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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

*Welcome to Semester II. The school year continues to move on quickly, and it is always exciting to start the semester with the "Saints" winning a Super Bowl!*

Our own Saints will kick off the semester in new classes, winter team playoffs, and the hosting of the Regional Sears Drama Festival. We wish everyone a good start to the semester, building on good habits and routines leading to success—your own Super semester!

It is also that precious time of year beginning with Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday next week. We will look forward to a Lenten journey together as we reflect on repentance and redemption, sacrifice and salvation, in light of the Easter promise of resurrection and new life. We encourage you all to join with your parish, school and families as we journey together in Christ. A great way to begin semester II.

- Mr. J. McKinnon, Principal

## Administrative

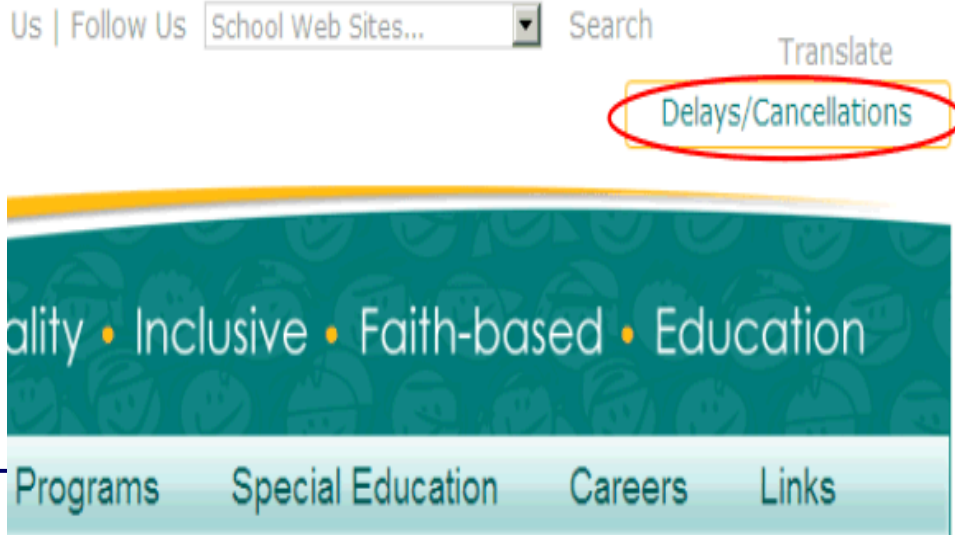
### Inclement Weather Procedure

When the weather is bad in the morning, please listen to your local Waterloo Region radio station. For example 96.7 CHYM FM has cancellations at the :15 and :45 of every hour. Other stations you may want to listen to include: KOOL FM (FM 105.3), 570 News (AM 570), KIX (FM 106.7), C JOY (AM 1460), DAVE FM (FM 107.5), MAGIC FM (FM 106.1), OLDIES 1090 (AM 1090) or FAITH FM (FM 94.3). Most local radio stations also have this information posted on their website as well.

Your best source for information when bad weather his is our school board's website. Check out our board's web site at [www.wcdsb.ca](http://www.wcdsb.ca) for the **RED cancellations button**. One click will tell you if your bus is cancelled and/or school is closed.

Unless it is explicitly stated that the school is closed, students should make every effort to attend. Classes will continue, and the onus will be on students to get caught up on work they miss.

For more information about the Board's Inclement Weather Policy, refer to [Administrative Procedures Memorandum APH 008: Inclement Weather.](#)



**ST.**

## **BENEDICT'S POPLAR/GUELPH AM AND PM SPECIALS**

Effective Monday, February 15th, Grand River Transit will be extending service on the AM and PM St. Benedicts Poplar/Guelph Specials in the Hespeler area. The specials will now service the new subdivision east of Guelph Avenue and south of Black Bridge Road. The special will follow its regular routing to Poplar and Guelph and then travel via Black Bridge Road and Baldwin Drive through the new subdivision. This is the first step in establishing a more permanent service into this area.

## **NEWS FROM ST. BENEDICT SCHOOL COUNCIL**

**BY BELINDA LUTES AND WILMA WHITE**

*St. Benedict School Council would like to invite all interested parents and community members to attend a meeting and find out more information about the council.*

The remaining St. Benedict School Council meetings for the 2009-2010 school year are:

- Thursday April 8, 2010
- Thursday May 13, 2010
- June - Social (date to be determined)

All of the meetings begin at 7:00 pm, in room 103. Please check out our page, found on the left side of the SBCSS website under Parent Information > School Council.

