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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 15, 2015

**We wish you and your  
family a very joyous  
Easter weekend!**

– Editor

## Administrative

# Roundabouts at St. Benedict Re-Considered Goodbye roundabouts, hello "halo"?

By WCDSB NEWSWIRE

*As many BENN readers are likely aware, the Region of Waterloo has proposed two roundabouts on Franklin Boulevard near the school, one at Saginaw Parkway and one at Canamera Parkway. The construction of those two roundabouts has been put on hold, while planners reconsider the design.*

The St. Benedict area has several main arteries converging in one locale causing congestion at all hours of the day. The safety of St. Benedict students has been a real concern, especially if these two roundabouts were to be built. Principal Dan Witt is proud to announce that City planners may now have a solution.

St. Benedict already has an existing ring-road around the school building. Why have 2 roundabouts, when one existing one can do the job. The plan calls for all roads in the area to be re-configured into the Benedict "halo". The result should be a heavenly co-existence for vehicles and students, as drivers, confused by the enormity of the roundabout, will naturally slow down to figure out where they might be best to exit. Taxpayers win with lower construction cost, pedestrians win with greater safety, and the school wins with enhanced accessibility.

As the diagram from the Region illustrates, the plan is not without its challenges. For example, the staff parking lot and the track will have to be re-configured. The Region has already assured the School Board that any land lost to the construction of the ring road will be re-appropriated in close proximity to the school.

The plan is not without opposition, as the Tim Horton's on the corner of Saginaw Parkway and Franklin Boulevard would also need to be demolished. In response to the store owner's protest, Mr. Witt figures "a few Timbits should not stand in the way of progress. Perhaps they can relocate to the old Metro store."

Follow our Twitter and Facebook, as well as the school website as this story develops.

For a larger view of the proposed design, [click here](#).



The Region's new proposed plan to deal with traffic around St. Benedict is to put a ring road around the school, effectively creating a halo.

## 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

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

Arts & Culture • Business  
Construction • Energy  
Environment • Health & Wellness  
Hospitality & Tourism

- 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

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! Deadline to sign up is October 30. Sign up forms are available in the Guidance Office. More information can be found online at [www.highskills.ca](http://www.highskills.ca).

## Zoom Career Day for workforce-bound students

By MR. N. BETIK

Zoom Career Day at Conestoga College is for Gr. 11 or 12 students who plan to go directly into the workforce once they have graduated. It is an excellent opportunity to get information on careers and network with a variety of local employers.

Trip registration deadline is Friday, April 10. Transportation and lunch are provided.

Industries include: Business and Retail, Construction, Hospitality and Tourism, Law Enforcement and more. Pick up an application form in the Guidance Office from Mr. Betik.



This poll is closed.

### And then there were four...

With March Madness slated to wrap up this weekend, who will finish on top?

Kentucky	2
Wisconsin	2
Michigan State	1
Duke	2

## Dominican Encounter with Faith

By MRS. C. PENNER

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board would like to invite students to consider participating in the Dominican Encounter With Faith and Hospitality program.

Participants will travel to the Dominican Republic from Friday, November 20th to Friday November 27th, 2015.

The experience will provide students with an opportunity to live with host families and to see the world through the eyes of the poor. If you are open to experiencing a different culture and are interested in issues of faith and social justice than this is a great opportunity for you.

Grade 10, 11 and 12 students that are returning to secondary school in September are invited to apply. Information and applications for the experience are available on Classnet.

If you have questions or need more information, please speak to or email Mrs. Temple, Mrs. Penner, Mrs. O'Connor or Mr. Betik, especially if you missed the information session yesterday.

## New WCDSB Mental Health and Wellness Website Launched

By WCDSB NEWSWIRE

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board is dedicated to the well-being of students, families and staff by addressing the need for further enhancement and addition to programs pertaining to the development of resiliency, social and emotional learning, and behavioural competence within the context of Catholic education and our Catholic community.



The concentration on Mental Health and Wellness is an extension of the board's strategic direction and is guided by a comprehensive 3 year (2014–2017) Mental Health Strategy.

