

Table of Contents

- [Administrative](#)
- [Academics](#)
- [Athletics](#)
- [Clubs](#)
- [Student Activities](#)
- [The Arts](#)
- [Other news](#)
- [Upcoming events](#)

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

January 11, 2017

Finding meaning in a Christmas movie...

By the time you get to be my age, you've seen a lot of Christmas movies. Some of the more memorable ones: Charlie Brown's Christmas, A Christmas Carol (original, of course), How the Grinch Stole Christmas (again, original), Frosty, Rudolph... they don't make 'em like they used to.

One of my favourites is The Little Drummer Boy. To sum it up, Aaron—the little drummer boy—suffers the loss of his parents and home to thieves, and develops a hatred towards all people. His only friends are a donkey, a camel and a lamb. At one point, his lamb gets injured, and he needs to get help. The only one who can help—as he is told by the Magi—is a special baby. Having no gift to give, he plays his drum for the baby. His lamb is healed, and runs into his arms, and for the first time since his parents' death he experiences love and happiness. The end.

Or is it? Often we find ourselves in a dark place, a place of hopelessness, but God always finds a way to call us back and to show us His love. We are a *people of hope*: Christmas should be a time to celebrate the goodness of life, to make peace, and to be joyful.

That is not the case for some. Some people feel they have nothing to offer. That is not true; we all have something to offer! Sometimes the best presents may just be your presence. God, family, and friends all accept you for who you are. Just like Aaron was for Jesus, be present to loved ones during this season. And may you and yours have a blessed and merry Christmas, and a happy, healthy new year!

– Editor

Bennie's in the Media

THE RECORD: [Celtics top Saints in D8 volleyball](#)

THE RECORD: [St. Benedict wins Edmonton tournament, St. David ca...](#)

CAMBRIDGE TIMES: [Push for Change anti-homelessness tour make...](#)

CAMBRIDGE TIMES: [Five local high schoolers are D-8 all-stars](#)

EDMONTON SUN: [Rebel Invitational basketball tournament showcas...](#)

GUELPH MERCURY: [Hot basketball action at Centennial CVI on a col...](#)

Administrative

WCDSB Collects \$5,500 for *The Push For Change*



Joe Roberts and his team from The Push for Change hold up a \$5,500 cheque with Board Director Loretta Notten.

Learn about [The Push for Change](#) on the campaign website. You can read more about their stop in Cambridge in the [Cambridge Times article](#).

News from the Guidance Department

By MRS. L. O'NEILL

The Application Deadline for University and College is approaching quickly!

Grade 12 students who are planning to apply to either college or university for the 2017 – 2018 academic year are reminded that the application deadline is quickly approaching. Please note the following:

- University applications are due January 11, 2017. Students need a PIN number to apply. These numbers are available for pick-up in the guidance office.
- College applications are due February 1, 2017.
- Apply early and avoid the stress of last minute on-line delays. Both the OUAC and OCAS sites become overloaded the closer it gets to the deadline date.
- Complete your Community Service Hours as soon as possible.
- Review your semester two timetable if you think that you need to make any changes.
- Information regarding university programs can be found at www.electronicinfo.com and at www.ontariocolleges.ca for college programs

Grade 8 Parent Night

Our Grade 8 Parent Night will be held on Thursday, January 19, 2017 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM. The evening will begin with an information session in the gymnasium followed by an open house. Many areas of our school will be open for viewing and information about all of the wonderful things that our school has to offer. Please pass this message along to any neighbours in the community that have a student who is scheduled to begin high school in September, 2017. All Grade 8 students and their parents, regardless of where they are currently attending school are welcome to join us that evening.

Course Changes for Second Semester

The month of January is a great time for students who are considering a course change for second semester to see their guidance counsellor to discuss this. All timetable changes must be approved by a parent or guardian. Your support in encouraging your sons and daughters to follow protocol is much appreciated by our department.

Summer Employment Opportunity

The City of Cambridge is hiring interested and enthusiastic people to fill a variety of summer positions. Summer jobs with the city offer opportunities to meet new people, learn new skills, develop leadership skills, work in a safe environment, be part of a team while contributing to your community, as well as a chance to have some fun. Positions are available in aquatics, arts and culture, playgrounds and summer camps, inclusion services and general labour. For more information and to apply, check out www.cambridge.ca/studentsummerjobs

Do you need help coping with the holidays?

Christmas is a time for family and a time for joy and celebration. It can also be a very stressful time for families with limited resources. Various outreach programs can link families with a variety of financial and food supports, grief and coping supports and subsidies for recreation programs. For more information, contact the Community Outreach Worker closest to you.

