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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 WDSB 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

December 16, 2015

Ushering in December...

Hard to believe it's already December... seems like only a few short weeks ago we had just started this school year! Then there was the schedule shuffle, the Aviva grand opening, Sports week... never a dull moment!

We look forward to the celebration of Advent over the next few weeks in preparation for Christmas. These will be a busy few weeks. There will be reconciliation opportunities for staff and students, and several initiatives to help those less fortunate, including a staff Christmas basket raffle, and our annual Christmas basket campaign in support of the Cambridge Fire Fighters Christmas Campaign. There will be a number of other Christmas activities leading up to the Christmas break ...

In addition to all of these initiatives and activities, we have a solid couple of weeks of school work to get through. We encourage everyone to continue staying focused and productive and enjoy the joyous spirit of this season.

– Editor

Benny's in the Local Media

THE RECORD: [St. Bennies athletes rule high school all-star teams](#)

Administrative

St. Benedict Heart of the Community Phase Two Expansion Recreation Space Survey

By ST. BENEDICT ADMINISTRATION

At St. Benedict's we believe it is important that we contribute to building a strong, vibrant, and healthy community. We have received support from the Hallman Foundation to expand the recreation space at the corner of Saginaw Parkway and Franklin Boulevard to better meet the needs of the people who live in our community.


The goal of this project is to improve recreation opportunities for children and youth 0 to 16 years by offering a place that people of all ages can enjoy. In addition to an onsite public library, we currently have a large field, multi-lane track, and outdoor adult fitness stations.

We would like to hear from you about what else we should include in this space when we build it in the fall of 2016. Below are some examples of elements that we are considering including in this phase

of the project. You can access the survey by [clicking here](#).

If you have any questions about this survey or the project, please contact Dan Witt, Principal of St. Benedict by e-mail at: dan.witt@wcdsb.ca or by phone at 519-621-4050.

HELP US DECIDE ON WHAT WE SHOULD INCLUDE IN THE PHASE 2 EXPANSION OF OUR RECREATION SPACE. PHASE 2 CONSTRUCTION IS PLANNED FOR LATE 2016.



PLAYGROUND (CHILDREN 3-5 YEARS)

PLAYGROUND (CHILDREN 6-10 YEARS)

MULTI-USE COURT

SAUCER SWING

OUTDOOR SKATING RINK

PAVILION

SKATEBOARD RAIL

SNOWBOARD RAIL

GAMES TABLE

PLEASE FILL OUT A SURVEY AND PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK.

PHASE 2 IMPROVEMENT AREA

SCALE: N.T.S.

PHASE 2 IMPROVEMENTS
SUPPORTED BY LYLE S. HALLMAN FOUNDATION
NOVEMBER, 2015

ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC
SECONDARY SCHOOL
CAMBRIDGE, ON

News from the Guidance Department

BY MRS. P. KLASSEN

Registration and Transition Information for In-Coming Grade 8s

Early in 2016, St. Benedict will formally begin the transition process for in-coming grade 8 students. Each of our feeder schools will take part in a half day visit to our school following the Christmas Break and our Grade 8 Parent Night will take place on Thursday, January 14, 2016. Please pass this information on to any neighbours who may be considering St. Benedict for the 2016 - 17 school year. All students and parents, from all school systems are welcome to attend this event which will highlight all that our great school has to offer.

Community Service Opportunities

1. The Faculty of Education at Wilfrid Laurier University is seeking volunteers for their LEAP (Laurier Enriched Academic Program) Sensational Saturday morning enrichment camps. These camps, which run from 9 AM - 12 Noon from January 30 - March 5, 2016 are geared to gifted and highly able campers in grades 1 - 9. LEAP camps are designed and led by certified teachers, and offer challenging programming in an engaging environment. Volunteers must be 16 years of age or older. This is an ideal volunteer opportunity for anyone who is considering teaching as a future occupation. The deadline for applications is January 8, 2016. If you are not able to commit to all 6 weeks, this organization is willing to around your schedule and availability. Application forms and additional information are available at www.wlu.ca/leap
2. The United Way Cambridge and North Dumfries Volunteer Centre is committed to connecting young people to enriching volunteer opportunities in our community. In addition to earning your

