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The BENN newsletter is a publication of St. Benedict CSS. It is distributed every second Wednesday during the school year using the WCDSB News-wire service. Questions or comments pertaining to this publication can be sent to the editor [Anton Milardovic](#) or the school's principal [Dan Witt](#).

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Next Issue

January 14, 2015

Administrators' Message

It is at this time of year that we would like to extend our hopes to all of you for a very blessed Christmas. May all of you enjoy the time to rest, relax, recharge and truly celebrate the meaning of Christmas. May you also have a joyous and happy New Year– all the best for 2015. Merry Christmas and God Bless.

– Mr. Witt, Mr. Sauve, Mrs. Santamaria and Mrs. Temple



Administrative

We made it to the finals!

BY MR. J. CURTIS

With a 4th place finish in the online voting round of the Aviva Community Fund campaign, "Heart of the Community" has advanced to the final judging round.

Although we finished behind two splashpads and a soup kitchen in our health and wellness category, we believe that the other criteria in the judging round favours our proposal to build a fitness trail and enhancements to our sports field.

Admittedly, we will not score the highest in online voting, but that is only worth 20% of our total score. We believe, however, that our proposal will definitely score higher in other criteria such as community impact (25%), likelihood of success (15%), longevity (30%), originality (5%), and submission

quality (10%).

This competition is far from over!
Winners will be announced on
Tuesday, January 27th, 2015.



Red Stocking campaign a success

BY FATHER F. FREITAS

Thank you to the whole St. Benedict community for your amazing participation in the Red Stocking Campaign. We are currently tabulating all final numbers of stockings but here is some news that we can share with you. Since we did so well, not only will we be able to provide the school supplies and lunch program for one school in Kenya, we are able to help TWO schools now thanks to you! Thank you for being a part of this outstanding way to make a difference in the lives of young people in Kenya. You totally rock!



Chaplain's Report

BY MR. B. REMPEL

On November 28 Father Toby Collins joined us to celebrate what came to be known as a “Be Kind” mass. Father Toby celebrated by the kindness of God and the St Benedict community told kindness stories before and after mass.

Each day during morning announcements we have a feature we call “Kindness Korner” which involves telling a story of people in our community being kind to one another. Following are several of these stories.

One of our students rides his trike down the halls. Some students decided to “trick out” his trike for the holidays. Ms. Weiler gave them a bunch of decorations to work with. These students got to work and color coordinated the tinsel and other decorations. They made sure that the bells would jingle when the wheels turned. There were smiles all around when the “tricked out” trike went for its first Christmas Cruise.

A student here at St Benedict wanted to let a friend know that she was loved and should not doubt herself or her abilities. So throughout the day she asked others to write kind words about their friend. Many people wrote kind words, sentences and paragraphs about their friend. When the friend received the pages of beautiful thoughts and comments, she was grateful beyond words. That was being kind.

On December 9 four priests (Father Bill, Father Phil, Father Ralph and Father Freitas) came to our school to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The priests were gracious agents of God's mercy as over 70 people received the sacrament.

On December 12 the St Benedict community gather in the gym to celebrate our annual Advent Christmas Basket/Red Stocking Faith Assembly. The assembly is a celebration of the kindness of our SBCSS community. The Christmas baskets contain gifts which the Cambridge fire fighters distribute to families experiencing financial challenges. This year marks the 25th year we have collaborated with the fire fighters. This year we filled 130 red stockings with school supplies.

Mugs to help students in need

BY THE STUDENT CRISIS FUND TEAM

At St. Benedict we are blessed to be able to help those in need within our school community through our student crisis fund. In order to continue to provide this support, we ask you to consider to make a donation to this fund. If you would like to donate, Benny's Kindness Matters mugs are available for \$10 in rooms 208, 210 or in one of our administrators office. Thank you for giving to this cause!



St. Mary's parishioners help needy Bennie's families

BY MRS. L. TEMPLE

Many thanks to Father Freitas and his parishioners for collecting Canadian Tire money for us to purchase gifts for our families in need. The parish raised over 240 our families.

We truly appreciate the partnership and support from St. Mary's of the Visitation and the entire St. Benedict community.

News from the Guidance Department

BY MR. M. AMBEAU

The Application Deadline for University is approaching quickly!

Grade 12 students who are planning to apply to university for the 2015-16 academic year are reminded that the application deadline is quickly approaching.

