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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

December 10, 2014

It's almost AVIVA TIME Again!

Next Monday marks the start of the semi-final round of the Aviva Community Fund competition, and the excitement is starting to build! Get ready to start voting next Monday, and for ten days through to December 10th.

Our first place overall finish in round 1—overall as in nationwide—is testimony to the good that can happen when a community comes together united under a common cause. So get ready to vote, and encourage others to join us!

Let us know if you can promote the campaign at your workplace. Thank you!!

– Editor

Benny's in the Local Media

CAMBRIDGE TIMES: [AVIVA voting starts Dec. 1 for local projects](#)

CAMBRIDGE TIMES: [All tied up at Monsignor Doyle CSS](#)

Administrative

The Elephant in the Room Campaign at the Waterloo Catholic District School Board

By WCDSB NEWswire SERVICE

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board has partnered with the Mood Disorders Society of Canada to bring the Elephant in the Room Campaign to our school communities. The campaign is in place to reduce stigma regarding mental health concerns by creating safe, supportive school environments and thus ensuring



that students, families, and staff know that they can come forward and not be judged.

We are committed to the campaign and will continue to work on embedding anti-stigma into our board culture. For further information you can visit the Mood Disorders Society of Canada's website. <http://www.mooddisorderscanada.ca/page/anti-stigma>

We Day

By MADDIE FRAMPTON

We Day is a day of inspiration, a day of information and a day of education. Schools from around the nation come to be part of the We community. With many amazing speakers, performers, cheers and dances students and educators leave feeling empowered.

I was lucky enough to be a crowd pumper at We Day this year, and my job was to keep the crowd pumped up. As schools started to trickle in, the many volunteers in the auditorium began to motivate them for the day. After cheering and dancing for what felt like hours the show started.

I could tell who had been to We Day before, and who hadn't. The newcomer's eyes shined with excitement as they saw the We Day stage for the first time while the others nodded at them knowingly. That excitement carried throughout the entire stadium, lighting it up.

Many schools were mentioned for accomplishing phenomenal things as a community. St. Benedicts was one of these schools, but something special happened when they spoke about Bennies. One of our Saints was mentioned! Hannah Tremblett was mentioned by a We Day speaker for taking initiative and starting the Because I Am a Girl club at St. Benedicts!

The crowd was amazing, and the crowd pumpers were too! They volunteered more of their time staying behind after We Day was over and helping clean up. It is outstanding to see this number of people coming together for something they believe in. It not only empowers the audience but also empowers those who need help, to continue to work hard, and move forward however they can. I believe that We Day makes a great difference in the way people think about their abilities. One candle can light a room. One person can make a difference.

Meeting Marc Kielburger



The evening before the *We Day*, St. Benedict's MAD Club was invited to a private meet and greet with Marc Kielburger—you can only imagine how excited our students were to meet him!



We're ramping up!

By MR. A. MILARDOVIC

We are less than a week away from the start of the semi-final round of voting! Register all your email accounts, get your family and friends to register, and come Monday get ready to start voting for the ♥ Heart of the Community ♥!



An artist's rendering of the gravel path with exercise stations.
Benches and landscaping would also be added to enhance the use of the area.



How the field would look with an added scoreboard.

**Check out Mrs. Reis and Mr. Wittmann on Daytime
TV on Rogers**

Aviva Daytime TV October



[More Aviva Community Fund project videos on our YouTube channel](#)

Follow us on @StBenedictAviva

[Visit our Aviva project page](#)

News from the Guidance Department

By MR. M. AMBEAU

PIN Numbers for University Application Have Arrived

The personal PIN numbers that are necessary for students to apply to university through the OUAC (Ontario University Application Centre) site have arrived and are available for pick-up in the guidance office. PIN numbers are not required for college applications; however students applying to college will have to set up an account in order to apply through the OCAS (Ontario College Application Services) Site. University applications are due on January, 14, 2015, and college applications are due on February 1, 2015. All students planning to apply to college or university are strongly encouraged to submit their applications well before the deadline date.

