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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

[Mr. Anton Milardovic](#)
[Mrs. Jennifer Jackson](#)
[Ms. Laura Varriano Lane](#)

Next Issue

January 8, 2014

A Christmas Bonus! Twas the week before Christmas...

This is—officially—the last issue of the BENN newsletter for the 2013 year. With everything that has gone on since last Wednesday, we needed to get this information out to you. Generosity and kindness have been prevalent throughout the school these past few days. We are extremely blessed indeed! Merry Christmas to all!

— Editor



Administrative

It's the
BIGGEST ONE EVER



Friday, January 10 to Saturday, January 11

32 senior teams • 16 junior teams

Six venues across Cambridge

Attention Grads!!

This year, Grad Photos will take place from January 7th through January 17th. Grade 12 students interested in getting their grad photos need to book an appointment on-line at

www.lifetouch.ca/wwgrads

Complete details and order forms are available at the Main Office.

News from the Guidance Department

BY MRS. P. KLASSEN

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 2014–15 academic year are reminded that the application deadline is quickly approaching. Please note the

following:

- University applications are due January 15, 2014. If students have not picked up the PIN number that is needed for this application, they are available in the guidance office.
- College applications are due February 1, 2014. PIN numbers are not required for college application – students create their own account when they apply.
- 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 www.electronicinfo.com and at www.ontario.colleges.ca for college programs

Grade 8 Parent Evening

Our Grade 8 Parent Night will be held on Thursday, January 16, 2014 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. The evening will begin with an information session in the gymnasium followed by an open house. Designated areas of the school will be open for viewing, and subject specific teachers will be available with information about all of our programs. Please pass this message along to any neighbours in the community that have a student who is scheduled to begin high school in September 2014. All Grade 8 students, regardless of where they are currently attending school are welcome to join us that evening. In addition to this evening, Grade 8 students from all of our Catholic feeder schools will be visiting us early in January. If you have a younger son or daughter in Grade 8, be sure to ask them about this visit.

Community Service Opportunities

1. "A Balanced Approach" is a centre that provides services for children with autism. They have recently opened a site at 630 Duke in Cambridge and are seeking volunteers for a variety of tasks to assist their staff. Groups for 2014 do not officially start until January 18, but they are interested in starting to meet potential volunteers now. If you are interested in volunteering with some incredible children, contact crystal.abraham@abawaterloo.com or by phoning 519-342-4666. Groups meet every Tuesday from 4:30-6:00, every Wednesday from 4:30-6:00 and Saturday mornings from 9:00-1:00.
2. Enjoy working with children? Like spending your day outdoors? Want to gain valuable work experience while completing your 40 hours of community service? Considering applying to work with rare to assist in leading interpretive hikes, crafts and other activities. rare is seeking volunteers for their March Break and Summer Programs. They are looking for responsible students who are enthusiastic to lead and are interested in nature. Volunteers should be able to commit to at least one week of camp with a typical day lasting from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Contact Louise at 519-650-9336, ext. 124 or visit www.raresites.org for more information.
3. The Faculty of Education at Wilfrid Laurier University is seeking volunteers for their LEAP (Laurier Enriched Academic Program) Sensational Saturday morning enrichment camps. These camps, which run from 9 AM – 12 Noon from January 25 – March 1, 2014 are geared to gifted and highly able campers in grades 1 – 9. LEAP camps are designed and led by certified teachers, and offer challenging programming in an engaging environment. Volunteers must be 16 years of age or older. This is an ideal volunteer opportunity for

anyone who is considering teaching as a future occupation. Application forms and additional information are available at www.wlu.ca/leap.

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. We very much appreciate your support in encouraging your sons and daughters to follow protocol.

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.

The Spirit of Giving is alive at St. Benedict!

BY MRS. D. TRENTINI

The community of St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School recognizes that there are students and families who, at times, experience great financial need. A "Student Crisis Fund" has been established in an effort to support these families and students.

