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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 14, 2016

Saints everywhere...

This Sunday, we witnessed the canonization of Mother Teresa. She was an Albanian born in a Macedonian city as an Ottoman subject in an area that became part of Yugoslavia, who spent time in Croatia before eventually leaving for her mission in India. She was a Catholic from a majority Muslim nation born in a majority Orthodox Christian land who served in a majority Hindu city.

Mother Teresa wasn't only a symbol of hope for the poor and forsaken, she was also a beam of light in a world where differences were used to divide; where classes were kept apart, and where *tolerance* had little meaning.

We look to Mother Teresa—and many like her—for guidance as we travel through life, and you find that *saintliness* here at St. Benedict. We say we are a community that *greet every stranger as a friend*; we hold true that all life has value, and everyone matters. And while we look to the bible to find saints, we often forget that there are many walking among us, touching our very lives daily.

I hope that your son or daughter experiences this welcome, experiences this compassion, and passes that on during their time here. Every kind gesture, every helping hand, every friendly word provides hope and dignity to someone. If we could all be saints we could make the world a better place.

Welcome to the new school year, all saints!

– Editor

Bennie's in the Media

CAMBRIDGE TIMES: [Snowboarding sisters developing together](#)

CAMBRIDGE TIMES: [Cambridge swimmers are out to prove their ...](#)

CAMBRIDGE TIMES: [Cambridge Sports Hall of Fame hands out an..](#)

CAMBRIDGE TIMES: [Campaign sees students pack plenty of purs...](#)

CAMBRIDGE TIMES: [Cambridge's Salaad to toss up balls for the ...](#)

CBC: [Grant money for local schools to support parental involvem...](#)

Administrative

LINKing to the Grade 9s

By Mrs. K. Arkell

A huge welcome to all of our new grade 9 students joining us at St. Benedict's this fall. We already had a fantastic fun-filled first day on Tuesday, September 6th celebrating with our Link Crew leaders.

Another energy-filled event approaching is our Link Crew Dance for only grade 9 students and their fabulous leaders! The dance takes place Thursday, September 22nd at 6:30 in the Gym. Be sure to bring your schedule or student card as ID.

We look forward to a great start to the school year!

Your Link Crew Co-Ordinators – Mrs. Arkell, Mr. Borba, Mr. Curtis, Mrs. Reis, Mr. Reitzel and Mr. Riso.

Chaplain's Report

BY MR. B. REMPEL

The summer months raced by and here we are in September again. Many of us are looking forward to a wonderful year. The coming months will have their ups and downs, highs and lows, joys and sorrows and victories and defeats. Through all of our experiences the St. Benedict school community will be anchored by our liturgical celebrations, our practice of prayer and meditation, our acts of kindness and our personal beliefs. The coming year will bring many opportunities for each of us to change, grow, mature and evolve. The possibilities for the 2016/2017 school year are limitless. We are grateful that you and your family is joining us on the journey.

Cash Online

You are now able to pay various fees for your child, such as Student Activity Fee, online using School Cash Online.

For safety and efficiency reasons, we want to reduce the amount of cash coming into our school. We are asking parents to please take 5 minutes to register. Once you are registered online, you will begin receiving emails about upcoming events.

Follow the steps below to register with School Cash Online:

Step 1: Go to the [School Cash Online website](#) or visit our school website and click on the School Cash Online link under the ★.

Step 2: Register by selecting the “Get Started Today” and follow the steps. You will need use the student’s LEGAL NAME and their STUDENT NUMBER.

Step 3: You will receive a confirmation email. Open it up and click on the link that allows you to login and add each of your children to your household account.

If you have any questions, please select the “SUPPORT” option in the top right hand area of the screen.



ESL Student meeting

BY MRS. A. O'CONNOR

Attention all ESL students: There is an important meeting this Thursday at lunch for all new and returning ESL students in Room 3.3. Please bring your lunch and any questions that you may have. See you then!