Being a member of school council allows you the opportunity to contribute to the success of our students and the school community. The role of the council is to act in an advisory role to our Principal, to ensure student achievement/success and to improve the accountability of the education system to parents. The meetings allow for communication, feedback and

### **BINGO!**

**BY MR. M. OLINSKI**

*Many of us are familiar with that excited shout. It brings with it a sense of accomplishment in having lined up random numbers, or, if you've been really lucky, the ability to fill an entire card with random numbers. More than the sense of accomplishment comes the thrill of knowing you've won some cold hard cash. St. Benedict School Council will become involved in a new fundraising program to support our school community.*

Beginning February 6th, and running every Saturday evening in February, members of School Council, as well as other school volunteers, including members of administration, educational assistants, teachers and the chaplain, will volunteer their time from approximately 6:15 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Their goal? They wish to raise funds for a number of projects to support students and programs at St. Benedict. School Council sought and received staff feedback as to wants and needs for the money raised. A number of requests came forward, including money to help

information to be valued and shared with all members.

We would also like to wish the staff and students much success and they prepare for their first term final exams and the second semester.

pay for a new electronic sign in front of the school, math kits and equipment for the weight room.

So, if you want a chance to win some cold hard cash, have some fun and raise some money for St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School, we look forward to seeing you some chilly night in February at the Cambridge Bingo Centre. Please feel free to check out their website at [www.cambridgebingo.com](http://www.cambridgebingo.com).

## **NEWS FROM GUIDANCE**

**BY MRS. P. KLASSEN**

### **COURSE CHANGES FOR SECOND SEMESTER**

Guidance is always a busy place, however the start of new semester always makes things "extra" busy as we work to register new students joining us and work at making many course changes in a timely manner. A new procedure has been put in place this year for course changes which has allowed counsellors to make the most urgent and necessary changes first, followed by elective change requests. We are pleased to report that the vast majority of our students are following this new procedure which helps us get students placed quickly and appropriately. The deadline for changes to second semester courses is February 19, 2010. Any student wishing to make a course change must submit a course changed form, signed by a parent, prior to this deadline date.

### **COURSE SELECTION FOR 2010 - 2011**

The process for choosing courses for the 2010 - 2011 school year will begin next week. Guidance counsellors will be visiting all grade 9, 10 and 11 students in one of their classes on February 16, 17 or 18 to share information regarding this important process. As has been the practice for the past number of years, courses will be selected by students using an on-line course planner. We are attaching the instructions for this process in this article of BENN. Option sheets, signed by a parent or guardian are due back to the school by March 3, 2010. [Download a copy of the course selection process in PDF format.](#)

### **QUESTIONS ABOUT COURSE PLANNING?**

Parents are encouraged to attend a presentation on Thursday, February 18 at 7:00 PM in the main atrium and cafeteria that will include specifics about graduation requirements, courses and the process of selecting classes for next year. The evening will include a brief presentation as well as time to visit displays by all subject areas and have your questions answered by members of our teaching staff. Information regarding some of our specialty co-operative education and experiential learning opportunities will also be available. We hope to see many of you here that evening. Students are also welcome to attend the event with their parents.

### **GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR CASE LOADS**

Ms. D. Wehrle: A - C, L, ext. 265

Mrs. P. Klassen: D - J, ext. 190

Mr. S. Kritz: K, M - O'Driscoll, ext. 512

Mrs. K. Menjolian: Oei - Thwaites, ext. 240

Mr. M. Ambeau: Tierney - Z, ext. 503

The above case load assignments represent a slight change from first semester case loads. Please continue to feel free to contact us whenever you have a question or concern.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**February 16 - 18:** Grade Level Option Sheet Presentations

**February 18:** Option Sheet and Course Planning Information Evening, 7:00 PM

## OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE VALUABLE

BY MRS. N. OFFAK

As we celebrate the end of semester one and the dawning of semester two, it is also important to celebrate and recognize the efforts of those who have given their time to be invaluable volunteers in our school. Since September, St. Benedict C.S.S. has had the pleasure of welcoming 14 volunteers who donated countless hours of their time and energy to both teachers and students. These volunteers were instrumental in several capacities, which included (to name a few): one-on-one support, behaviour management, supervisors of small group activities, assisting coaches after school, and some even having the pleasure of being an extra pair of eyes and ears on class trips.

For semester one, our volunteers were Christine Simoes, Robert Wyatt, Valerie Cholette, Joanne Hennig, Luis DaCosta, Kerry Knight, Pepper Cabral, Nicole Amaral, Steve Smidt, Marie Magennis, Vanessa Moniz, Tanya Sousa, John Aguiar and Julia Horgan. To those who are leaving us, we thank you for all your time and effort and will gladly take you back if your schedules see fit. For those who are staying, we welcome you back and are glad that you can continue to join us in semester two.