Each year the staff at St. Benedict's gathers to celebrate the season of Advent. This year, as a part of our gathering, staff members participated in a raffle and auction to raise money for the Student Crisis Fund. Thanks to the generous donations from staff, students and parents, community members and our local parishes, we were able to raffle off several items with all of the proceeds going directly to the fund. We could not have done it without your tremendous generosity. Thank you to all! A special thanks goes out to St. Mary's, St. Clement's and St. Patrick's parishes for your heartfelt support and contributions.

In true St. Benedict style, staff members displayed their desire to help others by working together to support this worthy cause. A group of enthusiastic and creative staff participated in an "Art Battle" to raise money for the Student Crisis Fund led by our own artists in residence, Ms. Weiler and Miss Fernandes. A group of eleven staff members showed off their skills in the

atrium by creating works of art in twenty minutes during lunch. They were surrounded by a host of staff and students cheering them on eager to see their final masterpieces. Those participating in the event were able to select the medium of their choice which included: cake decorating, hair



NHL Playoffs

Which Canadian team do you think will get the farthest in this year's NHL playoffs?

- ☐ Calgary Flames
- ☐ Edmonton Oilers
- ☐ Montreal Canadiens
- ☐ Ottawa Senators
- ☐ Toronto Maple Leafs

[Submit vote](#)

***The community of St. Benedict
Catholic Secondary School
recognizes that there are
students and families who
experience great financial need.***

styling, drawing, painting and sculpting to name a few. The artwork was displayed in the atrium during lunch, and staff and students had the opportunity to purchase tickets for the raffle. The lucky winners will be going home with one-of-a-kind creations while helping those in their school community. A big thank you to those who helped organize this event and to those who participated in it.

Due to the generosity of so many people during this blessed Advent season, we can be content knowing that many people in need will be helped when it's needed most – and that is truly what Christmas is all about.

Semester 1 Final Evaluation Schedule

January 2014

All courses (except those listed below) will have a 75 minute Final Evaluation taking place on January 27, 28, 29, or 30.

Students who meet the following criteria will not be required to attend any Credit Rescue sessions:

- a) have achieved a passing grade;
- b) have submitted all summative activities; and
- c) have completed all components of their final culminating activity

Students who do not meet the above criteria will be required to attend Credit Rescue as outlined by your teacher.

The following courses will have a 2 hour Final Evaluation taking place on January 27, 28, 29, or 30 as per the schedule below:

Business: Analyzing Current Economic Issues CIA4U, Introduction to Financial Accounting BAF3M, Principals of Financial Accounting BAT4M

Communications – English/French: Grade 11 & 12 University English ENG3U, 4U; Grade 11 & 12 College English ENG3C, 4C; Grade 12 University Writer's Craft EWC4U; Grade 12 University English Literature Studies ETS4U; Grade 11 and 12 University Core French FSF3U & FSF4U

Geography: Physical Geography CGF3M, The Environment & Resource Management CGR4M, Canadian & World Issues CGW4U

History: American History CHA3U, World History CHW3M, Canadian History CHI4U, World History CHY4U & CHY4C, Understanding Canadian Law CLU3M, Cdn and International Law CLN4U

Math: All Grade 10 Academic 2D; All Grade 11 & 12 University 3U, 4U; Grade 11 University/College 3M, Grade 12 College Technology MCT4C

Physical Education: Grade 12 University Exercise Science PSE4U

Religion: Grade 11 University/College World Religions HRT3M; Grade 12 University/College Church & Culture HRE4M

Science: All Grade 9 & 10 Academic 1D, 2D; All Grade 11 & 12 College 3C, 4C; Grade 11 University/College 3M; Grade 11 & 12 University 3U, 4U

Social Sciences: Intro. To Anthropology HSP3M, Ind. & Families in a Diverse Society HHS4M, Challenge & Change in Society HSB4M

