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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 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](#)
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Next Issue

August 28, 2013

Wrapping It Up

As we conclude another school year, I think back to what a great year it has been. We have seen our students challenged academically, in the arts, and in athletics. Some experienced success, others failure. But through it all, your sons and daughters have shown great perseverance, respect, and pride.

Last night we celebrated the accomplishments of our graduates. We applauded them for completing their diploma requirements, and honoured those who went above and beyond, both in their academics and outside the classroom.

In reflecting on what this graduating class has accomplished over their years at St. Benedict's, I am in awe of all the great talent and skills this group of young men and women possess. I feel extremely privileged that we had the opportunity to impact their lives, and hope that we have served them well in their preparation for the real world. Go forth, graduates, and continue to be a *celebration of people* in all you do.

While we are sad to see this group leave us, we look forward to seeing the students who will be returning to St. Benedict in September. We also look forward to a new grade 9 cohort.

This week we also bid farewell to staff members who are moving on to different assignments. We wish them all much success as they pursue other exciting opportunities.

Thank you, parents, for your commitment to your sons and daughters, and to the St. Benedict community. We wish you all a safe, relaxed, and enjoyable summer. God bless!

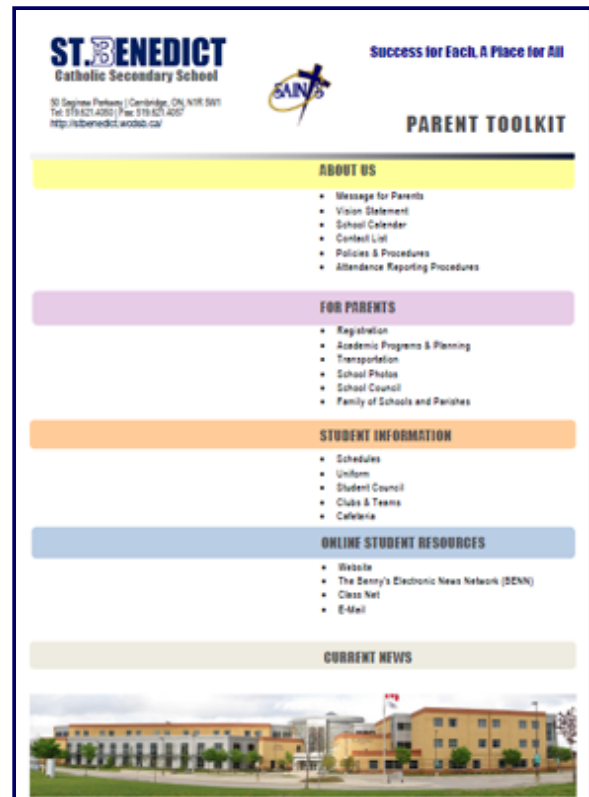
Administrative

Report Cards and Registration Packages

Final report cards and September Registration packages will be available for pick-up from Monday, July 15 to Wednesday, July 17 in the Main Office, during regular school hours. Report cards not picked up by Wednesday will be mailed home on Thursday.

Registration packages for the incoming grade nines from our feeder schools have been distributed to the schools in their elementary schools. Included with their registration packages is the newly created *Parent Toolkit*, which has been put together and funded by our School Council.

Additional registration packages and Parent Toolkits will be made available at the school during registration the last week of August and for late registrants. If you have not received your registration package by August 12, please call the school.



St. Benedict website easier for parents to navigate

By MR. A. MILARDOVIC

With feedback from parents and administration, this week we introduced the Parents' Pathway on the school website. The purpose of the pathway is to allow parents to walk through the key pages of the site without having to manually navigate to each page using the drop down menus.

You can start your trip down the Pathway by selecting [Parents' Pathway](#) from the For Parents menu. It will take you through about a dozen pages, starting with our administration and daily school schedule, through to our uniform policy, attendance procedures, and staff list.

As always, parent feedback is appreciated. If you want to provide information on what you would like to see added to Pathway (or to the website in general), please [email our webmaster](#).



Waterloo Region Record's Top Students

FROM THE WATERLOO REGION RECORD

Every year, The Waterloo Region Record asks teachers at each high school in the region to choose two students who have not only achieved solid marks but who have also devoted time, skills, and enthusiasm to community building. The list of accomplishments is always astounding. Congratulations this year to Julia Wittmann and Kennedy Thompson.

Julia Wittmann

Julia has been co-producer of the school's television show, SBTV. She has performed at

Kennedy Thompson

In addition to being student council co-president and proving herself to be very



coffee houses, pep rallies and local events, has been involved with musical productions and band, and she volunteers at St. Elizabeth for video

production and song writing. In addition, this grade 12 student has been a member of the cross-country, track and field, soccer, triathlon, and midget volleyball teams. On top of this, Julia has maintained a high academic average. She is a member of DECA, and she has competed in Skills Canada provincial competitions. Julia is excited about attending Ryerson University for Radio and Television Arts.



strong academically Kennedy, a grade 12 student, has been heavily involved in the arts during her years at St. Benedict. Kennedy's accomplishments are

endless: she directed a Sears production this year, has both assembled and performed in countless coffee house productions, has been the DECA president, won scholarships with Science Olympics, was the Region of Waterloo Health Summit co-ordinator, went to OFSAA for wrestling, and is a volunteer at the Z beside the Y. She is planning to attend the University of Guelph for Theatre Studies.

