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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 28, 2016

It's all about being a place for all...

As we put the finishing touches on this issue of the BENN, I quickly count up the number of clubs and teams that we have going right now. Currently we have ten sports teams in action, and at least sixteen clubs running, with several more in the formation stages. We are—in every sense of the word—a place for all.

Some parents may look at the list and say "the school doesn't have a *[insert name of club]* club." Maybe we don't, but that it doesn't mean we can't or won't. Here's the challenge to students: if you would like to start a *[again, insert name of club]* club at Bennie's, all you need to do is approach a teacher. And find some other students interested in forming the club. And you know what? We'll make it work.

Everyone brings something to the table at Bennie's, and a spirit of desire to gather with students of similar interests is a valuable thing. Being a place for all includes you. Bring it on, Saints!

– Editor

Administrative

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.



Volunteer at St. Benedict!

Looking into a career in education?

Have some spare time?

Or know someone who does?

Consider volunteering your time at St.

Benedict!

Please contact Mrs. Nada Offak to get started.

Nada.Offak@wcdsb.ca

519-621-4050 ext. 3089

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.

Attention all you fabulous grade 9's! Get ready for the Grade 9 Link Crew Dance!

**Thursday, September 22nd from 6:30-8:30pm, the dance is
FREE for all Bennies grade 9 students and their awesome Link
leaders!**

Come out for a fantastic time!

**ID or a copy of your schedule is mandatory for entrance to the dance.
Looking forward to seeing everyone there!**

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.

UW offering engineering and STEM workshops for girls

By Mr. B. Strassburger

The University of Waterloo is offering a one day workshop for female students in grades 9 and 10 who are interested in engineering or STEM. Go ENG Girl will take place on Saturday October 15th. Details about the event can be found on the University of Waterloo Website (<https://uwaterloo.ca/women-in-engineering/events/go-eng-girl>) and registration can be completed on the Ontario Network of Women in Engineering Website (<http://www.onwie.ca/>). If you have any questions please feel free to contact Mr. Brad Strassburger.

This is a great opportunity for young woman to explore a career and technology area that has great opportunities. There will be guest speakers and hands-on activities for students as well as additional speakers and information for parents and guardians.

Please take advantage of this fantastic opportunity.

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.

Tennis

If you are interested in playing varsity tennis, it is not too late to join! You must attend tryouts Mondays and Wednesdays 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](#).

Clubs

HOSA

By Mrs. S. Taylor

HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) is a brand new club here at Bennies! It is a Health Science organization dedicated to future students of Health Science. Much like DECA, HOSA is a competition-based event that is run in Toronto and students can choose to compete in one of the 41 different health occupation events offered. Students will have the opportunity to compete against other high school students across the country. These events are all related to topics in the health science field and may consist of combination of two components: a written multiple choice exam and a skills demonstration. The details for the competition events can be found at: <http://hosacanada.org/home/competitive-events/>. If you are interested in being a part of HOSA, please contact Mrs. Taylor in the Tech or Science workrooms.

Yearbook is about to ramp up!

The Yearbook Team at St Benedict is simply awesome. Each year, a dedicated group of people who are talented in the areas of photography, design, writing, and business put their hearts and souls into documenting the experiences of the year, and representing them and our entire

community in a beautiful way. If you think you or someone you know may be interested in joining this team, read on to hear what two members have to say about their past experience:

"Yearbook is an incredible experience. I cannot begin to explain all the truly spectacular effects it has had on my life. You get to meet incredible people while enhancing your photography, graphics design, writing, or business skills depending on your interests. I discovered so many things that otherwise I would have never known and met so many people who I might not have had the chance to meet. And honestly, you feel phenomenal knowing that your work will be published and enjoyed by your peers, their parents, and the school's faculty."

"The yearbook team is the club where I really had the chance to meet new people and expand on my own skill sets. At the end of the year, I truly got to sit back and admire the work that I was a part of, and able to feel really proud of the team's accomplishments."

The Yearbook Team is open to any student who is interested. Submit your application (either in paper or electronic form) to Ms Currie by Friday, September 16. Find the application online at <https://goo.gl/ibTFlq>. If you have any questions, or to submit your application, email Ms Currie at rosanna.currie@wcdsb.ca.

SBTV

Are you interested in joining the SBTV crew this year? Meet in 323 at lunch on Monday, September 19. See Mrs. Parkinson or Mr. Anderton if you have any questions.

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! If you missed our information meeting on Tuesday, come join us Thursday at the beginning of lunch in room 214 and 216. 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!