40 hours of community service, these opportunities allow you to give back to the community and develop employability skills. Check out <https://volunteercambridge.cioc.ca/volunteer/>

Post-Secondary Information Update

Although school visits from college and universities will conclude next week with one final college visit, grade 12 students should still continue to do specific institution research using the E-info site (www.electronicinfo.com) for university and www.ontariocolleges.ca site for college information. Grade 12 students are encouraged to apply well before the approaching deadline dates – January 13, 2016 for university and February 1, 2016 for college. Students should continue to check the email distribution list for updates and information about specific school open house dates and scholarship opportunities.

Waterloo Aboriginal Post-Secondary Recruitment Fair – December 4

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB), the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) and the Aboriginal Post-Secondary Information Program (APSIP) will be hosting a one day event for local Aboriginal youth to learn about Post-Secondary opportunities. All WCDSB or WRDSB students of aboriginal descent (status, non-status, Metis or Inuit) currently in Grade 10, 11, 12 or recently graduated are eligible to attend. This event will be held December 4, 9:00 AM @ The Waterloo Regional Museum, 10 Huron Road, Kitchener. This will be an opportunity to engage with recruitment officers from colleges and universities throughout Ontario and Quebec to see what each school has to offer. For more information please contact the Aboriginal Support Teacher, Tammy Webster at tammy.webster@wcdsb.ca to register for free transportation. Students who attend will be responsible for their own lunch.

EXPLORE – Live the Canadian Experience!

Discover another region of Canada while learning French through this 5 week, language-immersion summer program. Participants in the Explore program receive a bursary that covers most expenses, including tuition fees for the program, instructional materials, meals and accommodations, workshops, and other mandatory activities. Participants in the program live in a student residence on a school campus or with a homestay family whose members speak French. To be eligible for the program, participants must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident, be at least 16 years old on the first day of the program and in at least Grade 11. **No prior experience in the French language is required.** Visit www.myexplore.ca for more information and to complete the application form. The deadline for interested applicants is February 28.

Christmas Community Supports

Christmas is a time for family and a time for joy and celebration. It can also be a very stressful time for families with limited resources. Various outreach programs can link families with a variety of financial and food supports, grief and coping supports and subsidies for recreation programs. For more information, contact the Community Outreach Worker closest to you:

- Cambridge Family Early Years Center, 519-740-8353
- Hespeler Area or Cambridge Self Help Food Bank, 519-622-6550, Ext. 107
- Fiddlesticks and Greenway Chaplin Community Center (Patti), 519-623-4220
- Preston Central and Langs Farm (Crystal), 519-653-1470, Ext. 235
- Preston Heights Community Group (Pam), 519-650-2971

If you or someone else is feeling overwhelmed and hopeless over the holidays and you don't know where to turn, call HERE 1-844-437-3247, www.here247.ca

Bereavement/Grief Support Workshop

The holidays can be both happy and sad following the loss of a loved one. If you are looking for ways to support grieving and bereaved children and teens through the holidays, consider attending a community workshop that will offer tips on helping children and teens cope during the holidays. This workshop, presented by Hospice of Waterloo Region and Christ the King School Council is available for parents, grandparents, guardians and caregivers and is free of charge. The workshop will be held on December 15, 7:15 @ Hospice of Waterloo Region Family Centre, 298 Lawrence Avenue, Kitchener. Registration is requested, but not required. Interested adults should contact Alana @ Hospice Waterloo 519-743-4114 for more information.



This poll is closed.

Christmas Shopping!

Have you done your Christmas shopping yet?