A new website featuring many outstanding resources and links to WCDSB's community partners has been established at: <https://www.wcdsb.ca/about/mental-health/index.html>.

A special mental health and wellness Twitter feed has also been established. Follow @WCDSBWellness

## 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](#).

## St. Benedict programmers take first place

By MR. A. MILARDOVIC

Yesterday St. Benedict hosted the board-level competition of the ECOO (Educational Computing Organization of Ontario) programming contest. The contest is simple: you work in teams of up to four members, you get four computer problems to solve, and you get three hours. Oh, and you only get to use *one computer*.

Participating in yesterday's competition were twelve teams from our board's five high schools. Of particular note was the fact that three of the schools entered all-girl teams, something which was rarely seen in the past. Our own girl team was comprised of only two girls, with two girls unable to make it today due to extenuating circumstances. While our girls did not succeed in advancing to the next level, they did enjoy the challenge.

Congratulations to TJ Cowen, Alec Oatridge, Alex Wong and Corey Zimmer in their first place performance! The boys managed to successfully complete three of the four programs, the only team in the competition to do so. As a result, they will be representing our Board at the regional competition in London on Saturday, April 25, along with teams from Monsignor Doyle and Resurrection.

Many thanks to all of our students for their determination and dedication to the problem solving process. And best of luck to our team at Regionals!

# St. Benedict's host Culinary Skills Competition

By MRS. L. O'NEILL

St. Benedict was happy to host the Regional Culinary Skills Competition again this year. We had 4 students from 3 different high schools in our board competing. Stephen Budgell represented St. Benedict in this culinary competition.



This year's menu consisted of Spinach Ravioli in a cream sauce as an appetizer. Main course was Meatloaf with garlic mashed potatoes, steamed asparagus and braised red cabbage.

The students worked for several hours to complete the menu and present it to the judges. Stephanie Tanner owner of Little Mushroom Catering and Ashok Hedge Executive Chef were here to watch the students with a close eye to ensure safety and quality. Thank you to both of them for giving up their time and spending the day with us. They offered a lot of good feedback to the students.

The students will have to wait until the WCDSB award ceremony on April 8, 2015 to find out who will move on to the qualifying round April 18th at Fanshawe College in London.

Good Luck Stephen!

## Is Chemistry your thing?

Attention all grade 11 and 12 chemistry students: there is a University of Waterloo chemistry contest open to any students that have taken or are taking senior chemistry classes. Please see Ms. Skinn if you are interested in writing any of these contests!

## Science Team

Attention to all grade 10, 11 and 12 students that signed up for the science team: There will be a very brief, yet mandatory meeting at the start of lunch on Thursday in room 314. Details will be discussed about tryouts for senior events, which will be occurring next week. Don't miss it!

## International Students Peer Ambassadors/Tutors

By REBECCA SIBLEY

Hey Bennies students! Are you good at a subject? Do you like to meet new people? More specifically: Would you like to meet new international, ESL or ESS students while helping them to better understand their school work? Do you want to earn volunteer hours while helping them? Then come out on Thursday April 9 to the Skybox for a brief International Students Peer Ambassadors/Tutors volunteer information meeting at the start of lunch. For any questions please see Rebecca Sibley or Ms. Redfearn.

## Athletics

### Softball tryouts

There will be a brief but important meeting for any girl interested in trying out for SOFTBALL this year on Wednesday April 8th in the lecture hall at the beginning of lunch – if you cannot attend, please see Mr. Jankura.



## 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

### The Making A Difference Club Soaks in the Inspiration!

By MRS. M. ROCHA

The MAD Club attended the Youth Making A Difference Conference at Wilfred Laurier University on March 25. The participants heard guest speakers, worked in groups with dynamic facilitators and presented their social justice initiatives to their peers. The MAD Club members who attended left feeling that they really could and WOULD continue to bring positive change to Bennie's and the world!



### Are you skilled at the Spoken Word?

By MRS. M. ROCHA

Do you love SPOKEN WORD? Are you a SPOKEN WORD artist? DO you want the opportunity to perform at the FIRST EVER Bennies Spoken Word Competition also known as the BENNIES SLAM or the B-SLAM! AND....check this out- The top 6 scorers at the B-SLAM will be invited to represent Bennies at the Louder Than A Bomb Canadian Spoken Word Festival in May. Stay tuned for more information on the announcements and posters around the school or see Mrs. Rocha for details.

