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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. Kevin Fratarcangeli](#)
[Miss Anna Gallipeau](#)

NEXT ISSUE

September 28, 2011

Note from Administration

On behalf of our administrative team, Simone Beaucage, Glenda Leusink and Mark Sauve, I would like to welcome both returning and new families back to a new school year here at St. Benedict's. The school is already a buzz with the start-up of the fall sports teams and clubs. As well, our LINK Crew set a very positive tone to start our year by doing a great job of welcoming our Grade 9 students to our community.

Please encourage your son/daughter to pay attention to morning announcements and check our ranger system for information regarding the start-up of teams and activities. The BENN is another great source for this information. If you are looking for help on how to get your daughter/son involved feel free to contact your guidance counselor or administrator.

It is our sincere hope that every student finds a meaningful way to engage in and connect with our community.

– Mr. D. Witt, Principal

ST. BENEDICT IN THE LOCAL MEDIA

CAMBRIDGE TIMES: [From Saints to Spartans](#)
CAMBRIDGE TIMES: [Westney qualifies for Pan Ams](#)
CAMBRIDGE TIMES: [Life-changing experience](#)
CAMBRIDGE TIMES: [Hip hopping on stage](#)
CAMBRIDGE TIMES: [Learning roundabout lessons](#)
CAMBRIDGE TIMES: [Tudisco named governor-elect](#)
THE RECORD: [Saints rise up](#)

THE RECORD: [Local athletes to represent Canada at Pan Am ...](#)
THE RECORD: [Cambridge sprinter wins gold in Canadian junior ...](#)
THE RECORD: [St. Benedict student snags Michigan track ...](#)

Administrative

BENNY'S WEBSITE GETS MINOR FACELIFT, MAJOR UPGRADE

BY BENN STAFF

Visitors to the St. Benedict website since the beginning of this school year may have noticed a different look to our school's homepage. This simple change involved a major upgrade, in an attempt to better service the staff, students, and parents of the St. Benedict community.

The change—for those who haven't noticed or recognized is—is two-fold. First, we have

added the school events calendar to the front page. In the past, the next five items on the calendar would appear on the ticker across the bottom of the page. That has been removed, and the next 25 to 30 events now appear on the scrollable calendar on the right side of the main viewport. Events are even colour coded by category: athletics, academics, arts, administrative, civil/religious holidays, clubs, and student activities. "As part of the major upgrade to the code we've added the time of events where applicable," says Mr. Milardovic, "which was one of the big requests parents made regarding the information on the calendar". This colour coding and start times are visible on the full calendar as well, which can be accessed on the site by going to **Benny's News ► Calendar of Events**. The BENN calendar (at the bottom of this newsletter) features only the times, but "we can add the colour coding if people request it."

"I would hope ... parents and students would email if they have issues with the website. ... whatever we can do to improve the site for them will improve it for all of us."

The coding took Mr. Milardovic several days to complete, and in the background there is still more work to be done. "We wanted a Google calendar look without the Google calendar, which I think we've accomplished." Several teams already have their schedules posted, and the school calendar is slowly being added. "One of the great things about the school calendar on the website is that parents and students can now quickly see all the great things that happen here at St. Benedict's, which is an important component to who we are," says Mr. Witt, school principal.

The second change was a cosmetic one to accommodate the calendar, our news "photo reel" has been shrunken to accommodate the calendar, going back to the more traditional 3:4 ratio in terms of size.



The entire information window has been slightly increased in width to provide for a better use of space. "In developing this page we took into account that most visitors to our site have a monitor size of 1024 x 768 or greater," says Mr. Milardovic, who has been working on the St. Benedict website since its inception in the late 1990s. "It is an efficient use of the space, it is uncluttered, and hopefully parents and students will be able to find the information they are looking for quickly and easily."

When asked if he plans to implement a search on the school website, Mr. Milardovic chuckles, "only if they add more hours to the day." Between the many initiatives to support staff and students—still completing the website calendar code, the BENN newsletter, providing IT support to staff and students—our computer savvy crew is quite busy.