I've been shopping over the last few months	6
I did most of my shopping on Black Friday	0
I did most of my shopping on Cyber Monday	0
I haven't finished most of my shopping	8
I wait for Boxing Week	0

Students depart on Dominican Encounter

BY BENN STAFF

Please keep in your prayers the staff and students of the St. Benedict community, as well as the WCDSB, who left Friday morning on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic. Among those participating are our vice-principal Mrs. Temple, as well as five of our students: Sierra Huntley, Elizabeth Ralph, Melissa Couto, Sasha Cochrane, and Tayia Brown.

We will have more information from them upon their return!



Selfie time for Mrs. Temple with the girls from St. Benedict on the DR trip



Bennies Created Beautiful Noise by Being Silent!

BY MRS. M. ROCHA

The Making A Difference Club hosted the annual Vow of Silence on November 20. Students were invited to remain silent for the whole school day for an issue that was important to them. Over eighty students and a few staff members committed to the vow and brought attention to issues such as child abuse, human trafficking, homophobia, refugees, terrorism, bullying and mental health. Some



participants covered their mouth with tape that had an issue written on it and they were also encouraged to spread awareness through social media.

Every year as I do the vow, it reminds me of how powerless some of our brothers and sisters in the world are, and how important it is to stand in solidarity with them. It is important that we use our voices to speak for those whose voices have been taken away because of injustice. Jesus is our ultimate role model in that He stood up for the less fortunate, the outcasts and those who struggled. The vow reminds us to be people of words AND action in order to bring justice to all.

Academics



Enriching the Lives of Students

By MRS. D. WITTMANN

There 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.



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.

Coop Career Fair

By MRS. M. CROWELL



Yesterday in the atrium almost fifty co-op students shared their co-op placement learning experiences this semester with the rest of the St Benedict community. The students are placed in many businesses in the community and are learning about careers in areas like teaching, hairstyling, banking, pharmacy, retirement homes, hospital, automotive, culinary, and the military to name just a few.

Many of the students are registered in the Specialist High Skills Major program and are meeting some of those requirements by completing a two credit coop program in their field.

If you have questions about coop visit us in the coop office on the second floor and watch for an information session that will happen in January.



Former Bennie's student talks to business students

BY MR. F. WITTMANN

Business students had the benefit of hearing alumnus Trevor Cahill speak with them about a unique program at Conestoga College: Supply Chain and Operations Management. Trevor is a student in the three-year Business Administration program which prepares students for successful careers in the growing, dynamic, and underserved-field of supply chain management. Trevor will complete the program in the spring, and he already has a job waiting for him when he graduates.

During his presentation, Trevor charted his path through post-secondary and employment positions, to help impart on current high school students the importance of planning, studying, networking, and the need to be resilient. Trevor credits his knowledge and skills acquired at St. Benedict in helping to prepare himself for life after high school. Mr. Milardovic's marketing course certainly had an impact on him.

Athletics

Bennie's Wrestlers do well in first tournament

BY MRS. L. EDWARDS

Congratulations goes out to the Bennies Wrestling Team who combated hard and struggled through every pin and takedown to represent the our school community like true Saints Athletes during the November 20th Monsignor Doyle Invitational.

Five out of our nine wrestlers placed in the tournament.

Harvir Lall, with no points scored against him, had an outstanding performance and claimed a 1st place win in his weight class, winning all of his matches by pin or submission. His technique was remarkable and disciplined.

William Bui won 2 matches that had him competing for 1st place in his weight class in the finals, but came a little short and grabbed 2nd place.

Daniel Bodi, started the day with a bye, found himself successfully competing for 4th place in his weight class.

Rebecca Quigley found herself in a round robin style of competition, where she claimed 2nd place in her weight class.

BENN BOX SCORES

Jr. Girls volleyball
Resurrection 3, Saints 2

Sr. Girls volleyball
Resurrection 3, Saints 2

Jr. Boys basketball
Saints 58, Resurrection 45

Sr. Boys basketball
Saints 57, Resurrection 33

Sr. Boys hockey
Saints 5, St. Mary's 3

Logan Pereira; first year wrestler, showed outstanding promise as her technique and confidence improved with each match and proudly placed 4th in her weight class.