If you or someone you know would like to join our team of volunteers here at St. Benedict, please feel free to contact me at [Nada.Offak@wcdsb.ca](mailto:Nada.Offak@wcdsb.ca) or by telephone at 519-621-4050 ext. 654 to set up an appointment to meet.

## HATS AND CELL PHONES: PUT THEM AWAY, OR LOSE FOR A DAY!

Hats and cell phones should be off, and in student's lockers 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 may have those items confiscated for the day and will be consequenced.

## WHO IS YOUR ADMINISTRATOR?

The administrative contact for your son or daughter is based on your last name:  
A to F: [Mrs. Beaucauge](#)  
G to O: [Mr. Bellini](#)  
P to Z: [Mrs. Leusink](#)

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

## UNIFORMS

A reminder to students that non-uniform clothing is not permitted in the classrooms, and should be left in your locker. Pants and shorts are to be worn properly, not rolled.

## BENNY'S STAFF BIOS



**Amy Gleiser** is well known to the grade nine students at St. Benedict's. She is the Coordinator for Link Crew - the program designed to welcome and engage grade nine students into the rich academic, athletic, artistic and social life at our school. She has been teaching for four years, most of it at this school in

the English department, but recently has taken on the additional role of Student Success Teacher for (you guessed it!) the grade nines. Amy loves our beautiful school with its great staff and awesome students. Her upbeat personality and friendly attitude contribute to a school atmosphere that is second to none. She knows that with so many programs to offer students - we can find a place for everyone!

## Academic

# ENRICHING THE LIVES OF STUDENTS

BY MRS. D. WITTMANN

## IT IS ALL IN THE DETAILS

Formatting school papers properly is imperative in the achievement of a level 4 paper. Both the MLA and APA formats have been revised. Below are two excellent web sites for students to access in their pursuit of level 4 summatives. Enjoy!

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/search.php>  
<http://www.uvu.edu/owl/infor/handouts.html>

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BUSINESS COURSES?

Students interested in the world of business should talk to one of the business teachers or visit <http://stbenedict.wcdsb.ca> for course information, including information about the BIT Certificate and the new Business Specialist High Skills Major program.

## WCDSB STUDENT SUCCESS SITE

<http://bss.wcdsb.ca>

Resources to help you help your son or daughter succeed.

## IS THERE A BENNY'S GRAD IN THE HOUSE?

We are looking to compile a list of Benny's grads along with what they are up to now... are you a Benny's grad? Do you have a son or daughter who graduated from Benny's and has gone on to "bigger and better things"? Drop us a line at [Anton.Milardovic@wcdsb.ca](mailto:Anton.Milardovic@wcdsb.ca)—we look forward to hearing from you!

## LITERACY CORNER

BY MR. D. JAEGER

*With the Literacy Test (OSSLT) less than 2 months away, now would be the perfect time to start "buckling down" on your preparations!*

Let's begin with a little history. The OSSLT was originally written over two days, but that changed to a one day event a few years ago. About 85% of the grade 10 students who first write the test are "successful" and have met the literacy requirement of their OSSD. Those students who are not successful can re-write the test the next year and for those few still needing a literacy requirement in grade 12, there is the Ontario Literacy Course (OLC).

What are the incentives to be successful on the test? Well, let's face it, we would all like to get good and even great marks in school, and to be successful on the OSSLT, you will need to write at a level 3 or 75%. Talk about setting a high standard! However, re-writing the test means added pressure in grade 11 and the OLC takes the place of an elective course in grade 12, so you might as well try your best the first time and be successful!

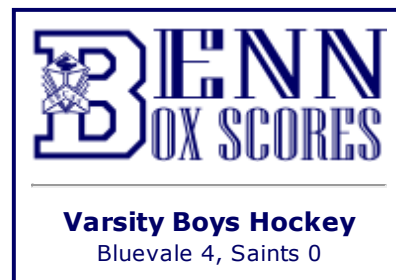
How can you prepare? Easy! First and foremost, attend your classes this semester and do all of your work. Then, complete the in-class preparation activities such as the "Letters to Santa" in December and the current "Back to School in Semester 2" news reports. All grade 10 students will also have an opportunity to write a simulated test at the end of March. We will also be running lunchtime workshops in the computer labs (free pizza lunch!). Ask your teachers for more information.

## Clubs & Athletics

### **VARSITY BOYS HOCKEY**

**BY MR. N. O'CONNOR**

The Saints fell to the Bluevale Knights 4 - 0 in their first game back from the break. The Saints are back in action on Thursday February 11th for their last regular season game vs. St David.



