



## Table of Contents

- [Administrative](#)
- [Academics](#)
- [Athletics](#)
- [Clubs](#)
- [Student Activities](#)
- [Other news](#)
- [Upcoming events](#)

*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

April 10, 2014

# Good luck to all our students writing the Literacy Test tomorrow!

Regular period 3 and 4 classes in the afternoon

## Administrative

# Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

BY MRS. L. CRAFTCHICK

On Thursday, March 27, 2014, Grade 10 students at St. Benedict will be administering the OSSLT. Students who are not scheduled to write the test will be attending classes in the afternoon only. Refer to the day's schedule on the right.

## OSSLT Schedule

Warning Bell:	8:15 a.m.
Morning Exercises:	8:20 a.m.
<b>Grade 10 Students and Previously Eligible</b>	

The OSSLT is written by grade ten and previously eligible students who are working toward an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). The OSSLT is based on the curriculum expectations of all subjects up to and including grade nine. It is not solely based on English curriculum expectations. Students are required to meet Ontario standards—the passing grade is the equivalent to 75%. Students must pass both reading and writing activities to fulfill their literacy requirement.

Since all students must meet the standards of this test as a graduation requirement, it is a priority at St. Benedict. There are many websites which students can access at home to help prepare for the test.

Instructions:	8:25 – 8:30 a.m.
Booklet # 1:	8:30 – 9:45 a.m.
Break:	9:45 – 10:00 a.m.
Booklet # 2:	10:00 – 11:15 a.m.
Questionnaire:	11:15 – 11:25 a.m.
Lunch:	11:25 – 12:05 p.m.
<b>All St. Benedict Students</b>	
Period 3:	12:10 – 1:15 p.m.
Period 4:	1:20 – 2:25 p.m.

*Please note: Regular period 3 and 4 classes will begin for ALL students in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 at 12:10 p.m. and end at 2:25 p.m.*

*Grand River Transit buses and the yellow school buses will run on normal morning and afternoon schedules.*

## Some websites to check out:

The official site for the OSSLT has sample tests from previous years, with student examples and sample scores: [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com).

For a website with sample tests and instant feedback, go to [www.cawthralibrary.com/OSSLT%20support/sample.htm](http://www.cawthralibrary.com/OSSLT%20support/sample.htm).

Here are a few tips and strategies students can use to get ready at home!

## Tips For Success

### Multiple Choice

#### Reading Questions:

1. Survey the test completely and read directions carefully.
2. Underline or circle key words in both the question stem and the choices. (Writing on the test sheet will help your performance tremendously!)
3. Always read all of the choices, even when the first or second choice looks correct.
4. Think of multiple choice as a series of true/false statements.
5. Cover the options, read the stem, and try to answer.
6. If the question has one or more correct answers, use the process of elimination. Cross off all choices which are clearly false and then re-read the choices which remain “open”.
7. Answer every question. Making an educated guess is acceptable.
8. Read and re-read very slowly. Make sure you understand what the question is asking.

# LONGER WRITING TASKS

## The Newspaper Report

1. Brainstorm! Look at the picture closely and jot down details in the Rough Notes section to answer: Who? What? Where? When? Why? and How?
2. Your opening paragraph needs to be 1–2 sentences long and answer: Who? What? Where? and When?
3. The body paragraph(s) can answer the Why? and How?
4. The conclusion should also be short (1–2 sentences), and could answer the question: What will happen next?
5. Use a direct quote in your report.
6. Always write in the 3rd person (he, she, it, they, etc.) Do not use the word “I”.

## Series of Paragraphs Stating an Opinion

1. State your opinion in the 1st paragraph—make it clear that you agree or disagree.
2. Brainstorm! Use the Rough Notes section to organize your ideas: list reasons and examples to support your opinion. Ask yourself: Why do I agree or disagree?
3. Using sentences like “I agree with the statement because ...” or “I disagree with the statement because ...” will help you state your position clearly in your opening paragraph.
4. Write at least 2 body paragraphs explaining your reasons and examples.
5. Write a conclusion where restate your position and summarise your main ideas.

## Open-Response Questions:

1. Think of links between the topic and your knowledge & personal experience.
2. Answer the question using specific details and relevant information from your personal knowledge and experiences.

## Short Writing Tasks:

1. Read and reread the question carefully. Identify the main idea.
2. Make connections between the ideas and information in the reading selection and your knowledge/experience.
3. Answer the question using specific and relevant details and information from the reading selection and/or your experience, depending on what the question asks.
4. Answer in full paragraph form (indent, topic sentence, supporting details, concluding sentence).