## Student Activities

### Grad rings

Attention all Grads from the Class of 2015: If you're interested in ordering a grad ring, the Jostens representative will be here on Thursday, April 16th and Tuesday, April 21st over the lunch period in the Atrium.

Brochures are available in the Main Office that show different ring designs and instructions on how you can design your ring online. Remember to bring your \$60.00 deposit when you meet with Jostens representative.

## Seeking student representation

Any student interested in acting as a Student Trustee for the school board for the 2014–15 academic year, please see Mr. Curtis in the SAC Office for an application form.

## Walk to end Violence against women

By MRS. C. KOT

Did you know that each year in Canada, over 40 000 arrests are made due to incidents of domestic violence? Since only 22% of all domestic violence incidents are actually reported to the police, the real number of violence between spouses is much higher.

In fact, more than 3, 300 women along with their 3, 000 children are forced to sleep in an emergency shelter to escape domestic violence at home. What is more alarming is that every night, around 200 women and their children are turned away because the shelters are already full.

Did you know that half of all women in Canada have experienced at least one incident of physical or sexual violence since the age of 16? In addition to this, on average, every six days a woman in Canada is killed by her intimate partner. In 2011, of the 89 spousal homicides reported, 76 of the victims were women. This means that 85% of the victims of spousal murders were women.

As of 2010, there were 582 known cases of missing or murdered Aboriginal women in Canada. According to the Native Women's Association of Canada, "if this figure were applied proportionately to the rest of the female population there would be over 18, 000 missing Canadian women and girls." In a 2009 survey of ten provinces, Aboriginal women were nearly 3 times more likely than non-Aboriginal women to report being a victim of a violent crime.

If you want to do something to help end violence against women and children, consider participating in a walkathon in Kitchener on April 23rd to end violence against women and children. Pledge forms and registration for the walkathon will take place in the Atrium starting tomorrow April 14th, at lunch and continue until Thursday, April 16th. Pledge and permission forms are due no later than Monday, April 20th in order to attend the walkathon. See Mrs. Kot in room 123 for more information about the walkathon.

## The Arts

### SPRING CONCERT "Making Connections"

Monday, April 27th 7:00 p.m.

By MRS. J. RODRIGUES

Spring is just around the corner and the music students are busy preparing for their upcoming concert featuring the Concert Band, Jazz Band and Gr. 9 & 10 music classes. A special collaboration and addition to the evening will be a performance by the Waterloo Regional Police Band.

The Ceremonial Band of the Waterloo Regional Police Service was formed in 1977 and represents Community Policing at its finest. The compliment of the band is 50 musicians and a 15 member Colour Guard. The Band is unique in that it is the only Brass and Reed, Military Style band, attached to a Police Service in Canada. Members are volunteers from within the Police Service and the community at large, ranging in age from 18 to 60 years of age. They proudly wear the uniform of the Waterloo Regional Police Service.

Tickets are \$5.00 and are available at the door with proceeds going to our Music Trip to Ottawa, May 4-6.



## Other News

### Parish Connections

## ST. MARY OF THE VISITATION PARISH

*Christ Has Died, Christ has Risen, Christ will come again!*

The Easter faith of the Church is summarized in the above acclamation. To proclaim that Christ is risen is to say that God is alive, that God is with us, that God will never leave us. At a time when so many people are experiencing the devastating consequences of war and poverty, when people are carrying the cross of sickness and when family members are seeking to be reconciled with each other, we pray for the gift of peace: the peace of the Risen Lord.

As a parish family we celebrate and seek this peace during the Easter Triduum called Holy Week. In this festival of days, Christ's saving work is commemorated by the Church with the utmost solemnity. Through the liturgy of the Triduum, the church is intimately united with Christ and shares in His passage from death to life. The liturgies of the Triduum are the way we publicly celebrate the Easter Peace. They commemorate not only the historical events, but celebrate and make present their saving effect for us.

