

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [Administrative](#)
- [Academics](#)
- [Clubs & Athletics](#)
- [Student Activities](#)
- [Other news](#)
- [Upcoming events](#)

*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 [Dan Witt](#).*

## BENN STAFF

[Mr. Anton Milardovic](#)  
[Mrs. Sophia Adach](#)  
[Mr. Leonard Bumbacco](#)  
[Mr. Kevin Fratarcangeli](#)  
[Miss Anna Gallipeau](#)

## NEXT ISSUE

December 15, 2010

## Note from Administration

Report cards went home November 23rd. In less than three weeks Christmas Holidays will be upon us and just a few weeks after that, exams will be closing out the semester. Now is a critical time for students to stay focused to close out the semester successfully. Please be sure you have reviewed your student's report card and any areas of concern have been discussed with their teachers. With appropriate interventions, there is still ample time to significantly improve results before the end of the semester.

This past weekend marked the start of the Advent season and a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. As part of this preparation at school, there will be prayers and reflection in the classrooms led by the teacher and students to enhance our regular morning prayer. The Christmas season is also a time of giving and caring for our neighbour. To this end, our school community will, once again, be supporting a number local initiatives highlighted by the Red Stocking project in support of a mission of St. Mary's Parish as well our Christmas basket campaign in support of the Cambridge Fire Fighters Christmas Campaign. These and other activities promise to make December a rewarding and exciting month for our community.

– Mr. D. Witt, Principal

## ST. BENEDICT IN THE LOCAL MEDIA

THE RECORD: [Cambridge firefighters basket fund aims to help 600 families at Christmas](#)

## Administrative

## ST. BENEDICT WEBSITE RECEIVES A MAKEOVER

*After nearly a dozen years sporting the same frame-based format, the school website has received a well-deserved reformatting.*

The old format of the website, though functional, showed its age. Originally using only the basics of HTML programming, the site has been revised several times to incorporate a page template, javascript, cascading style sheets, and most recently PHP coding. "To take the site to the next level a change of format was needed," says Mr. Milardovic, the school's webmaster.



"Some of the reorganization on the site was done in response to requests from visitors to the site", says Mr. Milardovic. Over the first few months of the year an *ask the webmaster* box was placed on the bottom of each page to gauge what people were looking for and couldn't find. "In most cases, it was simply a minor reorganization or renaming of an option that alleviated problems".

Mr. Milardovic's goal was to improve readability and accessibility, and make the site quicker and easier to update. He hopes to make sure that parents, students and staff can continue to use the site effectively.

Visitors to the school website are encouraged to provide the webmaster with feedback at [Anton.Milardovic@wcdsb.ca](mailto:Anton.Milardovic@wcdsb.ca).

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***reorganization on  
the site was done in  
response to  
requests from  
visitors***

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**GRADE 8 PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT  
ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL  
JANUARY 20, 2011 AT 6:30 PM  
519-621-4050**

## **NEWS FROM THE CHAPLAIN**

**BY MR. B. REMPEL**

*As always, a number of significant community events have taken place the last few weeks at St. Benedict.*

Each day during the month of November we have prayed for those who have passed on before us. Staff and students write down the names and the chaplain prays for some of those people each day. Tuesday, November 30 was our final day of prayer. Staff and students find these prayers comforting and meaningful.

Anti-bullying week took place the week of November 16 – 19. A number of activities were scheduled, our daily prayers reflected our concerns, and many in the community signed an anti-bullying "wall" banner which will continue to remind us that our goal is to create a safe school community at St. Benedict.

The 24 hour vow of silence took place on November 19. Quite a few people from our school community vowed to not speak or communicate in other ways for 24 hours. The intent was to stand in solidarity with those in our world and country who have "no voice" to speak up for themselves.

