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The BENN newsletter is a publication of St. Benedict CSS. It is distributed every second Wednesday during the school year using the WCDSB News-wire 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

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NEXT ISSUE

February 22, 2012

A World of Welcome...

If you've ever had the opportunity to visit St. Benedict, you know what a welcoming place it is. As our board strives to make our schools *a place for all*, the St. Benedict community also lives by the motto of *greeting every stranger as a friend*.

So we welcome you. Welcome to the new semester to all our students, especially those new to our community. We hope that—with the new beginning that this semester has to offer—you will have many opportunities to achieve success.

A special welcome to our new international students, who have come to learn a bit about us, and will give us an opportunity to learn a little bit about them.

We welcome staff members who have either returned from leaves, or are new to our school community. We are glad that you will have the opportunity to share your skills and talents with the staff and students here.

We also welcome parents who visited our school for grad 8 night and completed a BENN registration form; welcome to our community, and we hope you enjoy your first issue of our school e-newsletter. We hope this will be the first of many for years to come. And by all means, help us spread the message of welcome to your friends and neighbours who may be considering St. Benedict as the place to send their children.

BENNY'S IN THE LOCAL MEDIA

THE RECORD: [Cambridge kids build house in Kitchener](#)

Administrative

SAFE SCHOOLS TEAM

BY MRS. G. LEUSINK

We believe that a safe school is one of the most important factors in student achievement. If a student feels safe and has a sense of belonging, then, they can accomplish more at school. They are not afraid to participate in class or in the school community and are willing to help others.

At St. Benedict's, our safe schools initiative is linked with our transition plan. When students enter a new school, they need to feel welcomed and become a part of the community in a short time. Our LINK crew team supports this idea and works together with staff and students to ensure all students have a good start so that they can make good decisions in their educational journey.

Our Safe Schools team is comprised of the LINK crew staff (Amy Healy, Wendy Schuster, Paul Riso, John Curtis, Karla Arkell, Glenda Leusink), Sara Beyerle, Leonard Bumbacco and our parent representative is Jamilla Ivits. If you would like more information on any of the LINK initiatives, please contact [Glenda Leusink](#).

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

is an
Early Dismissal Day

The schedule for the day, including GRT bus schedule, will be posted on the school website shortly.

NEWS FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE

BY MRS. P. KLASSEN

COURSE CHANGES FOR SEMESTER TWO

Guidance is always a busy place, however the start of new semester makes things "extra" busy as we work to register new students who are joining us and work at making course changes in a timely manner. In order for this to occur, students will need to follow the process that we have in place for course changes which allows counsellors to make the most urgent and necessary changes first, followed by elective change requests. Students should be aware that counsellors are available for appointments both before and after school during the course change period for changes that are not considered to be urgent. Requests to change lunch periods or to change teachers, will not be accommodated. The deadline for changes to second semester courses is February 17, 2012. Any student wishing to make a course change must submit a course changed form, signed by a parent, prior to this deadline date.

USED UNIFORMS

Students who are interested in expanding their school wardrobe should be aware that the school has a good supply of clean, quality used uniform pieces available. Anyone who is interested in obtaining uniform clothing should contact their guidance counsellor. Pants are in short supply, however we have a good selection of golf shirts (both long and short sleeved) and sweaters and vests that are good for the cold weather. There is no set fee for clothing, however donations would be welcome.

If you are aware of other students who have clothing to donate, please encourage them to forward these donations to the school. Any used uniform clothing that is clean and in good condition is welcome! Please note that we will only accept pants and shorts that are McCarthy brand.

COURSE SELECTION FOR THE 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR

Although second semester is barely underway, plans for the next school year are already well underway. Beginning next week, counsellors will be visiting classrooms to discuss the important process of choosing courses for the 2012-2013 school year. As has been the practice for the past number of years students will be choosing their courses on-line. The course calendar including course descriptions of all of the courses offered at St. Benedict can be accessed at



SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR

Are you interested in any of the following sectors?

Arts and Culture • Business • Construction
Energy • Environment • Health and Wellness

www.wcdsb.ca/planner. Instructions for choosing courses will be forwarded to students next week during their classroom presentation and will also be available in the next edition of the BENN. Please note that course selections for next year are due back to the school on Thursday, March 1, 2012.