January 27

8:30 – 9:45: 75 minute exam for Period 1 class

8:30 – 10:30 2 hour exam for Period 1 class

Bus Pickup 10:45 AM

January 28

8:30 – 9:45: 75 minute exam for Period 2 class
8:30 – 10:30: 2 hour exam for Period 2 class
Bus Pickup 10:45 AM

January 29

8:30 – 9:45: 75 minute exam for Period 3 class
8:30 – 10:30: 2 hour exam for Period 3 class
Bus Pickup 10:45 AM

January 30

8:30 – 9:45: 75 minute exam for Period 4 class
8:30 – 10:30: 2 hour exam for Period 4 class
Bus Pickup 10:45 AM

January 31

8:30 – 10:30: Credit Rescue as arranged by teacher and student

Teachers will offer informal Credit Rescue on a needs basis on any exam days.

Notes:

1. All students are expected to be in full uniform during Final Evaluation and Credit Rescue classes.
2. This schedule could change in the event of a school bus cancellation or school closure.

Christmas Kindness

BY MR. A. MILARDOVIC

Last Friday we had our whole-school assembly with the Cambridge Firefighters to collect together our Christmas Baskets. As in past years, we also helped St. Mary of the Visitation Parish with its Red Stocking Campaign. Forty three classes sponsored 32 baskets, and 57 stockings full of school supplies were collected.

Here are some of the pictures which show the chain reaction of kindness as it works its way through St. Benedict during the Christmas season, as we help those less fortunate!



Community Supports

BY MRS. S. AYERST

Christmas is a time for family and a time of joy and celebration. It can also be stressful.

The Community Outreach Program can help link families with supports and resources, such as Financial/Food Supports, Grief and Coping over the holidays, and subsidies for Children's Recreation Programs.

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 (Heather)

(519) 650-2971

If you or someone you love is feeling overwhelmed and hopeless over the holidays and you don't know where to turn, call the Crisis Line (519) 744-1813.

Academics

Enriching the Lives of Students

By MRS. D. WITTMANN

Athletics

Senior Girls Volleyball

By MRS. P. KLASSEN

Congratulations to the Senior Girls Volleyball Team who recorded their first win of the season with a resounding 3 sets to 0 victory against the Rockway Flames Monday night in their opponent's gym.

The team shrugged off a slow start and turned in a solid game. Hopefully this win will result in a confidence boost as the girls head into the second half of the season.

Wish the girls luck in their game against St. David on Wednesday.

Junior Boys Basketball

By MR. J. MALNERICH

Congratulations to the Junior Boys basketball team for a fine showing at the Notre Dame Welland Tournament over the weekend. The boys went 3 and 0 and defeated a top 5 ranked team out of Toronto. The team moves to a 16 and 2 record on the year after their win against Rockway Monday night, 64 to 13. Top point getter for the Saints was Nick Phung with 13.

Next up for the Saints is their last home game of 2013 on Wednesday at 5pm against St. David's. Don't miss it!!

Varsity Boys Hockey

After starting the year with two losses, the Varsity Boys Hockey team has captured three wins in a row including an 8 to 4 win over St. David on last Tuesday. Nick Walton led the way with a 5 point game including a hat trick.

Nick Wittal, Braiden Gudgeon, Cameron Moulton, Ty Fox and Cole Corriveau also scored for the Saints.

BENN BOX SCORES

Jr. Boys Basketball

St. Mary's 57, Saints 40
Saints 64, Rockway 13

Sr. Boys Basketball

Saints 32, St. Mary's 64
Saints 58, Rockway 39

Jr. Girls Volleyball

St. Mary's 3, Saints 0
Saints 3, Rockway 1

Sr. Girls Volleyball

St. Mary's 3, Saints 0
Pere Rene 3, Saints 1
Saints 3, Rockway 0

Varsity Boys Hockey

St. David 4, Saints 8

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](#) 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>.

