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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. Questions or comments about the BENN can be sent to the editor [Anton Milardovic](#) or the school's principal [Dan Witt](#).

BENN STAFF

[Mr. Anton Milardovic](#)

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NEXT ISSUE

February 23, 2011

What's Going On?

When your son or daughter comes home from school today, ask them what's happening at St. Benedict. If they tell you "nothing", don't be surprised. But you can tell them what *is* happening and see if *they're* surprised.

In a project dubbed "Jeans for Teens", tomorrow and Friday we will be focussing on jeans. Thursday, staff and students are invited to wear jeans for a \$2 contribution. The money will be used to purchase jeans. On Friday, students can bring in jeans they don't wear anymore, which will be distributed to the homeless.

Admin will be having grade level meetings with the student body Friday and Monday to make sure we are all on the same page when we think about the community that is St. Benedict: a community of respect, tolerance and acceptance.

Over the next few months our school will get a technological boost with the installation of *BrightLink* technology in all the classrooms. This will add a new dimension of interaction to lessons. More on that once the system is active.

Of course, a lot of our clubs and activities are back up and running, some winter sports will be winding down soon, and before you know it spring sports will be starting up.

There is an endless list of activities for students to get involved in: from the semiformal Friday night, to "Me to We", "Challenge Day", the "Beating the Odds" conference, the "Tell Them From Me" survey, the Quebec trip for French students, Talisman trip for Phys Ed students, Sears Drama Festival, DECA, math contests, report cards, literacy test preparation, pancake (Shrove) Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, and let's not forget: option sheets are coming soon... and that just barely brings us to March Break.

There are plenty of things happening at St. Benedict's; and that's a lot more than nothing!

– Mr. A. Milardovic, Editor

Administrative

NEWS FROM THE CHAPLAIN

BY MR. B. REMPEL

With the beginning of the new semester St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School is collaborating with Aeropostale to collect jeans for teens that are homeless. We are calling it Jeans for Teens.

On Friday, February 11, individuals will donate jeans they no longer wear. Family members are encouraged to send their jeans they no longer wear to school with Bennie's students. For every pair of jeans donated, individuals will receive a 25% off coupon for your next pair of jeans at Aeropostale. During the lunch periods on Friday donated jeans will be piled high in the center

of the Atrium. Those jeans will then be distributed by Aeropostale to agencies working with teens that are homeless. One in three people who are homeless are under the age of 18.

On Thursday, February 10, students wearing jeans to school will donate at least \$2. Students not wearing jeans are also encouraged to donate. All money collected will be used to buy jeans. These purchased jeans will also be donated on Friday.

We are encouraging all students (and families) to donate generously to this important cause.

God's heart is the most sensitive and tender of all. No act goes unnoticed, no matter how insignificant or small.

– Richard J. Foster

FEBRUARY 10: FEAST DAY OF ST. SCHOLASTICA

Saint Scholastica, twin sister of Benedict of Nursia who founded of the Benedictine order, was born in Nursia, Italy, in 480, and died near Monte Cassino, Italy, in 543. Almost everything we know about Scholastica comes from the Dialogues of Saint Gregory the Great.

She was consecrated to God at a very early age, but probably continued to live in her parents' home. It is said that she was as devoted to Jesus as she was to her brother. So, when Benedict established his monastery at Monte Cassino, Scholastica founded a convent in nearby Plombariola, about five miles south of Monte Cassino. The convent is said to have been under the direction of her brother, thus she is regarded as the first Benedictine nun.

The siblings were quite close. The respective rules of their houses proscribed either entering the other's monastery. According to Saint Gregory, they met once a year at a house near Monte Cassino monastery to confer on spiritual matters, and were eventually buried together, probably in the same grave. Saint Gregory says, "so death did not separate the bodies of these two, whose minds had ever been united in the Lord."

Saint Gregory tells the charming story of the last meeting of the two saints on earth. Scholastica and Benedict had spent the day in the "mutual comfort of heavenly talk" and with nightfall approaching, Benedict prepared to

leave. Scholastica, having a presentiment that it would be their last opportunity to see each other alive, asked him to spend the evening in conversation. Benedict sternly refused because he did not wish to break his own rule by spending a night away from Monte Cassino. Thereupon, Scholastica cried openly, laid her head upon the table, and prayed that God would intercede for her. As she did so, a sudden storm arose. The violent rain and hail came in such a torrential downpour that Benedict and his companions were unable to depart.

"May Almighty God forgive you, sister" said Benedict, "for what you have done."

"I asked a favour of you," Scholastica replied simply, "and you refused it. I asked it of God, and He has granted it!"

Just after his return to Monte Cassino, Benedict saw a vision of Scholastica's soul departing her body, ascending to heaven in the form of a dove. She died three days after their last meeting. He placed her body in the tomb he had prepared for himself, and arranged for his own to be placed there after his death.

TELL THEM FROM ME

BY MRS. S. BEAUCAGE

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board has partnered with The Learning Bar to survey students in all WCDSB Secondary Schools on their level of engagement in learning, their level of student wellness and the climate of their classroom(s) and school.

The "Tell Them From Me (TTFM)" was developed by internationally renowned educational researcher Dr. Douglas Willms and is based upon years of research in Canada and around the world. The information gathered will allow the school to assess the effectiveness of their programs from the eyes of the students. This will allow the school to enhance their School Improvement Plans based upon the data gathered not only from their various student achievement scores, but also from the TTFM survey.