Registration and Transition Information for In-Coming Grade 8s

Early in 2015, St. Benedict will formally begin the transition process for in-coming grade 8 students. Each of our feeder schools will take part in a full day visit to our school following the Christmas Break and our Grade 8 Parent Night will take place on Thursday, January 15, 2015 from 6:30 to 8:30. Please pass this information on to any neighbours who may be considering St. Benedict for the 2015 – 2016 school year. All students and parents, from all school systems are welcome to attend this event which will highlight all that our great school has to offer.

Community Service Hours

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

1. Fiddlesticks Community Centre is looking for Grade 12 students to come and help flood our community ice rink. The rink is located at Can-Amara Park and we do all the training. If interested please contact Lori Da Cunha at 519-621-4040 ext. 222 or email volunteer.services@on.aibn.com.
2. If you are looking for ways to complete your Community Service Hours, the Christmas Season provides some ways for you to be involved. The Salvation Army is seeking volunteers from now until Christmas to help with their 2014 Red Kettle Campaign which takes place at different locations throughout the Cambridge community. Hours are very flexible and can be adapted to suit your schedule. They are looking for volunteers Monday to Saturday Nov 24 to Dec 24. Contact information for this opportunity is available in the guidance office from Mrs. O'Connor or email Harvey_canning@rogers.com

What's Co-Op?

Interested in finding out more about the co-operative education program?

Drop in to the atrium during lunch on Tuesday Dec 9 and check out the co-op career fair.

You can talk to current co-op students about their placements and ask co-op teachers questions too!

Hope to see you there!

Academics

Enriching the Lives of Students

BY MRS. D. WITTMANN

Visit the Enrichment blog for interesting articles, enrichment Links, school achievements, and enrichment course information: Enrichment@St.Benedict.blog.



COMM Corner

BY MRS. D. WITTMANN

Visit the English blog for information regarding our English programs, Literacy, interesting articles, and English links: English@St.Benedict.blog.

Writing Contests for the 2014–2015 school year are being posted. Visit the blog weekly to see what new contests are being added!

Stock Market Competition

BY MR. F. WITTMANN

Students in the Economics Class have completed the Nipissing University Stock Market Competition. In just 6 weeks, 7 students increased their portfolio value by 5% or more.

Congratulations

Matthew Labuda 5%

Madison Kerr 5%

Alexandria Fischer 6%

Matthew Horscroft 6%

Rifaat El Bacha 7%

...and this year's class winner with 10%.... Phylcia Woodworth!



We are more the Same than we are Different

By MRS. S. BEYERLE

Beautiful connections can happen when we appreciate what we have in common.

It's also nice to celebrate the unique likes, dislikes, abilities and interests that make each of us different.

To celebrate Positive School Culture Week, Mrs. Beyerle's Life Skills class created a visual display with the message, "We are more the same than we are different". Each student decorated a brightly coloured, sparkling fish and painted a sea-scape backdrop. There are common elements among the fish and backdrops, and many individual design variations too. We hoped to inspire passers-by to show kindness to others.

CHRISTMAS SALE

By MR. B. BRIERE

Students in the ACTIVE and Community Living program are now taking orders for their Christmas Sale. Students of the program benefit by developing skills necessary to for employment, managing a budget, teamwork and personal work habits. Parents, students, school staff are all welcome to place orders. Check out the different Christmas items on the website starting on Monday.

Current Projects

Christmas Sale – Please place your orders by December 8, 2014

Used Uniform Sales – Please contact [Mr. Briere](#)

Recycle shop – Recycled used items

Services provided – Services our class provide

Items Wanted – Items we are looking for

Watch for their section to be added to the school website soon!