I invite you to come with your family to the celebrations of Holy Week. May our common

## HOLY WEEK MASS SCHEDULE

### HOLY THURSDAY (April 2)

7:00 p.m. – Mass celebrated by Bishop Matthew Ustrzycki followed by Procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Repository with Adoration until 11:00 p.m.

### GOOD FRIDAY (April 3)

11:00 a.m. – Solemn Liturgy adapted for children

3:00 p.m. – Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday

7:00 p.m. – Dramatic Presentation of the Stations of the Cross by Youth

### HOLY SATURDAY (April 4)

1:00 p.m. – Blessing of Easter Food (Church)

7:00 p.m. – Solemn Easter Vigil

(there is no 5:00p.m. Mass today)

### EASTER SUNDAY (April 5)

8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

(A Children's Program for those in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 4 is offered at both our 9:30am and 11:30am Masses)



celebration bring to each one of us a true and lasting sense of peace.

Together in His Service,  
Father F. Freitas  
Pastor

Check out our website: [www.stmaryhospeler.ca](http://www.stmaryhospeler.ca).

Watch our [Easter weekend invitation video](#).

## **Holy Week at St. Clement's LITURGIES**

### **Holy Thursday, April 2, 2015**

No morning Mass  
Mass of the Lord's Supper at 8:00 p.m. followed by  
Eucharistic Procession & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
until 11:00 p.m.

### **Good Friday, April 3, 2015**

No morning Mass  
3:00 p.m. – The Solemn Good Friday Liturgy  
7:00 p.m. – Stations of the Cross

### **Holy Saturday, April 4, 2015**

8:00 p.m. – The Solemn Easter Vigil  
(First Mass of Easter)

### **Easter Sunday, April 5, 2015**

8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12 noon

## **CONFESSIONS**

### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2015**

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

### **HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2015**

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### **GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2015**

11:00 a.m. – 12 NOON

### **HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2015**

11:00 a.m. – 12 NOON



## Help Kayla Baker's dream continue...

*"Kayla fought so hard to bring organ donation awareness to as many people as she could. She founded RunaLung in hopes that she could raise money for Toronto Sick Kids Hospital, a place that had become a second home to her, a place that saved her life once after being treated for cancer and a place she had hoped would save her a second time after becoming a transplant recipient. Her dream was to have RunaLung continue her dream."*

We are headed into the third annual RunaLung to be held on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Sign up and be instrumental in helping keep her dream alive. Please go to [www.runalung.ca](http://www.runalung.ca) to register for the run/walk.

## Upcoming Events

### Wednesday, April 1

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

### Wednesday, April 15

8:00am Future Building trade show  
10:45am Lost Club  
10:45am Financial Club  
10:45am Camera club  
2:15pm Fitness Club  
2:25pm Yearbook Club  
Civics/Careers turnaround day  
BENN Newsletter release

### Thursday, April 16

2:20pm Jazz Band  
Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 3  
Good Friday

Saturday, April 4  
Holy Saturday

Sunday, April 5  
Easter Sunday

Monday, April 6  
Easter Monday

Tuesday, April 7  
8:00am Suicide prevention training  
8:00am Standard First Aid & CPR-C Training  
10:45am Arts Council meeting  
10:45am Robotics Team  
2:15pm Fitness Club

Wednesday, April 8  
8:00am Software: Social Media Training  
10:45am Lost Club  
10:45am Financial Club  
10:45am Camera club  
2:15pm Fitness Club  
2:15pm Ultimate Frisbee training  
2:25pm Yearbook Club

Thursday, April 9  
8:00am App Development training  
8:00am Standard First Aid & CPR-C Training  
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  
7:00pm Coffee House Arts night  
7:00pm School Council

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

Monday, April 13  
10:45am Benny's Press Team meeting  
10:45am Because I Am Girl  
2:15pm Fitness Club  
2:20pm Concert Band

Tuesday, April 14  
10:45am Arts Council meeting  
10:45am Robotics Team  
2:15pm Fitness Club

8:00am Infection Control Training  
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

Friday, April 17  
Professional Activity Day

## 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](http://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.

