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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](#).

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Next Issue

April 1, 2015

Interim Reports and Conferencing

Semester 2 is well under way and upon return from the March Break on Monday, March 23, students will receive their progress reports and interview appointment slips. Please take some time to review your son's or daughter's interim report, and consider booking a time to meet with their teachers.

On Thursday, March 26, we will be holding the parent/teacher/student conferences. Interviews will be conducted from 1:00pm to 4:00pm and from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. Time slots are to be scheduled in advance by students with their teachers.

We encourage students to be a part of this conversation—no plan for success can be put into action without the learner's input and presence.

We look forward to seeing you on the 26th!

Benny's in the Local Media

CAMBRIDGE TIMES: [Relay for Life to become a six-hour affair, d...](#)

CKCO TV: [St. Mary's wins 4th straight title](#)

Administrative

WCDSB 2015-16 School Year Budget Survey Still Open

BY WCDSB NEWSWIRE

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board has launched an on-line budget

Barrday Teacher of Excellence Awards

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

consultation to receive stakeholder input on spending priorities for the 2015–16 school year. The Board values input from stakeholders and feedback received helps ensure budgets are aligned according to board, school and community stakeholder needs. All WCDSB stakeholders are encouraged to participate.

The survey—located at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2015-16BudgetSurvey>—takes about five minutes to complete and will remain open until Thursday, March 12, 2015.

Survey results will be made available after they have been presented to the Board’s Budget Advisory Committee.

The overall 2014–15 budget was as follows (change from 2013–14 noted in brackets):

- Total Operating: \$229.2 M (–\$1.3 million)
- Total Capital: \$17.4 M (–\$0.2 million)
- Total Operating & Capital: \$246.6 M (–\$1.5 million)

– William Arthur Ward

Do you know a teacher in Cambridge, Ontario, from JK to high school, who inspired you or someone you know? We invite parents, grandparents, students, former students, school administrators and colleagues to nominate that teacher for a Teacher of Excellence award.

Barrday, a Cambridge, Ontario headquartered business, is committed to learning. We 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, we will salute ten inspirational teachers each year in the City of Cambridge, Ontario, with ten \$1,000 Teacher of Excellence awards.

We are looking 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; **Innovation:** Inspiring students to explore and make choices

Nominate your teacher of excellence today

Please visit www.barrday.com to find out how you can share the reasons why your teacher is deserving of a Teacher of Excellence Award. Nomination forms may also be requested by emailing snugent@barrday.com or by phoning 519-621-3620 ext. 1228. The deadline for nominations is April 10, 2015.

Grade 10s to write Literacy Test March 26

By Mrs. L. CRAFTCHICK

On Thursday, March 26th, 2015, Grade 10 students across the province will write the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). It will also be written by students who were previously eligible but have not yet written the test or who were unsuccessful on their first attempt. The OSSLT is administered by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), an independent agency of the Government of Ontario, in order to determine whether students have acquired the minimum literacy (reading and writing) skills expected by The Ontario Curriculum across all subjects up to the end of Grade 9.

Please note that this date is the only opportunity for students to write the 2015 OSSLT. Students who are absent will have to wait until the spring of 2016 to write it.

OSSLT Schedule

| Time | Activity |
|-------------|----------------|
| 8:10–8:15 | Instructions |
| 8:15–9:30 | Booklet #1 |
| 9:30–9:45 | Break |
| 9:45–11:00 | Booklet #2 |
| 11:00–11:10 | Survey |
| 11:40 | Bus departure* |

* For all grade 10 and previously eligible students participating in this year’s administration of the OSSLT morning transportation will run as scheduled. Please note that the departure time is earlier on

The test consists of two booklets, each containing multiple-choice and open-response questions. The test is given on one day in two 75-minute blocks. All of the questions are based directly on the expectations set out in The Ontario Curriculum, which is what teachers teach in the classroom every day. Students can prepare as they would for any other secondary school test.



test day. Students writing with an extra time accommodation may not be finished writing by 11:40. GRT bus passes will be available in the main office for students who have not completed the test by departure time.

In June, EQAO will send our school a report for each student who writes the OSSLT, and we will send it home at that time. The results are private and will give you an indication of how well your child is mastering the required literacy skills, which are the foundation for success in all subjects and in life beyond school. The OSSLT is a minimum-competency test. Achievement is therefore reported as “successful” or “unsuccessful.”

OSSLT results do not count toward students’ grades, but successful completion of the test is a requirement for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. There are supports for students who do not pass, including an opportunity to rewrite the test or to take the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course.

You can use your child’s results on the OSSLT to understand his or her strengths and areas for improvement, and to monitor and celebrate his or her progress. The results can also help you in discussions with teachers. As a school community, we use these results, along with other information, to guide our school improvement initiatives.

This benefits not only your child but all the students in our school. The results are also used by our school board and the Ministry of Education to direct attention and resources where they are needed.

For more information about EQAO and to view a sample of its assessments, visit www.eqao.com.

