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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](#)

[Ms. Maureen Gill](#)

[Ms. Laura Varriano Lane](#)

Next Issue

December 17, 2014

So here's the thing...

As we put today's issue of the BENN together, we are trying to figure out whether or not we should put out another issue next week, to wrap up 2014. In the athletics there are still games to be played, different classes and groups in the school are wrapping up Christmas projects, there will probably be some sort of Aviva wrap up.... there is always something happening at Bennie's—never a dull moment!!

So, we will save our Christmas greetings for next Wednesday, and in the meantime, we invite you to grab a warm cup of the beverage of your choice, and enjoy this new issue of the BENN newsletter.

Thank you to all of you who have provided us with feedback over the last few weeks, we can only make the BENN better if you tell us where we are lacking. We appreciate your input!

– Editor

Benny's in the Local Media

THE RECORD: [Firefighters basket fund off to a strong start](#)

Administrative

As the clock ticks down...

Aviva Voting Campaign Ends

By MRS. T. JOHNSON

It has been a busy four months for the “Heart of the Community” team and our community of supporters. We want to thank you, for your votes, advice, participation, advertisement, promotion and dedication to this project. We could not have gotten this far without you.

When we walk together –we are not alone

When we stand together– we are stronger

When we believe together– anything is possible

A celebration of people– that is who we are!

FINAL VOTING DAY!

A HUGE Thank You from your Broker Partner

For every heart that will beat stronger – thank you!

At St. Benedicts we are truly a “celebration of people” and that cannot be more apparent that the love for this community you have shown in supporting the Heart of the Community submission. With every beating heart, with every step towards a more active lifestyle we thank you! To the faculty, families, neighbours, local businesses, to the dynamic ladies at Stevenson and Hunt, and our future; the students we celebrate your efforts and passion for a healthier tomorrow. Thank you to our local clubs, schools and organizations who support active aging and our youth. We have walked side by side since last March developing this idea, saw beyond the AVIVA competition to the future for our community; embracing a more active and healthy lifestyle. To those who walked door to door to support the vision, who broadcasted on local TV and radio, who mall walked and promoted the Heart of the Community, thank you!

May the spirit of the season shine on everyone and the blessings of the season shine on you and your families. We will not give up! The top 40 ideas will be submitted to a panel of judges for further review and winners announced nationally on January 27th. Keep us in your wishes to Santa and your prayers for 2015!

Dear Friends,

Today marks the end of a great battle that we have all been a part of over the past few months. I wanted to send a special note to everyone who has participated in this process, it has been truly inspiring for us to have taken part.

All of us at Stevenson and Hunt were honoured when asked to partner with St. Benedict's. Since the beginning of this project, we have been overwhelmed by the commitment and enthusiasm of the team that has been involved as well as the students, staff, parents and everyone in the Cambridge community – it is unbelievable! In the final day of voting it is still remarkable for us to witness the drive and strength of the community.

With the amount of time, energy, and enthusiasm that we have seen put into this, we of course want to see the idea come out on top. We feel that you all deserve the recognition and so we hope that in our last moments, you will continue to vote and support this amazing goal.

It is never too late. Please remember to vote today and to encourage everyone you know to do the same!

Thank you again for inviting us along for the ride, we are so privileged and proud to be supporting this idea. St. Benedict's, you truly are the Heart of the Community.

Sincerely,
The Staff of Stevenson and Hunt Insurance
Brokers

News from the Guidance Department

By MR. M. AMBEAU

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 2015–16 academic year are reminded that the application deadline is quickly approaching. Please note the following:

- University applications are due January 14, 2015. 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, 2015. 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
- Although school visits from college and universities have concluded, grade 12 students should still continue to do specific institution research at the E-info site (www.electronicinfo.com) for university and www.ontariocolleges.ca site for college information.

Grade 8 Parent Evening

Our Grade 8 Parent Night will be held on Thursday, January 15, 2015 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 2015. 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.

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.

Season for Giving...

**Do you have extra uniform pieces lying around, not needed?
We can use them at St. Benedict's.**

At this time, we have exhausted our back up supply and students will no longer have the option to come to the office to change into a uniform piece.

If you have gently used pieces that your son or daughter have outgrown, we would appreciate receiving them! Please drop them off at the Main Office.



This poll is closed.

It's almost Christmas!