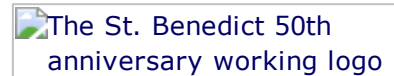
"I would hope," Mr. Milardovic adds, "that parents and students would email me if they have issues with the website." Last December's complete redesign and overhaul of the site was implemented after much feedback from staff, students, and parents. "It's easy for me to navigate the site," Mr. Milardovic says, "I designed it and I know where everything is. But I'm not a parent [of a St. Benedict student] so I may not be looking for the same things parents are."

Visitors to the site are encouraged to [email Mr. Milardovic](#) if they have any comments or concerns. "Whatever we can do to improve the site for them will improve it for all of us."

ST. BENEDICT IS TURNING 50!

BY MR. R. MARTINELLO

St. Benedict is celebrating 50 years as a school this year. As part of our celebration, we are hosting a reunion weekend for alumni and staff (old and new) for the weekend of May 4 and 5. Events will include a music Coffee House on the Friday night, a liturgy Saturday morning, a reunion boys basketball game Saturday afternoon and an old fashioned school assembly Saturday afternoon. A dinner is also planned for Saturday night. More information on these and other events will be forthcoming. Please check out our St. Benedict's website and our St. Benedict's 50 reunion Facebook page for more details. For those interested in volunteering, a meeting will be held on Monday, September 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the library Seminar Room.



NEWS FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE

BY MRS. P. KLASSEN

WELCOME TO ALL

The Guidance Department of St. Benedict would like to extend a warm welcome to all students. Whether you are joining us at St. Benedict for the first time or you are returning to us after your summer vacation, we look forward to working with you throughout the upcoming school year. Ms. Deanna Wehrle who has been a member of our department for several years has transferred to St. Mary's High School in Kitchener as the new program head at that school. Mr. Michael Ambeau has joined the department this year as a full-time counsellor. The changes in our department have resulted in student caseloads being reassigned. This means that some of our returning students are now working with a different counsellor than in previous years. Please be assured that we are all working together to help all of our returning students with these transitions.

Guidance case loads have been determined as follows:

Mr. Michael Ambeau	A – E	ext. 503
Mrs. Patricia Klassen	F – Lazdins & Int'l Students	ext. 190
Mr. Sean Kritz	Le – Pl	ext. 512
Mrs. Katherine Menjolian	Po – Z	ext. 240

COURSE CHANGE INFORMATION

Students who wish to make changes to the courses that they have selected will have the opportunity to do so until Friday, September 16. Please note that all changes must be approved by a parent and/or guardian prior to us meeting with a student. The guidance department follows a procedure which allows us to deal with urgent and important requests first. Requests to make a course change should only occur if a student is requesting a level change, is missing a prerequisite course, does not have enough courses scheduled or is missing a course that is required for a specific university or college program. Students who wish to make changes other than those listed will be required to see their counsellor either before or after school. Parents, please encourage your sons and daughters to follow the procedure that we have in place for making course changes so that we can process requests as quickly as possible. Your help and support is most appreciated.

GRADE 9 “MEET THE TEACHER” NIGHT

If you are interested in experiencing what your Grade 9 son or daughter does during a typical school day, plan now to join on Thursday, September 22 for Grade 9 Parent Night. At this event, you will follow your child's school schedule, meet his or her teachers, discover the joys and perils of moving from class to class and hopefully gain valuable information that will aid you with your child's secondary education. We hope to see many of you at this event. Invitations will be sent

home with Grade 9 students early next week.

ATTENTION GRADE 12 STUDENTS

Early next week, guidance counsellors will be conducting information sessions for all Grade 12 students who are considering attending either university or college in September 2012. Please stay tuned for important details regarding these sessions as well as for all announcements regarding post-secondary planning. These announcements will come in a variety of forms throughout the school year—verbal PA announcements, written announcements on the Ranger system, occasional auto dialer messages and of course, regularly in the BENN. Grade 12 students and their parents are strongly encouraged to become part of our email distribution list as this is the easiest way for us to convey information to you. Signing up is easy! Follow these 3 steps:

1. Go to the SBCSS website: <http://stbenedict.wcdsb.ca>
2. Click on Guidance
3. Select *Click here to join our information list!*

Once you are registered on our email distribution list, you will begin to receive emails from Mrs. Menjolian regarding any and all post-secondary information including visits, special events, information sessions, deadlines and scholarships. Don't delay! Join today!