HIV/AIDS week began November 24 and culminated December 1 with International AIDS Day. Students have placed posters around the school, conducted a home room activity which demonstrated the devastating effects of HIV/AIDS on communities, said prayers daily, produced power points illustrating the devastation of HIV/AIDS locally and globally, worn red shirts to demonstrate our commitment to eliminate AIDS, and created a large AIDS ribbon.

The St. Benedict community is providing Christmas baskets to 38 Cambridge families, in collaboration with the Cambridge firefighters. We will present our gifts on December 10 at our Advent/Christmas basket liturgy.

The St. Benedict community is also collaborating with St. Mary of the Visitation parish in their Red Stocking Campaign. Red Christmas stockings are filled with school supplies and then sent to schools in Africa run by Catholic religious orders. These school supplies free up enough money that students can be provided with a much needed meal during their school day.

The season of Advent has recently begun. There are three aspects to the Advent season. We look back as we anticipate celebrating Jesus' birth 2000 years ago. In the present we prepare ourselves to receive Jesus in our lives today. And we look to the future when Jesus will come again. You may wish to pray the following prayer as part of your Advent preparations.

**All-powerful God, your eternal Word became flesh when the Virgin Mary placed her life in the service of your will. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces glory of our brother Jesus and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming.**

**Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in us a wonder at the wisdom and power of God, Your Father and ours. Receive our prayer as part of our service of the Lord who enlists us in God's own work for justice.**

**Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in us a hunger for peace: peace in the world, peace in our homes, and peace in ourselves.**

**Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in us a joy responsive to the Father's joy. We seek God's will so we can serve with gladness, singing and love.**

**Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in us the joy, love and peace we bring to the manger of Jesus, Christ the Lord. Raise in us, too, sober reverence for the God who acted in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago, hearty gratitude for the life begun there, and spirited commitment to serve God, Father and Son.**

**We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, whose advent we hail. Amen.**

## **NEWS FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE**

**BY MRS. P. KLASSEN**

### **INTERESTED IN USED UNIFORMS?**

If your son or daughter is interested in supplementing their school wardrobe with pieces of good quality used uniform tops and bottoms, please have them visit their guidance counsellor. Currently we have a good selection of short sleeved golf shirts, as well as many sweaters, sweat shirts and fleece jackets that will come in handy now that the colder weather has arrived. There is no cost for used uniform pieces, however donations would be welcome. Any money earned through used uniform distribution will go directly back into our student assist fund.

### **POST-SECONDARY INFORMATION UPDATE**

Although school visits from college and universities will conclude this week, grade 12 students should still continue to do specific institution research at the E-info site ([www.electronicinfo.com](http://www.electronicinfo.com)) for university and [www.ontariocolleges.ca](http://www.ontariocolleges.ca) site for college information. The PIN numbers that are required for university application have arrived and are available for pick-up in the guidance office. Students who are planning to apply for college do not need a PIN number to apply, but they do require their OEN number which can be found on the student report card. On-line application tutorials will also help students gather the information that will be needed for the eventual application process. Now is also a great time to arrange for a campus visit or tour at institutions that are of interest. Most colleges and universities typically host these events in the fall, as well as in the spring. If you are in grade 12 and do not know what the email distribution list is, please see your guidance counsellor

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS**

In addition to fulfilling a requirement that is necessary for high school graduation, volunteering is an excellent way to develop skills and abilities, as well as a chance to give back to the community. The up-coming Christmas Season provides unique opportunities for students to complete some of the hours that are needed to fulfill this diploma requirement. Volunteer opportunities for students are updated and posted regularly on both the Ranger system and the Guidance bulletin board. Why wait until your Grade 12 year to find out how fun and fulfilling volunteering can be? Check out these great opportunities now!

## **WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?**

Attention secondary students and parents: you are invited to attend an evening information session to find out about all the exciting Grade 11 and 12 pathway programs that exist in the Waterloo Catholic DSB. Plan now to attend What's It all About? The timing of this event is perfect as it will occur prior to the course selection process for the next school year.

