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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

December 7, 2016

Report Cards... what now?

As a student, I used to dread report card time. (ICYMI, report cards were distributed yesterday.) I wasn't sure what to expect in terms of mark or comments. If I really thought about it at the time, I probably would have been able to at least ballpark my marks, and perhaps even know which "canned comment" the teacher would use.

Times have changed. Canned comments are a thing of the past. Teachers spend a lot of time putting together comments to identify strengths, address concerns, and recommend next steps to help improve student learning.

Parents, if you haven't had a chance, do sit down with your son or daughter. Take out their report card, and read the comments—together. Then, plan appropriate *next steps* that will result in a level of success that everyone will be happy with: you, your son or daughter, and the teacher.

Also, contact a teacher if you have questions or concerns. It is through these dialogues and discussions that we most effectively collaborate to ensure student success. Not sure about what a comment means? Ask. Not happy with a mark? Ask your son or daughter, and then contact the teacher if needed.

A student who is supported by both parents and teachers is a student who gets the consistent message of "we want to help you succeed". If we can help you help your son or daughter, then let's work together. After all, that's what being the *Heart of the Community: Success for each, a place for all* is all about.

– Editor

Administrative

St. Benedict Students Challenge Inequity

By VICTORIA BARROS

On Thursday, November 17 students of St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School gathered in the school gymnasium to welcome Chris D'souza, a motivational speaker and human rights activist. The healthy schools committee invited D'souza to share his message with the entire school after he had an earlier opportunity to participate in the school Think Tank and address to staff on a PD day. He shared a message that inspired the audience to challenge inequity and ask ourselves what Catholic student leadership looks like.

As a member of the writing team that created the Ministry of Education of Ontario's equity and inclusion education strategy, D'souza presented the audience with some challenges. The students and teachers took in some new information that day. Chris asked some good questions and said some things that made you think a little. One message that was clear to the students was D'souza's challenge to stand up and say, "Not Here!" when we witness any form of discrimination in our school community.

We might not recognize it all the time, but there is discrimination happening around us. The message to be more aware and respond with love was one that D'souza shared. It was appropriate that this guest speaker would share his message to wrap up anti-bullying week. "We want students to have the best experience possible every day they come to St. Benedict's," said Chris D'souza.

It is obvious that, "everybody has a fundamental right to an education," as D'souza shared. He envisioned that as "loving and learning" together, and left the audience with the challenge that Jesus also left us, "to love one another as I have loved you."

Download the PDF version of this flyer [here](#).



Did You Know...

PARENTS ARE THE #1 INFLUENCE FOR EDUCATION & CAREER/LIFE
DECISIONS FOR STUDENTS

Preparing Kids for the Future
Workshop Series

INDIVIDUAL PATHWAYS PLAN

This interactive workshop will introduce parents to Career Cruising; a self-exploration and planning program students utilize to develop their high school course plan, and to explore possible career paths for the future. In this workshop, parents will be provided the opportunity for a hands-on learning experience as we guide you through career cruising and your child's individual pathways plan.

In an effort to ensure every participant has the opportunity to take part in the hands-on learning experience we highly recommend you pre-register for this workshop. Simply click [here](#):

[Pre-Registration Workshop Link](#)

Please note: registration is not mandatory, walk-ins are welcome!

November 24, 2016

7:00 p.m.

St. Benedict C.S.S.

Parents & Students are encouraged to attend together!

ACCESSING CAREER CRUISING

A Step –By–Step Guide for Students & Parents

A STUDENT STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO INVITING & ACCESSING IPP

How does a student get their user name & password?

At our Catholic feeder schools, students are introduced to Career Cruising in grade 7. Classroom teachers will show students how to access the program, provide a tutorial, and then will provide them with their login information .

What Your Child Needs To Do:

- Step 1: Log on to www.careercruising.com
- Step 2: Enter their user name
(user name will start with wl, followed by the last 5 digits of their student number & the first 3 letters of their last name— eg, wl-12345ABC)
- Step 3: On the main screen click on "MY IPP" under your name to access the next menu
- Step 4: Click on "Share My IPP"
- Step 5: Click on "Invite Parent/Guardian"
- Step 6: Enter your parent's email address
- Step 7: You will receive a confirmation message that completes the process

Forgot your password? Simply click on "Forgot password"



Need help planning your Pathway to Success?
Contact your school Guidance Counsellor!

A PARENT'S STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO ACCESSING YOUR CHILD'S IPP

NOTE: Your child needs to complete the Student Step-By-Step guide before you can access their IPP.