I'm dreaming of a ____ Christmas

white	18
green	12
slushy	1

What gifts do you bring? We all have something to give?

By Ms. M. BREault, ST. LOUIS ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE

And much thanks goes to St. Benedict CSS students who donated, sorted, washed, folded, labelled and boxed gifts of warm winter clothing to give to St. Louis adult students in need. 10 large boxes in total! St. Louis has an interesting mix of adult learners and ALL were very appreciative of this generous gesture.

There are many students at St. Louis who would NOT fit the preconceived image of a student who is marginalized, living in poverty (with children living in poverty), with low education, etc. In fact, many students at St. Louis appear quite the opposite, but their stories of challenge and resiliency tell us

otherwise. Many come to St. Louis to upgrade credits to pursue post-secondary; some come to pursue a skilled profession as a hairstylist, chef or personal support worker; or there are highly educated newcomers to Canada who have difficulty finding work in their profession because of their limited English language skills. And yes, some adults are coming to finish their OSSD because for a whole variety of reasons, they couldn't finish when they were in their teens.

As the cold weather approached, we did notice that some of these students weren't ready for it – really weren't ready for it. They bought boots and coats for their children, but went without themselves. We all know poverty does not discriminate. We don't lay blame to those living in poverty assuming they "just need a job" – reality 1 in 3 people living with low income in Waterloo Region are working. Almost half of Canadians feel they are 1 or 2 paycheques away from living in poverty.

So as we all reflect on the season for giving and receiving, we thank you for your gifts of thoughtfulness, caring and community. We are all blessed!



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.

Grade 11s experience Sacred Spaces throughout region

By MRS. J. DIETRICH

The Grade 11 World Religions classes had the opportunity to visit 3 sacred spaces throughout Waterloo Region on Wednesday, December 10. The first stop was the Islamic Centre of Cambridge where we were fortunate to

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.

hear the wise words of the local Imam who entertained the students with humour and candy!

Our next stop was Beth Jacob Synagogue in Kitchener where Rabbi Nevo Zuckerman amazed us with his stories of living life as an Orthodox Jew.

The final visit for the students was Saints Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox church where students were awed by the beauty of many Orthodox icons.

All the students found the day to be very educational and informative! It is definitely a trip to look forward to in your grade 11 year!

Co-op Career Fair

By MRS. M. CROWELL

The grade 11 and 12 students held their coop career fair in the atrium at lunch on Tuesday. Students displayed what they are learning at their placements and answered lots of questions from students and staff about their experiences ranging from electrical, plumbing and automotive to physiotherapy and teaching. Thanks to everyone who dropped in.

There will be a coop information session in the new year for those interested in experiential learning programs for next year.

LEAP: An enrichment course for our athletes

By MR. N. DUFRESNE

Do you have an athlete that competes on a rep level sports team or individual sport? Do they want to spend more time training to improve their overall performance? Then you may want to consider choosing LEAP (Leaders and Exceptional Athletes Program) as one of their courses for next year.

LEAP is an enriched physical education course for student-athletes who demonstrate exceptional athletic potential in a given sport. This course is designed to help student athletes improve their overall performance in their sport of choice by developing transferable skills like cardiovascular endurance, speed, agility, coordination, power, strength and flexibility.

Applications are currently being accepted until February 27, 2015. For more detailed information about the program requirements, selection criteria and application process please [visit our website](#) or contact the program coordinator, [Mr. N. Dufresne](#).

Current Projects

Christmas Sale – Please place your orders by December 12, 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

Check out our website for further details, [visit our page](#) on the school website.



Athletics

Junior Girls Volleyball

By MRS. M. PENALOZA

Our Juiniors Girls Volleyball team start off their pre-season on fire winning first in their pool at a tournament on Friday with a 4 and 0 record. The girls then went on to the finals where they played and fought hard. They ended with 2nd place for the tournament.

In regular season play, the girls beat Resurrection last Wednesday, winning 3 straight matches with scores of 25-12, 25-11, 25-13.

The girls came out with a roar at Monday night's game against St. David's. The girls won all 3 matches and played really well as a team.

The girls are 3-0 so far for the season. Great Job girls! Today the girls will be travelling to Woodland. Wish them luck!

Senior Girls Volleyball

By MRS. P. KLASSEN

The Senior Girls Volleyball team is working hard and improving with each practice and game. The Senior Saints had an excellent day at the Paris District High School Invitational Tournament last Friday, where they played their best volleyball of the season. Their day ended with a dramatic come from behind victory against the Devils from Caledonia.

