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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 [Dan Witt](#).

## BENN STAFF

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

## NEXT ISSUE

January 12, 2011

## Note from Administration

*On behalf of the staff of St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School we would like to wish you and your families God's Blessings and a Peace filled Christmas Season.*

– Mr. D. Witt, Principal



## Administrative

### NEWS FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE

BY MRS. P. KLASSEN

#### WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

The Waterloo Catholic District School board will be hosting an event at St. Benedict on Thursday, January 13, 2011 to share information regarding the many new exciting Grade 11 and 12 pathway programs that exist within our school and our board. The timing for this event is perfect as it is

occurring prior to the time when students will be expected to choose their courses for the next school year. If you have often heard terms like SHSM, OYAP, UCEP, CCEP or Coop and aren't really sure what they mean, or what they might offer your son or daughter, then this is an evening for you. The following topics will be covered:

- Cooperative Education - work placements in the community for all pathways
- Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) for trade related pathways
- Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) - industry certifications and reach ahead activities
- Community Home Build Program - build a home from the foundation up
- Specialized program offered on-site at our local university(UCEP) and college (CCEP) campuses

Please join us on **Thursday, January 11** from **6:30 - 8:00 PM** and learn "**What it is all about?**" For more information see <http://coop.wcdsb.ca> and <http://www.highskills.ca>.

## **THE APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE IS APPROACHING QUICKLY!**

Grade 12 students who are planning to apply to either college or university for the 2011 - 2012 academic year are reminded that the application deadline is quickly approaching. Please note the following:

- University applications are due January 12, 2011. Students need a PIN number to apply. These numbers are available for pick-up in the guidance office.
- College applications are due February 1, 2011. Students need their OEN number (found on all report card) to set up an account for application.
- Apply early and avoid the stress of last minute on-line delays. Both the OUAC and OCAS sites become overloaded the closer it gets to the deadline date.
- Complete your Community Service Hours as soon as possible
- Review your semester two timetable if you think that you need to make any changes.
- Information regarding university programs can be found at <http://www.electronicinfo.com> and at <http://www.ontario.colleges.ca> for college programs

## **DO YOU NEED HELP PREPARING FOR FINAL SUMMATIVES? LAURIER SOS IS HERE TO HELP!**

SOS (students supporting students) is a charitable organization run by students from Wilfrid Laurier University. During the week before final summatives, they will be running 2 - 3 hour group review sessions. For a donation of \$25 (or \$40 for 2), these review sessions will cover course work and will also provide students with a take-home review package filled with questions and answers to help students prepare. They offer support in the following subjects: Grade 9 math, French and geography, Grade 10 math, science and history, Grade 11 U math and U sciences and Grade 12 U math and U sciences. Go to <http://SOShighschool.com> to register.

## **COURSE CHANGES FOR SECOND SEMESTER**

The month of January is a great time for students who are considering a course change for second semester to see their guidance counsellor to discuss this. All timetable changes must be approved by a parent or guardian and please remember that we do not accommodate lunch changes or teacher request. We appreciate your support in encouraging your sons and daughters to follow protocol.

## **GRADE 8 PARENT EVENING**

Our Grade 8 Parent Night will be held on Thursday, January 20, 2011 from 6:30 - 8:00 PM. Please pass this along to any neighbours in your community that have a student who is scheduled to begin high school in September, 2011. All Grade 8 students, regardless of where they are

attending school currently are welcome to join our community.

## PEACE TO YOU THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

As the holiday season approaches, the Guidance Department of St. Benedict would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May you enjoy the time with family and friends and experience the true gifts of this wonderful season - joy, hope, love and peace.

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

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

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

## ATTENTION CITY BUS STUDENTS!

GRT will be here Thursday January the 6th to take the bus pass pictures for semester 2 for all those students who qualify. They will be set up in the atrium from 9:00-12:00. It is your responsibility to go and have your picture done during that time. GRT will be back to the school on January 13th to distribute your semester 2 bus pass.

Please do not destroy your semester 1 bus pass.

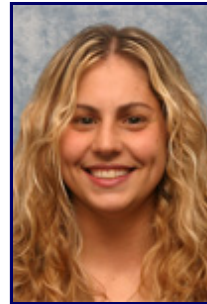
## BENNY'S STAFF BIOS



**Kathy Menjolian** has been teaching at St. Benedicts since 2000. Engaging and inspiring our students in math is her specialty. More recently, you can find her working with our students in the guidance department, helping them navigate through information/issues on a regular basis.

Her tireless energy and support for the student population can be seen in the many activities that she is involved in throughout the school community. She has coached Jr./Sr. Boys' and Girls Volleyball teams, tutored in the math club and more recently coordinated the graduation ceremony held this past October.

What Kathy likes most about St. Benedict is that "there is something for everyone here; whether it be academic or activities. We really strive to live our vision of success for each, a place for all".



**Marisa Rocha** has been at St. Benedict teaching drama, dance and religion for the last 6 of her 14 year career. Her high energy level is infectious and her love of teaching is showcased daily in her classroom.

