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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

February 24, 2016

## Semester 2 a fresh start

Semester 2 is a chance for a fresh start and as a community we look to recommit to the proper wearing of the uniform.

All students are expected to be in full uniform each and every day—it is a sign of respect and important to the safety of our community.

Students are expected to be in uniform when they enter the classroom. If students enter the classroom out of uniform, teachers will refer them to the main office. On the first referral students will be given an opportunity to get into uniform or an administrator may provide a pass for the day and parents will be contacted. Subsequent referrals will result in the student being sent home for the day.

A student wearing a hat will be asked to remove it. If it becomes a consistent concern, the student will be asked by a teacher to turn in the hat to the main office and will be followed up with by an administrator.

Administration will be taking hats from students who choose to wear them during the day. Where students choose not to cooperate, or where there are repeated occurrences, the student will be sent home for the day.

We communicated this with our staff last week, on the ranger system and with all students at our February Grade level meetings. Any support from home around ensuring your student is in uniform would be tremendous and appreciated.

Please note if a student ever has a legitimate reason why they are unable to arrive to school in uniform, they should report directly to the main office at the start of the day, where an administrator will help them resolve the issue.

We are looking forward to a wonderful start to Semester 2.

- Administration

### Benny's in the Local Media

CAMBRIDGE TIMES: [Van Grogingen sisters medal at Nor-Am stop](#)

## Administrative

# Saints are DECA-rific in Toronto

BY MR. A. MILARDOVIC & MR. F. WITTMANN



Over the last few days, 58 students from St. Benedict competed at the DECA Business Competition Provincial championships in Toronto. DECA stands for "Demonstrating Excellence, Celebrating Achievement". This competition brings together over 7000 of the province's brightest business students to compete in over 40 categories. Some of the competitions were individual and some team, some were written, some oral.

We are pleased to announce that several of our students definitely demonstrated excellence in their categories. Several of our students will subsequently be representing our school at the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Nashville, Tennessee in April.

The team of Veronica Reitmeier and William Da Silva placed first in the Creative Marketing Project category, with an overall perfect score. They did their project on improved promotion of the Toyota brand to the 22–30 year old age category by implementing an intensive social media campaign geared towards that age group.



**Veronica Reitmeier and William Da Silva's Creative Marketing Project for Toyota earned them a berth at ICDC in Nashville.**



**Tyler DeSousa, Trevor O'Hagan and Adam Lainey place in the top 5 for the third year in a row, and are bound for Nashville.**

Also winning their category with a perfect score was the team of Tyler DeSousa, Adam Lainey and Trevor O'Hagan. Their project on increasing employee engagement at Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment helped them place in the top 5 for the third year in a row.

Also qualifying for internationals was George Danayan, with his unique product pitch for toilet-paper based advertising, which he called "Wipe Your Ads". His powerpoint presentation was done on an oversized roll of toilet paper, which had many in the competition hall buzzing as it rolled by.

We also had several other top 15 placements which we are extremely proud of. In their DECA debut, Kyson Vi placed top 15 in his category, as did the grade 9 team of Faith Nieson and Leanne Trepanier in their category.

Mr. Wittmann, Mrs. Ratz, and Mr. Milardovic are pleased with the results and the professionalism which all of our students showed over the duration of the competition. We wish all of our ICDC-bound students the best of luck, and we thank all students who participated this year for their dedication and for representing St. Benedict in a positive manner. To our departing graduates, we wish you all the best, you will be missed! And to students who will be back next year, we look forward to seeing you in DECA in September!



**George Danayan practices his presentation in front of his peers to help polish his delivery.**

## **News from the Guidance Department**

BY MRS. P. KLASSEN

### **Semester Two Course Changes**

The deadline date for requesting a course change for semester two is Thursday, February 11. This deadline date will allow us to process course change requests in a timely manner, as well as to work through the lists of students who still remain on the waiting lists for some courses.