Clubs

Doctor Who Club Meeting

Attention all Doctor Who Club members: Christmas Who Club will take place this Thursday, after school, in Room 226. We will be watching the 2006 Christmas Special "The Runaway Bride", as well as holding our annual Christmas book giveaway.

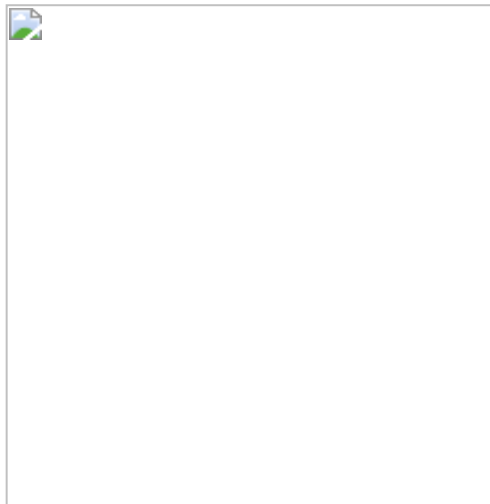
Seams Sew Easy

The Seams Sew Easy club is cancelled for this Thursday. We will start up again right after the Christmas break.

Student Activities

**Need a last minute Christmas gift or
stocking stuffer?
Look no further.**

The perfect gift for any St. Benedict student or parent



**Saints Teddy Bear
or
Saints Panda**

**Both great gifts will be on sale in the atrium at lunch
Thursday.**

Only \$7 for a panda and \$10 for a bear.

Share your school spirit and give some warmth this
Christmas!

Are you looking for something fun to do after Christmas break?

Come out and watch the comedy show "Rated T for Teen" on the evening of Wednesday January 15. Admission is \$2 with all profits going to Free The Children to build a school.

Other News



CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN CAMBRIDGE

**SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 15 • 2014**

**PORTUGUESE ORIENTAL CLUB
1054 Shellard Road, Cambridge**

Dinner 6:30pm • Dance & Silent Auction 8:00pm

Music By PB & Jam

**Featuring Paul LaCalamita, Andy MacPherson
& Sean O'Brien**

Dinner & Dance \$100 Couple • \$60 Single

For Tickets & Info Contact:

- Doug Leusink 519.241.6165
- David White 519.716.8929
- Wendy Price 519.623.0052
- Manuel Martins 519.575.7542
- Tom McArthur 519.621.357
- Waterloo Region Catholic Schools Foundation
519.578.3660 ext 2373

**ALL PROCEEDS TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS
WITHIN THE
WATERLOO REGION CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

**A charitable receipt will be issued for a portion of the ticket price
& any additional donations**

**Tickets are available in our Main Office—please
call 519-621-4050 to reserve yours today!**

One of our St. Benedict students, Tess Wittmann, is involved in a student exchange program with Rotary International this year. She is currently studying in Portoviejo, Ecuador, and will be keeping us informed of her cultural exchange through a series of articles affectionally known as "Beavertale".

Beavertale, episode 2

BY TESS WITTMANN

Part 2 of a 2 part article

I have noticed my Spanish skills are better than when I first arrived. The language does not come without effort. I study every day, and speaking is the best way to improve. I read a poem in Spanish every night with my host mom to improve my pronunciation, and I have a friend who has been in Ecuador for 9 months so she helps me with Spanish. Also, I live really close to a girl who I met in Canada when she was on exchange last year, so she tutors me as well. It takes time to become fluent!

Everyone here is so warm and kind! It was a bit of a change for me because they are very touch-feely people with the kissing people's cheeks and hugging. They kiss each other's cheeks as a way to say hello and goodbye. I have embraced it and has become quite natural for me now. It is awesome to know people care so much, my class called me part of their family after 2 days of school!

