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

Next Issue

August 27, 2014

Congatulations Class of 2014



It was with much pride that we watched our students parade across the stage Wednesday night to get their diplomas. As I told several parents, it was a bitter-sweet moment: Sweet that our students have grown and matured and will be moving on to bigger and better things, but also bitter because we will truly miss them.

Grads, do keep in touch. Stay safe, and take of yourselves. You can do anything—*anything* that you put your mind to. And wherever you go, whatever you do, always remember that you are a Saint.

With fond wishes for the greatest success, from all of us at St. Benedict's!

— Editor

Administrative



On Wednesday evening staff, students, parents and dignitaries gathered at the Athletics Complex at Conestoga College for our graduation ceremony.

RELATED STORY: [Did someone order pizza??](#)

Report card pickup

Monday, July 14 - Wednesday, July 16

8:00 - 3:00



Bidding a fond farewell

By MRS. G. LEUSINK

Time flies – literally! I have been a Vice-Principal at St. Benedict's for the past nine years and it is time for me to say good-bye. It is harder than you might think! I have a lot of history at St. Benedict's: I myself graduated from the old St. Benedict's in 1982 after spending four years in a different building on a different piece of land in what seems like a totally different time zone! The way that teachers teach and students learn as well as how they socially interact has changed drastically along with the job of Vice-Principal.

I wanted to affect the lives of more than just my students so I thought that I would be able to do that if I became a Vice-Principal but what I didn't realize was that my life would be affected as well. In this role, I teach less but I have learned more:

- more about parents and how it is not always easy to journey through the education system
- more about building relationship even if it's not always easy
- more about mental health and the importance of being well
- more about working as a team because in the classroom you are the "owner of your domain"

- more about the energy that staff bring to the classroom and how it inspires students and me
- more about students and what keeps them coming to school or what stops them from coming to school
- more about faith and hope
- more about myself and how I truly love my job – students energize me and force me to continue to look for ways to make that difference – they will remember the infamous 3by3 or 4by4 attendance contracts, the Leusink radar, the “picture on my door”, the team call downs and the knowledge that someone was watching to push them along their path.

LINK crew gave me the opportunity to support teachers and students on their leadership journey and support new students in their transition to high school.

Art Battles gave me the chance to show my creativity and participate in school events. Staff gave me the chance to learn about teaching today with projects such as the 21st century classroom...and so much more.

I have appreciated all of the relationships that I have built over the 9 years and I will miss each and every person that I have spoken to and worked with.

As Dr. Seuss says, “Don’t cry because it’s over, smile because it happened”.

Thank you! See you soon!

Memorial garden plaque unveiled

BY MR. J. CURTIS

On Friday, June 20th, our school community held a brief installation ceremony for the St. Benedict Memorial Garden at the front of the school. Along with prayers from our chaplain Bob and board trustee Peter Reitmeier, current students Eden Boyce and Agniese Sierchio, and Ron Martinello announced the names of those St. Benedict community members who have died too soon. Following that, Andrew Renner and Frank Adamo performed "Halleluiah" while random students selected from the crowd laid white roses on the memorial.



The memorial inscription reads as follows:

**St. Benedict C.S.S.
Memorial Garden
Dedicated to our former students, graduates, and staff
whose untimely deaths have inspired us
to live life to the fullest.**

The project was initiated by Student Council following the sudden deaths of two current students Kayla Baker and Victoria Northover, as well as recent graduate Oliver Konopacki this past year.

The granite stone installation is the first stage of the memorial garden, which will be completed in the 2014–15 school year with the addition of flowers, shrubs, and ornamental

furniture around the single tree in the circular greenspace in front of the school.

St. Benedict teachers win Barrday Award

BY MR. A. MILARDOVIC, WITH INFORMATION FROM THE BARRDAY WEBSITE

**The mediocre teacher tells.
The good teacher explains.
The superior teacher demonstrates.
The great teacher inspires.**

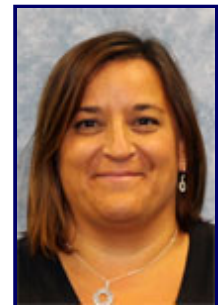
~ William Arthur Ward ~

Barrday, a Cambridge, Ontario headquarted business, is committed to learning. They believe that curiosity and the desire to learn are inspired at an early age in many places. In order to encourage and recognize learning and excellence in our schools, they salute ten inspirational teachers each year in the City of Cambridge, Ontario, with ten \$1,000 Teacher of Excellence awards.