- Cooperative Education work placements in the community – all pathways!
- Specialized programs offered on-site at our local universities and college campuses!
- Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) for trade related pathways!
- Specialist High Skills Major – industry certifications & reach ahead activities!
- Community Home Build Program – build a house from the foundation up!
- Community Learning – special education work placements & community resources!

Cambridge students/parents  
Thursday, January 13, 2011  
St. Benedict C.S.S.  
50 Saginaw Parkway  
Cambridge

For more information see <http://coop.wcdsb.ca> and <http://www.highskills.ca>.

## **REGISTRATION AND TRANSITION INFORMATION FOR IN-COMING GRADE 8'S**

Early in 2011, St. Benedict will formally begin the transition process for in-coming grade 8 students. Each of our feeder schools will take part in a half day visit to our school during the second week of January and our Grade 8 Parent Night will take place on Thursday, January 20, 2011. Please pass this information on to any neighbours who may be considering St. Benedict for the 2010 – 2011.

### **COMMUNITY SUPPORTS SHARE THE WARMTH – COATS AND WINTER WEAR FOR THE FAMILY**

Available the Salvation Army located at the corner of Shade and Main, basement entrance. Call Major Shae at (519) 623-1221 for more information.

### **CHRISTMAS BUREAU – ASSISTS FAMILIES WITH GIFTS AND FOOD AT CHRISTMAS**

Christmas supports are available by contacting the Outreach Worker at your local Neighbourhood Association:

Langs Farm Village Association: Crystal (519) 653-1470 ext 235

Preston Heights: Heather (519) 650-2971

Popcorn House: Melody (519) 654-9444 ext 236

Greenway Chaplain: Patti (519) 623-4220

Cambridge Early Years Centre: (519) 740-8353

Applications for supports will be received until December 14, 2010.

If your family is on social assistance and you DID NOT receive an application with your income statement for November, contact your caseworker. You can also pick up an application at 150 Main Street, or by calling (519) 740-5700.



## **SNEAK A PEEK @ YEARBOOK PHOTOS!**

Want to see what photos our yearbook editors have chosen for the yearbook? Take a sneak peek at photos from recent school events on the photo-sharing website Flickr(R).

Just go to [flickr.com/photos/benedictusyearbook/sets](http://flickr.com/photos/benedictusyearbook/sets). See what your kids have been doing at school!



## **St. Benedict is turning 50!**

**VISIT**

**[HTTP://STBENEDICT.WCD SB.CA/50/](http://stbenedict.wcdsb.ca/50/)  
TO STAY INFORMED ABOUT THE  
50TH BIRTHDAY FESTIVITIES!**

### **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 consequence d.

### **UNIFORMS**

We remind 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.

**WHO IS YOUR  
ADMINISTRATOR?**

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

A to F: [Mrs. Beaucage](#)

G to N: [Mr. Bellini](#)

O to Z: [Mrs. Leusink](#)

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

## **B**ENNY'S STAFF BIOS



**Mike Mascarenhas** has been teaching English here at St. Benedict for the past five years of his 17 year career. He is the department head of languages and communication. He has coached Boys Volleyball, Track and Field and has been a basketball coach at

the St. Benedict Summer Camp in recent years.

What he likes most about Benny's is the fact that the staff is young, supportive, and enthusiastic. "I look forward to many more years here at St Benedicts. I see many good things happening in my own Program Area and there are so many awesome opportunities for students to grow and find their niche. I really like being a part of this community".



**Elizabeth Melse** has been dazzling us with her creative art skills here at St. Benedict for the past 14 years. She has a wonderful talent motivating and inspiring "the best work" from our students through her classes. Time stands still as you gaze through the

numerous displays, sculptures, paintings and drawings created by her students in and around our school.

While at St. Benedict she has taught grade 9 to 12 art classes, supervises the Anime Club and often creates sets for various school plays.