What You, As A Parent, Need To Do:

- Step 1: Have your child send you an email invitation to access their IPP
** Note: If you don't receive an email, check your junk box for a message from noreply@careercruising.com*
- Step 2: In the email will be your Activation Code—make note of this
- Step 3: Click on the link in your email
- Step 4: On the home screen click on "Register Now" to create your account
(After you create an account you can simply log in next time)
- Step 5: Enter your personal information & enter your activation code
-Click on "Register Now" to create your account
- Step 6: Click on "View (Child's name)'s IPP"

GRADE 8 PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT



**St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School,
Cambridge**

Thursday, January 19, 2017—6:30 p.m.

For information...

Waterloo Catholic District School Board Secondary Schools & Programs

visit: <http://www.wcdsb.ca>

International Education Certificate Program

visit: www.wcdsb.ca/schools/international-education



Waterloo Catholic
District School Board

Specialist High Skills Major Program

visit: www.highskills.ca

www.wcdsb.ca

Access student 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.

By entering information about your son or daughter you can get up-to-the-minute information about their attendance.

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



VOLUNTEER

all that's missing is U!

**Volunteer at St.
Benedict!**

Looking into a career in education?

Have some spare time?

Or know someone who does?

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.

Consider volunteering your time at St. Benedict!

Please contact Mrs. Nada Offak to get started.

Nada.Offak@wcdsb.ca

519-621-4050 ext. 3089

A Friendly Reminder...

All visitors are reminded to please sign in at the main office upon arrival at the school, our office staff will be happy to direct you to the appropriate office and/or inform your on-site contact of your arrival. We thank you for your continued cooperation and support in keeping our community safe.

Uniform reminders

Keeping your mornings simple and stress-free isn't the only benefit of uniforms, we as a school community value the safety benefit of making our community members and visitors easily recognizable. In addition, school uniforms mean that the pressure to have a wide range of new and expensive school clothes throughout the year isn't an ongoing struggle for parents and being judged by their clothes isn't a pressure for students.

All students and parents received the uniform policy for the year in the registration package and all students participated in a grade level meetings with administration to review this policy and other reminders. The policy is also contained in the student handbook which is located on our school website.

The key reminders are:

- All non-uniform items are to be removed and placed in a student's locker when they arrive to school, this includes all hats, scarves, track pants, jackets, coats etc.
- All items are to be worn as purchased and not altered
- McCarthy's navy blue or khaki pants, capris or shorts with the St. Benedict logo
- McCarthy's white/navy blue short or long sleeve golf shirt with the St. Benedict logo
- McCarthy's navy sweatshirt or navy sweater/cardigan/vest with the St. Benedict logo worn over a uniform shirt or plain white, or dark blue t-shirt.

Please ensure that you are in proper uniform throughout the day so we can get at the great task of learning without the needless interruptions or

Who is your administrator?



Our 2016-17 Admin Team: Mr. Jaeger, Ms. Riley, Mr. Witt, and Mr. Borba

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

A to B: [Mr. Witt](#) (principal)

Bo to G: [Ms. Riley](#)

delays that occur when students need to be asked to follow the policy.

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

P to Z: [Mr. Borba](#)

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 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.



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 your 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.

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](#).

Saints select stocks superbly

By MR. F. WITTMANN

Congratulations to Economic Students Kayley Cabral, Carter Jones, and Joey Lin who were the top performers in the annual Nipissing University Stock Market Competition.

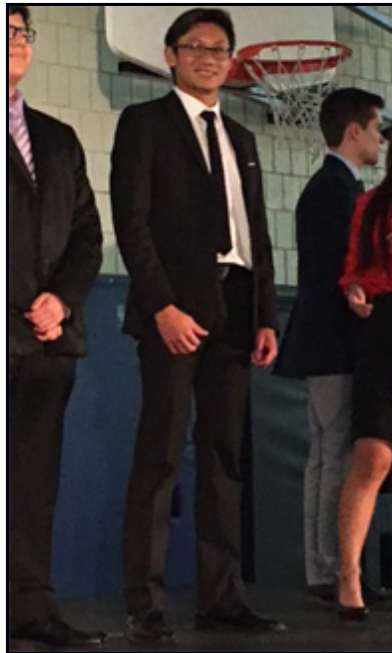
Students mean business at DECA

By MR. F. WITTMANN & MR. A. MILARDOVIC

On Saturday, November 12, nearly thirty St. Benedict students in the Regional competition of the DECA Business Competitions. Students who are successful at the regional qualifiers get to go to the Provincial competition in Toronto in February.

Congratulations to twelve members of this year's amazing DECA team who placed in the top 10 of their event: Kyson Vi, Callan Stewart, Curtis Floras, Kathryn Morton, Muna Mohamed, Erika Elliott, Faith Nieson, Leanne Trepanier, Kayley Cabral, Natalie Minnick, Cyle Costa, and Dan Zeglen.

