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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 News-wire 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

April 13, 2016

Having the conversation...

Back in "my day" as a student, interview time was one when mom and dad went to the school, met with my teachers, while I sat at home, nervously awaiting what information my parents would bring home. I don't know if it was the culture, or my parents, but sometimes I felt that my teachers did not portray me as the type of student I thought I was.

One of my teachers' comments to my parents perplexed me. After a few days, I spoke to my teacher asking what he said. He said, "the first thing I said was that I wished you were here so that we can have a conversation." He made me realize that I was an important piece of the puzzle, and that the discussion may have been a more fruitful had I been there. We ended up chatting for about 15 minutes, and he took the time to have the "interview" a second time, albeit this time with me and not my parents.

I took that information home and had a conversation with my parents. While my parents were still not pleased with my mark, we were having a positive discussion about my academics. Following that, I thought to myself *this would've been more beneficial (and less time consuming) had I gone to the interview—we could have had one conversation instead of three.*

Students: find some time tomorrow to meet with teachers and your parents to engage in the conversation about your learning. Getting all three parties to discuss your strengths, weaknesses and next steps only works to help you achieve. Take ownership of your learning, and be present!

– Editor

Benny's in the Local Media

CAMBRIDGE TIMES: [Saints' Seyed named MVP for second year](#)

CAMBRIDGE TIMES: [Roundabout construction will close Pinebush Road a...](#)

CAMBRIDGE TIMES: [High school junior set for Seton Hall](#)

CAMBRIDGE TIMES: [Cambridge native puts his trivia knowledge in Jeopa...](#)

Administrative

Administration Update

By SBCSS ADMINISTRATION

Happy Easter to our St. Benedict community! We hope you had a blessed and Holy Easter weekend. May the peace of the risen Christ bless your homes, your hearts and your families. As we move into the month of April we'd like to take this time to thank staff, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends that have had a profound impact on our students and school. We would like to publically thank our entire teaching and support staff for going above and beyond to assist students in reaching their

full potential. For those students who are still trying to reach their goals, the great thing about education is, there is always tomorrow. We encourage each student work on their goals this semester as we move to midterm reports.

As a community of learners, we have been stressing growth mindset and within that, the idea of goal setting. We are challenging our students to reflect on their learning thus far and to set some goals moving forward. "What are you hoping to accomplish in each class? What are you going to do to accomplish it? Are these goals within reach? Can you set up a short term and long term time frame for the goal? Can you share your goal with someone else? Can you write it down and sign your name to it? "The great thing about attending a Catholic School is that our foundational beliefs are based on the Gospel and we always have hope that things can improve and get better.

As leaders within the school community, we truly believe all students begin each day and each week, with a fresh start. Our staff is committed to providing a welcoming, inclusive, safe and nurturing environment that will inspire and challenge each student to strive to reach their dreams. We encourage each parent to be an important part of assisting us to help your daughter or son along the way. We believe that education is a triad approach involving the parents, school and parish. We request you dialogue with your child to set goals for the remainder of the semester and keep the communication lines open with your son's or daughter's teachers.

Some exciting things are happening that we look forward to in coming up: March for Life trip to Ottawa, our overnight Fast, DECA Provincial, Canada Skills Competition, hosting the Sears Drama Festival, and lots of sports and intramurals to highlight a few. We continue to encourage each student to get involved in something outside of the classroom to make your high school experience memorable!

Once again, Happy Easter. May you have the opportunity to celebrate the Easter season with hope and optimism.

Do you still need to book an interview time for Thursday?

Parent/student/teacher conferences are being held tomorrow—Thursday, March, 31—from 3:00 to 8:00. If your son or daughter has not booked an appointment but you would like to meet with a teacher, you can email them from the school website and request a time. Email addresses can be found under About ► St. Benedict Staff. Some teachers may be able to accommodate walk-ins, please contact the school for information.

Helping a Saint get to the Olympics

By MR. F. WITTMANN

2011 Alumna Jellisa Westney hopes to be the first Bennie's grad to compete at the Olympics, as part of the Canadian Women's 4 X 100 metre relay.

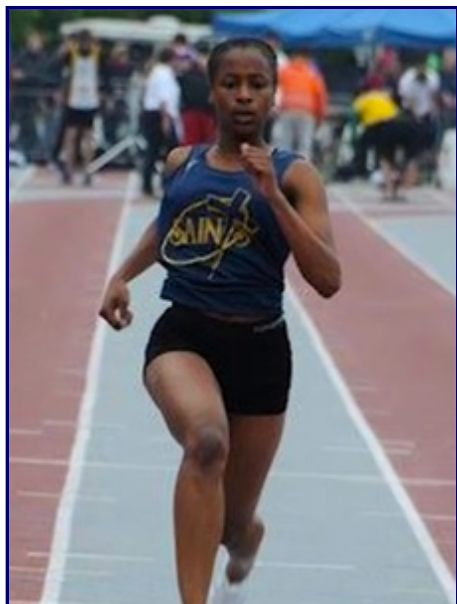
Friday April 1st will be "Fan Friday" – Uniform bottoms, Sportswear tops – \$2 towards Jellisa's campaign. It is also a kick-off to the Bennie's spring sports season. Go Saints!!