Phone Numbers

Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868

Here 24 Seven (Crisis Line): 1-844-437-3247 (local and will link family with local services)

Front Door number (519) 749-2932 walk-in support available Thursday's at 1145 Concession Rd (Langs) between 10:30 and 4:30

Safe Haven Shelter (519) 749-1450

Family Counselling Centre of Cambridge and North Dumfries (519) 621-5090; walk-in support Thursday's 12-6pm

Websites

www.kidshelphone.ca – (24/7 online counselling service)

www.yourlifecounts.ca – (24/7 online counselling service)

www.mindyourmind.ca – (info & tools to help manage stress & anxiety)

Community Service Hours

It is a requirement of graduation that each student complete 40 hours of community service. There are many opportunities to fulfill this requirement. If you have already registered for Hour Republic check out the guidelines on the website www.hourrepublic.com. This website can also be used to track your hours and see volunteer opportunities.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Please visit the United Way of Cambridge volunteer centre for current opportunities.
www.uwcambridge.on.ca

Students spend a week working in the Dominican Republic

BY TIANA THOMAS

Each year, senior students from across the board are selected to participate in a life changing encounter by travelling to the Dominican Republic for a week of eye-opening activities. The trip is designed to challenge and change the way participants think about the world and different cultures, as well as the poverty that others in the world face every day. Bennie's students Chandler Moreira, Julia Mascarenhas, Natalie Minnick, Marissa Kroeger, and Tiana Thomas, along with 21 other students viewed the harsh realities of the lives of people in the Dominican Republic, and turned their sights into educational opportunities.

The students visited bateys (intensely impoverished neighbourhoods surrounding sugar cane plantations), medical centres, and retirement homes. The students also spoke to different people such as sweat shop workers, families and local shop keepers about their experiences. This allowed the youth to gain a better outlook on the difficult lives of others in the world. The trip allowed all involved to learn a new language, and appreciate a variety of cultural aspects. Guided by faith, the experience was designed to inspire, so students will take back all they learned and share it with the world.

The trip is designed to challenge and change the way participants think about the world and different cultures...



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.

Religion-Drama class brings CHRISTmas to St. Margaret's!

By MRS. M. ROCHA

The grade 10 Religion-Drama class performed 5 skits for JK-Grade 2 students at St. Margaret's on Tuesday. The Bennies students did a fantastic job at reminding the little ones that Jesus should be our focus during the very busy AND beautiful Christmas season. Congratulations to the student directors and actors of Mrs. Rocha's class for bringing the "GOOD NEWS" to the "cutest audience ever"!



Grade 10 Religion-Drama class at St. Margaret's elementary school.

Enriched English Trip to Toronto

By Ms. M. TAPPER

On Tuesday, November 29th, Mr. Mascarenhas' and Ms. Tapper's Grade 9 and 10 enriched English students recently took a trip to see Romeo and Juliet in Toronto. The students thoroughly enjoyed the performance but were also fascinated by the giant Christmas tree at the Eaton Centre! The students represented our school with class. It was an awesome day.



Grade 9 and 10 enriched English students on a field trip to see Romeo and Juliet pose in front of a Christmas tree at the Eaton Centre.

Athletics

Junior Boys Basketball team wins Guelph tournament

By Mr. M. MASCARENHAS

Please congratulate the junior boys' basketball team for their second tournament championship of the season. They won four straight games over the weekend at the Guelph Centennial Tournament, including a 52 -38 victory over Resurrection in the final.



Junior boys basketball team after winning the Guelph Centennial Tournament.

BENN BOX SCORES

Jr. Boys basketball
Resurrection 52, Saints 44
Saints 43, Msgr. Doyle 27

Sr. Boys basketball
Saints 67, Resurrection 54
Saints 76, St. David 45
Saints 79, Msgr. Doyle 21

Jr. Girls volleyball
Saints 3, Rockway MC 0
Saints 3, Woodland CHS 0
Saints 3, St. David 0
Saints 3, Msgr. Doyle 0

Sr. Girls volleyball
Saints 3, Rockway MC 0
Saints 3, Woodland CHS 0
St. David 3, Saints 1
Saints 3, Msgr. Doyle 0

Sr. Boys hockey
St. Mary's 3, Saints 2
Saints 0, St. David 0

Senior Boys Basketball team wins Edmonton tournament

By MR. J. MALNERICH

Congratulations to the Sr Boys Basketball team as they claimed the REB Invitational Championship in Edmonton over the weekend. They beat the #2 Ranked team in British Columbia, Kelowna Secondary School, 88 to 67 in the final. Zubair Seyed was named tournament MVP and Justin Malnerich was a first team all-star. The Saints are the first Ontario Team to win the event since 2006. The Saints now move to 20 and 1 on the season.

Don't miss the action here at St. Benedict Thursday night at 7pm as the Sr. Boys basketball team take on West Humber Collegiate in exhibition action. West Humber is currently ranked #1 in the GTA. Tip off is at 7pm. Cost is \$2 for adults and \$1 for students.