### **Have you lost something? Do you want to find it?**

All of the items in the Lost and Found bins have been washed and organized. If you have lost something, come check the tables in room 111 beside Guidance at lunch this week. Any items left and not claimed by Friday will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul.

# News from the Guidance Department

By MRS. P. KLASSEN

## **ZOOM Into the Workplace Conference – April 30, 2014**

If you are a grade 12 student planning to graduate in June and enter the workplace directly upon leaving high school, consider taking advantage of this conference. ZOOM is a one day conference that provides Grade 12 students with the opportunity to engage and network with employers and industry professionals from a variety of sectors. Students will participate in hands-on, interactive and engaging workshops and will also hear from Ryan Porter, an exciting and young motivational speaker who has the ability to connect with teens on their level. Admission is FREE and transportation and lunch will be provided. Students interested in attending need to pre-register before April 9 – see Mrs. Klassen in guidance to sign up and complete your paperwork in order to attend.

## **Community Service Opportunities**

1. The COPS and YOUTH School Community Ownership Program is a program run by the Waterloo Regional Police Service. This program provides the opportunity for high school students, police officers and community members to work together to discuss ways to address youth crime issues. Participation in this program will more than meet the 40 hours of community service involvement needed to meet diploma requirements. Registration for this program is limited, and interested participants must complete an application form. See Mrs. Klassen in guidance for more information.
2. Healthy Heart Day, April 26 will again be held at St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School. The organizers of this event are seeking volunteers to help with set up the day prior to the event, as well as with many tasks during the day of the event. Consider earning community service hours, while at the same time learning more about Heart Disease, Diabetes and Obesity. Please contact [healthyheartday@rogers.com](mailto:healthyheartday@rogers.com) or 519-624-3511 to find out how you can help.
3. April, commonly known as Daffodil Month, is the month to fight back against cancer. It is also a time when thousands of volunteers across Ontario work together to raise funds for the Canadian Cancer Society by selling daffodil pins in their communities. Sign up to volunteer by using their online registration system at [www.mycsschedule.ca](http://www.mycsschedule.ca). You will be able to pick the shifts and locations that work for you and enter your contact information. All volunteers will be expected to attend an orientation session which can also count towards your community service hours.

## **2014 Catalyst Conference**

The University of Waterloo Catalyst Conference is open to female students in grade 11 who might be interested in pursuing engineering at the post-secondary level. It includes a series of hands-on workshops exploring several types of engineering, a design competition, as well as the opportunity to engage with current female students in a small group. For more information, visit [Catalyst@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:Catalyst@uwaterloo.ca).

## **Summer School**

At this point, summer school information for 2014 is not yet available, however it is anticipated that this information will be in the office by early May. All summer school programs are run by the Waterloo Region District School Board, but are available for our students to attend as well. Summer School traditionally offers two types of courses – make up courses for students who were unsuccessful in their first attempt of the course, as well as new credit courses. Both types of courses run for approximately 4 weeks, with make up courses being taught in either the morning or the afternoon and new credit courses being taught over the entire school day. Information regarding summer school will be shared via the BENN, announcements and twitter as soon as it becomes available.

## **Summer Cooperative Education**

There are still spots available for students who are interested in completing two cooperative education credits this summer. This is a great option for students who need to complete their SHSM requirements, but are having difficulty fitting coop into their schedule. Pre-placement work will begin in May and June on selected Saturdays in order to have students placed by the end of June. The program will be completed by July 31. Students must be 16 years of age by July 1 in order to participate in the summer coop program. Applications are due at the end of this week – anyone interested should see their guidance counsellor as soon as possible.

## **Reminders for Grade 12 Graduating Students!**

1. The Graduation ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, June 25 at Conestoga College. Registration information regarding the celebration of this milestone will be forwarded to you within the next couple of weeks.
2. Completion of your Community Service Hours (minimum of 40) is required if you are planning to attend the Graduation ceremony in June. All Grade 12 students who have not yet completed and handed in their hours are reminded to do so as soon as possible. This task needs to be completed by Friday, May 30.
3. Although many students who have applied to either college or university have started to receive admission offers, students need to be aware that many colleges and universities do not send out offers of admission until second semester mid-term marks have been processed. While it would be easier and far less stressful if all post-secondary institutions followed the same timelines with regard to admission offers, this is not the case. Students also need to be reminded that all offers of admission are conditional – meaning that the offer can be removed if graduation requirements are not completed by June. Pay close attention to all of the details contained in emails and correspondence from the various universities and colleges so that deadlines do not get missed.