Students Spark Initiative Peer Mentorship Training Program

By MRS. W. SCHUSTER, YCW

Peer mentorship provides students with an opportunity to work and support others students within our inclusive educational setting. A trained peer mentor encourages positive social interactions and social relationships with other students. Peer mentors are friends, roles models and guides.

Maddison Braga and Anne Marie Taborek are two students representative on this year's SAC team. It was their vision and energy that fueled this initiative. They did the research, connected with

administration and the special education department to make sure that their vision became a reality.

Currently we have seven students who have made the commitment to the training program. As Maddy and Anne Marie have said, "It's a great start, but it's just the beginning!"

A special thank-you to Mr. Witt, Mr. Curtis and Ms. McLaughlin for their support toward this initiative.

Athletics

Swim team update

By Ms. S. SKINN

Our swim team was off to the races on Friday, November 21, and with lots of newcomers this is a promising team! For our team of 30 students overall we came in 2nd place just behind St. Mary's with our boys overall placing first. Big point earners from the meet include: Teresa Pick, Sarah Joseph and Lupita Reyes in the girls division, and Kyson Vi, Noah Thomas and Curtis Floras in the boys division.

The end of the meet was by far the most exciting with our freestyle relays. Our junior girls relay (Julia Lowe, Elizabeth Ralph, Sarah Oei, and Alexandra Kerry) came in second after a tough-fought battle and showed some great teamwork. Congratulations to our junior boys who managed to take first place with their relay (Nick Leonardo, and new swim team members Tyler Bracken, Michael Paulic and Stephen Taborek).

Coaches Sean Lehan, Sue Sawchuk and Sarah Skinn are looking forward to our next meet on Wednesday, November 26 starting at 1, wish us luck!

Saints football enjoys a tremendous season

By Mr. J. VALE

The Saints Senior Football team enjoyed its most successful season in team history this past fall. The team put together an impressive 5-1 record in the "A" division of WCSSAA and clinched top seed. After beating WCI in the quarterfinals, the Saints steam rolled past the Sir John A. MacDonald Highlanders in the semi-final. This led to an all Cambridge final matching up the Saints against the Jacob Hespeler Hawks. After a close back and forth game, the Saints fell short losing 28-7.

However, the season did not end there! As a result of being a WCSSAA Finalist, the Saints advanced to a CWOSSAA playdown against powerhouse Assumption Secondary School from Brantford. On a bitterly cold night, the Saints dropped a 26-2 decision, thus ending their season.

Coaches Lowes and Vale would like to give a special thanks to all of the Senior players who have played their last game for the blue and gold. Until next season.....GO SAINTS GO!

Junior Boys Soccer Season Wrap Up

By Mr. N. DUFRESNE

The junior boys soccer team had a great fall season finishing in fourth place after league play making the playoffs for the first time in two seasons. The strong leadership displayed by Cyle Costa and Keith Porter helped foster a very cohesive and competitive team while the strong hard nosed defensive play by Umberto Piraino kept us in many games. The relentless effort in the midfield by Josh Fernandes and Anton Gale also made us a very exciting team to watch. Congratulations to all the players on the team for their strong effort and team play all season long.

D8 Senior Girls' All-Stars: Salaad Named MVP

League sources have confirmed that St. Benedict's Afifa Salaad has been named MVP of the District 8 Senior Girls' Basketball League.

Salaad, a grade eleven point guard for the Saints, was one of the Saints' top scorers in most league games but was equally as impressive with her passing and assist totals.

She will be joined on the first-team by teammate Kayla Leusink, who is a first-team D8 Senior All-Star for the second consecutive season.

The D8 runner-up Resurrection Phoenix also have two members on the first team. Grade 12 G/F Celia McGlynn, and Grade 11 G Rachel Engel are on the squad, alongside Grade 11 F Megan Goar from St. David.

Two other St. Benedict Saints were named as second team all-stars --- guards Julia Mascarenhas and Brighton Ching. Guard Bobbi-Sue Hentges (St. David), Centre Kelsey Caza (Resurrection) and guard Kirsten Hofstee (Woodland) round out the second team selections.