### **Course Selections for 2015 - 2016**

Although second semester is barely underway, it is time for students to start thinking about their course selections for next year. Beginning February 10 and continuing to early next week, counsellors will be visiting classrooms to discuss the important process of choosing courses for the 2015 – 2016 school year. We will visit Grade 9 classes during period two, Grade 10 classes during period three and Grade 11 classes during period four. Grade 12 students who are interested in returning to St. Benedict for a 5th year will be invited to attend a lunch session at a date to be determined. The decisions that students make now regarding their choices for next year are what drive the scheduling decisions that are made with regard to both the courses and the numbers of sections of each course that we offer at the school next year. The importance of making the right choices should not be underestimated as inappropriate course changes are not always easily corrected once the school year is underway.

As has been the practice for the past number of years, students will be choosing their courses on-line through Career Cruising. All students will receive detailed instructions regarding the process for choosing their classes during our classroom presentations. The site can be accessed as follows:

1. Go to the Career Cruising website: [www.wcdsb.ca/planner](http://www.wcdsb.ca/planner)
2. Your Username is the prefix "wl-" plus the last 5 digits of your student ID and the first 3 characters of your last name. (eg. John Smith wl-12345SMI)
3. Your Password is your birth date. (mmddyyyy) For example, if your birthdate is August 25, 1990 your password will be 08251990. You will be asked to change your password when you log in for the first time.

Please note that course selections must be submitted to the school and signed by a parent, by Tuesday, March 1. Students are encouraged to consult the course calendar, as well as subject specific

teachers and guidance counsellors for help making the correct decisions. In addition to before school, after school and during the school day, guidance counsellors will also be available in one of the computer labs during lunch on specific days leading up to the deadline date.

Follow Guidance updates information on our Twitter feed, [@SBENGuidance](#)

## Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) and Course Selection

All students who are registered in one of the Specialist High Skills Major programs should have received a report which indicates their progress in their sector of choice. Students should use this report to make sure that they choose courses for next year which will allow them to complete the SHSM academic requirements.

## University of Waterloo Grade 10 Family Night

The University of Waterloo will be hosting an evening for Grade 10 students and their parents on Thursday, February 18 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM. This is a great opportunity for grade 10 students who are thinking about attending any of Ontario's universities. Information covered will include finding a program that is a good fit, navigating the application process, and financing post-secondary education. Register to attend or watch the live webcast at [uwaterloo.ca/findoutmore/grade-10](http://uwaterloo.ca/findoutmore/grade-10)

## Community Service Opportunity

"Coldest Night of the Year" is an event to support Urban Hope of Cambridge. Urban Hope feeds, clothes and mentors the homeless, hurting and less fortunate. A recent article in the Cambridge Times highlighted the story of a young, homeless, addicted woman who gave birth in an abandoned building. Supporting people like this is unique to Urban Hope. On Saturday, February 20, a group of people will be walking to raise money for Urban Hope. Volunteers are needed for many tasks including route marshalling, soup kitchen duties, clean up, registration, parking, greeting and lots more. Students can log onto [www.coldestnightoftheyear.org](http://www.coldestnightoftheyear.org) to sign up as a volunteer.

## Part-Time Job Opportunity

Mennonite Furniture, located at 250 Pinebush Rd. is looking for a student to work Saturday from 9 AM – 5 PM, as well as occasional evenings. Duties will include selling furniture as well as assisting the delivery driver in loading and unloading furniture. Please drop off, email or fax your resume to [nicole@mennonitefurniture.on.ca](mailto:nicole@mennonitefurniture.on.ca) Fax 519-622-1161

## Summer Job Opportunities

African Lion Safari will be hosting a Job Fair at the Mombasa Market Restaurant, onsite at African Lion Safari on Saturday, April 2, 2016. Students are invited to attend the Job Fair which will run from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. There are a wide variety of positions that they will be looking to fill with students. Students must be at least 16 years of age, have a valid SIN number, have transportation to and from work and be available to work on weekends and holidays. Experience is an asset, but not a requirement for most positions.

The City of Cambridge is also seeking enthusiastic people to fill a wide variety of summer jobs. Check out [www.cambridge.ca/studentsummerjobs](http://www.cambridge.ca/studentsummerjobs)

### Are you thinking of a future in health care?

Bennies is offering a new Health Care course in September 2016. For more information see the school website, ask your guidance counsellor or see Mrs. Taylor in the phys. ed. office.