Student Success at St. Benedict

BY MRS. L. CRAFTCHICK

Student Success is a program that aims at fostering an environment that provides extra support for students to ensure overall success in school. Student Success is about the whole student and providing the necessary supports so the student experiences both academic and personal success. The Student Success Centre is located on the second floor in Room 208. Staff members are available to support students throughout the school day including lunchtime, before and after school. Throughout the year Student Success will also offer opportunities for students to improve both their literacy and numeracy skills. Please stop by and check it out!

Student Success Teachers are caring adults who provide:

- Accommodations that cannot be met in the classroom
- Strength and needs based profile
- Direct student advocacy and mentoring
- Student monitoring
- Student instruction (i.e., OSSLT preparation, Credit Recovery and other forms of intervention)

St. Benedict's Student Success Teachers

- Luisa McLaughlin: (A -- C & Community/Active Living)
- Leisha Craftchick (D -- G)
- Danielle Trentini (H -- L)
- Nada Offak (M - Ri & Gifted)
- John Malnerich (Ro - Z)

In addition to the Student Success Centre, we have a PASS Centre (Positive Alternatives for Student Success) in Room 212. PASS is an additional support for Credit Recovery, Supervised Learning Program Support, E-learning and In school support. Sophia Adach is a welcome addition to our team of SSTs this year. As a staff we are committed to helping all our students achieve success. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us. We look forward to witnessing the achievements of all of our students in the year ahead.

EQAO OSSLT is moving online

BY MRS. L. CRAFTCHICK

"EQAO Online" is a multi-year project to move EQAO's provincial student assessments from paper-and-pencil to computer-based. We will start with just one assessment—the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT), written by students in Grade 10. St. Benedict CSS is excited to participate in the voluntary opportunity to write the ONLINE OSSLT scheduled for October 20th. Students who participate in this early assessment and are successful will officially satisfy their literacy requirement for graduation. Results will be made available by the end of Semester One. For those preferring to wait or who may require an additional attempt the regularly scheduled OSSLT will take place on March 30th. Beginning in September, all Grade 10 and previously eligible students will begin preparation for the upcoming assessment opportunities.

The following are important dates and opportunities that you may wish to explore! If you have any questions or require any clarification please feel free to contact Leisha Craftchick at (519) 621-4050 ext.5231 or email Leisha.Craftchick@wcdsb.ca. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the grade 10 students who declared to intention to participate through their registration process. We will keep you posted on preparation sessions that will be offered in advance of the Online assessment.

Currently Available

- * ONLINE ACCESS to a SAMPLE TEST (OSSLT)
- * Allows all students to sample the online OSSLT and try out its features through the EQAO Web site. www.eqao.com

OCTOBER 20, 2016

- * VOLUNTARY OPPORTUNITY to TAKE the ONLINE OSSLT
- * Successful students officially satisfy the literacy requirement for their diploma.
- * Please note if you are not successful in October the results will not count and you'll remain first time eligible for the March administration.

MARCH 30, 2017

- * Regularly scheduled OSSLT. Both online and paper versions available.

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.

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.

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.



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

Important announcement for students in grade 10-12 new to Bennie's

Any student in grades 10 to 12 who are new to St Benedict's and want to participate in athletics must complete a District 8 transfer form and return to Mr. Jankura in the PhysEd office as soon as

possible, especially if you are considering playing a Fall sport.

You can download a PDF version of the form on the website on the Athletics important forms page.

Junior Girls basketball

Welcome junior girls to St. Benedict's basketball! We had a fantastic season last year finishing 4th and we are very excited to be a top contender this year! Basketball starts right away in the first week of school so it's a great way to meet new friends. We will have a meeting at the beginning of lunch on Wednesday September 7th and tryouts on the 8th and 9th. Basketball is a big commitment. We have 1 or 2 games a week and the other days as practices. So if you're interested in having fun, being active, and playing basketball then come out to Wednesday's meeting at the beginning of lunch in room 306 or talk to Mr. Krzysztofik for any other inquiries.