The D8 senior all-stars will be playing the D10 all-stars tonight at Resurrection, at 8pm. Admission is free.

Bennie's runners continue longstanding Jingle Run tradition

BY MR. F. WITTMANN

Members of Bennie's running community performed very well at the annual Jingle Bell Run held at the "Y", Sunday, November 23. Alumni Marcus Noble and Colton Dorion placed 2nd and 4th overall. Curtis Floras, Greg Danayan, and Ms Stang all received medals in their age class. In addition, the Bennie's Boys team of Adam Indycki, Josh Van de Vegte, Aaron Silver, and Mr. Wittmann won the team division.

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 [following this link](#).

Clubs

International Food Lunchtime Experience at St. Benedict

BY MS. M. REDFEARN

Last Friday, November 21st, the United Cultures Club hosted an international food luncheon to close off positive cultures week in a delicious way! Many students and teachers came out at lunch to try foods from all over the globe.

We provided dishes from Europe, including perogies, stuffed peppers, and pasta; dishes from the Caribbean, including a mouth-watering curry; dishes from China, including fried rice, chicken, dumplings; dishes from Korea, including kimbap (seaweed and rice rolls), and so much more! We also offered an assortment of delicious desserts from all over the world. Our greatest hit seemed to be the Filipino leche flan made by our own AJ Bajaro, Annika Medina, and Zab Medina. Great job ladies!

All the proceeds we received during this event will be donated to both a local and global charity. The club is also planning to donate to the St. Benedict's Christmas Basket Program.

Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate positive cultures week with us over some fantastic food! Sharing food is such an effective way to celebrate our unique cultures and backgrounds. We look forward to putting on another international food lunch next semester. Ciao for now!

United Cultures Club to have guest speaker

Ms. M. REDFEARN

The United Cultures Club will be meeting on Friday (tomorrow) in room 322. There will be a guest speaker from Mom2Mom Africa here to talk about their non-for-profit organization and what we can do to support Tanzanian students on their journey for quality education, so that they can begin to lift their families and villages out of poverty. Everyone is welcome!



DECA is alive and well at Bennies

By Mr. F. WITTMANN

At the Regional Competition held November 15, six members of the team achieved a top ten finish in a written or oral event: Zachary Amaral, Lauren MacCallum, Mallory Thompson, Aaron Silver, Kyson Vi, and Rafael Wiska.

Zach, Mallory, Aaron, and Kyson, will be joined by 15 additional competitors who have qualified for the provincial competition to be held in February in Toronto. Congratulations are in order for: Nadine Bilodeau, Devaughn Channer, Nikki Davidson, Razmig Garboushian, Sevanne Ghazarian, Kyle Gojmerac, Adam Hyde, Alexandra Kerry, Matthew Laws, Adrian Logo, Alexa Senior, Joshua Van de Vegte, Tyler Veilleux, Jerome Villapando, and Phylicia Woodworth.

Outers Club in Algonquin

By Miss M. NOVAKOVICH

The outers club had another fantastic trip this fall to Algonquin provincial park! The weather was gorgeous, the stars were super bright, and the fall colours were spectacular.



We are now looking forward to our next trip which will be a winter trip to Duntroon highlands. We will be staying in an old farmhouse, and will have the opportunity to explore the area while trying out skate skiing (cross-country style). If you are interested in learning more, or participating in this snowy adventure, please come to our next meeting!

Next meeting: Thursday, Dec. 4 in room 319 at the beginning of lunch!

Also, if you are interesting in outers club spirit wear, please see Ms. Novakovich ASAP!

Looking forward to our next adventure!

Winter running club

BY MR. F. WITTMANN

A Winter Running club will start Thursdays after school, starting December 4th. See Mr. Wittmann for information.

Student Activities

The Arts

BLUES IN THE SCHOOLS – Guest Performer Rev. Robert Jones, Sr.