# 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 2015-16**

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! 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).



# SEVERE WEATHER

## Bus Cancellation and School Closures

### How do we make school closure and bus cancellation decisions?



- Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region (STSWR) bus operators start monitoring road and weather conditions early in the morning.
- A recommendation to make any bus cancellations or school closures is discussed with the Directors of Education at local school boards.
- **Transportation cancellations do not automatically mean schools are closed**



### What time do we make decisions?

- We try to make decisions by 6:00 a.m.

### Where do I find cancellation information?

We communicate this information by:

1. Our website [www.wcdsb.ca](http://www.wcdsb.ca)
2. STSWR website [www.stswr.ca](http://www.stswr.ca)
3. Our twitter account @WCDSDNewsWire
4. Local media



### How do frigid temperatures affect closures?



- Frigid temperatures are temperatures at  $-35^{\circ}\text{C}$  with wind chill or colder.
- We monitor Environment Canada's wind chill index by 5:30 a.m.
- If temperatures are forecasted to be  $-35^{\circ}\text{C}$  or colder with the wind chill at 7:00 a.m. **buses will not operate.**
- Schools may be open to students who can safely arrive at school under supervision or direction of their parents.



### Important reminder

- Frost bite can happen within minutes of skin being exposed during frigid temperatures. Please dress appropriately.
- Crossing Guards may not be available as a result of frigid temperatures.

Parents have the option of keeping their children at home, or picking them up before the regular dismissal time when concerned about weather conditions.

## Inclement weather

Check the school board website at [www.wcdsb.ca](http://www.wcdsb.ca) or listen to local radio stations such as CHYM FM and 570 News for information on bus cancellations and/or school closures. If buses are cancelled, schools remain open for those who can safely travel.

# Access your student's attendance information in real time

By MR. A. MILARDOVIC

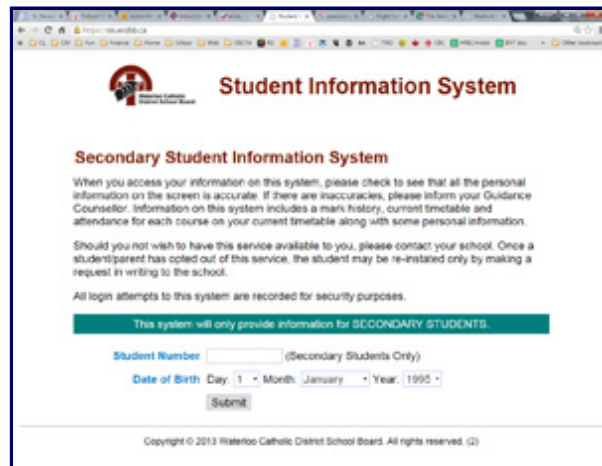
Class attendance is a key component to a student's success in their classes. Timely communication of attendance information between home and school is critical for accurate attendance records.

If a student is away from school a parent must call the attendance line at the school at 519-621-4001. The call can be placed any time, 24 hours a day. It is strongly recommended that you make this call as soon as the absence is known, or at the latest before the student returns to school.

If your son or daughter is going to be away for a trip or extended period of time for a medical reason an *Intent to be Absent* form should be completed in advance by a parent. These are available in the Guidance department.

A student, parent or guardian can access their student's attendance in real time through the Secondary Student Information System (SIS) Website. Information available to view includes student mark history, current timetable, attendance for each course on the current timetable and your contact information. The website link is <https://sis.wcdsb.ca>.

To access the student specific information, you must have the student number (which can be found on a student's timetable) and birth date. If you cannot locate the student number please call the guidance or attendance office for assistance.