News From OUAC: "The OUAC expects the majority of secondary school applicants to apply to Ontario universities online. In order to reduce the chance of delays and the frustration of slower online response times, we ask that you encourage your university-bound students to complete and submit their online application well in advance of the January 14, 2015 deadline. The OUAC is officially closed for the holidays from December 24, 2014 to January 2, 2015, inclusive. The OUAC website will remain available during this time. Applicant Services Extended Hours Prior to Application Deadline: Monday, January 13 – Wednesday, January 15 – 9:00 am – 7:00 pm (EST) Applicant Services Phone: (519) 823-1063"

Attention Grade 12 Students Considering Concurrent Education at Wilfrid Laurier (Brantford Campus)

On Tuesday, December 16, Wilfrid Laurier University announced that the joint Concurrent Education program—offered between Laurier and Nipissing University—will no longer be offered at their Brantford campus. Any students who had been considering applying to this program will need to re-consider their options and any student who had already applied to this program through the OUAC site will need to amend their application and make a different choice.

The Application Deadline for College is approaching quickly!

College applications are due February 1, 2014. PIN numbers are not required for college application – students create their own account when they apply.

Please visit www.ontariocolleges.ca for information on college programs.

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.

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.

Community Service Opportunities

Sunrise therapeutic horseback riding center is looking for volunteers. If interested please contact Lynne O'Brien at 519-837-0558 ext. 31 or by email at: lynne@sunrise-therapeutic.ca . Also you could come to see your counsellor down in guidance.

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

News from the Student Success Centre

By MRS. D. TRENTINI

Grade 10 Students Participate in the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) Practice Test

In November, all grade 10 students at St. Benedict were asked to complete a practice Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). We have tried to make the test as authentic as possible so that students become accustomed to the format and timing of the test, as well as its evaluation.

In the days to come, your son or daughter will be bringing home their evaluated test with an information form that provides a snapshot of individual strengths and areas requiring improvement. Please review this information with your child. If your son or daughter does not bring home their test results, they may have been in one of the three grade 10 classes selected to participate in an online field test. Feedback will be provided regarding their results once this information is made available.

Preparing for the March 26th OSSLT

- Attend after-school remedial sessions for extra help and tips on taking the OSSLT which will begin in February. A qualified teacher will be offering sessions every Monday and Wednesday after school from 2:15–3:45. If you are interested in registering for practice sessions, please email Leisha.Craftchick@wcdsb.ca.
- Visit the Student Success Centre (Room 208) to pick up a copy of DON'T PANIC 2.0 ON-THE-GO PRACTICE FOR THE OSSLT PRINT EDITION while supplies last.
- Visit the EQAO website at www.eqao.com to review the Getting Ready Guide and complete the Sample Test Materials.
- Practice using reading strategies, such as skimming, predicting and inferring, to complete tasks. Visit websites such as <http://dpcdsb.org/CEC/Programs/EQAO/EQAOTests/OSSLT.htm>.
- Practice using multiple choice test taking strategies (see these websites for tips: <http://studygs.net/tsttak3.htm> or <http://www.testtakingtips.com/test/multiple.htm>) to improve performance on multiple choice questions.
- Use the full writing process (brainstorming, first draft, revising and editing) for written assignments in all classes.
- Write in full and complete sentences, write paragraphs with proper topic sentences and concluding sentences, develop topics in writing that have a clear focus and direction, and have your work peer edited.

If your son or daughter has any questions about their results, the strategies listed above or about the upcoming test, they are encouraged to visit the Student Success Centre (Room 208).

Enrichment Opportunities

Please visit: https://www.wcdsb.ca/spec-ed/dl/gifted/Enrichment_Oppportunites_Beyond_the_Classroom_2013-14.pdf.