Marisa leads the MAD (Make a Difference) movement, also known as the social justice club. She continues to organize an annual dance showcase and spearheads the dance club. She also choreographed the play "High School Musical" last year.

Marisa's goal is "to inspire students/staff to use their God given talents to create positive change in our world".

## Academic

### ENRICHING THE LIVES OF STUDENTS

BY MRS. D. WITTMANN

#### EVA VERTES : AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL

What she studies: How cancer moves through the body and resists treatment

Her age when she began research in a university lab:  
fourteen

Her inspiration: Her grandmother, also named Eva Vertes,  
who was a chemist and died at 44 from cancer

Eva Vertes is an Alzheimer's and cancer researcher, born in 1985. She attended Highland H.S. in Hamilton, Ontario. She is currently a University of Florida College of Medicine student pursuing her M.D. degree. She attended Princeton University as an undergraduate and was recognized as a teenager for her research, which found a correlation between stem cells and brain cancer. This finding is the basis of her argument that cancer itself is the body's natural self-repair system in error.



She is perhaps most visible due to her speaking at the TED convention. Take a look:

[http://www.ted.com/talks/eva\\_vertes\\_looks\\_to\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_medicine.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/eva_vertes_looks_to_the_future_of_medicine.html)

Eva Vertes—only 19 when she gave this talk—discusses her journey toward studying medicine and her drive to understand the roots of cancer and Alzheimer's.

She has also been featured on PBS:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/secretlife/scientists/eva-vertes/>

## **LA BELLE VILLE DE QUÉBEC! GRADES 10, 11, 12 FRENCH STUDENTS ONLY!**

An unforgettable spring trip exploring the rich history of Québec City!

There will be an information session on THURSDAY AFTER SCHOOL in room 219.

If you cannot make it please see Mlle. Costa, Mme. Pacheco, Mlle. Charron, or M. Porto to reserve your seat. Space is limited so sign up today!

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!*

## **Clubs & Athletics**

### **JUNIOR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL**

Congratulations to the junior girls volleyball team on their first victory of the season. The team beat Rockway 3-0. Special mention to Samantha Fraser for serving 16 points in a row.

## **MIDGET BOYS BASKETBALL**

The midget boys basketball team battled St. David's last week on home court for their season opener. The boys maintained a point for point battle until 4th quarter when St. David's pulled away for a win of 36 - 26.

All boys worked hard and contributed to a hard fought game. Spencer Marshall led the scoring with 8 points followed by Abdallah Hason with 6.

The boys played hard and with first game jitters out of the way, we expect great things from the boys this season.

## **SENIOR BOYS BASKETBALL**

Congratulations to the senior boys basketball team on their victory against GCI last Friday. The Saints cruised to a 41 to 32 victory and improve to 7 and 2 on the season. Top point getters were Santo Dak with 14 points and Tyrone Tyndale with 8.

## **VARSITY BOYS HOCKEY**

The Saints captured the consolation championship last weekend at the Norwell tournament. The Saints beat Wellington Heights 3-2 in the championship game.

The Saints went on to capture the first league victory by blanking Preston 2-0 last week. Mathew Pyke recorded the shutout for the saints. Sam Ahier had a goal and an assist while Blake Blanche scored the other goal.

## **SWIM TEAM**

Congratulations to the swim team on their 3rd meet last Wednesday! The team continues to improve at each meet. A special mention to the following swimmers who had top 3 finishes: Kelsey Keogh, Samantha Chambers, Emily Stanely, Kylie Paradisi, Blake Schuett, Keith Tanner, Peter Reynolds, Mark Wittman, Ben Taborek, Natalie VanWyk, Alex MacDonald, Krystal McLean, Brynn Harlock Zack Kasprzyk, Callum Brenner, and Jason Wozniak. Good luck next week in your D8 Competition!

## **MIDGET GIRLS VOLLEYBALL**

Miss Campbell and Miss Charron would like to congratulate all the powerful members of the midget girls volleyball team who are off to a great start in their season! They have won 4 of the 6 games they have had at their tournaments. A special congratulations is in order for team MVPs Taylor Hall and Emma Van Groningen!

## **Student Activities**

## **Other News**

## **DR ENCOUNTER WITH FAITH AND HOSPITALITY**

**BY MR. N. BETIK**

*On Saturday, November 13th, 22 students representing each of the WCDSB secondary schools, along with four Board Staff, embarked on a week-long adventure of cultural challenge and social justice learning in the Dominican Republic. St. Benedict Representatives were Lauren Hummel and Alli McKinnon, along with Mr. Betik. By staying with host families, visiting and dialoguing with many poor and marginalized of the DR, the*



*program attempts to provide a transformative experience to students and staff in order that we may live in solidarity with impoverished and often exploited people in the DR and throughout the world.*

We were provided with several opportunities to witness extreme poverty first hand, especially on the *bateyes*. These *bateyes* are small communities of Haitians (many who have been trafficked) on sugar cane plantations. These people struggle to survive without access to health care and proper sanitary conditions; clean water and adequate food are daily challenges. The brutal working and living conditions of these Haitian cane cutters and their families evoked a deep emotional reaction from all of us.