### **Academics**

**Enriching the Lives of  
Students**

**Enrichment  
Opportunity**

By Mrs. D. Wittmann

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE: CHANTALE POMERLEAU



2011 Graduate and Valedictorian Chantale Pomerleau has written a song called "Speechless" that was inspired by her twin brothers' journey with autism, and it presents an overarching message of hope for dealing with challenges in life. It will be released on April 2nd for World Autism Awareness Day, and sold on bandcamp.com with all proceeds going towards Autism Canada.

It has been a collaborative journey with musician/songwriter Kenny Munshaw, who recently worked with The Tenors on a charity song for Big Brothers Big Sisters. Chantale felt very privileged to have been a part of the process and to see all that goes into recording a song – it's been a dream of hers!

Her Facebook music page:

[www.facebook.com/chantalepomerleaumusic](http://www.facebook.com/chantalepomerleaumusic)

## Ontario Science Centre Science School 2014/2015

The Ontario Science Centre Science School presents students with an opportunity to gain University preparation science and math credits during an enriched semester at the Ontario Science Centre.

**Description:** Students acquire a solid academic background in classes that are small and informal with experienced, enthusiastic and imaginative teachers. Students can take up to three courses while at the Science School.

**Where:** Science School labs are housed in the heart of the Science Centre.

**Cost:** No tuition fees required. The program is offered through the Toronto Catholic District School Board and students will be registered with the school while attending the Science School.

**Housing:** Students are responsible for arranging their own accommodation.

**How to apply:** Selection is based on the student's written application, academic record and recommendations from 2 teachers, one of whom must be a science or mathematics teacher. Final selection may be completed through an interview process. Up to 30 students from across Ontario are selected each semester.

**Deadline:** April 4, 2014

If you are interested, please visit [www.OntarioScienceCentre.ca/OSCschool](http://www.OntarioScienceCentre.ca/OSCschool) for details or see Ms. Trentini in room 208 if you have any questions.

## Visitors discuss vocations

By Mr. A. Milardovic

**Hayden Starczala, Fr. Toby Collins, and our chaplain Bob Rempel address our grade 12 religion classes.**

Today several of our religion classes got the opportunity to listen to Father Toby Collins, a member of the Congregation of the Resurrection. Father Toby was accompanied by Hayden Starczala, a former St. Benedict



student, who is currently studying to become a priest.

The topic of the discussion was vocations. There are several vocations that students can pursue, and the general call was not to dismiss any of them as possibilities. Traditionally, we consider Holy Orders—the priesthood or entering a convent—as vocations. But the call to marriage, the permanent diaconate, and even the single life are considered vocations.

We were treated to stories by Father Toby, Hayden, and even our chaplain Bob Rempel who talked about their calling, and how they are following their vocations.

Students were given an opportunity to discuss, watch some videos, and ask questions as they discern their way through life. Students who are looking for more information about any of the vocations can get more information on the website [vocationculture.ca](http://vocationculture.ca).

## Student Shows Skills

By Mrs. J. Cox

Robbi Radmore represented st Benedict at the skills Canada competition for hairstyling at resurrection c.s.s. on Monday, march 24. Although she did not place in the top third the judges were very impressed with her skills and talent level. We are very proud of Robbi and glad that she represented us so professionally!!! Well done!!!



## Athletics

### Swim season wraps up

By Miss S. SKINN

A big congratulations to the swim team that wrapped up a great season at CWOSSA. Our school team won District 8 finals and many of the relay teams and individuals qualified for CWOSSA. Swimmers that advanced to CWOSSA include: Cassidy Driscoll, Alexandra Kerry, Julia Lowe, Sarah Sue-Ping, Meagan Byrne, Mara Dodig, Dana Milani, Sarah Pelligrino, Amy Pinheiro, Connor Goliath, Noah Thomas, Callum Bremner, Tim Novak, Lance Farrugia, and Derek Porter.

