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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](#)

### **Next Issue**

September 9, 2015

## It's almost time!

Even though the school year hasn't begun yet, the school is already abuzz with activity! As I write this, grade 9s are enthusiastically wandering the halls looking for lockers and classrooms, and there is a high level of excitement in the air. Much of that is thanks in part to our LINK crew members who have been welcoming and helping our newest students.

Tomorrow we expect to see the grades 10s, 11s, and 12s, hopefully with the same level of enthusiasm!

Clubs, activities, and sports are about to start ramping up. Parents, please pay close attention to the school website, the calendar, the twitter feed. Students, on top of all this watch for posters around the school, listen to the morning announcements, and keep an eye on the Ranger announcement system.

We're looking forward to a great year!

- Editor

## Benny's in the Local Media

THE RECORD: [Big grant boosts family fitness at St. Benedict Cat...](#)

CAMBRIDGE TIMES: [Two schools share \\$400,000 in grant money](#)

## Administrative

### GRT morning specials

GRT will be running a shared St. Benedict and GCI morning special this year. The special starts at Munch and Sekura at 7:33 a.m. and serves all stops on Munch, Elgin, Glamis, Robson, Cowan and Saginaw Parkway to St. Benedict, before continuing on to GCI, and downtown's Ainslie St. Terminal.

GRT also has several routes that either directly serve St. Benedict, or in close proximity. This information has been included on the map as well. To see if your bus route is effected, please [download this map](#).

# Are you ready for the NEW SEMESTER?

Do you know what  
supplies you need  
for your classes?

**Click here to see  
WhatYouNeed**



## St. Benedict CSS Receives Major Grant from Hallman Foundation

By WCDSB NEWSWIRE

St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School's Heart of the Community project--aimed at enhancing the school's main sports field for community use--has just received a major boost of \$300,000 from the Lyle S. Hallman Foundation Children and Youth Capital Grants Program. The purpose of this grant program is to increase access to facilities offering recreation and character-building programs for children and youth (0 - 16 years) from low-income families.

The successful application, facilitated by the Waterloo Region Catholic Schools Foundation, is the result of a partnership between St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School, Region of Waterloo Public Health and Emergency Services, Idea Exchange, and Active Cambridge, a non-profit agency working to connect sports and fitness to people. The funds awarded will add accessible play and recreation facilities to complement the existing infrastructure of sports field, track, fitness stations, school facilities and public library to ultimately create an Integrated Healthy Active Living Centre. This will create a foundation for a wide variety of programming to support the healthy development of youth and families.

The actual design of the facility will be determined through a community consultation process planned for this fall. This consultation will engage community members from the surrounding area as well as students, teachers, parents and community partners to inform both the design of the facility and related programming opportunities.

The \$300,000 awarded from the Hallman Foundation builds on the first phase of the project which came to fruition through the AVIVA Community Fund. St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School was awarded one of the \$100,000 grand prizes through the

*"We were intrigued by the concept of an 'outdoor community centre' and felt that St. Benedict's is ideally situated to test out this concept. Given the heavy community use of the space already, this group of partners has a great base to build on and make the school a hub for active lifestyle opportunities."*

~~ Laura Manning, Executive Director,  
Lyle S. Hallman Foundation

AVIVA Community Fund contest--contributing to a \$150,000 overall budget for the first phase of the project which includes enhancement of the track and sports field with an electronic scoreboard and fitness stations. This first phase is planned for completion in August 2015.

Funding for the second phase brings the total scope of the project to \$450,000--moving the vision of the project forward significantly with a focus on supporting the health and wellness of youth and families in the Cambridge community. Completion of the project's second phase is targeted for August 2016.

*"We are thankful for the support of the Lyle S. Hallman Foundation and encouraged by their shared optimism for our vision. With the synergies our facility has to offer in conjunction with Idea Exchange and the collective commitment of our community partners we see tremendous potential to create a place for families of all ages to engage in a healthy active lifestyle. This will support strong, connected families and a healthy Cambridge."*

~~ Dan Witt, Principal, St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School

## Construction project progress

By MR. A. MILARDOVIC

If you have had an opportunity to drive by the school during the summer, you may have been disappointed by the progress (or lack thereof) of the construction. While it looks like very little has been accomplished, work has been scheduled and we should see the majority of the work completed by the end of September.