BY MRS. J. RODRIGUES

On Wednesday, November 26th, Rev. Robert Jones was a guest blues artist who inspired and entertained the music students at St. Benedict. He is a roots and blues musician who plays often at universities and colleges when not preaching at the Sweet Kingdom Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan. His message was clear. “When you just listen to music and don’t ask where it comes from, you are merely a consumer. When you ask where it came from, you become a student and that’s way cooler!”

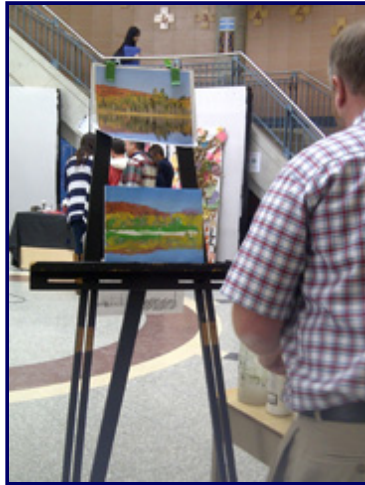


Blues in the Schools is presented by The Engineering Firm – C3 Group, and with the generous support of The Grand River Blues Society. The program aims to deliver educational experiences for young students (K–12) that will teach the heritage of the blues – the foundational musical form of rock and roll, jazz, rhythm & blues and contemporary popular music. This musical education has been brought to hundreds of students throughout the region. The program is based on an interactive experience with professional blues music educators.

The program links directly to Canadian history in the movement of the art form through African slave culture brought to Canada via the underground railway.

The Arts in Pictures

Art Battle!



Photos by Sara Sheikh

Other News



St. Mary of the Visitation Presents...

The Way to Bethlehem
An Evening of Seasonal Song

**Sunday, December 14, 2014 -
7:00p.m.**

Music is the canvas. Family is the art.
This family of 10 children range in age from 4 to 21 years.

They sing, they dance,
they play fiddles, keyboard, guitars and ukulele.

This will be a great evening of family entertainment.

Join us for an evening of Seasonal Music
by the Black Family of Markdale

Tickets are: Adults \$15, Children \$5 or Family \$40.

Great Way to Spend an Evening with your Family !

Tickets are available at the Welcome Desk after each Mass, in person at
the Parish Office (*no phone reservations*) or via our website –

www.stmaryhespeler.ca

- get your tickets early for this fun-filled, family event!

No tickets at the door and limited numbers are available due to Seating

St Mary of the Visitation Parish
16 Cooper Street, (Hespeler) Cambridge, Ontario
www.stmaryhespeler.ca

Advent 2014

Advent is a season of joyful expectation. It's four Sundays highlight our desire and longing for peace, justice and unity. The first part of Advent looks forward to the *parousia*, the Lord's glorious return at the end of time and reflects on his presence among us today. The second part is a direct preparation for Christmas—the yearly commemoration of Jesus' coming among us in human flesh.

Come and Journey with
St. Patrick's Parish
(53 Wellington St., Cambridge)
this Advent Season

Resources for Advent:

During the season of Advent, copies of Advent reflection booklets and Advent calendars are available, at no charge, in the narthex of the church.

Advent Giving Tree:

As we prepare for the coming of the Saviour, we remember those who struggle, just to make ends meet. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul invites parishioners to take a gift tag from the Giving Tree set up in the church. Monetary gifts are also most welcome and may be placed in the basket at any of the weekend masses during Advent.

Advent Reconciliation: Wednesday, Dec. 10th

The Sundays in Advent: Each Sunday we gather as usual to listen to the Word of God and to be nourished by sharing in the Eucharist.