The group also had the opportunity to have our 'cushy' lifestyles challenged. Albeit for a few moments at the internet café (to inform parents and friends that we were okay), we were without our regular access to email, net surfing, cell phones and MP3 players. Our bathing and washroom experiences were also different—no warm showers for us—and the water often came from the 'big bucket' and not the faucet. We did learn to 'share' our temporary homes with the native insects and rodents, some of which were quite large. Our comfort zones were certainly challenged.

During all of this, wonderful new relationships were being formed. We experienced the gracious hospitality of our



**How many pairs of shoes do I own? How many do I need?**

Dominican host families. They were warm, caring and very generous. We were kept well fed with local cuisine and plenty of smiles. Many participants expressed the wonderment of developing such strong bonds, so quickly, with host families despite the communication barrier. It was comforting that the common language of laughter, games, sport and play is such a powerful connector. In the end there were many tears as good-byes were exchanged amongst new friends.

In short, our Dominican experience has left us with powerful lasting memories that will leave all of us changed in some way.. Hopefully it will renew in us our call to live out gospel values of faith, hospitality and justice wherever we go.

## **A YEARBOOK TO REMEMBER!**

**BY MR. J. CURTIS**

*There will be a special gift underneath Anne Marie Silva's Christmas tree this year from an old friend at Bennies.*

In early December, Mr. Curtis, our yearbook supervisor, got a desperate phone call from Donna Mielke. She wondered if there was a chance that she could get a copy of the 1973 yearbook from the year that she graduated. Mr. Curtis advised her that, although there was a pile of old yearbooks in the storage room, he doubted that they went back that far.

Christmas magic was at work that day because, low and behold, Mr. Curtis found

believe we had the one she was looking for."

The old yearbook was slightly damaged, since it was previously owned by Father Morelli, a former teacher at the junior high school in the 60s and 70s.

"The yearbook is a Christmas gift for Anne Marie Silva, an old friend who lives in B.C., and she will be thrilled to know that it belonged to Father Morelli," explains Ms Mielke. "We both graduated in 1972 and she lost

school yearbook. Sometimes it's the only thing that remains after those memorable years."

Now, if only Mr. Curtis can find a former student of Notre Dame Academy in Welland who graduated in 1962.

**Donna Mielke accepts her 1972 copy of the St. Benedict yearbook from current principal Dan Witt.**

one copy of the 1972-73 yearbook, along with dusty old yearbooks from other schools in the 1980s.

When I started digging through the old yearbooks, I couldn't figure out why we had all these ancient yearbooks from schools in Niagara Falls," says Mr. Curtis. "When I saw the familiar St. Benedict crest on a red cover, I couldn't

her yearbook in her many moves over the years. I want to replace those fond memories we both had of our days at Bennies."

"The story, although it has a happy ending, acts as a cautionary tale for teenagers who don't order a yearbook," comments Mr. Curtis. "Even 40 years later, people still have a strong connection to their high




**St. Mary of the Visitation  
Roman Catholic Church**  
16 Cooper Street  
Cambridge (Hespeler), ON  
519.658.4443

Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 p.m. – Family Mass with Pageant  
7:00 p.m. – Family Mass  
Midnight – Solemn Mass of Christmas

Christmas Day, December 25<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 a.m. – Mass of Christmas Day

**Students & Parents  
What's It All About?**



**"Where Do I Fit In?"**

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)*



St. Benedict C. S. School presents  
**"T'was the Night  
Before Christmas"**  
**A FREE evening  
of  
Art, Drama,  
Song and  
Dance**

**Wednesday,  
December 15, 2010  
at  
7:00 p.m.!!!**

## Upcoming Events

**December 13-17:** SAC Xmas Activities  
**December 15:** Sr. B. Bball @ Doyle, 3:30  
**December 15:** Wintersong, 7:00pm  
**December 17:** SAC Xmas Assembly

**January 7-8:** Sr. Boys Inv Bball Tourn  
**January 10-13:** Graduation photos  
**January 12:** Sr. B. Bball @ RMC, 4:00  
**January 17:** Sr. B. Bball vs St. David, 5:00

**December 17:** 2:25 dismissal  
**December 24:** CHRISTMAS EVE  
**December 25:** CHRISTMAS DAY  
**December 31:** NEW YEAR'S EVE  
**January 1:** NEW YEAR'S DAY  
**January 3:** School reopens  
**January 4-7:** Grad photos  
**January 5:** Sr. B. Bball vs St. Mary's, 3:30  
**January 6:** Bus Pass photos

**January 18-19:** EQAO Grade 9 math assessment  
**January 19:** Sr. B. Bball vs Pere Rene, 3:30  
**January 20:** Grade 8 parent night  
**January 20:** Cookies 'n' Cram LINK event

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.