### **THE GAMES CLUB**

Mr. Riso, Brandon L. and Evan P. win the Ninth Risk Tournament of the year. The games club will play host to various strategy games such as Hero Clix, Magic the Gathering and Risk on Thurs Feb 11, 2010 in room 227, after school.

### **THE ENVIRONUTS ARE REUNITING**

Where: Room 126

When: After School on Wednesday, Feb 17th.

Who: Any one interested in the protection of our environment both within and outside of school

New Members always welcome!

*... every action no matter how small, helps in a big way...*

### **OUTERS CLUB**

New and current Outers Club members are reminded to obtain forms on line for the MacGregor Point Prov.. Park Yurt Winter Camping weekend Feb. 19-21. Please submit forms and fees to Ms. Novakovich A.S.A.P. in 321 or the science office.

### **ROBOTICS CLUB**

Interested in competing in Roboticon in March? The Robotics club will meet Wednesday, Feb 10th 2:45pm in A3 Everyone is welcome

## Student Activities

### **THE TURNING OF A NEW LEAF**

**BY EMILY PACHEREVA, SAC MEMBER**

*Welcome to semester two! We're glad that everyone survived exams and that we have a fresh start with all new classes and teachers.*

Today, Wednesday February 10, and tomorrow, Thursday February 11, Spiritwear is on sale! Navy American Apparel hoodies with gold writing can be bought during lunch in the atrium for \$45 (five dollars more for extra writing). Names, teams, and clubs can be written on the hood, arms, or back of the sweater. In order to get a sweater, a student must bring their Student ID. Methods of payment which will be accepted are cash, Mastercard, and Visa ONLY. These sweaters can only be worn on Wednesdays with the regular uniform pants.

For all new students and those who missed photos in first semester! Photo retakes are this Thursday February, 11.

Pancake Tuesday is February 16, and who doesn't love free pancakes for breakfast?! Come on out to the cafeteria before the first bell rings to start your day off with some delicious pancakes.

Don't forget that Semi-Formal is Friday, February 19 and is to be held at the Portuguese Club from 6:30-10:30pm. Students must bring their semi ticket and student ID to enter. All bags will be checked at the door, and coat check is available.

## Other News

**February 11, 2010 7 p.m.**

**ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC  
SECONDARY SCHOOL  
Presents**

# A SHOWCASE OF OUR GIFTS FOR GOD'S GLORY

**Tonight's program includes:**

**"The Prayer"  
sung by Kleyton Farias and Claudia  
Soto-Solis**

**"The Book of Esther"  
performed and managed by  
students of St. Benedict C.S.S.**

**"When I think of love"  
sung by Kleyton Farias**

  
**Community Connections**  
*Information for Persons with Disabilities, their Families,  
Caregivers, and Professionals within Waterloo Region.*

**5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, April 13, 2010**

**Location:**  
St. Mary's Catholic High School  
1500 Block Line Road  
Kitchener, Ontario

**Highlights:**  
Advocacy and Supports  
**Education**  
Financial Assistance  
**Health**  
Personal Care and In-Home Supports  
**Recreation**  
Respite and Residential Programs  
**Transportation**  
Work, Day Programs, and Volunteer  
Supports

**For more information  
Contact Val Millen at 519-578-3660 x2325**

*This annual event is made possible thanks to a collaborative effort of many  
community agencies that provide services for persons with disabilities.*



## Upcoming Events

**February 11:** 2:00 Girls Hockey vs PHS @ Hespeler

**February 11:** Semester 2 photos

**February 11:** Sears Showcase

**February 12:** Report card distribution

**February 15:** Family Day Holiday

**February 16:** Shrove Tuesday

**February 16:** SAC Free pancake breakfast

**February 17:** Ash Wednesday

**February 18:** Parent Curriculum Night

**February 19:** Semi-formal, 7:00 - 10:30

**February 22-26:** Sears Week

**February 25:** Math contests (gr. 9 to 11)

Be sure to check the calendar on the school website for more information. You can find it under **Benny's News > Calendar of Events.**

## Miscellaneous

# NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

*I am proud to be a part of this school community! The compassion and generosity shown towards those in need, locally and abroad, is outstanding, and far surpasses what I've heard about other high schools in the K-W and GTA regions. I am glad these successes are being shared in the local media too. The students should feel very proud, as should the staff!*

*Having the BENN Newsletter sent to me continues to be a great way for our family to stay connected to what's happening at St. Benedict. Thank you!*

*Thanks for the time and effort you all put into it. What a great way to stay in touch with parents and keep them informed. We look forward to checking email and seeing it there.*

*Keep smiling and doing great work!*

Thanks for the 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](#) • [Mr. Kevin Fratarcangeli](#)