OUR WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday

Mass at 5:00 pm

Sunday

(Ordinariate Use) Low Mass at 8 am

9:00 am and 11:00 am (all parishioners)



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Fiddlesticks Community Centre is looking for Grade 12 students to come and help flood our community ice rink. The rink is located at Can-Amara Park and we do all the training. If interested please contact Lori Da Cunha at 519-621-4040 ext. 222 or email volunteer.services@on.aibn.com.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, November 26

2:15pm Fitness Club
2:15pm Camera club
2:25pm Yearbook Club
7:00pm Coffee House
BENN Newsletter release
OSSLT Field Test

Thursday, November 27

Tuesday, December 9

8:00am Standard First Aid & CPR-A
9:00am Reconciliation
10:45am Arts Council meeting
10:45am Seams Sew Easy
10:45am DECA Business Club
2:15pm Fitness Club
AVIVA Voting day

Wednesday, December 10

8:00am Business Zoom Career Day
10:45am Lost Club
10:45am Puzzles club
10:45am Making a Difference Club
10:45am Accepting Differences club
2:10pm Games Club
2:15pm Seams Sew Easy
2:15pm Girls Workout Club
2:15pm Math Club
2:20pm Jazz Band
2:30pm Rock Climbing
7:00pm School Council

Friday, November 28

10:45am Star Trek Club
10:45am Programmers club
10:45am United Cultures
10:45am Fresh Club
2:15pm Doctor Who Video Club
"Kindness Matters" Mass

Sunday, November 30

First Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 1

10:45am Benny's Press Team meeting
10:45am Because I Am Girl
10:45am Accepting Differences club
2:15pm Fitness Club
2:20pm Concert Band
AVIVA Voting day

Tuesday, December 2

10:45am Arts Council meeting
10:45am Seams Sew Easy
10:45am DECA Business Club
2:15pm Fitness Club
AVIVA Voting day

Wednesday, December 3

10:45am Lost Club
10:45am Millionaires club
10:45am MC Crew
10:45am Accepting Differences club
2:15pm Fitness Club
2:15pm Camera club
2:25pm Yearbook Club
Gr.8 Arts and Tech Day
AVIVA Voting day

Thursday, December 4

8:00am Emergency Response/Incident Management
10:45am Lost Club
10:45am Puzzles club
10:45am Making a Difference Club
10:45am Accepting Differences club
2:10pm Games Club
2:15pm Seams Sew Easy
2:15pm Girls Workout Club
2:15pm Math Club
2:20pm Jazz Band
2:30pm Rock Climbing
AVIVA Voting day

Friday, December 5

10:45am Star Trek Club
10:45am Programmers club
10:45am United Cultures
10:45am Fresh Club

8:00am Zoom Challenge Day
10:45am Lost Club
10:45am Millionaires club
10:45am MC Crew
10:45am Accepting Differences club
2:15pm Fitness Club
2:15pm Camera club
2:25pm Yearbook Club
BENN Newsletter release
AVIVA Voting day

Thursday, December 11

8:00am Standard First Aid & CPR-A
10:45am Lost Club
10:45am Puzzles club
10:45am Making a Difference Club
10:45am Accepting Differences club
2:10pm Games Club
2:15pm Seams Sew Easy
2:15pm Girls Workout Club
2:15pm Math Club
2:20pm Jazz Band
2:30pm Rock Climbing

Friday, December 12

10:45am Star Trek Club
10:45am Programmers club
10:45am United Cultures
10:45am Fresh Club
2:15pm Doctor Who Video Club
Advent/Christmas Baskets Faith Assembly

Did you know?

There are over 1,100 entries on our school calendar on the website!

This means plenty of opportunities for your son or daughter to get involved!

Check the calendar on our 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

2:15pm Doctor Who Video Club
AVIVA Voting day

Saturday, December 6
AVIVA Voting day

Sunday, December 7
Second Sunday of Advent
AVIVA Voting day

Monday, December 8
10:45am Benny's Press Team meeting
10:45am Because I Am Girl
10:45am Accepting Differences club
2:15pm Fitness Club
2:20pm Concert Band
AVIVA Voting day



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.