Junior Boys soccer

Tryouts for the junior boys soccer team will be held on the back field this Thursday and Friday (September 8th and 9th) at 2:15. Please meet in the lecture hall on Thursday to start. Don't forget your cleats and water bottles. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Mr. Dufresne in the PHE office or Mr. Briere in room 213.

Tennis

All students interested in playing varsity tennis are asked to attend tryouts Mondays and Wednesdays beginning Monday, September 12 at the Hespeler Tennis Club from 2:30 to 3:30.

See Mr. Jankura in Phys Ed or Mrs. Crowell in Coop if you have any questions.

Stay up to date with District 8 Sports

Now receive sports updates in your email or on your mobile device!

The [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

Fun, Fitness, and Friendship. Join Cross-Country running. Practices start Wednesday, September 7, 2:25p.m. Meet in the Phys Ed hallway dressed to run. All are welcome!

We will also have a meeting Monday, September 12, after school, in the Lecture Hall. Come dressed for a work-out afterwards. All are welcome!

Yearbook Club

Being a part of the Yearbook Team is an opportunity unlike any other. It affords you the unique chance to experience the world of publishing – design, photography, editing, business, and storytelling – and leave your mark on this community forever. As a part of this team, your work to capture and represent the essence of the high school experience will be immortalized in print, and you can be involved in as many or as few elements of the book's production as you desire. If you have an interest in art, writing, journalism, or business, consider applying for a position! We are always searching for talent from any grade and with all levels of experience. Look out for more details soon!

Do you mean business? Come join the DECA business competition!

The DECA business club is gearing up for another fantastic season of fun and competition! Last year we took over fifty students to the Provincial competition in Toronto in February, and half a dozen students from St. Benedict's went to the International competition in the United States.

If you have a keen sense for business, marketing, advertising, or promotions of any sort of product, this club is the one for you! There are group categories for competition, as well as individual ones.

There is something for everyone, so consider joining us! There will be an information meeting on Tuesday, September 13 at the beginning of lunch in the Lecture Hall. Bring your lunch, and please be prompt!

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Ratz, Mr. Wittmann, or Mr. Milardovic. And follow our [@SBCSSDECA](#) Twitter feed!

Doctor Who Club

Doctor Who Club will start up again on Friday September 9th, immediately after school in room 226. Join us every week for adventures in time and space with fellow fans, and lots of pizza, as we watch both new and classic episodes from all 53 years of the world's longest running (and best) science fiction & fantasy series. There are also monthly raffle prizes featuring various goodies. It's a new school year, the Doctor is back...and it's about time.

Finance Club

If I had a million dollars.... how often have you thought about it? Is it possible to ever have a million dollars (other than by winning a lottery or robbing a bank, neither of which we recommend)?

The Finance Club is a chance for students who are interested in the world of investing and financial instruments to get together to share their passions, and look at what it takes to have a

seven-digit figure in the bank. We will look at stocks, investing, and run a bit of a contest to see who can build a money making portfolio.

Another important component of the club is financial literacy—knowing what to do with your money, from earning it to spending it, saving, and investing. *It's the important money stuff that most people don't know where to turn to get.*

While we cannot guarantee that you will leave the club at the end of the year with a million dollars in your pocket, we do guarantee that you will have fun talking with other students about your financial passions, share some hints and tips, and gain some insight into the world of investing.

This semester the Finance Club meets in room 214 Thursdays at lunch. If you get on our email list, we will send out an email to inform you of the coming week's topic of discussion. Bring your lunch and a friend!

Attendance at all meetings is not mandatory, but having fun and learning about your money is!

Electric Car Club

Hey Saints, it's a new year to look forward to with great anticipation and excitement.

Have you ever thought about car racing? The electric car club is looking for new faces to carry on the racing Saints pride in the upcoming season. All are welcome! We will be meeting at lunch on Wednesday September 14th in room 110 (the auto shop) for a brief but important meeting.