Hospitality and Tourism
Information and Communications
Technology
Justice, Safety, and Emergency Services
Manufacturing • Transportation

Get more information at www.highskills.ca
or speak to your Guidance Counsellor.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU!

Student case loads are determined by alphabet as follows:

Mr. M. Ambeau	A – E	ext. 503
Mrs. P. Klassen	F – La & Int'l	ext. 190
Mr. S. Kritz	Le – Pl	ext. 512
Mrs. K. Menjolian	Po – Z	ext. 240

NEWS FROM THE ECO TEAM E-WASTE RECYCLING PROGRAM

Did you know that your old electronic devices contain harmful chemicals and precious metals that can be recycled? If you bring your old cell phones, digital cameras, and empty ink cartridges to us, we can raise money to buy trees and other items for make our school more environmentally friendly. The drop off box can be found us inside the door at the Main Office.

DEAD BATTERY RECYCLING PROGRAM

Do you have dead batteries at home? Did you know that when you throw them in the trash, they can leak harmful chemicals into our water system? Instead of throwing them out, bring them to use and let us recycle them for you. You can drop any dead batteries in the bin in the Main Office.

STUDENTS! WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS How can this club benefit you?

- You have the chance to earn community service hours for your work after school hours.
- Earn experience that looks good on a resume
- Help make your school a more environmentally friendly place by helping out with our recycling programs, organizing Earth Week and Earth Day, activities, and organize school ground greening activities.

Our next club meeting will be Thursday, February 16th in room 314. The short meeting will start right after school and go from 2:30 – 3:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to join.

Academics

ENRICHING THE LIVES OF STUDENTS

BY MRS. D. WITTMANN

BEYOND BENNY'S

BY MRS. N. OFFAK

MATH:

Canadian National Math League Contest
Annual contest with questions ranging from straightforward to challenging

 globecampus.ca

GlobeCampus is The Globe and Mail's site dedicated to undergraduate education in Canada. Through its innovative search, compare and rank tool called campus navigator, Canadian and visiting students can quickly find the school that would fit them best. The Globe and Mail's annual Canadian University Report (formerly University Report Card) collects the opinion of over 40,000 students across the country. This site will guide parents in evaluating universities and colleges and help students make the right pick from the rich array of qualifiers and indicators available from each of the school's profile.

Tuesday, February 14, 2012 - see *website for details*

<http://www.themathleague.com>

Sponsored by the University of Windsor

Centre for Education in Math & Computing Contest

Grade 9 (Pascal), Grade 10 (Cayley), Grade 11 (Fermat)

Thursday, February 23, 2012 - see *website for details*

<http://www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca>

Sponsored by the University of Waterloo

Math Circles

Free weekly enrichment activities

February 8th - April 4, 2012 - 6:30pm - 8:30pm

<http://www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca/events/mathcir...>

Sponsored by the University of Waterloo

Think About Math Conference

A conference for Grade 9 Girls

Apply online: February 2012

Conference dates: Two held in May 2012

<http://www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca/events/tam.ht...>

Sponsored by the University of Waterloo

LANGUAGE & LITERACY:

Essay Writing Contest

Submission deadline: February 15, 2012 - see website for details

<http://www.poeticpower.com/Contests.html>

Sponsored by Creative Communication

MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY

Canadian Computing Competition

An opportunity for students to test their ability in designing, understanding and implementing algorithms.

Registration Deadline: February 14, 2012

Event Date: February 28, 2012

<http://www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca/contests/comp...>

Sponsored by the University of Waterloo

Seminar in Computer Science for Young Women

A unique opportunity designed to ignite enthusiasm for computer science in interested female students across Canada.

Registration Deadline: Jan/Feb 2012

Event: May & June 2012

<http://www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca/events/csgirls...>

Sponsored by Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing at the University of Waterloo

SCIENCE:

Physical Sciences & Mac

For grade 10 and 11 chemistry and physics students

Registration Deadline: February 2012

Event Date: April 2012

<http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/macsci/outre..>
Sponsored by McMaster University

Catalyst - Engaging Women in Engineering

An overnight conference for Grade 11 girls to experience engineering and what it is like to be a student here! Participate in a number of hands-on workshops, meet female students in engineering, compete in a design competition and experience life in residence! Spots are limited to 50 students.