They look for teachers who consistently demonstrate: excellence – motivating students to achieve their best; integrity – consistently thinking, saying and doing what is right; respect – treating each student as valuable and full of potential; and innovation – inspiring students to explore and make choices.

This year, two of our teachers were honoured: Mr. Nathaniel Dufresne and Miss Christine Stockie. They were recognized for their motivation and dedication to students, and for the integrity they exemplify inside the classroom and out.

These two inspirational teachers join the ranks of other Benny's teachers who have been honoured by Barrday in the past. Congratulations to both of you!



Parents sought for Board Committee

BY WCDSB NEWSWIRE

The Ministry of Education is committed to promoting and increasing parent involvement. One initiative is that each school board will support a Board-Level Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, which will be chaired by a parent and the membership will include a majority of parents.

The committee is responsible for seeking the advice and ideas of Catholic school councils, other parents and partners as they plan and implement strategies to involve more parents at the regional level.

The CPIC parent term of office is two years, and we are currently seeking parent replacements for:

- Elementary School – Monsignor Doyle Family of Schools
- Elementary School – St. Benedict Family of Schools
- Elementary School – St. David Family of Schools
- Secondary School – Cambridge

Parent representatives must have a child in the school system. Ideally the parent should be on Catholic School Council. The parent of an elementary student transferring from elementary to secondary may apply to represent that panel. The Parent representatives on the Catholic Parent Involvement Committee will select representatives to the CPIC from those qualified parents who have submitted an application form. [Click here to download the application form.](#)

Applications are accepted up to September 26, 2014. Questions can be directed to [Mr. Derek Haime, Superintendent.](#)

September is looking even more AMAZING!

Have we got news for you! Sure, September is the end of summer vacation but we are coming back with a bang! In September Benny's is entering the *AVIVA Community Fund* Canada wide competition to win project funding to enhance our school! We have a \$150,000.00 winning idea that we know our community is going to love.

We want to enhance our sports field by adding a multipurpose score board, grandstands, a 150m stone dust fitness trail to connect to the track and some workout stations with green space rest areas that will look amazing.

All we need is you: Benny's past and present students and families to help get the message out to our community. We are looking for motivated students to work with our teams; IT & website (Mr. Milardovic), community (Mr. Wittmann & Mrs. Klassen), art and publications (Mr. Dufresne) and media (Miss Stockie) or talk to Mrs. Reis, one of our motivated project leads.

There are great creative leadership opportunities for students to work with staff promoting the project to the media, businesses, churches, our feeder schools and community leaders.

What does it take to win? It takes votes and community support to make it to the final judges round. Visit the [Aviva Community Fund](#) website and register to vote from each of your accounts. We need votes from all your email, face book and twitter accounts each day of voting to make it to the final round in December. There will also be legacy opportunities for families, friends and our community to help enhance the green space and fitness trail to beautify our school.

We know we have a winning idea and we are looking for you to be a part of it too!

What does it take to win? It takes votes and community support ... Visit the Aviva Community Fund website and register to vote from each of your accounts.



News from the Guidance Department

By MRS. P. KLASSEN

Still Interested in Attending College or University in September?

1. The Admission Information Service (AIS) will be available through OUAC (Ontario University Application Center) from early June to August for applicants who have not been accepted to programs of their choice or for students who still wish to apply to university for September.

All known openings in all university programs will be posted by the AIS at www.ouac.on.ca/ais/

2. Students who did not apply to college are still welcome to apply on-line for September 2014 to any program that is still accepting applications. See www.ontariocolleges.ca for more information.

Do you have a son or daughter entering Grade 9 in September?

If the answer to this question is “yes,” the following information might be of interest to you:

1. Summer Skill Builder – The WCDSB offers a Summer Skills Builder program for students currently in Grades 7 or 8. This FREE program runs for 10 mornings and offers support in math, reading, writing and study skills. The program is geared towards helping students prepare for the next level of study. The program will run from July 7 – July 18 (Monday to Friday) at St. Benedict CSS and St. David CSS. Contact your current elementary school or St. Louis, 519-745-1201, stlouis@wcdsb.ca for more information.
2. HeadStart – HeadStart is a FREE 4-day program for current Grade 8 students who are entering SBCSS in September. The program will be run by certified teachers and will focus on study skills, managing timetables, school orientation and other keys to success. This is a great opportunity for students to meet school and student leaders and get support for the transition to high school. The program will run August 21, 22, 25 and 26 from 9:00 AM to 12 Noon. Contact your current elementary school or St. Louis, 519-745-1201, stlouis@wcdsb.ca for more details.
3. Consider starting, or completing your 40 hours of required community service this summer prior to starting Grade 9 in September. Beginning July 1, 2014, any community service completed can be counted toward this high school diploma requirement.