27th Annual Saints' Invitational Boys Basketball Tournament

Friday, January 9 to Saturday, January 10, 2015



Senior

Adam Scott, Peterborough
Appleby College
Bishop Macdonnell, Guelph
Clarke Road S.S., London
Collingwood Collegiate
D'Youville, Brampton
Forest Heights, Kitchener
Frontenac, Kingston
Glendale SS, Hamilton
Grand River, Kitchener
Huron Heights, Kitchener
Jacob Hespeler, Cambridge
Lasalle SS, Sudbury
Monsignor Doyle, Cambridge
Richmond Hill
St. Anne CHS, Windsor
St. Benedict, Cambridge
St. Elizabeth CHS, Thornhill
St. Francis Catholic, St. Catherines
St. James, Guelph
St. John's, Brantford
St. Patrick's, Sarnia

Junior

Adam Scott, Peterborough
Assumption, Burlington
Bishop Macdonnell, Guelph
Bishop Reding, Milton
Collingwood Collegiate
Frontenac, Kingston
Guelph CVI
HB Beal, London
Jacob Hespeler, Cambridge
Lasalle SS, Sudbury
Notre Dame, Burlington
Orangeville District SS
St. Benedict, Cambridge
St. Joseph's, Barrie
St. Mary's, Kitchener
St. Patrick's, Sarnia

Turner Fenton, Brampton
Waterloo Collegiate

Games played at St. Benedict C.S.S. • St. Mary's H.S. Monsignor Doyle C.S.S. • Jacob Hespeler P.H.S.

Follow all the action at stbenedict.wcdsb.ca/basketball

To advertise in our program book, please contact [John Malnerich](#).

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.

Attention all writers!

BY MRS. D. WITTMANN

The writing contests for the 2014–2015 year are up and running! These awards celebrate the writing talents and accomplishments of students, who submit short stories, poems, nonfiction articles and reports.

Forms are available on the door of the English Office. For more information visit the English blog: <https://englishatstbenedict.wordpress.com/>

Engineering lab gets early Christmas present

BY MR. V. CASTELA

The St. Benedict's Engineering Lab is proud to announce the long anticipating arrival of three brand new engine lathes. Along with the new implementation of CNC machining here at the school the engineering lab is offering a diverse learning environment for all students here at St. Benedict's!

ACTIVE and Community Living

BY MR. B. BRIERE

Students from the ACTIVE and Community Living program have been busy over the last few weeks making and selling Christmas treats to students and staff in the atrium. We would like to thank everyone for your support of the program.



WANTED

Please keep all your used unwanted Christmas cards. We can reuse them for future projects in class. Please drop them into room 213 or put them in Mr. Briere's mailbox.

Used uniforms – our reserve of used uniforms is running low. If you have any outgrown or unwanted uniforms, please drop them into the main office.

Check out [our webpage](#) for items wanted, used items available, used uniforms and services provided. Coming soon... ECO schools!

Athletics

Senior Boys Basketball

The Senior Boys Basketball Team suffered their first loss of the season last night at the hands of the St. Mary's Eagles. St. Mary's is currently ranked 14th in the country by Northpole hoops but this didn't stop the Saints. The game could have gone either way but the Eagles pulled away late to an eight point victory, 63 to 55. Next up for the Saints is a trip down Franklin to play Monsignor Doyle at 4:30 today. Hope to see you there.

Girls' hockey

BY MRS. L. O'NEILL

The Girls have had a slow start to the season with our first tournament being cancelled due to the weather and our second tournament was cancelled due to a lack of teams.

We are ready to get to it in the new year. The girls will be on the ice for a practice Monday January 12 at the Sports Park at 3pm. Then we will head to Baden for the Waterloo Oxford Lady Crusaders tournament on January 13. If you see one of the female hockey players wish them luck!

Swim Team update

BY Ms. S. SKINN

The swim team competed last Wednesday in the District 8 finals; overall the Saints came out 3rd against some stiff competition. Even with this tough competition, some of our swimmers have made it through and qualified for CWOSSA in February.

Please congratulate the following swimmers for their great efforts at D8 and wish them luck for CWOSSA: Tyler Bracken, Meagan Byrne, Josh Gancena, Sarah Joseph, Alexandra Kerry,

BENN BOX SCORES

Jr. Boys basketball

St. Mary's 58, Saints 56
Saints 63, Woodland 27

Sr. Boys basketball

St. Mary's 63, Saints 55
Saints 65, Woodland 19

Jr. Girls volleyball

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

Sr. Girls volleyball

St. Mary's 3, Saints 0
Woodland 3, Saints 0

Stay up to date with District 8 Sports

Now receive sports updates in your email or on your mobile device!

Nick Leonardo, Julia Lowe, Sarah Oei, Elizabeth Ralph, Stephen Taborek, Noah Thomas, Kyson Vi.

We'll have another update in February – keep your head above water until then!

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

Don't forget to order your yearbook!