What she likes most about Benny's is that "St. Benedict has a great staff and administration, Waterloo Region's finest teens and a most wonderful building!"

## Academic

### ENRICHING THE LIVES OF STUDENTS

BY MRS. D. WITTMANN

#### SHAD VALLEY

**Shad Valley's application intake date of December 8 is next week. See the web site below.**

<http://www.shad.ca/shad/myweb.php?hls=10007>

Since 1981, the Shad Valley program has been helping top students in senior high school find an edge in the competitive, knowledge-based world of tomorrow. It's an experience unlike anything else you've seen; it combines entrepreneurship with science and technology, and offers academic and often work experience to its students.

#### WHAT SORTS OF PEOPLE COME TO THE SHAD VALLEY PROGRAM?

Our candidates tend to be creative and talented individuals--musicians, inventors, and young businesspeople--with strong leadership skills, the ability to work in a team, and solid academic records, particularly in math and science.

Participants spend the month of July at one of ten excellent universities across Canada, where they attend lectures and workshops, and get involved in group projects. Some go on to work

placements for the rest of the summer with Shad partner companies, combining their own talents with the skills honed at Shad to tackle real-world challenges.

Shad Valley is a program of Shad Valley International (a Canadian registered charity).

## **ST. BENEDICT STUDENTS TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS**

**BY MRS. C. RATZ**

St. Benedict students demonstrated their business skills in the Waterloo Regional DECA competition on November 25 at Bingeman Park in Kitchener. Over 1 000 students from Waterloo Region competed in the 22 competitive events. The one day regional event is a qualifying competition for the upcoming provincial competition which will be held in Toronto from February 14 – 15, 2011.

Of the 73 St. Benedict students who participated in the local competition, 35 qualified to continue to the provincial level. Congratulations to all St. Benedict participants for proudly representing our school. Special acknowledgement is given to the following students who earned a top 15 ranking in their categories:

- Adam Szymura and Colin Nurnberg – Financial Analysis Team Decision Making
- Ryan Park and Mika Tsoi – Financial Analysis Team Decision Making
- Talal Abdali – Marketing Management
- David Li and Evan Peng – Marketing Communications Team Decision Making
- Gregory Pellegrino – Principles of Finance
- Taranjeet Brar – Principle of Hospitality and Tourism
- Tara Chen – Restaurant and Food Service Marketing
- Faizan Siddiqui – Accounting Applications
- Sarina Dolch and Kyle Guitar – Business Law and Ethics Team Decision Making
- Denis Belkovitch and Andrew Kim – Buying and Merchandising Team Decision Making

Good luck to all participants continuing to provincials!

## **Clubs & Athletics**

### **SENIOR BOYS' BASKETBALL STARTS TO HEAT UP THE COURT**

**BY MR. J. MALNERICH**

Congratulations to the Senior Boys Basketball Team for capturing the Falcon Classic Basketball Tournament in Fergus this weekend. The Saints clamped down on Brantford Collegiate in the final and grinded out a 40 to 27 victory. Top scorers were Kueth Geng with 15 points and Santo Dak with 8.

In their first game of the tournament, the Saints cruised to a 53 to 30 win over Owen Sound. Top point getters were Courtney Heath and Santo Dak with 16 points apiece. In Semi-final action the Saints faced the host school, Centre Wellington, and needed overtime to finish them off 47 to 45. Keng chipped in 22 points and Tyrone Tyndale had 10.

The Saints are back in action on this Wednesday, December 1st as they face Rockway at home at 3:30pm. They also play at home again on Friday at 4pm as the GCI Ghosts visit in an exhibition game.