Games Club

We meet every Wednesday after school in room 227 and every Tuesday at lunch in room 227. Mostly play Magic the Gathering Card Game but also offers other strategy based games.

Jazz Band

Interested in joining JAZZ BAND this year? Pop in to room 101 and speak to Ms. Laforet. Plan on Thursdays from 2:15–3:30.

Concert Band

Concert Band is moving to WEDNESDAYS! Come out and play with us. First practice Wed., Sept.14 2:15–3:30 in rm 101.

Outers Club

There will be an outers club meeting this Friday at lunch for anyone interested in going on the fall canoe trip to Algonquin. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The meeting is Friday at lunch in room 317.

Are you a fan of Science Fiction?

Then join the Star Trek club! We meet every Friday at lunch in room 123 to watch an episode of various *Star Trek* series and films. See you there!

Bennies Saints walk for life

On Saturday September 24, from 9:00–11:30 am, a group of students and staff will participate in the annual Cambridge Walk for Life. The event is a fundraiser that is organized by Cambridge Right to Life. Students will earn 3 community service hours upon completion of the walk.



Students can sign up and pick up pledge forms during lunch in the atrium during the second week of school, or they can see Mrs. Rocha. For more detailed information, please visit the Cambridge Right to Life website.

Student Activities

Looking for announcements?

In an effort to improve the way we communicate with students, we have dedicated specific centralized locations in the school for announcements for the Arts, Athletics, Clubs, and Student Activities.

- The Arts bulletin board will be located outside the stage door.
- The Athletic bulletin board will be located outside the gym.
- The Clubs bulletin board will be located at the end of the Main Floor hallway.
- The Student Activities bulletin board will be located across from the SAC Office.

The Arts

Calling all Artsies!

Arts Council helps organize arts events at Bennies – art battles, coffee houses, haunted house, and more! We meet every Tuesday at lunch in room 112 – for more info, see Ms. Fernandes or Mr. Renner.



What's new in MUSIC?

By Mrs. L. LAFORET

CONCERT BAND is moving to WEDNESDAYS 2:15–3:30 in room 101! Grades 9–12 are welcome! Do you play: flute, clarinet, alto sax, tenor sax, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba or percussion? You don't need to be taking a music class to join this amazing performing group! First meeting is Wednesday, September 14. See Ms. Laforet for more details!

PIT BAND: We are doing the musical Little Shop of Horrors this semester! We are looking for piano players, guitars, drums and bass. Interested? See Ms Laforet to sign up. Plan on Monday rehearsals 2:15–3:30 in room 101.

JAZZ BAND: Do you like to play jazz, swing, fusion, funk and other popular styles of music? Do you play alto sax, tenor sax, bari sax, French horn, trombone, guitar, bass, drums or piano? All grades are welcome. See Ms Laforet to sign up. Plan on Thursday rehearsals 2:15–3:30 in room 101. Stay tuned for more details.

NEW PRAISE & WORSHIP BAND: Do you sing at your church? Do you play in a band at your church? Do you play guitar, bass or drums? Do you write your own songs? Want to learn some great praise music? Come teach us your favourite praise songs! Lift your voice and praise the Lord! See Ms Laforet in room 101 for more details!

Get ready to Paint the Wall!

By Ms. A. WEILER

Outdoor street art at its finest. Submit the winning design, win the prize, your design on the wall and a chance to be on the Bennie's Bus to paint it live with artist Ian Cools. Mandatory meeting

Friday at the start of lunch in room 204. See Weiler or Fernandes for details.

Follow the Bennies arts twitter for updates on all things arts: @SbccsArts

Other News

Parish Connections

ST. MARY OF THE VISITATION PARISH

BY FATHER F. FREITAS

Greetings from St. Mary of the Visitation Parish!

I hope you and your children have had a relaxing and enjoyable summer and that everyone is ready and excited about beginning another school year.