**With your son's or daughter's date of birth and student number, you can see their attendance up to the minute.**

## Classrooms are No Phone Zones!



Classrooms are for learning. The use of cell phones is not permitted in class. Parents, if you need to get in



## Food Allergy Alert!

We have a number of students and staff in the St. Benedict community with severe life-threatening food allergies, particularly related to peanuts and nuts (anaphylaxis). This is a medical condition that causes a severe allergic reaction to specific foods and can result in death within minutes. If you child brings their lunch with them to school, please ensure that it is free from peanuts and nut products.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact your child's administrator.

touch with your son or daughter, please call the school office and we will contact your child.

Students, don't let your cell phone become a distraction to your learning. Many teachers are integrating this technology into their classroom activities, but when it is not part of the learning phones should be away.

## Who is your administrator?

The administrative contact for your son or daughter is based on your last name:

A to G: [Mr. Sauve](#)

H to N: [Mr. Jaeger](#)

O to Z: [Mrs. Temple](#)

As always, feel free to contact our principal, [Mr. Witt.](#)

## 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.](mailto:Enrichment@St.Benedict)



### 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)

## Attention Grade 10 students!

### OSSLT Prep Session Opportunity

Students are invited to attend after-school prep sessions to help them prepare for the upcoming OSSLT. These sessions will run every Wednesday and Thursday after school in room 212 from 2:15 to 3:45 starting February 10th until March 30th. If you are interested in signing up for these sessions or would like some more information, please see Ms. Craftchick or Ms. Trentini in room 208. Grade 10s, we strongly encourage you to attend these sessions so that you are well prepared for the OSSLT on March 31st.

## University of Windsor Math League Contest

The University of Windsor Math League Contest will be held on Thursday, February 11, in the room 300 for students of all grades during Period 2. Everyone is welcome!

## Athletics

### Varsity Boys hockey

By Mr. N. O'CONNOR

The Varsity boys hockey team advanced to the district 8 championships by defeating St. Mary's 4-0 in semi final action on





Monday. Ryan Frost scored 2 goals while Steve McKinnon and Ryan Meisner also scored for the Saints. Hunter Price recorded the shut out in goal. The Saints will host game 1 of the championship series on Thursday after school.

Jr. Girls volleyball  
Saints 3, Msgr. Doyle 0

Sr. Girls volleyball  
Saints 3, Msgr. Doyle 0

Sr. Boys hockey  
Saints 4, St. Mary's 0

## Senior Girls volleyball

BY Ms. R. O'BRIEN

Congratulations to the Senior Girls volleyball team for an outstanding season. They finished their season last night in a game against St. Davids. The players earned Bennies an awesome reputation as a technically skilled team that rallies and never gives up. Good luck to our graduating team members, and see you soon returning players!

## Junior Girls volleyball

BY Ms. J. BIRCH

Congratulations to the Junior Girls volleyball team who ended their regular season by defeating Doyle 3 sets to 0 Monday night. With a record of 12-2, the girls play their first playoff game at home on Wednesday. Come cheer the girls on!

## 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](#).

## Clubs

### Fresh Food Club

Fresh Food Club will meet this Thursday in room 316 (Science room). New members always welcome.

### United Cultures

United Cultures is back for semester 2. Join us this Friday at lunch in Room 323. All are welcome!

### Girls only fitness

Girls only fitness is back for semester 2. Join us the weight room every Thursday after school.

### Concert Band

CONCERT BAND is back! All instruments welcome...especially Gr.9 Band Class grads! See you Mondays 2:15-3:30.

### Jazz Band

Hey JAZZ BAND! Looking forward to jamming Thursdays 2:15-3:30. New members welcome!

### Financial Club

After a several month hiatus, Financial Club will be starting up again next Wednesday in room 214 at lunch. Bring your lunch, a friend, and most importantly, your financial questions: on stocks, saving, investing... and get ready to play the stock market challenge! All are welcome!

## Programmers Club

Do you want to learn how to program? Do you want to get an idea about programming before deciding to take the grade 11 ICS 3U or ICS 3C course? Come join us in room 214 at lunch Thursdays this semester. New joiners are always welcome, and no previous programming experience is needed... just a desire to learn!

## Puzzles Club

Crossword puzzles, sudoku, word finds, rubiks cubes... you want it? We got it! Come to room 214 Tuesdays at lunch and flex your mental muscle!