Many of our other students qualified, and between the written and the oral competitions we have a strong team of nearly fifty students going to Toronto in February. Students will be spending the next several weeks working on case studies and preparing their reports and presentations.



Basketball News

Congratulations to the Senior Boys basketball for winning the Holy Trinity Tournament in Oakville over the weekend. They defeated #4 GTA Ranked Brampton Centennial 63 to 44 in the final. Zubair Seyed scored 18 points and was named tourney MVP. Justin Malnerich scored 25 and was named a first team all-star. The Saints knocked off Brampton Notre Dame, Hamilton Cathedral and Burlington Assumption on their way to the Championship. Next up for the Saints in the Court Heinbuch Classic this weekend at Conestoga College.

Our Senior Girls Basketball team took on the undefeated Phoenix at Resurrection last week. Our Saints played their best game of the season in an exciting battle. Although the team was defeated, 44- 34, they played with tenacity and class. A huge thanks to the fans who came out to support the girls.

Last week our junior girls basketball team were also in the D8 championship game against a tough opponent Woodland. They played with a lot of heart and determination but fell short 33-23. Great effort by all the girls! Please congratulate them on their fantastic season and wish them good luck at the CWOSSA finals on Friday.



Jr. Girls basketball

Semi-finals

Saints 39, Resurrection 29

Finals

Woodland 33, Saints 23

Sr. Girls basketball

Semi-finals

Saints 33, St. Mary's HS 30

Finals

Resurrection 44, Saints 34

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](#).

Winter sport schedules have now been posted on the website calendar, be sure to check them out!

Clubs

Student Activities

The Arts

The Red Stocking Campaign

November 26 to December 11, 2016

By FATHER F. FREITAS

WHAT IS IT?

St. Mary of the Visitation parish is once again taking on a special outreach project called the Red Stocking Campaign – we invite everyone to be a part of it!

Since 2006, we have invited you to fill Red Stockings with pencils, crayons, bookmarks, candy, educational toys, puzzles, and art supplies to help students in needy African Schools. This will be done in cooperation with Canadian Food for Children (CFFC) which will distribute them to needy children and families.

HOW DID WE DO LAST YEAR?

In 2015, St Mary of the Visitation Parish was able to send over 645 Red Stockings (a new record), and several additional shipping boxes; just in time for Christmas delivery! This past Spring, members of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, the religious order we partner with in this work came to personally visit us on a Lord's Day Weekend to offer thanks and report on our efforts and work in Kenya. Since 2006 we have collected over 3000 Red Stockings!

HOW DOES IT HELP?

Catholic schools in Kenya Africa are operated by the religious communities of priests, brothers and sisters. They receive very limited funding from the government. Our school supplies provide every student in the school with the supplies they need to aid in their education. This permits the limited funding they have to go toward other needs such as school uniforms for the children, which in many cases would be their own "formal" clothing, and toward food for their daily lunch program, which often is the only meal that a child receives during the day.

HOW ARE WE GETTING IT THERE?

Canadian Food for Children (CFFC) is taking care of the shipping of it. CFFC assists Catholic missionaries by collecting the goods they need to do their work in the world. Since its inception, CFFC has, almost daily, shipped containers full of supplies to over 20 countries worldwide which face drought, disease and disaster.

ARE OUR PARISH SCHOOLS HELPING?

Yes! All of the classes at our three parish elementary schools will be participating. In addition, our Kids Klub will also be undertaking this project. Students at St. Benedict Secondary School will

be made aware of the project with many home rooms participating.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Please consider taking a Red Stocking yourself and filling it with Pencils, crayons, book marks, candy, educational toys, puzzles, art supplies, Christmas trinkets, Small Books, Small stuffed animals. Please do not include any food items or anything that could break, leak, melt, or scare and harm a child and return it to the back of the Church before December 13, 2015. All items collected will then be shipped by Canadian Food for Children during that week for Christmas distribution.

"Hope is found in the hand that gives."

YOUTH

NOV 21 – NOV 25, 2016

Volunteer Opportunities



MS Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada

Holiday Cake Sale Volunteers (Ages 15+)

Help sell holiday cakes and cookies for the MS Society at local community locations such as church bazaars and retirement homes. For more info contact Sandra at 519-569-8789.



epilepsy
waterloo-wellington

Holiday Gift Wrappers (Ages 16+)

Do you love to wrap gifts? Gift wrapping at Conestoga Mall will be taking place during December. Many shifts available. For more info contact Jennifer at 519-745-2112 or visit www.epilepsyww.com



THE
SALVATION
ARMY

Christmas Toy Helper (Ages 16+)

Help receive, sort, organize and distribute toys to local children for Christmas. Tasks may also include assisting people in the toy selection process. For more info contact Major Miriam at 519-745-4215.