Course Choices for Next Year

Returning students who are considering a course change for next year, are encouraged to make an appointment to see their guidance counsellor during the month of June. Attempting to make changes now, will undoubtedly be easier than trying to do so in September.

Community Service Opportunities

Several new volunteer opportunities have been made available in the recent weeks. Students seeking ways to complete their community service hours, should consider the following:

1. The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) is seeking the assistance of student volunteers for their annual walk. Volunteers are needed for both the Kitchener and the Cambridge walks. Volunteer jobs would include helping to set up, take down, face painting and running children's activities. Contact Margot directly at mfitzpatrick@jdrf.ca if you are interested in volunteering.
2. Your active participation in any fundraising event can count towards your community service hours. This would include participation in events such as the Juvenile Diabetes Walk, Run for the Cure, or any other type of walk, run, or bike that is raising money for a charitable organization.

3. The City of Cambridge is always looking for volunteers to assist with the many activities that they run during the summer months – the Cambridge Arts Festival, the Forbes Park Music Festival, the Cambridge Highland Games and Rock the Mill are only a few events which require lots of help. See the City of Cambridge web site for more information on how you can be involved.
4. The Waterloo Regional Police Association is seeking your help in organizing “Family Nights,” These evenings will be every Thursday and will run from 5:00 to 9:00 PM. Volunteers are needed to create a fun filled interactive evening with children of police officers who will there attending meetings. You will be placed on a rotating schedule and can be signed up individually or in a small group. Volunteers are asked to make a 6 month commitment to the program. Contact Krista Brown at 519-622-0771 or kbrown@wrpa.org if you are interested.
5. The Rotary Club of Cambridge is seeking 400 volunteers to help with the first every Ribfest to be held in Cambridge this summer. Contact volunteer@cambridgeribfest.com or visit the website at www.cambridgeribfest.com for more details.

Academics

The Record students of the year

BY MS. L. VARRIANO LANE

Every year [*The Record*](#) publishes profiles of two top students from each of the area's high schools. This year's students of the year for St. Benedict were *Dru Gheorge* and *Brooke Wanklin*.



Alexandru (Dru) Gheorghe, 18

The Hugh O'Brien Youth (HOBY) Leadership Conference was the springboard for Dru's exceptional leadership achievements. He is a friend to, and voice for, all. He founded the Accepting Differences Club which addresses mental health, body image, and LGBTQ issues; is on Student Activities Council, reads morning



Brooke Wanklin, 18

Brooke lives our motto “A Celebration of People” as she exudes warmth and welcomes all. She is an exceptional Link Crew leader, and she volunteers at summer camps for children with Autism.

Brooke's athletic involvement includes basketball, badminton, golf and ultimate frisbee; scorekeeping for basketball and volleyball; coaching summer youth

announcements, and is the provincial Student Trustee and member of the Minister's Student Advisory Council (MSAC). Dru went to St. Michael's School, attends St. Clement's Parish, volunteers at Cambridge Gleaners, and was selected for a Dominican Republic Social Justice Encounter. Dru's success will undoubtedly continue at York University's Schulich School of Business this fall.

Parents: Gabriela and Mihai Gheorghe, Cambridge

basketball and volunteering with The Saints Invitational Basketball Tournament.

Brooke brings a strong faith base from Blessed Mother Teresa School and St. Clement's Parish, helps lead Grade Ten Religion Retreats, administers ashes on Ash Wednesdays, has donated twice to Locks of Love, and attended a Dominican Republic Social Justice Encounter.

Parents: Tammy Wanklin, Cambridge and Gary Wanklin, Cambridge

Department of MATHletics - The Year in Review

By Miss C. Stockie

This has been a banner year for Mathematics competitions here at St. Benedict!