### **CROSS COUNTRY: JINGLE BELL RUN**

**BY MR. F. WITTMANN**

Congratulations to several Bennie's runners who swept to first place at the Jingle Bell Run at the Y on Nov. 21:

2.5K results:

Allie Amaral - 1st in her category

Bennie's Girls Team - 1st

Catherine Umolac

Megan Mason

Nicole Maher

Lauren Duffy

5K results:

Nathan Schmidt - 1st in his category (and 2nd overall)

Bennie's Boys Team - 1st

Peter Reynolds

Marcus Noble

Nick Porter

Mr. Wittmann

## **VARSITY BOYS HOCKEY**

The Saints lost a close battle to St. Mary's last week falling 3 to 2. Jordan Kerr and Connor Magwood Scored for the Saints while Matt Pyke played a strong game in goal.

## **WRESTLING**

The St. Benedict Wrestling Team showed a strong effort at the St. Mary's Tournament held at RIM park. Wade Cole and Marc Hodges ended the tournaments with silver medals!

## **SWIMMING**

Congratulations to the swim team for a great start at their first meet last Wednesday! A special congratulations to our top 5 finishes:

Krystal McLean- 5th in Jr. Girls 50m freestyle

Keith Tanner- 4th in Jr. Boys 50m backstroke

Blake Schuett- 2nd in Sr. Boys 50m breaststroke

Mark Wittman- 1st in Sr. Boys 100m breaststroke, 3rd 200m freestyle

Brynn Harlock, Krystal McLean, Erin Finnegan, Maddy Pinard- 2nd in Sr. Girls Relay

Ben Taborek- 1st in Jr. Boys 100m IM

## **SENIOR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL**

Congratulations go out to the senior girls volleyball team who soundly defeated perennial D8 volleyball power Woodland 3 games to none. The girls showed tenacity and grit on the road to victory.

Come on out and enjoy an evening of the Arts at

## **WINTERSONG**

View fabulous art work created by our visual art students!

Enjoy festive tunes performed by our band, vocal and guitar students!

Experience a variety of theatrical performances by our drama students!  
Be the first to hear Benny's newest performing ensemble – GLEE!

**ST. BENEDICT C.S.S. CAFETORIUM**  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15TH, 2010**  
**7:00 PM**  
*All are welcome! We hope to see you there!*

## Student Activities

**BY BEN TABOREK, SAC MEMBER**

*Hey Bennies, and happy December! And with December comes the thoughts of snow, holidays, and of course, Christmas! So SAC has begun the planning of our annual Christmas festivities. There are going to be tons of awesome activities throughout the week, such as door decorating, spirit days, trivia, and of course, pictures with Santa! We also can't forget about our annual Christmas assembly, which is shaping up to be amazing. There will be a lot of music talent, and it is sure to be a great time for everyone.*

This week is AIDS week, so everyone is able to pick up a ribbon from their first period teacher, and this Wednesday, December 1st, the whole school is able to wear red shirts and uniform pants to show AIDS awareness.

The school spirit wear is awesome this year, with tons of it already having been sold. Sweaters are still available for \$25 and t-shirts are \$10. So don't forget to stop by the SAC office every Wednesday for your t-shirt or school sweater to be worn on spirit days.

## Other News

### **MOVE OVER BOYS OF SUMMER, HERE ARE THE MEN OF NOVEMBER**



**Here is a small sample of the fine men at St. Benedict who decided to "grow the mo" for the month of November. The movement started as a way to bring focus to issues of men's health, specifically prostate cancer.**

# Students & Parents What's It All About?



Invitation open to all WCDSB secondary school students & parents

**Tuesday, January 11, 2011**  
St. Mary's High School  
1500 Block Line Rd., Kitchener

**Thursday, January 13, 2011**  
St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School  
50 Saginaw Pkwy, Cambridge

**Introduction: 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**  
**Info Sessions: 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

For more information contact: Steve Tangney  
519 578-3660 ext. 2300 or [steve.tangney@wcdsb.ca](mailto:steve.tangney@wcdsb.ca)

## What's It All About?

Attend your choices of info sessions:

<b>Co-op</b>	A unique way of learning, includes a classroom component with a workplace experience. Students earn credits while learning in a work environment.	<b>OYAP</b>	Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program allows Grade 11 or 12 students the opportunity to complete a Co-op placement in an apprenticeship trade.
<b>Summer Co-op/OYAP</b>	Allows students the opportunity to experience Co-op and earn credits during the summer when Co-op does not fit into the student's regular school timetable.	<b>Community Home Build</b>	As part of a construction crew, this program allows students to earn Construction credits plus Co-op credits while building a house from the foundation up.
<b>CCEP</b>	A Transition to College program for year 4 or 5 students offered during semester 2. Students will earn 3 secondary school credits plus 1 tuition-free college course.	<b>Concentrated OYAP</b>	For students who have career plans to become an apprentice in the skilled trades. During Grade 11 & 12, students will begin the theory plus the hands-on experience required for an apprenticeship.
<b>UCEP</b>	An opportunity for academically well-motivated students in their 4th or 5th year to complete a Co-op placement in project or research work as one of the final experiences. They also take one or two Grade 12 courses plus one or 2 or 1.0 university credit.	<b>OYAP Dual Credits</b>	For students who have career plans to become an apprentice. During semester 2 of Grade 12, students will earn 2 Co-op credits plus 2 or 1 dual credits by completing their Level 1 Apprenticeship curriculum at college.
<b>Pathways</b>	Destination Workplace: Learn about various programs & explore that will assist the student who is planning on entering the workplace immediately upon leaving high school.	<b>SHSM</b>	Specialist High Skills Major is a Ministry approved award students can earn by achieving certifications and earning training courses related to their field of interest.

28 Balfour Street St., Unit A, Kitchener, Ontario N2H 1Z1 519.578.3882

## NEWS RELEASE

# POLICE AND PARTNER AGENCIES LEAD COMMUNITY FORUMS ON YOUTH DRUG AWARENESS

*Waterloo Region, ON – The Waterloo Regional Police Service is committed to working in partnership with the community to encourage youth and their families in making healthy and positive choices while preventing crime through education and relationship building.*

During December, police along with our partnering agencies, will be conducting three town-hall style information sessions on intelligence-led drug enforcement initiatives as well as the impact of illegal drugs on youth health. In the past year, seven youth were taken to hospital by ambulance after smoking marijuana.

Members from the Waterloo Regional Police Drug Branch and Community Resources Branch will be available to provide information and respond to questions. Police will also be joined by representatives from Ray of Hope, St. Mary's Counselling Service, C.L.E.A.N. (Community Link Empowering Against Narcotics), Waterloo Region District School Board, and Waterloo Catholic District School Board.

All interested members of the community are invited to attend any of the following meetings:

- Sir John A. Macdonald Secondary School, Waterloo, Dec.1, 7pm-8:30pm
- Jacob Hespeler Secondary School, Cambridge, Dec. 7, 7pm-8:30pm
- St. Mary's High School, Kitchener, Dec. 9, 7pm-8:30pm

For more information, please contact the Community Resources Branch at 519 650 8500 ext. 8862.

## Upcoming Events

**December 1-3:** Grad Photo sign-up  
**December 1:** Sr. B. Bball vs RMC, 3:30  
**December 2:** Just Dance show, 7:00pm  
**December 3:** Sr. B. Bball exhib vs GCI, 4:00  
**December 6:** Sr. B. Bball @ St. David, 5:00  
**December 8:** Sr. B. Bball @ Pere Rene, 3:30  
**December 10:** Christ baskets & Advent liturgy

**December 13-17:** SAC Xmas Activities  
**December 13:** Sr. B. Bball @ Rez, 5:00  
**December 15:** Sr. B. Bball @ Doyle, 3:30

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

### WE WANT TO KNOW...

Your opinions are important to us! Please [email us](#) with your comments and suggestions. If you like our newsletter, tell others; if you don't like it, tell us!

Check out our school 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.