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY VISITS

We have been fortunate to have been able to arrange presentation visits with liaison officers from several of our Ontario universities and colleges. Students are invited to sign up for these presentations, but are reminded that they are responsible for any academic work that is missed should they choose to attend a presentation. The following schools will be visiting prior to the next edition of the BENN:

September 21: University of Western Ontario, 9:45 AM

September 23: Ryerson University, 8:30 AM

September 23: Brescia University College, 10:00 AM (Brescia U/C is an affiliate of The University of Western Ontario)

September 27: University of Guelph-Humber, 8:30 AM

September 27: Carleton University, 9:45 AM

September 29: University of Guelph, 1:15 PM

The dates for further visits will follow in the next issue of BENN.

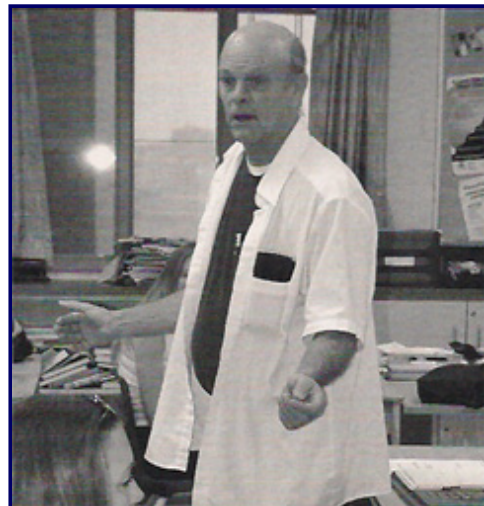
NEWS FROM THE CHAPLAIN

BY MR. B. REMPEL

The school year at St. Benedict has started well. As chaplain I am involved in many aspects of school life. Together with priests I become a face of the Catholic faith (I trust a friendly face). Some of my duties include providing a listening ear, organizing liturgical celebrations, working with SAC leaders on justice/charity projects and leading retreats.

On Thursday, September 15, we will be celebrating mass with Grade 9

LOSING A FRIEND



students and their Link mentors (Father Freitas from St. Mary of the Visitation will preside). Our opening school mass will take place on Wednesday, September 28. (Father Phil from St. Clements parish will preside).

Our current giving project is to support the many people in East Africa who are affected by the drought and famine in that region. Specifically we are supporting the ongoing efforts of Free the Children in Kenya. We will sponsor a Jeans Day for Famine Relief on Thursday, September 29. On that day students and staff will be able to wear jeans during the school day for a minimum \$2 donation.

We look forward to a wonderful year of learning and celebrating our Catholic faith and values.

*It is with great sadness that we report that **Tom Rawley**, friend of the St. Benedict community, passed away Sunday September 11. Tom was a retired nuclear engineer who was our Junior Achievement consultant in Entrepreneurial Studies and guest speaker for over 10 years.*

He was an integral part of our business department. His selfless gift of time and expertise were so much appreciated by us and the many students whose lives he touched. As a mentor to many, we all valued his wisdom and insight into business, community, and life in general. He will be especially missed by his friends, both staff and students, at St. Benedict.

Students who have had Tom are invited to post comments on the [What I learned from Tom Rawley!](#) Facebook page. These comments will be printed and presented to his family.

In Tom's own words, "Keep the faith".

ARE YOU LOOKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Thinking about becoming a teacher? Have some spare time? Want to give back to the community? If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, then volunteering here at St. Benedict might be for you! In the past, volunteers were instrumental in several capacities, which include (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. 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 or by telephone at 519-621-4050 ext. 654 to set up an appointment to meet.



WHAT IS SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR (SHSM)?

The Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) is a Ministry approved program that encourages students to focus their education on a specific employment sector. Students take a few specific courses in grade 11 and 12, complete industry recognized certifications and participate in *reach-ahead* activities designed to help them choose a post secondary destination.

MAJORS OFFERED AT ST. BENEDICT IN 2011-12

Arts & Culture
Business
Construction
Energy
Environment
Health & Wellness
Hospitality & Tourism
Information & Communications
Justice & Community Safety
Manufacturing
Transportation

WHY SHOULD MY SON/DAUGHTER GET INVOLVED?