St. Mary of the Visitation Parish is an active, energetic and growing community. Over the last few years we have modernized our facilities, including a large narthex area which provides a great place for families with young children. We have expanded our parking, opened a new children and youth wing and are currently finishing a final addition which will create new additional seating and gathering space. We have ensured that we offer opportunities for all ages to grow in knowing, loving and serving the Lord; in fact our parish motto is "We have Something for Everyone." I invite you to come be a part of our Family of Faith. Our Lord's Day Liturgies are; Saturday at 5:00pm, Sunday at 8:00am, 9:30am, and 11:30am.

Each Sunday, we offer a Children's Ministry for those from Aged 2 to Grade 4 at both our 9:30am and 11:30am Mass. We also have an extensive Youth Ministry program for those from Grade 5-high school. Da Crew, our high school group meets on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm in our Parish Centre, and our Kids Klub meets on Friday evenings from 7-8:30pm at Our Lady of Fatima School and is open to those in Grade 5-8. Our parish also offers both a Children's Choir (Grades 3-8) and a Youth and Young Adult Choir (Day One) which is always open to welcoming new voices. We have many social events and family activities, including our Small Groups, Friday night Adult Sports Nights. We also reach out to those in need through activities such as Food Drives, Service Saturday and our Bereavement Group. Find out more about our parish at on our website - www.stmaryhespeler.ca - you have to check it out.

I invite you to come and be a part of our Fall Family Festival taking place at Forbes Park on September 18th from Noon-4:00pm. All are welcome!

St. Mary of the Visitation Parish has the reputation of being an active and welcoming parish. In part this is due to the wonderful spirit of familial cooperation that exists between the individuals, institutions and organizations of the parish. Ultimately, it is when we gather together at Sunday Mass that this sense of oneness is most beautifully expressed and manifested.

Please join me in praying that this very active and exciting autumn season we are preparing to enter will help us all grow closer to God and to each other.

Lord's Day Mass Schedule

Saturday – 5:00 p.m. Sunday –
8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.
Children's Ministry for Ages 2 –
Grade 4 at 9:30am and 11:30am
Masses

Fall Family Festival

SUNDAY SEPT 18, 2016
12 noon - 4 pm @ Forbes Park

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!

Join us for a fun filled family event!

ALL ARE WELCOME!
free admission

Sponsored by
St. Mary of the Visitation Church
stmaryhospeler.ca

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, September 7

2:25pm Cross Country training begins
2:30pm Sr. Boys football tryouts
BENN Newsletter release

Thursday, September 8

10:40am ESL student meeting
10:40am Finance Club
2:15pm Jr Boys soccer tryouts
2:15pm Jr. Girls basketball tryouts

Friday, September 9

10:40am Little Shop of Horrors info meeting
10:40am Paint the Wall
10:40am Outers Club meeting
10:40am Start Trek Club
2:15pm Doctor Who Club
2:15pm Jr Boys soccer tryouts
2:15pm Jr. Girls basketball tryouts

Monday, September 12

Thursday, September 15

10:40am Finance Club
2:15pm Jazz Band
2:30pm Little Shop of Horrors auditions
Link Mass

Friday, September 16

10:40am Start Trek Club
2:15pm Doctor Who Club
2:30pm Little Shop of Horrors auditions
Opening Assembly

To see the full calendar, go to [Benny's News](#) ►
Calendar of Events.

**Keep up with what's
happening at St.**

2:15pm Pit Band
2:25pm Cross Country meeting
2:30pm Tennis tryouts
Grade level meetings – grade 9, 11

Tuesday, September 13

10:40am Games Club
10:40am DECA Business club meeting
10:40am Arts Council
Eid-al-Adha
Grade level meetings – grade 10, 12

Wednesday, September 14

10:40am E-car Club
2:15pm Concert Band
2:15pm Games Club
2:30pm Tennis tryouts
BENN Newsletter release
Course Change Deadline
First Spirit Wednesdays

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.