Although the Saints have yet to win a match in District 8 League competition, we are confident that this will change in the very near future. The girls are to be commended for their work ethic, their commitment to team play and their "never say never attitude." As coaches we could not be any prouder of how these fine young women are representing our school.

They get an opportunity to demonstrate their skill and ability and played their best volleyball of the season so far at the Paris District High School Invitational Tournament last Friday. Although the Saints did not advance to the medal round they finished strongly in pool play, winning 4 out of 8 sets. The Senior Saints ended their day with a come from behind victory over the Devils from Caledonia, scoring the match winning point on a back court hit slammed by Madi Kerr. Congratulations to the entire team but a special shout out to Kayla Leusink who was nominated by her teammates as the Saints MVP for the day.

Bennies Girls Curling Team "Rocks The House" at Gore Tournament! OFF TO REGIONALS!!!

By VANESSA WINIARZ

Last Friday, the Varsity Girls Curling team won 1st place in the Gore Zones Tournament in Guelph, out of four other nearby schools (female teams). It was the first big event we have participated in as a team and we went into the tournament with only experiencing two league games so far this season.

As of the past few weeks, we have come out with one tie and a victory in our Tuesday night league play at Westmount, but we felt the need to challenge ourselves and experience the excitement of tournament play.

In our first match against "Our Lady of Lourdes CSS", we warmed up very well with an incredible 11-3 lead! With our spirits high, the finals match against St. James CSS caused us to think more strategically

BENN BOX SCORES

Jr. Boys basketball

St. David 50, Saints 41
Saints 70, Resurrection 67

Sr. Boys basketball

Saints 47, St. David 33
Saints 46, Resurrection 35

Jr. Girls volleyball

Saints 3, St. David 0
Saints 3, Resurrection 0
Pere-Rene 3, Saints 0

Sr. Girls volleyball

St. David 3, Saints 0
Resurrection 3, Saints 0
Saints 78, Pere-Rene 41



Left to Right: Nicole La-Belle (Alternating Lead), Vanessa Winiarz (Second), Veronica Reitmeier (Skip), Tess Wittman (Vice), Sarah Sue-Ping (Alternating Lead).

and wisely, planning moves to secure our chance of obtaining first place in the tournament. We faced a tough and perhaps frustrating match but we pulled through it with skill, thought and team spirit; resulting in a final score of 8-7.

It was a day of effort, determination and pride as we were proud of our first major accomplishment as a team, and we can look forward to playing in January (Regionals) at Westmount, Kitchener.

A big thank-you goes out to our coaches Mr. Reitmeier and Ms. Missio for their continued instruction and support! Amazing start to the season ladies, we definitely did "rock the house"!!!
GO SAINTS!!!

Swimming Saints!

By Ms. S. SKINN

Our swim team competed in their 3rd "mini" meet on Wednesday December 3. Our Saints placed first overall – a great place heading into district 8 championships on December 10. Some of the high point earners include: Alex Kerry, Elizabeth Ralph, Sevanne Ghazarian, Amy Pinherio, Mara Dodig, Meagan Byrne and Sarah Joseph for the girls and for the boys team Nick Leonardo, Stephen Taborek, Michael Paulic, Noah Thomas and Kyson Vi. Wish all swimmers luck in for their D8 championships!

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

Santa's Workshop?

No it's your yearbook staff working on meeting a deadline for next Monday. This dedicated group of photographers, writers, and layout artists have been working long hours the past few days in order to get a set of pages ready for proofing.



BENNIES WELCOMES FREE THE CHILDREN

By MIRANDA ZAHRA

On December 2nd, the Making a Difference Club (MAD) brought in a speaker from Free the Children for a few of the Religion and Geography classes. Alexandra, the representative that came to our school, shared with us how Free the Children was started and how Me to We works. Alexandra gave a very informative presentation and all of the students who were watching gave her their undivided attention.



Afterwards, members of the Making a Difference Club joined Alexandra for a workshop where the students were able to express their opinions and views on specific social justice issues and they also explored how they can make a positive impact.

All of the students walked away inspired and ready to make a change. Make sure to keep an eye out for the Me to We initiatives that MAD will be organizing throughout the school year! A special thank you to Mrs. Betty Barrett for nominating our school to receive the presentation and to Mrs. MacDonald for organizing the whole event!