From the Student Success Centre Enrichment Opportunities

Please visit: [Enrichment Opportunities Beyond the Classroom](#) on the WCDSB website

News from the Guidance Department

By MR. M. AMBEAU

Thanks from the Guidance Department

The Guidance Department would like to extend a huge “thank-you” to the entire St. Benedict Community – students, parents and staff – for their help and support during the course selection process. The vast majority of students completed the task of choosing their courses, using the on-line program for next year by the deadline of March 5. This has given our department time this week to contact students who have yet to complete this important task. If your son or daughter has not returned their paper copy, signed by a parent or guardian to the guidance office, please encourage them to do so as soon as possible.

Are you planning to graduate in June? Get your Community Service Hours finished!

In addition to earning 30 credits and completing the Literacy Requirement, all potential graduates must complete 40 hours of Community Service to be granted their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Grade 12 students who are planning to attend the June 24, 2015 graduation ceremony at

Kinsmen Auditorium in Kitchener, need to have these hours completed and documented in order to meet graduation requirements. It is our expectation that Community Service Hours will be completed, documented and handed in to the main office by Friday, May 29, 2015.

Looking for a Summer Job??

Cambridge Career Connections is hosting a March Break Summer Job Fair on Friday March 20 from 12:30 PM – 3:00 PM at The Royal Canadian Legion. The Legion is located at 4 Veterans Way, just down the street from Cambridge Career Connections. Come out to this event and meet many employers with a variety of available positions. For more information, call 519-622-0815 or stop by the office at 40 Ainslie Street South – just across from the bus terminal.

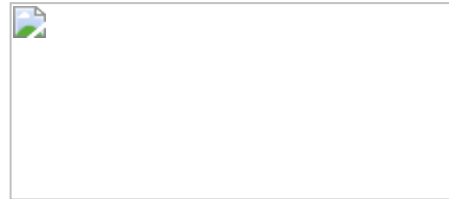
What is Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)?

The Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) is a Ministry approved program that encourages students to focus their education on a specific employment sector.

Components include:

1. A bundle of courses related to a major
2. Co-op experience in an area of interest
3. Industry-recognized certifications related to the employment sector

Students who successfully complete all components of the program earn a Specialist High Skills Major (Red Seal) designation on their Diploma.



Why get involved?

No matter which path you follow after high school, you will have a better idea of your direction and future career choice when graduating with a SHSM Red Seal. You will:

- understand how and why your classes apply to your future career
- obtain training and certifications from experienced industry staff (e.g. First Aid & CPR)
- learn on-the-job skills during a co-op placement
- gain experience in your field of interest

Majors offered at St. Benedict's C.S.S. in 2014-15

Arts & Culture • Business
Construction • Energy
Environment • Health & Wellness
Hospitality & Tourism
Information & Communications
Justice & Community Safety
Manufacturing • Transportation

How and when to get involved:

Experiences start in Grade 11 or 12. Now is the time to sign up and get involved! Sign up forms are available in the Guidance Office. More information can be found online at www.highskills.ca.

Interested in the Dominican Trip?

BY MRS L. TEMPLE

Dominican Trip information and applications now available for the trip this November.

If you are a Grade 10 or 11 student now, socially just minded, and would love to experience faith and hospitality in another country please see Mrs. Temple, Ms. Penner, Mrs O'Connor or Mr. Betik for applications. Info session to occur March 31st at lunch in the chapel.

This is a great opportunity and we would love to have many apply. Please return all applications to Mrs. Temple before April 7th.

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](mailto:Enrichment@St.Benedict).



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](mailto:English@St.Benedict).

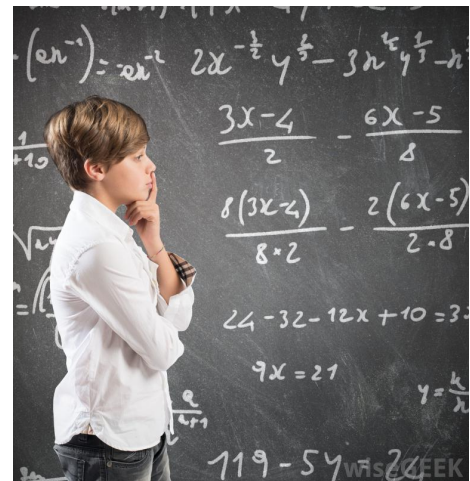
Math Contest Information

By Dr. L. Chernysh

On Thursday, April 16, 2015, the Grade 9, 10 and 11 students will be taking part in the University of Waterloo Fryer, Galois and Hypatia Mathematics Competitions. Please register with Dr. C. or Miss Stockie in the Math Office or in the room 309. A \$2 deposit is required that will be paid back at the day of the contest. This event is open to all students!

On Wednesday, April 15, 2015, the Gr.12 students will be taking part in the University of Waterloo Euclid Mathematics Competition. Please register with Dr. C. or Miss Stockie in the Math Office or in the room 309. As with the other contests, a \$2 deposit is required that will be paid back at the day of the contest. This event is open to all Gr. 12 students!

The deadline for registration is Thursday, March 12, at 3:00pm Don't miss it!



Our St. Don Bosco students have completed our first of many milk bag mats.