The excavation for the exercise area has been completed, and the path leading to it has been completed. The electrical work for the new scoreboard has begun, and the footings for the sign will be poured within the week. The sign should be delivered by mid-September, with the exercise equipment arriving shortly thereafter.

Follow our regular updates on our Twitter feed, @StBenedictCSS.



## News from the Guidance Department

By MR. M. AMBEAU

### 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

## 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).

## Majors offered at St. Benedict's C.S.S. in 2015-16

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

## Academics



## Enriching the Lives of Students

By Mrs. D. Wittmann

There are many opportunities for students to enhance their learning experience: Enrichment courses, LEAP, OYAP, UCEP, Co-op, Home Build, SHSM, and Skills Canada. Visit the Enrichment blog for information on all these opportunities. The Blogroll contains a plethora of learning enhancements. To learn more about what we offer, click the link. [Enrichment@St.Benedict.blog](mailto:Enrichment@St.Benedict.blog).



## English Corner

By Mrs. D. Wittmann

To receive an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) each student must obtain 4 credits in English (1 credit per grade). Visit the English blog to read the course offerings provided by the Saint Benedict English Department. The Blogroll has great resources for both students and parents. Enjoy!  
[English@St.Benedict.blog](mailto:English@St.Benedict.blog).

## Athletics

## Fall sports to begin soon

Students are encouraged to watch for posters and announcements on the Ranger system for sports tryouts. This information will also be on the morning announcements, the school and SAC Twitter feeds, as well as the school website and calendar.

## Stay up to date with District 8 Sports

*Receive sports updates in your email or on your mobile device!*

The new [District 8 website](#) now allows you to sign up for nightly e-mail updates. You can select the school (or schools) you

Watch here  
for scores  
once the fall

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](#).

**sports season  
begins!**

## Clubs

### **Clubs to start up soon**

Students are encouraged to watch for posters and announcements on the Ranger system for sports tryouts. This information will also be on the morning announcements, the school and SAC Twitter feeds, as well as the school website and calendar.

Several clubs already have information posted on the school website--check back regularly!

## Student Activities

## The Arts

## Other News

# Fall Family Festival



**SUNDAY SEPT 20, 2015**  
12 noon - 4 pm @ Forbes Park

Join us for a fun filled family event!

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**  
*free admission*

There will be:

- food trucks
- a 24 foot rock wall
- a bouncy castle
- children's games
- face painting
- family activities and displays

Bring your family and invite your friends!

Sponsored by  
St. Mary of the Visitation Church  
[stmaryhespeler.ca](http://stmaryhespeler.ca)



## Upcoming Events

Wednesday, September 2

9:00am Grade 10 registration  
10:00am Grade 11 registration  
11:00am Grade 12 registration  
2:00pm Used uniform sale

Monday, September 7

Labour Day

Tuesday, September 8

10:20am First day of school  
11:30am Grade 9 Orientation with Link Crew

Wednesday, September 9

8:00am First full day of school  
2:15pm Show Choir

Friday, September 11

10:45am Financial Club  
10:45am Puzzles Club  
10:45am Programmers Club

Tuesday, September 15

10:40am Arts Council  
2:30pm Course change deadline

Wednesday, September 16

Wednesday, September 23

2:15pm Show Choir  
Autumnal equinox

Thursday, September 24

2:15pm Seams Sew Easy Club  
7:00pm School Council meeting  
Say HI day

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 Show Choir  
First Spirit Wednesday

Thursday, September 17  
2:15pm Seams Sew Easy Club  
7:00pm Grade 9 Meet the Teacher night  
7:00pm Grade 9 dance  
Grade 9 Link mass

Friday, September 18  
Professional Activity Day

Tuesday, September 22  
10:40am Arts Council



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.