At District 8 our team made Bennies proud with many students posting best times and signing up for some difficult events leading us to top points to win the D8 title. Special mention goes to our medal winning top division scores for Sarah Joseph in the open girls division, Connor Goliath for the junior boys division and Noah Thomas for the open boys division. At

CWOSSA the competition was intense and the Laurier Rec Complex was a very busy place. Top finishes go to Dana Milani for her fourth place finish in the 50 meter backstroke, Derek Porter for his eight place finish in the 50 meter breaststroke and to our junior girls (Cassidy Driscoll, Alex Kerry, Julia Lowe and Sarah Sue-Ping) relay that finished ninth out of a whopping 18 entries.

## **Congrats District 8 Swim Team Champs!**

Jr. Girls: Bridget Baird, Laura Bradbury, Cassidy Driscoll, Amy Figueiredo, Sarah Joseph, Alexandra Kerry, Julia Lowe, Elizabeth Ralph, Lupita Reyes, Sarah Sue-Ping.

Sr. Girls: Meagan Byrne, Mara Dodig, Stephanie Eaton, Helena Fleming, Kate Flemming, Dana Milani, Kylie Paradisi, Sarah Pellegrino, Amy Pinheiro, Nicole Power.

Jr. Boys: Andrew Ager, Kent Bremner, Will Flemming, Joshua Gancena, Connor Goliath, Carter Jones, Nick Le, Nicholas Leonardo, Matthew Lopacinski, Noah Thomas.

Sr. Boys: Callum Bremner, Alex Campbell, Lance Farrugia, Brian Ngo, Tim Novak, Derek Porter

Coaches: Julie Muscat and Sarah Skinn

## **Girls suffer defeat at York tournament**

### **Next challenge: Teachers**

By MRS. L. O'NEILL

The girl's hockey team competed in their last tournament of the season at York University on March 19th. The girls came up a bit short losing the first 2 games by a score of 2 - 0. Our goalies Ariel Cascanette and Emily Kovac played very well to keep the games close.

Our last game of the day had our team playing Leger out of Brampton. Thanks to goals from Alexandra Kerry and Hailey Hanson we pulled off a 2 - 1 win.

Up next: The girls are challenging the teachers to a game at the Ice Park on Thursday April 3 at 3:00pm. Please see Mrs. O'Neill if you cannot attend.

## **TRACK AND FIELD @ BENNIES**

Last chance to join!! Practices continue every day after school. Meet in the phys ed hallway for indoor/outdoor fitness.

**Sprint:** Tear up the track

**Run:** Go the distance

**Hurdle:** Get over it

**Relay:** Pass it on

**Long Jump:** Take a leap of faith

**Triple Jump:** It's triple the fun

**High Jump:** It's over the top

**Shot Put:** Take a weight off your shoulder

**Javelin:** Take a stab at it

## **D8 Jr Boys Bball All- star Game tonight**

By MR. J. MALNERICH

The District 8 Junior Boys Basketball All-star game kicks off at Resurrection High School on Wednesday at 6pm.

Congratulations to Zubair Seyed, Alex Douglas and Justin Malnerich on making this year's team and good luck in the game.

## **Rock Climbing**

By MISS M. NOVAKOVICH



Discus: We'll make you hurl

*Joining Track and Field may not make you any punnier, but you'll get plenty of exercise and make a lot of friends!*

Attention all rock climbers ... please meet in room 314 after school on Thursday for our first day of climbing! Looking forward to another great season of climbing!

## Do you want to try a triathlon?

Do you like swimming, biking and running? If so, the triathlon club will be having our first meeting this Friday, March 28th in room 320! Are you up for the challenge!?

### Clubs

## Something fresh...

BY MRS. R. CURRIE

This Thursday after school in the lecture hall, The Fresh Club presents a viewing of *Food Inc.*, a documentary on the food industry in North America. All are welcome! Some healthy snacks will be provided -- please bring more to share! -- And bring a friend, too!

Also, there will be a meeting for all members of the Fresh Club Thursday at lunch in computer lab 206. All are welcome to this event as well!

## Prepare for the Ultimate challenge!

BY MR. N. BETIK

The Ultimate Club will continue workouts as we prepare for the outdoor season. This week we have the early practice right after school on Wednesday and the late practice starting at 4:00 pm on Thursday.

We also continue our Wednesday lunch hour practices. This week we will be having the team yearbook photo taken so all team members and newcomers are asked to come down promptly at lunch.

The Ultimate Club is open to new members and we are particularly looking to add female players of all grades. Please see Mr. Dufresne, Mrs. Smukavich or Mr. Betik if you have questions.