See more about Jellisa and her quest for Olympic gold on [her wesbite](#).

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test tomorrow

By MRS. L. CRAFTCHICK

On Thursday, March 31st, 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.



From running for Bennie's ...

Please note that this date is the only opportunity for students to write the 2016 OSSLT. Students who are absent will have to wait until the spring of 2017 to write it.

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



... to running for Canada.

Schedule for the Day

Warning Bell: 8:00

Morning Exercises: 8:05

OSSLT for Grade 10 and Previously Eligible Students*

Instructions: 8:10 – 8:15

Booklet # 1: 8:15 – 9:30

Break: 9:30 – 9:45

Booklet # 2: 9:45 – 11:00

Questionnaire: 11:00 – 11:15

Lunch: 11:15 – 11:45

Grade 9, 11, 12 students arrive at this time

Afternoon Schedule for all St. Benedict Students**

Period 1: 11:50 – 12:20

Period 2: 12:25 – 12:55

Period 3: 1:00 – 1:30

Period 4: 1:35 – 2:05

* Students writing the OSSLT this year are reminded to check their room locations posted outside of the Main Office or the Student Success Centre (Room 208). Transportation for the day will run as regularly scheduled for participants.

** All other students requiring school bus transportation for the afternoon schedule only are encouraged to check the additional route information available on the school website.

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.

As parents, please encourage your son or daughter to get a good night's rest and enjoy a healthy breakfast so that they are well prepared for success on the test.

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

Dominican Encounter application forms available

By Mrs. L. Temple

Are you interested in putting your faith into action?

Are you a grade 10 or 11 student?

Would you love to visit the

Dominican Republic and live in Faith and Hospitality for a week?

If so, come see Mrs Temple to grab information and an application package.

Applications are available in the main office and [on our website](#).

They need to be submitted to Mrs. Temple prior to April 19th.
Information session coming up soon– stay tuned for details.

Catholic Board Seeks Nominations for Annual Distinguished Graduate Award

Grads making a difference locally, nationally & internationally

By WCDSB NEWSWIRE

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board is seeking nominations for its annual Distinguished Graduate Award. Deadline for submissions is April 15, 2016.

The prestigious award was initiated by the Board of Trustees in 2005 to honour graduates of Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to their faith and have made significant contributions to their community.

More information, past winners, and the nomination form can be found on the Board's [Distinguished Graduate Award](#) page.

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.

Interested in being a Student Trustee?

If you are interested in representing St. Benedict students at the school board level, please consider applying for the position of Student Trustee. You must be a Grade 10 or Grade 11 student, in good academic standing, with a keen interest in the political side of the education system. Applications are available from Mr. Curtis in the SAC Office before or after school or at lunch time.

Access your student's attendance information in real time

By MR. A. MILARDOVIC

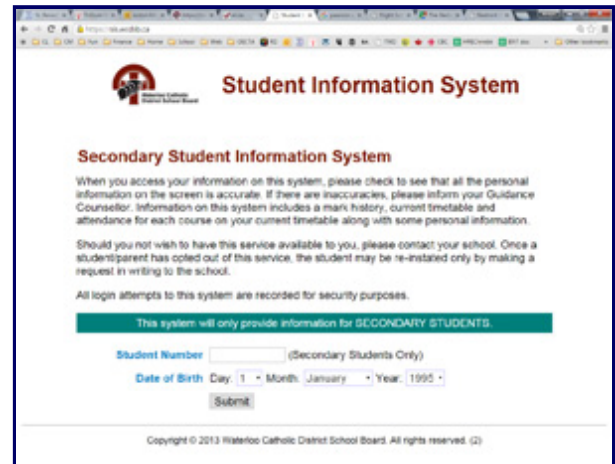
Class attendance is a key component to a student's success in their classes. Timely communication of attendance information between home and school is critical for accurate attendance records.

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!**



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



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

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.

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](#).



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](#).

Athletics

Swimming season ends

BY MISS S. SKINN



OFSAA swimmers Noah Thomas, Kyson Vi, and Kyanna Vi.