## Star Trek Club

Star Trek Club is meeting Friday at lunch in room 123 for the continued episode of Voyager #8 "Emanations". How will Harry Kim get back to Voyager from a trans-dimensional alien planet and what spiritual ramifications will it have for the alien culture he has encountered? New members are welcome to join us, bring your lunch! See you there! Live long and Prosper!

## Doctor Who Club

This week, the Doctor teams up with the Sisterhood to stop a galactic threat, in the conclusion of "The Brain of Morbius". It all takes place Friday, after school, in room 226.

## Badminton Club

Badminton Club is back on THURSDAYS at 6pm.

## Student Activities

### The Arts

### Other News

## Upcoming Events

Wednesday, February 10  
2:10pm Yearbook Team  
2:10pm Camera Club  
Ash Wednesday  
Girls Hockey tournament in Burlington  
BENN Newsletter released

Monday, February 22  
10:40am Robotics Club  
2:15pm Concert Band

Tuesday, February 23

**Thursday, February 11**

8:00am Wrestling CWOSSA Qualifier Tournament  
10:40am Robotics Club  
10:40am Giving Back Club  
10:40am Programmers Club  
10:40am Puzzles Club  
2:15pm Seams Sew Easy Club  
2:15pm Games Club  
2:15pm Jazz Band  
6:00pm Badminton Club

**Friday, February 12**

10:40am Star Trek Club  
10:40am United Cultures  
2:15pm Dr. Who club

**Sunday, February 14**

Valentine's Day

**Monday, February 15**

Family Day holiday

**Tuesday, February 16**

8:00am Knife Skills & Restaurant Operations  
8:00am Renewable Energy: Solar Power  
8:00am Ozone Depletion Certification & CFC Handling  
10:40am Arts Council  
10:40am Mock United Nations  
10:40am Accepting Differences Club  
10:45am Games Club  
10:45am E-Car club  
3:45pm Curling: St. Benedict's (Boys) vs St. Mary's (Boys)  
3:45pm Curling: St. Mary's (Girls) vs St. Benedict's (Girls)  
Semester 1 report cards distributed

**Wednesday, February 17**

8:00am Renewable Energy: Solar Power  
8:00am Ozone Depletion Certification & CFC Handling  
8:00am TV Video Production & Video Editing Software  
8:00am Self-Defence Training  
10:40am Fresh Club  
10:40am Cosmo Club  
10:40am Guitar Club  
10:40am Ultimate Frisbee  
10:45am Financial Club  
10:45am E-Car club  
2:10pm Yearbook Team  
2:10pm Camera Club

**Thursday, February 18**

8:00am Computer Aided Design/Manufacturing (CAD/CAM) Training  
8:00am Event Coordination & Tourism training  
10:40am Robotics Club  
10:40am Giving Back Club  
2:15pm Seams Sew Easy Club  
2:15pm Games Club  
2:15pm Jazz Band  
6:00pm Badminton Club

**Friday, February 19**

8:00am Canadian International Auto Show  
10:40am Star Trek Club  
10:40am United Cultures  
10:40am Puzzles Club  
10:45am Programmers Club  
2:15pm Dr. Who club

8:00am Specialized Care: Dementia training  
10:40am Arts Council  
10:40am Mock United Nations  
10:40am Accepting Differences Club  
10:45am Games Club  
10:45am E-Car club

**Wednesday, February 24**

10:40am Fresh Club  
10:40am Cosmo Club  
10:40am Guitar Club  
10:40am Ultimate Frisbee  
10:45am Financial Club  
10:45am E-Car club  
2:10pm Yearbook Team  
2:10pm Camera Club  
Arts Coffee House  
BENN Newsletter released

**Thursday, February 25**

10:40am Robotics Club  
10:40am Giving Back Club  
2:15pm Seams Sew Easy Club  
2:15pm Games Club  
2:15pm Jazz Band  
6:00pm Badminton Club  
7:00pm School Council meeting

**Friday, February 26**

6:00pm Semi-formal  
Professional Activity 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**



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.

