57 vs SBCSS 61

Midget Boys Basketball
SMHS 47, SBCSS 37

Boys Varsity Hockey
SBCSS 1, Forest Heights 2
St. Mary's 2, SBCSS 2

Jr. Girls Volleyball
MDCSS 3, SBCSS 1
SBCSS 0, WCHS 3

contributed by Gracie Robson and Alli Mackinnon (2). Game 2 had the girls facing Waterloo Collegiate at RIM Park. Congratulations to Mallory Bouctsis with the shut out and to all the goal scorers and assists in this 6-0 win.

The team will face Huron Heights at Activia on Thursday December 3rd and Jacob Hespeler at Hespeler arena on Tuesday Dec. 8th.

Sr. Girls Volleyball

MDCSS 1, **SBCSS 3**
SBCSS 3, WCHS 0

Girls Hockey

SBCSS 3, Sir John A 2
WCI 0, **SBCSS 6**

CROSS COUNTRY WRAP-UP

By Mr. F. Wittmann

Every year the local Cambridge Y has a Jingle Bell Run, and once again St. Benedict runners posted some fine results. Congratulations to all who participated on Sunday, November 22:

2.5K Team - FIRST: Catherine Umolac, Megan Mason, Nicole Maher

Julia Wittmann - 1st in her category

5K Team - FIRST: Peter Reynolds, Kyle MacFarlane, Ben Taborek, Mr. Wittmann, Alex Silver
Sean deLottinville - 4th in his category

JUNIOR GIRLS BBALLERS HELP THE NEEDY

By Ms. K. Beaudry

The Junior Girls Basketball Team recently participated in a contest sponsored by Aramark Canada for District 8 and Wellington schools. The school that collected the most items of food for their local food bank would win an opportunity to participate in a coaching clinic run by some Toronto Raptors. The students and teaching staff of St. Benedict, as well as the surrounding community, were extremely generous in donating non-perishable items for the girls' collection. Although the team finished second in the competition, they still came out winners, collecting close to 500 items for the Cambridge Self-Help Food Bank. The girls worked hard collecting the items on their own time, and many families in the area will benefit from their efforts. Coaches Whalen and Beaudry are proud of the girls and look forward to next season!



THE ENVIRONUTS

By Mrs. C. McCaffery

Originally started by an energetic student, Lisa Basham, who tragically died in a vehicle collision, this club is run in her memory. This year we have started and are planning on doing a lot of things including:

- growing plants for classroom enjoyment
- regular school ground cleanups
- participating in the Ground Water Festival in the spring
- organizing and participating in Earth Week activities
- running awareness campaigns for the benefit of our environment
- ... and whatever else we can think of.

We meet on Monday's after school (the rooms vary so keep an eye out on the Ranger system for more detailed information). All students are welcome to join - Come check us out! For more information please see Mrs. McCaffery or Ms. Dutka for more information.

Student Activities

SAC NEWS

BY EMILY PACHEREVA, SAC MEMBER

CHRISTMAS IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

As the holiday season has arrived, the countdown until Christmas break begins, and of course, we can't forget Christmas is less than four weeks away, things around the school sure are getting festive. But before we get into upcoming events, let's go back to our Fall Fair which occurred on Wednesday, November 18, and take a look at how it went... Our atrium was filled with fall decorations and students had the opportunity to get their photo taken for free and possibly have it appear in the yearbook. Also in the atrium, there was popcorn being sold for \$1 a bag. When our staff and students entered the cafeteria, they found it was decorated carnival-like, there was free apple cider upon entrance, and all were able to try their luck at some games with the incentive of winning a prize. All in all, the Fall Fair was a great success.

Yesterday, we had our HIV/AIDS Awareness Jeans Day. Students were allowed to wear their jeans to school with a uniform top for a \$2 donation towards an organization doing research for youth with HIV/AIDS. In total, we raised around \$1500 for this organization.

Students everywhere are getting into the holiday spirit as Christmas is only a matter of weeks away! Before we know it, we'll be seeing decorations everywhere, lights lining houses, and hearing Christmas music being played everywhere we go. If you aren't already excited, I'm sure you will soon be. Here at Bennies, we've got a few things planned for our staff and students. Keeping in mind the Advent season, our Christmas activities will be taking place only the week before the break.

December 4, we will be having auditions after school in the lecture hall for our Christmas Assembly. All types of talent are welcome--bands, skits, dance performances, etc.

From December 14 to 18, SAC will be hosting the 5 Days of Christmas. On Monday, we will be having free cookies and milk in the caf during periods three and four lunch. On Tuesday morning with the announcements, we will be having a Guess the Carol contest with our homerooms. On Wednesday, students will be able to wear a RED, WHITE, or GREEN shirt to school with their uniform pants, and they will also be able to have their picture taken with Santa, with an opportunity for it to be in the yearbook. Thursday we will play a Christmas movie in the caf during lunch periods three and four. And, to end off before Christmas Break, our Christmas Assembly will be held on the Friday.

Upcoming Events

Dec 2: 4:00 Sr Bball @ RMC
Dec 2: 5:30 Jr. Bball @ RMC
Dec 3: 7:00pm School Council, room 103
Dec 3: 2:30 Girls Hockey vs. Huron Heights @ Activa
Dec 4: Sr Bball - Bob CouI Classic @ Niagara Falls
Dec 5: Sr Bball - Bob CouI Classic @ Niagara Falls
Dec 7: Christmas Around the World
Dec 7: 5:00 Sr Bball vs Mary's @ home
Dec 7: 3:30 Jr Bball vs Mary's @ home
Dec 8: Christmas Around the World
Dec 8: 6-7:30 Badminton Club
Dec 8: 2:00 Girls Hockey vs. Jacob Hespeler @ Hespeler
Dec 9: Christmas Around the World
Dec 9: 2:00 Boys Hockey vs WO @ Preston
Dec 10: Christmas Around the World

Dec 11: Christmas Baskets & Advent Liturgy
Dec 11: Christmas Around the World
Dec 11: Sr Bball - Southwood Invitational
Dec 12: Sr Bball - Southwood Invitational
Dec 14: SAC "...Week Before Christmas" Activities
Dec 14: 5:00 Sr Bball vs Rez @ home
Dec 14: 3:30 Jr Bball vs Rez @ home
Dec 15: SAC "...Week Before Christmas" Activities
Dec 15: 3:00 Boys Hockey vs KCI @ McLaren
Dec 16: Wintersong
Dec 16: SAC "...Week Before Christmas" Activities
Dec 16: 3:30 Sr Bball @ Davids
Dec 16: 2:00 Girls Hockey vs. PHS @ Preston
Dec 16: 5:00 Jr Bball @ David's

Be sure to check the calendar on the school website

Dec 10: 2:30 Girls Hockey vs KCI @ Kiwanis
Dec 10: 2:30 Boys Hockey vs David's @ Rim #2

for more information. You can find it under **Benny's News > Calendar of Events.**

Miscellaneous



THE NUMBERS KEEP GROWING... AND GROWING...

We are fast approaching the 500 subscriber mark! Thank you to all subscribers! Please encourage your friends who have students at St. Benedict to subscribe to BENN. It's free *and* environmentally friendly!

NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

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.

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. Sophia Adach](#) • [Miss Bobbi Bester](#) (today's her birthday!) • [Mr. Kevin Fratarcangeli](#) • [Mr. Michael Huemiller](#)