No matter which path your son or daughter follows after high school, they will have a better idea of their direction when graduating with a SHSM red seal. Your son/daughter will:

- have a better understanding of how their classes apply to their future career

- visit trade shows, attend workplace tours, and obtain training and certifications from experienced industry staff (ex. First Aid & CPR)
- learn on the job skills during a co-op placement, which will help students to decide their correct path and career choice

HOW AND WHEN TO GET INVOLVED:

Experiences start in Grade 11 or 12. Now is the time to sign up and get involved! Deadline to sign up is October 14. Registration forms for the Specialist High Skills Major are available in the Guidance Office.

Get more information at www.highskills.ca

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our first School Council meeting of the year is scheduled for September 29, 2011. The meeting will run from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Room 111. New members are welcome.

SEPTEMBER 22ND HALF PD DAY

This year the PD Plan for our school board includes 4 half PD days. These days will consist of classes period 1 and 2 only, with dismissal occurring at 10:58. Yellow school buses will be departing at 11:10 to return students home. GRT buses will be running shuttles back to the main terminal, where students will then transfer to the appropriate route to take them home. All students are expected to attend their classes that morning, and leave the school promptly after period 2.

WHO IS YOUR ADMINISTRATOR?

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

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

Gh to N: [Mr. Sauve](#)

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

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

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.

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.

Academic

ENRICHING THE LIVES OF STUDENTS

BY MRS. D. WITTMANN

WHY ENRICHMENT?

To further enhance and develop our skills, understanding, and personality... (<http://enrichingyouth.com/whyenrichment.htm>)

- Enrichment helps us to consider more, beyond what is typical.
- Enrichment teaches us possibilities and opportunities.

- Enrichment expands our perspectives and openness.
- Enrichment creates innovation, motivation and determination.
- Enrichment develops passion, new insight and optimism.
- Enrichment opens up our imagination and creative abilities.
- Enrichment encourages hope, success and empowerment.

This is a reminder to check out Enrichment Opportunities found under [St. Benedict Clubs & Teams](#) in ClassNet.

Also, check out [IDC4U - Interdisciplinary Studies for Autonomous Students](#).

THE SCIENCE TEAM

The Science Team provides a science enrichment program for students who are interested in science, math and engineering. Our team meets once a week for the entire school year. During the meetings students will be able to participate in fun enrichment activities that relate to physics, chemistry, biology, engineering, astronomy, earth science and mathematics. It is open to students from Grades 9 - 12.

Our team competes in Science Olympic events at universities located in Guelph (U of G), Hamilton (McMaster) and London (Western). The competitions consist of events that are categorized by grade level and subject and are designed to test the participants' knowledge, thinking, and creativity. Last year at the Science Olympic Games at Western our team had 2 gold medal 3 silver medal and 3 bronze medals. Prizes from these competitions range from plaques and to potential scholarships.

Senior Science Team members also have the chance to participate in subject-specific written contest in the spring. These include the Sir Isaac Newton Contest sponsored by the University of Waterloo and The Chem 13 contest also sponsored by the University of Waterloo. Last year our school had one student place in the top 1% in Canada on the S.I.N. contest.

New to this year, student will have an opportunity to compete in the Waterloo-Wellington Science fair in April.

The first science team meeting was held on Wednesday, September 14th at 7:45 am in room 314. You can still join by contacting Mr. Arkell for more information, or follow the link to the Science Team website on the St Benedict ClassNet site.

MATH CONTEST INFORMATION AND PREPARATION

BY MR. M. MODOLO

If you would like to be in the loop throughout the school year with respect to math contests and enrichment opportunities, please [email Mr. Modolo](#). Regular updates will be e-mailed to interested students and parents.

Clubs & Athletics

BASKETBALL COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS?

Interested in getting community hours? Interested in basketball? Combine the two by volunteering to score keep the girls' basketball games this season. Sign up in the Phys. Ed Office or see Mr. Malnerich or Mr. Martinello to sign-up. Games start next week so don't miss out.

CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING

Join Cross-country running for fun, fitness, and frivolity. Practices take place every day after school. Meet in the phys ed hallway dressed to run. All are welcome, especially new grade nines!