The swimming season has rapidly drawn to an exciting end after starting way back in November. Five swimmers were able to qualify to attend OFSAA in Windsor: Charlotte Jones, Noah Thomas, Kyson Vi, Kyanna Vi and Shaunna Walker-DeJong.

For the OFSAA swim meet on Tuesday March 8, three swimmers were able to attend and compete. Noah swam the 100 fly and Kyson Vi swam the 100 breast stroke in the open male division, and both had a good time but not quite enough to qualify to move on to finals against some very fierce competition. Kyanna Vi swam the 200 freestyle in the open female division and qualified to compete in the afternoon finals swimming a best time of 2:16.98.

It was a great experience in a world-class swim facility – what an event! Congratulations to all swimmers on a great season!

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

Student Activities

The Arts

Other News

Bishop's Banquet

In Honour Of
The Most Reverend

Bishop
Daniel
Miehm

Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Hamilton

11TH ANNUAL

Keynote Speaker:
Bishop
Daniel Miehm



Wednesday, May 18 • 2016 • 5:30 pm

Catholic Education Centre • St. Mary's Parish Hall
35 Weber Street West • Kitchener • Ontario



Proceeds to Support : Faith Formation Programs
within the Waterloo Region Catholic Schools



PROUD SPONSORS:



St. Jerome's University
Where Ideas Inspire Action



Tickets & Information, Dorothy Lubaszka Tel: 519.578.3660 or info@wrcsf.ca

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

The Youth Ambassador Club

The Youth Ambassador Club meets most Tuesdays from 3:30–5:30pm at the St. Benedict Library – seminar room 1. Each week we learn about issues in our community and the world, and work on micro-projects to make an impact.

Students earn volunteer hours through our fun and meaningful activities. Please contact Lily Viggiano, Youth Engagement Coordinator at United Way Cambridge and North Dumfries to learn more/join – lily@uwcambbridge.on.ca.

For updates on available volunteer positions for over 60 organizations in Cambridge follow [@cambridgeyouth](https://twitter.com/cambridgeyouth) on Twitter.



Dr. Pandey
invites you to the
12TH Annual
Healthy
Heart
Day

Your journey to a Healthy Heart...

Keynote Speakers:

Dr. Peter Lin, MD CCFP Medical Correspondent to CBC's:
The National & CBC Radio

Dr. Paul Oh, MD, MSc, FRCPC, FACP, Assistant Professor University of Toronto
Medical Director, Cardiac Rehab, Toronto Rehab Institute, UHN

Saturday April 30th 2016
8am-1pm (Registration: 7:15am, Survivor walk 7:30am)
St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School
50 Saginaw Parkway, Cambridge (Rear Entrance)

♥ Personalized Risk Assessment ♥ Health Fair

Register for **FREE EVENT**
healthyheartday@rogers.com • 519.624.3511
www.cambridgecardiaccare.com



5922-001













Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 30
2:10pm Yearbook Team
2:10pm Camera Club
BENN Newsletter released

Tuesday, April 12
8:00am Promotion through Photography Workshop
8:00am Scissor Lift Operator Certification
10:40am Arts Council

Thursday, March 31

10:40am Robotics Club
 10:40am Giving Back Club
 10:40am Programmers Club
 10:40am Fresh Club
 2:15pm Seams Sew Easy Club
 2:15pm Games Club
 2:15pm Jazz Band
 3:00pm Parent-teacher interviews
 6:00pm Badminton Club ** CANCELLED **
 OSSLT Literacy Test, grade 10

Friday, April 1

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

Monday, April 4

10:40am Robotics Club
 2:15pm Concert Band

Tuesday, April 5

8:00am Computer Engineering Workshop at UW
 8:00am Arts & Culture Zoom Career Day
 10:40am Arts Council
 10:40am Mock United Nations
 10:40am Accepting Differences Club
 10:40am Puzzles Club
 10:45am Games Club
 10:45am E-Car club

Wednesday, April 6

8:00am Conflict Resolution & Lifting Techniques Training
 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, April 7

10:40am Robotics Club
 10:40am Giving Back Club
 10:40am Programmers Club
 10:40am Fresh 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, April 8

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

Monday, April 11

10:40am Robotics Club
 2:15pm Concert Band

10:40am Mock United Nations
 10:40am Accepting Differences Club
 10:40am Puzzles Club
 10:45am Games Club
 10:45am E-Car club
 Math contests

Wednesday, April 13

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
 Math contests
 BENN Newsletter released

Thursday, April 14

10:40am Robotics Club
 10:40am Giving Back Club
 10:40am Programmers Club
 10:40am Fresh Club
 2:15pm Seams Sew Easy Club
 2:15pm Games Club
 2:15pm Jazz Band
 6:00pm Badminton Club

Friday, April 15

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

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.