This year's yearbook club is working hard to prepare a truly phenomenal and meaningful momento for students of Bennies this year. We are very intentionally seeking to reflect the diverse experiences of all the students in our school.

We have noticed that grades 10 and 11 have the lowest yearbook sales this year. (In fact, this year's sales across the school are similar to last year: a total under 800 -- in a school of 1500!) We think it's important for students to value the yearbook as another example of their importance as members of the school community.

All students can make sure they'll see themselves in the book not only by being involved, but also just by jumping in front of a camera whenever the opportunity arises. We have photographers around all the time! We are also running a photo-booth in the atrium for the rest of this week.

If you or your child did not purchase a yearbook at registration, orders are being sold this week in the atrium. After this week, individuals may approach Ms Currie or Mr Curtis to purchase a book for a limited time after the new year begins. Each is \$25. Every additional book we sell is another student showing that they see themselves in this community!

Student Activities

The Arts

Join us tonight for **WINTERSONG!**

**It's a fun-filled night where all ARTS classes and clubs showcase
their God given talents!**

**Partake in the Christmas Cheer for only \$2/person and
\$5/family**

SEE YOU THERE AT 7:00!

St. Benedict Music – Showtime!

By MRS. J. RODRIGUES

The St. Benedict Concert Band and Jazz Band were spreading Christmas cheer this week. Music classes entertained students each morning in the Atrium with Christmas selections and the ensembles made a road trip to Christ the King to entertain the whole school. This was a great dress rehearsal for their “WINTERSONG” concert on Wednesday evening.

The concert included some classic Christmas songs like “White Christmas”, “The First Noel”, “Santa Baby” as well as selections from “Aladdin” and “Harry Potter”.

Thank you to the ever-expanding, extra-curricular ensembles for their dedication and practicing. Rehearsals will begin again in the New Year. New members are welcome to join the Concert Band on Mondays from 2:20–3:30.



The Bennies Band just left after having an AMAZING concert for our students at Christ the King. Thank-you for coming here to do this!
Our students were in amazement, completely engaged, and had FUN! Thanks again! Merry Christmas!

Brian Goodyear, Principal
Christ the King Catholic School

Other News

ST. MARY OF THE VISITATION PARISH
16 Cooper Street, Cambridge (Hespeler), Ontario, N3C 2N2.
Telephone: (519) 658-4443. Fax line: (519) 658-6783.
Web page: www.stmaryhespeler.ca



CHRISTMAS IS A HOMECOMING

A Christmas Invite for You

Christmas is a time of year that brings many people home to be with their families and loved ones. I wish to offer a joyful welcome to each and every person who participates in the Masses during the Christmas season. I extend a special welcome to College and University students who are home for the holidays, to former parishioners who are returning for a friendly visit, to all out-of-town guests and relatives of parishioners, and to those who perhaps are making a return to the practice of their faith. I sincerely pray that your experience of the parish family of St. Mary of the Visitation may lead you to feel welcome and at home. Welcome home for the holidays.

Together in the Lord's Service.
Father F. Freitas, Pastor

CHRISTMAS SEASON MASSES (Carols begin 30 minutes before each Mass)

Christmas Eve

(Wednesday, December 24th)

5:00 p.m. - Family Mass with Pageant

7:00 p.m. - Family Mass with Youth Choir

Midnight - Solemn Mass of Christmas

Christmas Day (Thursday, December 25th)

8:00 a.m. - Mass of Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. - Mass of Christmas Day

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 27th at 5:00pm

Sunday, December 28th at 8:00 a.m., 9:30am, & 11:30a.m.

Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God (December 31st/January 1st)

December 31st, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

January 1st, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. & 11:00a.m.

*We are connected to our past, committed to our future,
and compassionately focused on being a Family of Faith with something for everyone.*

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, December 17

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

Monday, January 12

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
Graduation Photos

Tuesday, January 13

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

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day

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

Thursday, January 8

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, January 9

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

Graduation Photos
EQAO Gr. 9 Math Assessment

Wednesday, January 14

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
Graduation Photos
EQAO Gr. 9 Math Assessment
BENN Newsletter release

Thursday, January 15

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
6:30pm Grade 8 Parent Night
7:00pm Cookies 'n' Cram – LINK study event for Gr. 9
Graduation Photos

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**

10:45am Fresh Club
2:15pm Doctor Who Video Club
Saints Invitational Basketball Tournament

Saturday, January 10
Saints Invitational Basketball Tournament



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.