Shouts go out to the other wrestlers; first year wrestler Madison Lee as well as the rest of the team; Dustin MacCuish, Antwon Keosavanh and Travis Lazdins...

Special thanks on behalf of the team, goes to Travis who worked hard preseason to ensure Bennies has a team this year!!

Senior Girls volleyball

By Ms. R. O'BRIEN

The Senior Girls Volleyball team played an excellent first game of their winter season Monday night against Resurrection. The players consistently showed strength, perseverance and resilience throughout the game. Despite multiple injuries, the players won two sets, keeping the fans on the edges of their seats! Final score was 3:2 for Res. Special thanks to the scorekeepers and lines-keepers; you help the games be possible! Wish the volleyball players good luck as they prepare to play Doyle on Wednesday.

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 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](#).

Cross-country runners Jingle it up!

By Mr. F. WITTMANN

Congratulations to members of the x-country team who competed last Saturday in the annual Jingle Bell Run, held at The Y. Despite the cold weather, our runners showed a lot of determination and tried to perform to the best of their abilities.

The Saints won both team divisions. On the girls side, Emily and Nikki Soares, combined with Hope Harnack, to win the 2.5k race.

The boys team of Greg Danayan, Nathaniel Wells, Josh Van de Vegte, and Adam Indycki, won the 5k race.

Ms. Stang raced well and achieved her personal goals!



Clubs

Student Activities

The Arts

Other News

Parish Connections

St. Mary of the Visitation Parish

16 Cooper Street, Cambridge (Hespeler), Ontario, N3C 2N2.

Telephone: (519) 658-4443.

CHRISTMAS SEASON MASSES

Christmas Eve: Thursday, December 24th

5:00 p.m. – Family Mass with Pageant

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

Midnight – Solemn Mass of Christmas

· Lots of Additional Parking at WD Johnson Centre for all our Masses

Christmas Day: Friday, 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 27 at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 28

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

Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

Thursday, December 31, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

Friday, January 1, 2016

at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Check for details at our website: www.stmaryhespeler.ca

We are walking to end homelessness in Cambridge.



Join us - Saturday December 5th
Walk or Run
starts at Doyle and ends at Bridges
Registration at 9 AM. Walk starts at 10 AM
See Mr. Wittmann for pledge forms.

teen **STAR WARS** party

Celebrate *The Force Awakens*!
Make a lightsaber, watch our Star Wars YouTube Film Festival, and try your hand at *Star Wars Trivia*. You could win movie tickets and other prizes!

Wednesday December 9 @ 6-8pm
Clemens Mill, Idea Exchange
Ages 13+

Wednesday, December 2

2:10pm Yearbook Team
 2:10pm Camera Club
 2:15pm Show Choir
 3:00pm Jr. Girls Volleyball @ Monsignor Doyle CSS
 3:00pm Sr. Girls Volleyball @ Monsignor Doyle CSS
 4:30pm Sr. Boys Basketball vs Monsignor Doyle CSS
 BENN Newsletter release

Thursday, December 3

8:00am Confined Space + Health & Safety Training
 10:40am Robotics Club
 10:45am DECA meeting
 2:00pm Sr. Boys Hockey vs Monsignor Doyle CSS
 2:10pm Rock Climbing Club
 2:15pm Seams Sew Easy Club
 2:15pm Games Club
 2:15pm Jazz Band
 6:00pm Badminton Club

Friday, December 4

8:00am Wrestling District 8 Tournament
 10:40am Star Trek Club
 10:40am United Cultures
 10:40am Puzzles Club
 10:45am Programmers Club
 2:15pm Dr. Who club

Saturday, December 5

9:00am Cross Country: 7k run from Doyle to the Bridges

Sunday, December 6

Second Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 7

10:40am Robotics Club
 2:15pm Concert Band
 3:00pm Sr. Boys Basketball vs Woodland Christian HS
 3:30pm Jr. Girls Volleyball @ Woodland Christian HS
 3:30pm Sr. Girls Volleyball @ Woodland Christian HS
 4:30pm Jr. Boys Basketball vs Woodland Christian HS