MAD MOVEMENT MEETING

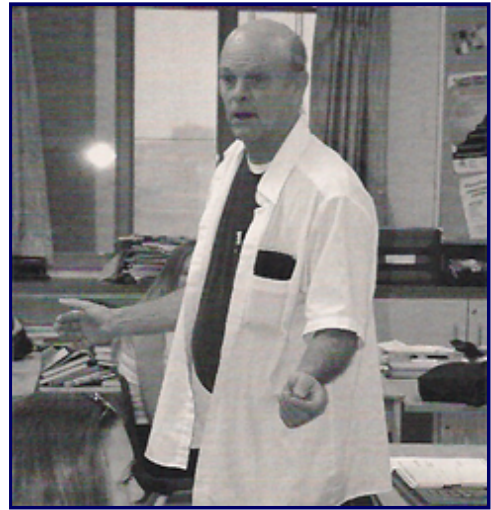
Want to be part an amazing club that changes lives? The MAD MOVEMENT is a club that is dedicated to **making a difference** in our school, community, and world. There will be an important first meeting on Wednesday September 14 after school in portable 1. See Miss Launslager or Mrs. Rocha for more details.

DECA INFORMATION MEETING

BY MRS. C. RATZ

Are you interested in testing your business savvy? Meeting people from across Ontario and possibly the world? Travelling? Improving your resume or university/college application?

Come to a DECA information meeting today on Thursday, September 15 at 2:35 in the Lecture Hall. Meet DECA students and find out what it's all about!



Other News

PARISH CONNECTION: ST. MARY'S OF THE VISITATION

BY FATHER F. FREITAS

Another new and exciting Fall has begun and it is my pleasure to extend a sincere welcome to all! I trust you and your family enjoyed the summer.

The motto of St. Mary of the Visitation is that *we are connected to our past, committed to our future and compassionately focused on being a Family of Faith with something for everyone.* With that in mind, I invite you to visit the [St. Mary of the Visitation Parish website](#), and consider joining our family if you are not already a member.

To see a little of our community in action, I invite you to drop by the church on Saturday, September 17 for our giant garage sale. It will be held rain or shine, from 8:30 to 2:30. Books, clothes, furniture, household items, bikes... everything and anything! It will be Hespeler's largest church garage sale ever!

There will be many more activities for the Fall, drop by and say hi!

May Our Lady of the Visitation continue to be our inspiration, model, and guide.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, September 14

- 2:40pm Games Club begins
- 2:45pm School Musical orchestral auditions
- 2:45pm Tennis practices begin
- 2:45pm MAD Movement meeting
- 4:15pm Senior Boys Volleyball practice

Thursday, September 15

- 2:35pm DECA meeting in Lecture Hall
- 2:45pm School Musical orchestral auditions
- 4:15pm Senior Boys Volleyball practice

Friday, September 23

- 8:30am Univ. visit: Ryerson University
- 10:00am Univ. visit: Brescia University College

Monday, September 26

- 3:30pm Jr Boys Soccer @ St. David's
- 7:00pm St. Benedict 50th Anniversary meeting

Tuesday, September 27

- 8:30am Univ. visit: University of Guelph-Humber
- 9:45am Univ. visit: Carleton University

Friday, September 16

2:30pm XCountry: Preston Fun Run
Last Day for course changes

Monday, September 19

3:30pm Jr Boys Soccer vs St. Mary's

Tuesday, September 20

2:35pm DECA meeting in room 214

Wednesday, September 21

9:45am Univ. visit: University of Western Ontario

Thursday, September 22

2:00pm XCountry: Shades Mill Race
5:30pm Grade 9 LINK Dance
6:30pm Grade 9 Meet the Teacher night
PA Day - Early dismissal

Wednesday, September 28

3:30pm Jr Boys Soccer @ Msgr. Doyle
Opening Mass

Thursday, September 29

11:48am LINK Crew Olympics
1:15pm Univ. visit: University of Guelph
2:35pm DECA meeting in room 214
2:00pm XCountry: University of Waterloo Race
7:00pm School Council mtg, room 111
Jeans Day

Be sure to consult our newly upgraded calendar on the school website for more information. We are in the process of adding team schedules, so check back often! The next few events will appear on the front page of the site, and the full calendar can be found 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.