Application Deadline: March 15, 2012

Event Date: May 4 to 6, 2012

<http://waterloocatalyst.ca/grade-11-girls/>

Sponsored by the University of Waterloo

Engineering Science Quest

Submissions Year Round

Register online

<http://www.esq.uwaterloo.ca/>

Sponsored by the University of Waterloo

Computer Science Girls Rock

A unique opportunity designed to ignite enthusiasm for computer science in interested female students across Canada.

Registration Deadline: Jan/Feb 2012

Event: May & June 2012

<http://www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca/events/csgirls...>

Sponsored by Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing at the University of Waterloo

THE ARTS:

Public "Art Talks"

Check website for class and talk listings

<http://www.kwag.ca/en/exhibitions/ArtTalks.a...>

Sponsored by the K-W Art Gallery

Art Exhibits and Programs

Check website for program listings

<http://www.theclayandglass.ca>

Sponsored by Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery

Arts & Culture Venues & Events in Waterloo Region

Check website for program listings

<http://www.explorewaterlooregion.com/artscu...>

Sponsored by Waterloo Region Tourism

Wilfrid Laurier Music Workshops

Check website for program listings

http://www.wlu.ca/page.php?grp_id=160&p=2...

Sponsored by Wilfrid Laurier University Music Department

OTHER:

Katimavik

<http://www.katimavik.org>

Students aged 17 to 21 work in teams on community projects in six month themed programs. This volunteer experience develops

leadership, improves understanding of environmental issues and tackles stimulating projects.

Application Deadline: Applications are now being accepted

**Programs run from July to December 2012*
Sponsored by the Government of Canada

Laurier Enriched Academic Program

<http://www.wlu.ca/leap>

Summer camp for gifted/highly able students in grades 1-9. Saturday morning programs and summer camp.

January-March, 2012 & Summer 2012

Registration information on the website.

For more information on these Enrichment Opportunities, please [contact Mrs. N. Offak](#)

<http://www.globecampus.ca/videos/campus-tours/>

WINNERS OF THE GRADE 8 PARENT NIGHT ENGLISH DRAW!!!

Thursday, January 19, 2012 marked the date of St. Benedict's Grade 8 Parent Night. The English department is pleased to announce the winners of the ENGLISH DEPARTMENT PRIZE DRAW!!!

2 Tickets to Stratford Theatre (on any day, for any play)
Zen Kroeger

2 Tickets to Cineplex Odeon
Colleen May

Gift Certificate to Book Express
Sonya Sowamber

We'd like to say a big THANK YOU to all of the parents and students who participated in the evening. We hope to see you next year!!!

WHO IS YOUR ADMINISTRATOR?

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

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

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

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

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

COMPUTER CONTESTS

Students who have taken computer science with Mr. Milardovic and want to participate in the University of Waterloo Canadian Computing Competition or be part of the school's ECOO programming team must see Mr. Milardovic ASAP for registration information.

STUDENTS! DO YOU WANT TO GET INTO BUSINESS? DO YOU MEAN BUSINESS?

A career in business opens up many opportunities for you in international travel, meeting interesting people, and being a part of many successful products and entrepreneurial endeavours. Are you considering getting into business? Check out what our business department has to offer at <http://stbenedict.wcdsb.ca/business>. All of our courses and their descriptions are listed, as well as which teacher to contact if you want more information.

Students taking business and computer courses can qualify for our *Business and Information Technology Certificate* upon graduation—check out the site or speak to one of the business teachers for more information.

Finally, all of the grade 11 and 12 business and computer studies courses qualify towards different **Specialist High Skills Majors**, as you can tell from the chart on the bottom of the page.

Are you open for business? We are!

Clubs and Athletics

CURLING GIRLS SWEEP THROUGH TO FINALS GIRLS TO PLAY IN WCSSAA FINALS

By Ms. A. GALLIPEAU

Our senior girls curling team is WCSSAA finalists. They beat out Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute and are moving on. We are so pleased with their performance thus far this season.

This team continues to work hard as their season draws to an exciting close. The team tried a new tactic this time around—being more aggressive. This worked for the team and they proved exactly what they are made out of. It was a three game day and each one was a nail biter. Their coach, Ms. Gallipeau, would like to thank administration for their continued support. This day would not have been possible without them. Congratulations ladies—keep up the good curling!