The survey is completed on-line and is anonymous. Students are assigned a username and password that allows them to complete the survey. Neither the school nor The Learning Bar is able to identify the responses to the survey of any individual student.

The survey takes thirty (30) minutes to complete and will be done within the school day during regular class time, based upon the schedule created within our school.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Simone Beaucage, Vice Principal, at extension 187.

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SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR

ATTENTION GRADE 10S!

Consider getting involved in the Specialist High Skills Major Program. Whether you're headed towards College, University, Apprenticeship or the Workplace, this program is for everyone! What's in it for you?

- Take courses that relate to your interests
- Attend professional training, workshops, seminars and career fairs
- Learn more about a career of your choice
- Gain valuable experience through a co-op placement

11 majors to choose from!

See your guidance counsellor for more information or visit www.highskills.ca. Experiences start in grade 11 and 12!

**To learn more, attend the Info Session on February 23.
FREE Pizza lunch. Grade 10s only. Sign up in Guidance today!**

ATTENTION GRADE 11 & 12S!

Here are a few examples of the many trips and training sessions coming up in February and March for Grade 11 and 12s:

Instrument Repair – Arts & Culture
Personality & Leadership – Business & Justice
Computer Hardware - ICT
Energy Efficiency with the University of Waterloo – Energy
Infection Control – Health & Wellness
Conflict Resolution & Lifting and Transfers – Health & Wellness
Fall Protection & Elevated Platforms - Construction
Lift Truck & Propane Safety – Construction & Transportation

International Auto Show - Transportation
Smart Serve – Hospitality & Tourism
Zoom Career Day – Hospitality & Tourism

Remember to visit www.highskills.ca to sign up for upcoming trips and training for your major!

QUESTIONS?

Contact Mr. S. Kritz in Guidance
or
Tara Fitzgerald
SHSM Learning Officer - Board Office
(519) 578-3660 ext 2549
Tara.Fitzgerald@wcdsb.ca

Academic

ENRICHING THE LIVES OF STUDENTS

BY MRS. D. WITTMANN



THE POWER OF A GIRL INITIATIVE: JOIN NATALIE PORTMAN AND FREE THE CHILDREN IN CREATING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR GIRLS IN KENYA

Investing in the education of girls is key to breaking the cycle of poverty. In January 2011, Free The Children opened its first all-girls secondary school in Kenya, the Kisaruni Girls' Secondary School. Kisaruni gives young women from different communities in the rural Maasai Mara region the chance to come together and continue their education beyond middle school, bridging both ethnic gaps between them and socioeconomic gaps around them. Forty girls make up the inaugural class. By continuing their education, these young women will become role models and visionary leaders in their communities, empowering them to create positive change within their society.



For more information:

<http://www.freethechildren.com/girls/>

<http://www.freethechildren.com/>

"SKILLS WORK! FOR WOMEN" NETWORKING DINNER

On Tuesday, February 15th, 2011 Skills Canada-Ontario is hosting a "Skills Work! For Women" Networking Dinner at the Frank Hasenfratz Centre for Excellence in Manufacturing in Guelph. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet and network with female mentors who work in the skilled trades and technologies.

For more information or to register for this event, contact Mr. Granger in the Tech Department.

REGISTRATION DUE FEB. 11, 2011.

Clubs & Athletics

Not much happened during exams, but most clubs are back up and running! Students are encouraged to watch the Ranger announcements to see when the clubs they're interested get back into full swing.

Student Activities

Our upcoming semi-formal is this Friday February 11, 2011 at the Portuguese club of Cambridge on Townline Rd. Students had to buy tickets in advance and we have sold out! Doors open at 7:00 and no more admissions will take place after 8:30. This is a school event and so is drug and alcohol free. Students must remember to bring their ticket and student card (or timetable with photo ID). The cost of tickets includes photography and coat check. It promises to be a great evening!

Other News

RELAY FOR LIFE

The Relay for Life is a unique experience that celebrates survivors, remembers loved ones and raises money and awareness for the Cancer Society. This year the 12 hour event will be held on Friday, June 3, 2011.

DO YOU WANT TO BE INVOLVED? Please see Mrs. Wehrle in guidance office or Mrs. Crowell in the co-op office.

Christ the King School Council presents....

Drug Awareness Evening

Questions and Answers with
Members of the Regional
Police Department

February 22, 2011
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Everyone Welcome!

Christ the King School
70 Acorn Way
Cambridge, ON

For further information contact:
Ms. L. Peterson, Principal
Phone: 519 621 6600

Guests include:
Ray of Hope
St. Mary's Counselling
Waterloo Regional Police Drug Branch
Waterloo Regional Community Resources Branch

Upcoming Events

February 9: Red top day (uniform pants)
February 9: Sr. B. Bball vs Doyle, 3:30
February 10: Jeans for Teens Day
February 10: School Council mtg
February 11: Semiformal at Portuguese Club (870 Townline Road)
February 11: Donate to Jeans for Teens @ lunch
February 14-15: DECA Provincials
February 15: Report card distribution

February 17: Curriculum night - cancelled
February 21: Family Day
February 22: Photo retakes (morning only)
February 24: Sears Showcase
February 24: Junior Math contests

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.