Tuesday, December 8

10:40am Arts Council
 10:40am Mock United Nations
 10:40am Accepting Differences Club
 10:45am Games Club
 10:45am DECA meeting
 10:45am E-Car club
 2:00pm Sr. Boys Hockey vs St. David CSS
 3:45pm Curling: St. Benedict's (Girls) vs St. Benedict's (Boys)
 Reconciliation

Wednesday, December 9

8:00am ICE Challenge Day
 8:00am Kin Lab Days @ UW (Laboratory Training)
 10:40am Fresh Club
 10:40am Cosmo Club
 10:40am Guitar Club
 10:45am Financial Club
 10:45am E-Car club
 1:00pm Swimming: Mini-Meet #1
 2:10pm Yearbook Team
 2:10pm Camera Club
 2:15pm Show Choir
 3:00pm Jr. Boys Basketball @ St. David CSS
 3:00pm Jr. Girls Volleyball vs St. David CSS

Tuesday, December 15

8:00am Printmaking Workshop
 10:40am Arts Council
 10:40am Mock United Nations
 10:40am Accepting Differences Club
 10:45am Games Club
 10:45am DECA meeting
 10:45am E-Car club
 3:45pm Curling: St. Benedict's (Boys) vs St. Mary's (Boys)
 3:45pm Curling: St. Benedict's (Girls) vs St. Mary's (Girls)

Wednesday, December 16

10:40am Fresh Club
 10:40am Cosmo Club
 10:40am Guitar Club
 10:45am Financial Club
 10:45am E-Car club
 2:10pm Yearbook Team
 2:10pm Camera Club
 2:15pm Show Choir
 3:00pm Jr. Boys Basketball vs St. Mary's HS
 3:30pm Jr. Girls Volleyball @ St. Mary's HS
 3:30pm Sr. Girls Volleyball @ St. Mary's HS
 4:30pm Sr. Boys Basketball vs St. Mary's HS
 7:00pm Wintersong
 BENN Newsletter release

Thursday, December 17

10:40am Robotics Club
 10:45am DECA meeting
 2:00pm Sr. Boys Hockey vs St. Mary's HS
 2:10pm Rock Climbing Club
 2:15pm Seams Sew Easy Club
 2:15pm Games Club
 2:15pm Jazz Band
 4:00pm Midget Boys Basketball @ St. Mary's HS
 5:00pm Midget Boys Basketball @ Resurrection CSS
 6:00pm Badminton Club

Friday, December 18

10:40am Star Trek Club
 10:40am United Cultures
 10:40am Puzzles Club
 10:45am Programmers Club
 2:15pm Dr. Who club
 Christmas Assembly

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**

3:00pm Sr. Girls Volleyball vs St. David CSS
4:30pm Sr. Boys Basketball @ St. David CSS

Events.

Thursday, December 10

8:00am Emergency Response & Incident Management Training
8:00am Stop Motion Animation
10:40am Robotics Club
10:45am DECA meeting
2:10pm Rock Climbing Club
2:15pm Seams Sew Easy Club
2:15pm Games Club
2:15pm Jazz Band
2:30pm Sr. Boys Hockey @ Resurrection CSS
6:00pm Badminton Club

Friday, December 11

8:00am Wrestling District 8 Tournament
10:40am Star Trek Club
10:40am United Cultures
10:40am Puzzles Club
10:45am Programmers Club
2:15pm Dr. Who club
3:00pm Jr. Girls Volleyball @ ES Père-René-de-Galinée
3:00pm Sr. Girls Volleyball @ ES Père-René-de-Galinée
Advent/Christmas basket faith assembly

Sunday, December 13

Third Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 14

10:40am Robotics Club
1:00pm Swimming: Mini-Meet #2
2:15pm Concert Band
3:00pm Jr. Girls Volleyball vs Rockway MC
3:00pm Sr. Girls Volleyball vs Rockway MC
3:30pm Sr. Boys Basketball @ Rockway MC
5:00pm Jr. Boys Basketball @ Rockway MC

**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.