Student Activities

Bennies Coffee House

By NYAWUOR MALEK

On November 26th, 2014, Bennies had its second Coffee House of the year with the theme being "Spice up Your Winter". The cafetorium was full of decorative pieces including paper snowflakes, cinnamon sticks, and candles in tea cups. Along with décor, tasty treats were served. Hot chocolate, cupcakes, and cookies added to this warm and toasty atmosphere.

The best part about Coffee House was the amazing performances! There was such a variety of performers; solos, duets, and spoken word just to name a few. Each performance brought their own spice that added to the entirety of the show.

A Coffee House is never quite complete without MC's. At this "Spice up Your Winter" Coffee House, Habiba Ehtesham and Joshua Gancena were the ultra-power duo that kept the show going. Their stage presence and charisma kept the show entertaining.

The person that plans and executes all of the Coffee Houses this year is Hailey Wright, Arts Executive in SAC. She had a few words to say about this night.

“Coffee house was an amazing event where students here at Bennies get to express themselves and share their talent onstage. Coffee house continues to grow with each one we have, and this past coffee house may have been the largest Bennies has hosted yet, with over 20 performers and many audience members cheering on our students.”

Chloe Macikunas, a performer and audience member at Coffee House also had some thoughts about the spectacular night.

“Coffee house is always a really amazing experience because there’s always something different each time. Each coffee house has a mixture of veteran performers and newcomers who all have the guts to get up and perform in front of a group of their peers. The new comers are not only grade nines but can also be grade 10s, 11s, 12s and even Super 12s who are only now taking their chance on the stage and it’s really great.”

All in all, “Spice up Your Winter” Coffee House, really did spice up the winters of the Coffee House goers!



If you want to be reminded on your cell phone about SAC events, sign up for the

SAC REMINDER SERVICE

Text this message: @sacrem to 226-798-0922

The Arts

Other News

St. Mary's of the Visitation CHRISTMAS SEASON MASSES

Christmas Eve: Wednesday, December 24th

5:00 p.m. – Family Mass with Pageant

7:00 p.m. – Family Mass

Midnight – Solemn Mass of Christmas

(Carols begin at 11:30 p.m. & Incense will be used at the Midnight Mass)

Christmas Day: Thursday, December 25th

8:00 a.m. – Mass of Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. – Mass of Christmas Day



St Mary of the Visitation Parish
16 Cooper Street,
Cambridge (H), Ontario
519 658 4443
www.stmaryhespeler.ca

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated on
Thursday, December 11, 2014 from 8:30am – 8:30pm**

We welcome the following visiting priests who will be with us

8:30am - Father Freitas, Pastor, St Mary of the Visitation Parish (Confessions in English & Portuguese)
10:00am – Father Michael Isabelle, (Confessions in English & Italian)
11:00am – Bishop Matthew Ustrzycki (Confessions in English & Polish)
Noon – Father John Redmond
1:00pm – Father Tom Vermiglio, MCCJ & Father Ruffino Ezama, MCCJ
2:00pm – Father Bill Foote & Father Tom Vermiglio, MCCJ
3:00pm – Father Toby Collins, CR
4:00pm – Father Irek Koziak, SAC (Confessions in English & Polish)
5:00pm – Father Jacek Kryn, SAC, (Confessions in English & Polish)
6:00pm – Father Timothy Higgins & Father F. Freitas (Confessions in English & Portuguese)
7:00pm - Father Michael Isabelle & Father F. Freitas, (Confessions in English, Portuguese & Italian)

"The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel." Pope Francis, (The Joy of the Gospel, 114)

Welcome! Our doors are open and the light is on.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, December 10

Thursday, December 25
Christmas Day

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
2:15pm E-car 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

Sunday, December 14

Third Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 15

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

Tuesday, December 16

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

Wednesday, December 17

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
7:00pm Wintersong

Thursday, December 18

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 19

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

Wednesday, December 31

New Year's Eve

Thursday, January 1

New Year's Day

Monday, January 5

8:05am School re-opens, regular classes
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

Tuesday, January 6

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

Wednesday, January 7

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

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
Christmas Assembly

Sunday, December 21
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Winter solstice

Monday, December 22
Christmas Holidays begin

Wednesday, December 24
Christmas Eve



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.