## Get set for Glee!

BY MR. RENNER

Glee is restarting for semester 2 – all singers welcome! We will meet at lunch on Wednesdays in room 103. See Mr. Renner for details.

## Lights! Camera! Action!

BY MR. F. ADAMO

If you have an interest in creating cool Youtube videos, either in front of or behind the camera, come check out the Youtube Film Crew Club, Thursday at lunch in room 109. See you there!

## Working to Make a Difference

BY MRS. M . ROCHA

On Friday after announcements we will be having a missions collection to raise money to build a school in a developing country through Free the Children. Students can make their contribution in their period 1 class, or by bringing their donation to the chapel. The Making A Difference Club thanks you for your support!

### Student Activities

## "Spring it On" Bennies!

BY MS. A. WEILER

This is a call to all artists wanting to participate in one of our last 2 art battles of the year! "Spring it On" art battle participant entry forms are available outside in the door of room 204. Entries are due this Friday and we meet next week!

### Other News

*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 1 of a 2 part article*

It is hard to believe that it is already February of my exchange! The time has flown by so quickly, and I have difficulty wrapping my head around the fact that I don't have too much time left here. A lot happens so it is difficult to keep track of time. It feels like just yesterday I was writing my November report.

After the first few months of my exchange passed, I felt like I was actually living in Ecuador, rather than masquerading as a tourist. The language has become much easier as well. The English teacher gave all the exchange students in my school Spanish lessons which are a great help, especially since I did not take Spanish classes in Canada. Also, speaking the language every day and reading provides a drastic improvement. I purchased one of my favourite novels The Hunger Games in Spanish and I have been reading it every day. It is helpful knowing the story already and it expands my vocabulary when I stumble across words I don't know. Watching

television shows in Spanish, which I see in Canada, is really fun and if I get lost I just ask my siblings to explain it.

In my Rotary Club, we change families amongst the exchange students. In my entire exchange year, I live with only two host families. This permits strong family bonds to be formed, and minimizes disruptions. I recently changed families and the new household is very different from the first. My first family had one sister and one brother, and we lived on the upper floors of a complex in a gated community. My new family has two brothers, and the home is a large detached house with servants, and three guard dogs on the property. Packing and moving reminded me of when I moved into the first home, and I realize just how fast the time is going. I loved my previous family, but a new family provides a new experience. I am able to go to the same school which makes me really happy; however, the "summer" vacation here is in March and April, so I will only have school for a few more weeks. After that I plan on joining a team or taking a fun course to occupy my free time.

## Upcoming Events

### Wednesday, March 26

Spirit Day  
BENN Newsletter release

### Thursday, March 27

8:20am OSSLT Literacy Test Grade 10  
11:00am Fresh Club  
11:00am YouTube Film Crew Club  
2:00pm Jr Boys hockey vs Rez @ Camb Sports Park  
2:30pm Seams Sew Easy Club  
2:30pm Girls' Workout Club  
2:40pm Rock Climbing Club  
2:40pm Fresh Club  
7:00pm School Council Meeting

### Friday, March 28

2:30pm Doctor Who Video Club  
2:40pm Triathlon Club

### Monday, March 31

11:00am Guitar Club  
2:30pm Camera Club  
2:30pm Electric Car Club

### Wednesday, April 2

8:30am ECOO programming contest  
11:00am Art Club  
11:00am Glee  
11:00am Ultimate Club  
11:20am Eco Squad  
2:30pm Anime Club  
2:30pm Reach For the Top  
2:30pm Electric Car Club  
Spirit Day

### Thursday, April 3

8:20am Infection Control Training  
11:00am Fresh Club  
11:00am YouTube Film Crew Club  
2:30pm Seams Sew Easy Club  
2:30pm Girls' Workout Club

### Wednesday, April 9

8:20am Standard First Aid & CPR-A Training  
8:20am Introduction to Film Training  
11:00am Art Club  
11:00am Glee  
11:00am Ultimate Club  
11:20am Eco Squad  
2:30pm Anime Club  
2:30pm Reach For the Top  
2:30pm Electric Car Club  
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**

Friday, April 4  
2:30pm Doctor Who Video Club

Monday, April 7  
8:20am ABA Hair Show  
11:00am Guitar Club  
2:30pm Camera Club  
2:30pm Electric Car Club

Tuesday, April 8  
8:20am Standard First Aid & CPR-A Training  
8:20am Introduction to Film Training



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

## 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.