SENIOR BOYS BASKETBALL

By Mr. K. FRATARCANGELI

The senior boys basketball team recently captured the consolation championship at the 68th annual Blackball Classic in Orillia. The boys had a 3 and 1 record over the weekend. They started the tournament off against one of the top seeds, Twin Lakes SS. After a strong first half,



Junior Boys Basketball
Saints 47, Msgr Doyle 25

Senior Boys Basketball
Saints 62, Msgr Doyle 17

Junior Girls Volleyball
Saints 3, Msgr Doyle 0
Pere Rene 3, Saints 1

Senior Girls Volleyball
Saints 3, Msgr Doyle 1
Saints 3, Pere Rene 1



Back Row: Pat Ronzio (Assistant Coach)
2nd Row (Left to Right): Kevin Fratarcangeli (Assistant Coach), Kueth Geng, Jeff Hibbard, Josh Edwards, Shawn Ramos, Tevin Heath, Jesse Sawyer, Matt McCarthy, Tyler Moulton, John Malnerich (Head Coach)
Front Row (Left to Right): Justin Malnerich (Manager), Santo Dak, Brenden Flannigan, Shakur Tag El Din

in which the boys were down one point, Twin Lakes pulled away in the third quarter and won 54 to 31.

The boys found themselves on the consolation side of the bracket. They regrouped and handled a solid Parkside group 43 to 34. After that victory they were up against Scollard Hall SS. Scollard Hall could not keep up with the high tempo set by the Saints and lost 58 to 41. This victory propelled the Saints into the consolation championship.

The Saints came out strong and had their most complete game of the tournament against Lo-Ellen Park. This led to an easy victory against a tough opponent 52 to 38.

Special note goes to tournament MVP Kueth Geng who averaged 15.75 points per game, Santo Dak with 13.1 points per game and Josh Edwards with 6 points per game and outstanding play on the defensive end.

MIDGET BOYS BRING HOME GOLD!

BY MRS. L. EDWARDS

In mid January, the Saints were able to continue with their winning title in the semi-finals and had an easy win over St. David's, winning 43 - 18. Nevertheless, the Saints had a rough battle against Rez in the finals, with Rez taking the lead with the first point being scored 2 minutes into the half. They slowly took a 7 point lead.

The Saints had a taste for the win and they fought hard to gain back control. They went into half-time 16 - 11 and worked hard to keep the lead, finishing the game 26 - 19.

Interestingly, the last Midget win was in the 1997/1998 season; the year these students were born! We definitely have some winners amongst us! Congratulations to the boys once again on a most successful season.

JUNIOR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

BY MISS A. KREUGER

Congratulations to the junior girls volleyball team, who defeated Doyle last night in 3 straight games! Excellent work ladies!

Prior to the exam break, the girls played Pere Rene. They started the game with great intensity taking the first set but fell short throughout the rest game. They lost 3-1.

Come out to support the ladies at our last two regular season home games this Wednesday and next Monday.

STAY UP TO DATE WITH DISTRICT 8 SPORTS

Now receive sports updates in your email or on your mobile device!

The new [District 8 website](http://district8.ca/admin/emailSignUp.php) now allows you to sign up themselves for nightly e-mail updates. You can select the school (or schools) you want to follow, and all the sports results will be sent to your email address.

The service is free. Sign up by going to <http://district8.ca/admin/emailSignUp.php>.

ROCK CLIMBING

BY MISS M. NOVAKOVICH

Attention all Rock Climbers! There will be a brief, but very important meeting on Thursday, February 9th for anyone who is interested in joining! All are welcome! Please go to room 319 after school and see ClassNet for more information.

BEAVER VALLEY SKI TRIP

BY MR. N. DUFRESNE

The Phys-Ed Annual Ski trip has arrived... This year we are going to the exclusive Beaver Valley Ski Club on March 1st. The \$55.00 cost includes return trip by highway motor coach, lift ticket and lesson. Ski, snowboard and helmet rentals are extra, **all participants must wear a helmet.**

All students who are interested in participating must pick up a registration package down in the PHE office and have their forms and money ready for registration which begins Thursday, February 16th during period 3 and 4 lunch. Spaces are limited so don't delay.

ATTENTION DECA MEMBERS

This is just a reminder for members of the DECA team that there is an important meeting this Thursday, February 9, before and after school in room 214.

For those who are participating in the written event, please meet Friday after school as well to practice your presentation.