News from the Guidance Department

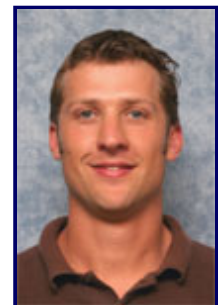
BY MRS. P. KLASSEN

Farewell Class of 2013

After many years of celebrating with our graduates in the fall, a decision was made to move our graduation celebration to Conestoga College. The larger, air-conditioned facility was a wonderful venue in which to celebrate the many accomplishments of this outstanding class. The highlights of the evening are too numerous to mention, however, special congratulations should be extended to Julia Wittmann who delivered a wonderful valedictory address to her classmates. The counsellors in the guidance department would like to congratulate all of our senior students who have graduated this year and are moving onto the world of work or post-secondary education. We have enjoyed working with you and wish you all the very best in your future endeavours.

Good-Bye Mr. Kritz

Our department will experience a major change this June with the departure of Mr. Sean Kritz who will be transferring to Resurrection Catholic Secondary School in Kitchener. Mr. Kritz has been a valued member of the St. Benedict teaching staff for 12 years and taught Physical Education as well as Business before joining the Guidance Department. Mr. Kritz's commitment to our school community has been evident in many and varied ways. He has been our school Athletic Director, has coached a variety of school teams, and has contributed tremendously to the guidance program at our school. His contributions to the building of Specialist High Skills Major program have been outstanding. Our loss is certainly Resurrection's gain and while we will miss him very much, we wish him the very best in his new



role there. All of us at St. Benedict, the staff and the students, will miss the wonderful contributions that he has made to our school.

Counsellor Assignments for 2013 - 2014

Mr. Nicholas Betik and Mrs. Jennifer Rodrigues will be joining us on a part-time basis in September. In addition to their guidance duties, Mrs. Rodrigues will be teaching music and Mr. Betik will be teaching religion. Together they will share a full-time case load in the guidance department.

A – E: Mr. Michael Ambeau

F – Lazdins: Mrs. Pat Klassen (Program Head)

Le – Re: Mr. Nicholas Betik and Mrs. Jennifer Rodrigues

Ri – Z: Mrs. Katherine Menjolian

International Students: Mrs. Pat Klassen

Course Changes

Students who wish to make course changes to their timetable will have the opportunity to do so during the first two weeks of school. Please note that in order to make a change, students must complete a course change form and have it signed by a parent/guardian. Requests to make a course change should only occur if a student is requesting a level change, is missing a prerequisite course or requires a change to get into a university or college program. If a student is requesting a course change for a reason other than those listed above, they will be encouraged to sign up to see their counsellor before or after school. Parents, please encourage your sons and daughters to follow the correct procedure for making course changes so that we can process requests as quickly as possible in September.

Community Service Hours

Summer is a wonderful opportunity for students to work at completing the forty hours of community service that is required for graduation. Please remember to document any hours that you complete during the summer months and hand them in to the main office in September when you return to school .

We wish all of you a safe and happy summer and look forward to working with you again in the 2013 – 14 school year.

Academics

Enriching the Lives of Students

BY MRS. D. WITTMANN

**Looking to improve your reading?
READ**

**Summer Training
Opportunities for
High Skills
Students**

Crunched for time? Read short stories!

Story: "The Minister's Black Veil"

Author: Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804–1864)

Hawthorne may have been inspired by a true event. A clergyman named Joseph Moody of York, Maine, nicknamed "Handkerchief Moody", accidentally killed a friend when he was a young man and wore a black veil from the man's funeral until his own death.

Story: "The Cask of Amontillado"

Author: Edgar Allan Poe (1809–1849)

The story is set in a nameless Italian city in an unspecified year (possibly sometime during the 18th century) and concerns the deadly revenge taken by the narrator on a friend who he claims has insulted him. Like several of Poe's stories, and in keeping with the 19th-century fascination with the subject, the narrative revolves around a person being buried alive.

Story: "The Most Dangerous Game"

Author: Richard Connell (1893–1949)

Features a big-game hunter from New York, who falls off a yacht and swims to an isolated island in the Caribbean, and is hunted by a Russian aristocrat. The story is an inversion of the big-game hunting safaris in Africa and South America that were fashionable among wealthy Americans in the 1920s.

VISIT: <http://www.classicshorts.com/>

Looking to improve your writing? WRITE Practice the Writing Process



Summer Training options have now been posted under each major on the highskills.ca website.

This includes Standard First Aid & CPR, as well as a couple of online options (depending on the major).

All costs are covered by SHSM

Check out www.highskills.ca and select trips and training for more info.