KITCHENER

Christmas Fantasy Activity Squad (Ages 14+)

This December help Victoria Park come alive by creating a winter wonderland ! Spread Christmas cheer to families and friends by assisting child -friendly crafts and activities! For more info contact Karrie at 519-741-2200 Ext. 7564 or visit www.kitchener.ca



volunteer
action centre

Subscribe to our youth newsletter:
<http://eepurl.com/bPwOKH>



volunteerkw.ca



lily@volunteerkw.ca



519-742-8610



@vackw

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, November 23

2:15pm Concert Band
2:15pm Games Club
2:15pm Movie Club
BENN Newsletter release
Math Contests

Thursday, November 24

10:40am DECA Business Club
10:40am Lacrosse Club
10:40am Accepting Differences Club
2:15pm Math Club
2:15pm Seams Sew Easy
6:00pm Badminton Club
7:00pm School Council meeting

Friday, November 25

10:40am Star Trek Club
10:40am Finance Club
10:40am Programmers' Club
2:15pm Doctor Who Club
Kindness Matters Mass

Sunday, November 27

First Sunday of Advent

Monday, November 28

10:40am Reach for the Top
10:40am Finance Club
10:40am HOSA Club
10:40am Robotics Club
10:40am Spirit Council
2:15pm Pit Band
3:00pm Senior Boys Basketball vs Our Lady of Mount Carmel
4:30pm Junior Boys Basketball vs Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Tuesday, November 29

10:40am Games Club
10:40am Arts Council
10:40am DECA Business Club
10:40am Movie Club
10:40am Accepting Differences Club
11:30am Reconciliation

Wednesday, November 30

10:40am Cosmo Club
10:40am Reach for the Top
10:40am Seams Sew Easy
10:40am HOSA Club
10:40am Robotics Club
10:40am Model UN Club
10:40am Movie Club
2:15pm Concert Band
2:15pm Games Club
2:15pm Movie Club
3:00pm Junior Boys Basketball vs Rockway MC

Tuesday, December 6

10:40am Games Club
10:40am Arts Council
10:40am DECA Business Club
10:40am Movie Club
10:40am Accepting Differences Club
2:00pm Senior Boys Hockey @ St. David CSS

Wednesday, December 7

10:40am Cosmo Club
10:40am Reach for the Top
10:40am Seams Sew Easy
10:40am HOSA Club
10:40am Robotics Club
10:40am Model UN Club
10:40am Movie Club
2:15pm Concert Band
2:15pm Games Club
2:15pm Movie Club
3:00pm Junior Boys Basketball vs Resurrection CSS
3:30pm Junior Girls Volleyball @ Rockway MC
3:30pm Senior Girls Volleyball @ Rockway MC
4:30pm Senior Boys Basketball vs Resurrection CSS
BENN Newsletter release

Thursday, December 8

10:40am DECA Business Club
10:40am Star Trek Club
10:40am Lacrosse Club
10:40am Accepting Differences Club
2:15pm Math Club
2:15pm Doctor Who Club
2:15pm Seams Sew Easy
3:00pm Senior Boys Hockey @ St. Mary's HS
6:00pm Badminton Club
Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Friday, December 9

Professional Activity Day

Did you know?

There are now over 1,400 entries on our school calendar on the website!

This means plenty of opportunities for your son or daughter to get involved!

Check the calendar on our website for more information. New information is always being added, and more detailed information about upcoming events can be found there. To

3:30pm Junior Girls Volleyball @ St. Mary's HS
3:30pm Senior Girls Volleyball @ St. Mary's HS
4:30pm Senior Boys Basketball vs Rockway MC

see the full calendar, go to Benny's News ►
Calendar of Events.

Thursday, December 1

10:40am DECA Business Club
10:40am Lacrosse Club
10:40am Accepting Differences Club
2:15pm Math Club
2:15pm Seams Sew Easy
2:30pm Senior Boys Hockey vs Monsignor
Doyle CSS
6:00pm Badminton Club

Friday, December 2

10:40am Star Trek Club
10:40am Finance Club
10:40am Programmers' Club
2:15pm Doctor Who Club

Sunday, December 4

Second Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 5

10:40am Reach for the Top
10:40am Finance Club
10:40am HOSA Club
10:40am Robotics Club
10:40am Spirit Council
2:15pm Pit Band
3:00pm Senior Boys Basketball vs Pere-Rene-
de-Galinee
3:00pm Junior Girls Volleyball @ Pere-Rene-
de-Galinee
3:00pm Senior Girls Volleyball @ Pere-Rene-
de-Galinee

**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.