Other News

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS: CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

POEM-A-DAY POETRY CONTEST: CALL FOR SUBMISSION

January 1 – April 20, 2012


The 6th annual Poem-A-Day Poetry Contest, sponsored by the Cambridge Libraries and the Cambridge Centre for the Arts, is open to poets of all ages. The 30 winning poets will be announced and will see their poems featured in a display and printed in a booklet, be awarded bookstore gift tokens, and be given an opportunity to read their poems at a public celebration of poetry at the Cambridge Centre for the Arts on April 20, 2012. Enter online at www.cambridgelibraries.ca from New Year's Day to Valentine's Day and celebrate Poetry Month!

This is a reminder that parents need to provide information about their child's or children's immunization history directly to **Public Health**. This information is not provided to Public Health by the child's health care provider.

Please note that incomplete or out of date immunization records may result in your child being suspended from school, as per the Immunization of School Pupil's Act.

Please call 519-883-2007 ext 6182 or visit <https://e-immunization.regionofwaterloo.ca> to update your child's or children's immunization records by phone or online.

Please remember that each time your child receives a new vaccine you need to inform **Public Health**.



Upcoming Events

Wednesday, February 8

- 2:00pm Varsity Boys Hockey vs PHS
- 2:30pm Fanime/Anime Club
- 2:40pm Reach for the Top Practice
- 2:45pm MAD Movement
- 2:45pm Strategy Games Club
- 3:30pm Sr. Girls Volleyball vs Rockway MC
- 3:30pm Jr. Girls Volleyball vs Rockway MC
- 4:00pm Jr. Boys Basketball @ Rockway MC
- 4:00pm Sr. Boys Basketball @ Rockway MC
- BENN Newsletter out
- Semi-formal dance tickets on sale

Thursday, February 9

- 2:00am Girls Hockey vs WODSS
- 2:30pm Yearbook Club
- 2:30pm DECA meeting
- Semi-formal dance tickets on sale
- Flowers on sale for Valentine Day delivery

Friday, February 10

- 2:45pm Doctor Who Video Club
- Semi-formal dance tickets on sale
- Flowers on sale for Valentine Day delivery

Sunday, February 12

- DECA Provincials; Sheraton Centre, Toronto

Monday, February 13

- 2:30am Girls Hockey vs GRCI
- 2:30pm Camera Club
- 2:40pm Math Club
- 3:30pm Sr. Girls Volleyball vs Resurrection CSS
- 3:30pm Jr. Girls Volleyball vs Resurrection CSS

Thursday, February 16

- 2:30pm ECO Team Meeting, room 314
- 2:30pm Yearbook Club
- 7:00pm Coffee House

Friday, February 17

- 2:45pm Doctor Who Video Club
- 7:00pm Semi-formal Dance
- Sr. Boys Basketball District 8 finals
- Course change deadline

Monday, February 20

- Family Day

Tuesday, February 21

- 7:00am Free Pancake Breakfast
- 6:00pm Badminton Club
- Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday, February 22

- 2:30pm Fanime/Anime Club
- 2:40pm Reach for the Top Practice
- 2:45pm MAD Movement
- 2:45pm Strategy Games Club
- Ash Wednesday
- BENN Newsletter out

Thursday, February 23

- 2:30pm Yearbook Club
- 7:00pm School Council meeting
- 7:00pm Sears Drama Showcase
- Half-day PA Day - Early dismissal

Friday, February 24

3:30pm Jr. Boys Basketball @ Resurrection
5:00pm Sr. Boys Basketball @ Resurrection
DECA Provincials; Sheraton Centre, Toronto

Tuesday, February 14

8:21am Report card distribution
6:00pm Badminton Club
DECA Provincials; Sheraton Centre, Toronto
♥ Valentine's Day ♥
SAC Valentine activities

Wednesday, February 15

2:30pm Fanime/Anime Club
2:40pm Reach for the Top Practice
2:45pm MAD Movement
2:45pm Strategy Games Club
Sr. Boys Basketball District 8 semi-finals

2:45pm Doctor Who Video Club
Sr. Boys Basketball CWOSSA
Junior Math Contests

DID YOU KNOW?

There are over 900 entries on our school calendar on the website!

Check the calendar on the school website for more information. New information is always being added, and more detailed information about upcoming events can be found there.

On the front page of our website, the calendar displays what's coming up in the next week. If you would like to see the full calendar, you can find it under **Benny's News ► Calendar of Events**.

Miscellaneous

WE WANT TO KNOW...

Thank you to those who have taken time to provide us with feedback. 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.