Taken from collegeunbound.org

SUCCESS in Co-op and OYAP

BY MRS. M. CROWELL

We are very proud of how well our coop students have represented us in the community over the past year working for credits in local businesses. OYAP students are co-op students who are doing their placement in an apprenticeable trade and some of these students are able to get registered as an apprentice through this program. While this does not guarantee employment it does save them the apprenticeship registration fee and can go on to provide them with their trade specific schooling at college at an extremely reduced rate through the MTCU.

This year we were able to get at least six students registered in trades such as cook, truck and coach, general machinist, and hairstyling. Several of these student have also been hired by their co-op employers and will start their apprenticeship this summer!

A number of our other co-op students have been able to secure part time jobs because of their strong work ethic and skills learned during their co-op placements. CO-OP WORKS!

Athletics

Soccer Saints named to All-Star Teams

BY MR. A. MILARDOVIC

Two St. Benedict students were recently named to the District 8 soccer all-star teams.

In girls' soccer, Dana Milani was named top St. Benedict soccer player. Coach Bailey says that Dana was voted MVP by her teammates, as well as a D8 All-Star. "Dana was our leading offensive threat and goal scorer. She worked hard and demonstrated her outstanding determination and skill every practice and game."

On the boys' side, Spencer Marshall was selected to the District 8 Senior Boys Soccer All-Star Team. Coach Seguin says that "Spencer joined the team never playing the position of goalie, and went from a rookie to an all-star. He is a gifted athlete who came to every workout and practice and had a positive attitude."

Congratulations to both our star athletes!

Summer running anyone?

Any student, newcomer or veteran, who would like to be involved in summer running, is asked to [contact Mr. Wittmann](#).

Clubs

We've all wrapped up for the year... see you in September!

Student Activities

RELAY FOR LIFE RETURNS IN 2014!

MRS. M. CROWELL

Save the date—Friday, May 30 we will be holding our third youth overnight twelve-hour event here at St. Benedict. There are so many ways to help work towards finding a cure—start thinking about how you want to get involved. More details in the fall.

Other News



Attention Parents Be part of WCDSB's Global Initiative

**Host an international student from Colombia
Share our Canadian culture and support your host's
English language learning**

Canadian home stay families will offer:

- A bedroom
- 3 meals a day and snacks
 - Laundry
- Participation in family activities
- Occasional transportation

What will home stay families experience?

- An opportunity to enhance your family's cultural and global knowledge
 - Creating long lasting global friendships
- 24/7 Support from WCSDB International Education department
 - Monetary compensation
- Comprehensive schedule of activities for your guest

Colombia students will attend your child's school for 6 to 8 weeks in the Fall of 2013

Please contact Lisset Jacinto, program coordinator
 519-516-578-3660, ext. 2497
 email: Lisset.Jacinto@wcdsb.ca

Note: Those selected will require a police check



Community Supports

Do you have concerns about your child or teen's behaviour or emotional state? Do you sometimes feel as though you have tried EVERYTHING but NOTHING works? Is your family struggling with parenting challenges?

If so, the walk-in counselling program at Front Door can help. Call (519) 749-2932 or come to one of the walk-in counselling locations.

Cambridge:

Thursdays 10 am – 4:30 pm 1145 Concession Rd (at Langs Farm)
 Tuesdays 12 pm – 6:30 pm 35 Dickson St

Kitchener:

Wednesdays 12 pm – 6:30 pm 1770 King St East, Unit 1

Looking for ongoing counselling – call the Family Counselling Centre of Cambridge and North Dumfries at (519) 621–5090.

Are you concerned about your teen’s substance use but aren’t sure how to share your concerns or what to do to help? Call St Mary’s Counselling for information on their parent group (519) 662–9555. You can also contact the Youth 180 program at Ray of Hope (519) 578–8018.

The Community Outreach Program helps families link with community resources such as: recreation/summer camps – fees and subsidies, food supports, clothing supports, child care and other children’s family needs. Contact the Community Outreach Worker closest to you:

Cambridge Family Early Years Centre	(519) 740–8353
Hespeler Area or Cambridge Self Help Food Bank (Susie)	(519) 622–6550 ext. 107
Fiddlesticks and Greenway Chaplin Community Centre (Patti)	(519) 623–4220
Preston Central and Langs Farm (Crystal)	(519) 653–1470 ext. 235
Preston Heights Community Group	(519) 650–2971

If you have questions but don’t know where to turn, just dial 211. This referral and information hotline helps families find the right community service.

If you or someone you love is feeling desperate and hopeless and you don’t know where to turn, call the Crisis Line (519) 744–1813.

Upcoming Events

Friday, June 28
School ends
Closing Staff Mass

Monday, July 1
CANADA DAY

Monday, July 15 to Wednesday, July 17
Report Card pick-up

Monday, August 5
CIVIC HOLIDAY

Wednesday, August 28
Grade 9 and 10 registration

Thursday, August 29
Grade 11 and 12 registration

Monday, September 2
LABOUR DAY

Tuesday, September 3
First day of school!!!
(sorry, it had to be said ☺)

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. To see the full calendar, go to **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.