After securing 2 consecutive WCDSB Math Olympics titles, St. Benedict missed out on the trifecta by a single point. It was a hard loss, but the remaining team members (and coaches) look forward to an attempt at vindication at the 2015 event!

George Yu can celebrate not only his high school graduation, but ALSO earning the School Champion medal for the University of Waterloo's Grade 12 Euclid Math Contest. In addition, George received a Certificate of Distinction for finishing in the top 25% of all contestants from across North America.

The University of Waterloo Contests also cater to Grade 9-11 students. This year, the St. Benedict Grade 9 School Champion is Samuel Pugliese, who joins Adrian Logo and Mitchell Whyte as the three grade 9's who finished in the top 25% of all contestants. The Grade 10 Cayley Contest saw Brendan Shuttleworth earning top spot at the school. Brendan and Samaa Kabbar both received Certificates of Distinction, finishing in the top 25%. Grade 11 student Angel Zeng is the Grade 11 St. Benedict Champ, and joins Dominic Monteiro, Madison Kerr, Aiden Lee, and Ryan Sun – all of whom were top 25% finishers in North America!

The University of Waterloo hosts "by-invitation-only Elite contests", and the following students received recognition as top 25% finishers: Razmig Garboushian (Grade 9 Fryer contest), Cameron Hall (School Champion), Kyle Gojmerac and Rajiv Chattopadhyay (Grade 10 Galois contest), and Keke Tan (School Champion – Grade 11 Hypatia contest).

The Canadian Senior Mathematics Contest winner from St. Benedict is Aaron Silver – a grade 11 student who competed against both grade 11 and 12 students. Our Canadian Intermediate Math Contest awards of honour go to Matthew Sibley (grade 10 – School Champ) and Mitchell Whyte (Grade 9) – both of these students beat out a broad slate of grade 9 and 10 students to get top honours.

Finally, the on-line Math @ MAC contest winners from St. Benedict were Dominic Monteiro & Alex Wong (First place), Fan Zhao (Second place), and Matthew Sibley (3rd place).

Congratulations to all of our Mathletes! We had more competitors participating in these extra-curricular contests than ever before at this school. We anxiously look forward to next year

and even more Math events.

Athletics

Keep running during the summer!

By MR. F. WITTMANN

Consider this to be your special invitation to join our cross-country team of 2014 where the goals have always been: 1. Fun; 2. Fitness; 3. Participation; 4. School spirit; 5. Preparation for winter sports.

If you are interested, please stay in shape over the summer. Here are some suggestions:

- Go for a jog/run at least 4 times per week. Record your minutes below and submit September 4. Start with 20 minutes and try to build up to 45 minutes.
- Attend any of Bennie's annual "camp" practices sponsored by www.runforlife.ca.
TUESDAYS (St. Benedict Track) starting August 19th, 10:00 – 11:10 a.m.
THURSDAYS (Hespeler Arena) starting August 21st, 10:00 – 11:10 a.m.
(Bring a bottle of water and the enclosed runforlife waiver form signed by parent)
- Play other sports.
- Invite a friend to join our team (and run with them over the summer)

All are welcome regardless of ability. Should you have any questions please contact me at frank.wittmann@wcdsb.ca.

Happy running!

Clubs

Student Activities

COMING OCTOBER 2014 to St. BENEDICT'S!



A modern-day version of the gospels!

**Join John the Baptist and a group of youth
as they follow and learn from Jesus.**

**With catchy songs, energetic dancing and inspiring moments,
Godspell is a musical that you don't want to miss!**

Other News

Community Supports

BY MS. S. AYERST

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 conflict or 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)

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. They also have a walk-in counselling clinic on Thursday's from 1–7:30 pm. They are located at 18 Walnut Street in Galt.

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 Here 24/7 at 1(844) 437-3247.

Upcoming Events

Friday, June 27
BENN Newsletter release

Monday, June 30
Board Holiday

Tuesday, July 1
CANADA DAY

Monday, July 14
Report card pickup

Tuesday, July 15
Report card pickup

Wednesday, July 16
Report card pickup

Monday, August 4
Civic Holiday

Tuesday, August 26
9:00am LINK crew training
1:00pm Used uniform sale

Wednesday, August 27
8:30am Grade 9 Student Registration
BENN Newsletter Release

Thursday, August 28
9:00am Grade 10-12 Student Registration

Tuesday, September 2
8:05am First day of school (uniforms not required)

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!)

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.