E-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 21st in room 110 (the auto shop) for a brief but important meeting.

Cosmo Club

Are you interested in learning more about hair, make-up and nails? Have you ever wondered what hair color would look best on you, how do create the perfect winged eye liner or how to create the latest in hair trends? Come join us every Wednesday at lunch in room 124! We are looking to build a team to create some scary looks for Haunted house coming up next month!! All are welcome, no experience necessary see you there!

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.

We are making a change from when we started the semester; we will be meeting in room 214 Mondays 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!

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 this week, 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.



Arts News

BY MR. A. RENNER

ARTS COUNCIL is a group of students that help run coffee houses, haunted house, art battles, and drama productions, and look for ways to promote visual and performing arts at St. Benedict. We meet every Tuesday at the beginning of lunch in room 112 – see Mr. Renner or Ms. Fernandes for more details.

AUDITIONS – LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS! St. Benedict will be producing the musical Little Shop of Horrors from December 1–3. Auditions are after school in room 104 on Thursday Sept 15 and Friday Sept 16, from 2:30 – 4:30. Prepare a short a capella (no accompaniment) song that shows off your voice, and you will be taught a short piece of harmony and choreography. The most important qualities we are looking for are a positive attitude, an open mind and a strong work ethic. See Mr. Renner, Mrs. Rocha or Mrs. Laforet for more information.

COFFEE HOUSE AUDITIONS – Coffee House is a long standing tradition at Bennies – an open-mic style concert featuring music, spoken word and comedy. Our first Coffee House will be held on Wednesday, October 5th. Auditions will be held after school in room 103 on Wednesday, September 21 and Thursday, September 22 – look for the sign up sheet on the Arts Board. See Mr. Renner for more information.

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

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.

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

Join us for a fun filled family event!

ALL ARE WELCOME!
free admission

Bring your family and invite your friends!

Sponsored by
St. Mary of the Visitation Church

stmaryhespeler.ca

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

Parish Connections

Youth @ St Clement

By Ms. F. WALKER

Youth Ministry is back at St Clement Parish!

If you're in Grades 9–12, come on out and join us for our first gathering of the year on Monday, September 26 from 7–8:30pm (parish hall).

We're also meeting: Monday October 17, 7–8:30pm (parish hall); and Monday November 28, 7–8:30pm (tba)

Other Stuff:

- * Formation of youth choir that would rehearse regularly and sing every month or so at the 12pm Mass

- * Gathering of a team of youth to host Prayers at the Cross and Passion Play on Good Friday evening, 2017

For more info, contact Frances Walker at youth.stclement@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, September 14

2:15pm Concert Band
2:15pm Games Club
2:30pm Tennis tryouts
BENN Newsletter release
Course Change Deadline
First Spirit Wednesdays

Thursday, September 15

10:40am Finance Club
10:40am DECA Business Club
2:15pm Jazz Band
2:15pm Math Club
2:30pm Little Shop of Horrors auditions
Link Mass
SAC Retreat

Friday, September 16

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

Monday, September 19

10:40am SBTv Crew
2:15pm Pit Band
2:30pm Tennis tryouts

Tuesday, September 20

10:40am Games Club
10:40am Arts Council
10:40am DECA Business Club

Wednesday, September 21

10:40am E-car Club
10:40am Cosmo Club

Friday, September 23

Professional Activity Day

Monday, September 26

2:15pm Pit Band

Tuesday, September 27

10:40am Games Club
10:40am Arts Council
10:40am DECA Business Club

Wednesday, September 28

10:40am Cosmo Club
2:15pm Concert Band
2:15pm Games Club
BENN Newsletter release

Thursday, September 29

10:40am Finance Club
10:40am DECA Business Club
2:15pm Jazz Band
2:15pm Math Club
7:00pm School Council meeting
Opening School Mass

Friday, September 30

10:40am Start Trek Club
2:15pm Doctor Who Club

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

10:40am Important grade 12 meeting
2:15pm Concert Band
2:15pm Games Club
2:15pm Coffee Shop Auditions
2:30pm Tennis tryouts

Thursday, September 22

10:40am Finance Club
10:40am DECA Business Club
10:40am Start Trek Club
10:40am Important grade 12 meeting
2:15pm Jazz Band
2:15pm Math Club
2:15pm Coffee Shop Auditions
2:15pm Doctor Who Club
6:30pm Grade 9 Meet the Teacher Night
6:30pm Grade 9 Dance
September equinox

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.