Athletics

Swim team wrap up

By Miss S. Skinn

Swim team is wrapping up and it's been a great season. Our team of 29 swimmers did a great job as a team at District 8 competitions in December, with 6 individual swimmers competing at the next level (CWOSSA) in February. These swimmers represented our school well many posting their best times of the season: Meagan Byrne, Sarah Joseph, Alexandra Kerry, Stephen Taborek, Noah Thomas and Kyson Vi. Coming in just under the qualifying time Kyson moved on to the next level of competition (OFSAA) as a grade 10 competing against many grade 11's and 12's. The OFSAA meet on March 3 and 4th in Etobicoke started out as a busy day, stands were packed even for warm-ups! After taking 2 seconds off his CWOSSA time Kyson just missed the final swim by 2/100ths of a second – what a close race! Thanks to Mr. Lehan, Ms. Sawchuck and Ms. Skinn for coaching and looking forward to next year's season!

Congratulations to all our swimmers on a great season: Muhammad Ameen, Bridget Baird, Tyler Bracken, Kent Bremner, Meagan Byrne, Nikki Davidson, Mara Dodig, Carson Elliott, Curtis Floras, Megan Friedrich, Josh Gancena, Sevanne Ghazarian, Sarah Joseph, Alexandra Kerry, Monica Kopec, Aliesha Le, Nicholas Leonardo, Julia Lowe, Angela Mota, Sarah Oei, Kylie Paradisi, Michael Paulic, Theresa Pick, Amy Pinheiro, Elizabeth Ralph, Laura Schuhbauer, Stephen Taborek, Noah Thomas, Kyson Vi.

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

MAD helps the homeless in Haiti

By Mrs. M. Rocha

In 2010, Haiti experienced a massive earthquake which left thousands upon thousands of people homeless. Today, Haiti still needs our help to ensure that it's people receive the shelter that they have a right to. This Thursday's mission collection will be donated to the Homes for Haiti fundraiser which the Making A Difference Club is running. Thank you in advance for your generosity!!

Student Activities

The Arts

Saints do *Split* at Sears

By Mr. A. Renner

Congratulations go out to Mrs. Charron and the entire cast and crew of this year's Sears Drama Festival play, "Split." Their performance at Monsignor Doyle on Friday night was outstanding, receiving a standing ovation and very positive feedback from both the adjudicator and the other schools that came to watch.

On Saturday, we received two awards: Emma Fritz got an Award of Excellence for Best Actress in a Comedic Role, and St. Benedict received the Spirit of the Festival award for our enthusiasm,

professionalism and kindness to other schools. More than anything, this speaks to the phenomenal character of our school and our students. Way to go Saints!




The cast and crew of *Split*.

Other News


To The Tenth Annual
Bishop's Banquet

Proceeds to Support : Faith Formation Programs
Within The Waterloo Region Catholic Schools



Thursday • May 14 • 2015

Catholic Education Centre • St. Mary's Parish Hall
35 Weber Street West • Kitchener • Ontario
(corner of Weber St. W and Ontario St.)



Tickets: \$100 per seat / \$800 per table **Tel: 519-578-3660 ext. 2373**

A charitable receipt will be issued for a portion of the ticket price.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 11
BENN Newsletter release

Thursday, March 12
8:00am Standard First Aid & CPR-C Training
10:45am Lost Club
10:45am Puzzles club

Tuesday, March 31
10:45am Arts Council meeting
10:45am Robotics Team
2:15pm Fitness Club

Wednesday, April 1

10:45am Making a Difference Club
2:10pm Games Club
2:15pm Girls Workout Club
2:15pm Math Club
2:20pm Jazz Band

Friday, March 13

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

Monday, March 16

March Break

Tuesday, March 17

March Break

Wednesday, March 18

March Break

Thursday, March 19

March Break

Friday, March 20

March Break
Spring equinox

Monday, March 23

8:00am Progress Reports Distributed
10:45am Benny's Press Team meeting
10:45am Because I Am Girl
2:15pm Fitness Club
2:20pm Concert Band

Tuesday, March 24

10:45am Arts Council meeting
10:45am Robotics Team
2:15pm Fitness Club

Wednesday, March 25

8:00am Health & Wellness Zoom Career Day
10:45am Lost Club
10:45am Financial Club
10:45am Camera club
2:15pm Fitness Club
2:25pm Yearbook Club

Thursday, March 26

8:00am OSSLT Literacy Test Grade 10
1:00pm Parent/Teacher Interviews
7:00pm School Council

Friday, March 27

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

Sunday, March 29

Palm Sunday

Monday, March 30

10:45am Benny's Press Team meeting
10:45am Because I Am Girl
2:15pm Fitness Club
2:20pm Concert Band

10:45am Lost Club
10:45am Financial Club
10:45am Camera club
2:15pm Fitness Club
2:25pm Yearbook Club
BENN Newsletter release

Thursday, April 2

10:45am Lost Club
10:45am Puzzles club
10:45am Making a Difference Club
2:10pm Games Club
2:15pm Girls Workout Club
2:15pm Math Club
2:20pm Jazz Band
Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 3

Good Friday

Did you know?

There are over 1,300 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



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.