The style for clothing isn't too different from Canada. However, the more skin you show, the more people stare. It is a good idea to wear jeans if you go out with your family in the streets even if it is hot. Theft is a common thing so never carry large amount of money with you. I have a money belt that goes under my shirt which holds money or any valuables so it appears as I have nothing. I only wear it if I go on the streets with my family to buy things. It is a lot more inexpensive to buy in the downtown than in the shopping mall, especially because you can bargain the prices in the downtown. Many of the stores sell the same styles so it is all about the quality and cost. It is a good idea to try to not speak English as they usually increase the price since they identify foreigners and realize they may have money.

The first rotary trip I went on was the language trip and it was one of the best experiences of my life. Meeting other exchange students is amazing and collecting their pins and business cards is exciting. The language camp was at this beautiful resort called the Royal Decameron. I learned a lot of Spanish and had a great time doing so. It was taught in a combination of Spanish and English. I went on my 2nd trip in October which was to the many beaches in Manabí. The hotel was in Crucita and we went to Bahia, Manta, Portoviejo, and Monte Cristi. It was the first time meeting all the exchange students in Ecuador and we all became close friends after a few days. It was sad to leave because I won't see all of the exchange students until the last trip because the next 2 are in smaller groups. It was still wonderful to meet them all and we all contact each other via facebook.

It is hard to believe I have been here for 2½ months already, time is going by so quickly so I am trying to make the most of each day!

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, December 18

Wednesday, January 8

2:30pm Reach for the Top
 2:35pm Anime Club
 2:45pm Hip Hop Dance Crew
 3:30pm Sr. Boys Basketball vs St. David
 3:30pm Jr. Girls Volleyball @ St. David
 3:30pm Sr. Girls Volleyball @ St. David
 5:00pm Jr. Boys Basketball vs St. David
 Spirit Day

Thursday, December 19

11:00am Lost Club
 11:00am M.A.D. group meeting
 11:00am Weight room open
 2:30pm Girls' Workout Club
 2:30pm Games Club
 2:30pm Yearbook club
 2:30pm Camera Club
 6:00pm Badminton club
 Christmas Assembly

Friday, December 20

11:00am Accepting Differences Club
 11:00am Puzzles Club
 11:00am Weight room open
 11:00am Star Trek Club
 11:00am APP Centre open
 11:00am DECA meeting
 2:35pm Doctor Who Video Club
 PA Day
 Christmas Holidays begin

Saturday, December 21

Winter solstice

Sunday, December 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 31

New Year's Eve

Wednesday, January 1

New Year's Day

Monday, January 6

Epiphany
 Classes resume (full day)

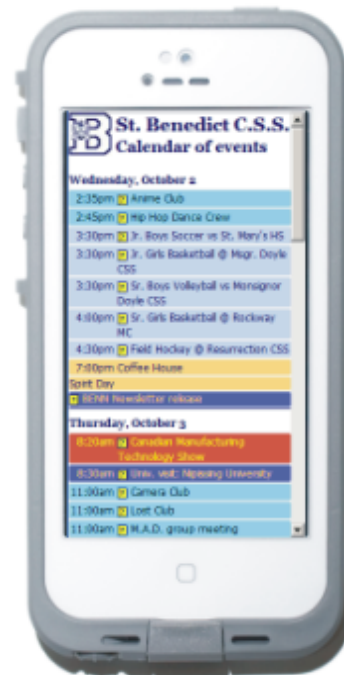
Tuesday, January 7

11:00am Games Club
 11:00am Programmers' Club
 11:00am Self Def & Conditioning Club
 11:00am Weight room open
 11:00am DECA meeting

11:00am Lost Club
 11:00am Puzzles Club
 11:00am Weight room open
 11:00am Accepting Differences Club
 11:00am MC Crew
 2:30pm Reach for the Top
 2:35pm Anime Club
 2:45pm Hip Hop Dance Crew
 Spirit Day
 BENN Newsletter release

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.**

Keep up with what's happening at St. Benedict's using your cell phone



Visit
stbenedict.wcdsb.ca/calendar.php
 from your cell phone.
 (Be sure to bookmark it!)

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.