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

The Giving Back Club

By MS. M. TAPPER

The Giving Back Club has had a busy semester. This month's activity took place on December 10th from 6-8 when they participated in the "Stuff a Bus" campaign sponsored by the Cambridge Food Bank. The club thoroughly enjoyed themselves and loved having the opportunity to help financially challenged families in Cambridge and North Dumfries this Christmas.

Student Activities

The Arts

Christmas is a Homecoming

By FATHER F. FREITAS

Christmas is a time that brings many people home to be with their families and loved ones, and I offer a joyful welcome to each person who takes part in the Masses during the Christmas season. I extend a special welcome to students who are home for the holidays; to former parishioners returning for a friendly visit; to all out-of-town guests and relatives of parishioners; and to those who perhaps are making a return to the practice of their faith. I sincerely pray that your experience of the parish family of St. Mary may lead you to feel welcome and at home. Welcome home for the holidays.

Christmas Eve (December 24th)

(Carols 30 minutes before all Masses)

5:00 p.m. – Family Mass with Pageant

7:00 p.m. – Family Mass with Youth Choir

Midnight – Solemn Mass of Christmas

(Incense used during this Mass)

Christmas Day (December 25th)

10:00 a.m. – Family Mass of Christmas Day

Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

December 31, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

New Year's Day January 1, 2017

Christmas greetings from St. Clement's

By FATHER P. NGUYEN

How quickly the year 2016 came and went! It is always a little startling to realize the passage of time. We live in a busy world, we are continually running to catch up, and it seems there is not enough time to stop or even to pause. We are too busy!

For many of us, 2016 has also brought challenges; yet as Christians, we are given new hope as we celebrate the coming of Christ. Christmas is a time of joy, and a time to give thanks for the gift of God's Son. Please join St. Clement Parish in celebrating the birth of Jesus. Following is our Christmas and New Year's Day schedule; everyone is welcome!

SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS Christmas Vigil Masses - Saturday, December 24, 2016

5:00 p.m. – With Children's Christmas Pageant

9:00 p.m. – Carols begin at 8:30 p.m.

Solemn Midnight Mass

Saturday, December 24, 2016

12:00 a.m. – Carols begin at 11:30 a.m.

Christmas Day Masses - Sunday, December 25, 2016

Masses at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12:00 noon

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

New Year's Eve - Saturday, December 31, 2016

at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Mass at 5:00 p.m.

New Year's Day - Sunday, January 1, 2017

Masses at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12:00
noon

On behalf of St. Clement Parish, I wish you
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
2017. May you rejoice in the spirit of
Christmas which is PEACE, the miracle of
Christmas which is HOPE, and the heart of
Christmas which is LOVE.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, December 21

2:15pm Concert Band
2:15pm Games Club
2:15pm Movie Club
3:00pm Jr. Girls Volleyball vs St. Mary's HS
3:00pm Sr. Girls Volleyball vs St. Mary's HS
BENN Newsletter release
December Solstice
Graduation Photos

Thursday, December 22

10:40am DECA Business Club
10:40am Lacrosse Club
10:40am Accepting Differences Club
2:00pm Sr. Boys Hockey @ Monsignor Doyle
CSS
2:15pm Math Club
2:15pm Seams Sew Easy
4:00pm Midget Boys Basketball @ St. Mary's
HS
5:00pm Midget Boys Basketball @ Resurrection
CSS
6:00pm Badminton Club
Graduation Photos

Friday, December 23

10:40am Star Trek Club
10:40am Finance Club
10:40am Programmers' Club
2:15pm Doctor Who Club
Graduation Photos
Christmas Assembly

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve
Christmas Break Begins

Sunday, December 25

Friday, January 13

8:00am Saints Invitational Basketball
Tournament
10:40am Star Trek Club
10:40am Finance Club
10:40am Programmers' Club
2:15pm Doctor Who Club
Graduation Photos

Saturday, January 14

8:00am Saints Invitational Basketball
Tournament
Orthodox New Year

Monday, January 16

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 Jr. Girls Volleyball vs Pere-Rene-de-
Galinee
3:00pm Sr. Girls Volleyball vs Pere-Rene-de-
Galinee
Graduation Photos

Tuesday, January 17

10:40am Games Club
10:40am Arts Council
10:40am DECA Business Club
10:40am Movie Club
10:40am Accepting Differences Club
2:00pm Sr. Boys Hockey @ Resurrection CSS
Graduation Photos
EQAO Gr. 9 Math Assessment

Wednesday, January 18

First Day of Hanukkah
Christmas

Monday, December 26
Boxing Day

Saturday, December 31
New Year's Eve

Sunday, January 1
Last day of Hanukkah
New Year's Day

Friday, January 6
Epiphany

Saturday, January 7
Orthodox Christmas

Monday, January 9
8:00am School re-opens, regular classes
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 Jr. Girls Volleyball vs Rockway MC
3:00pm Sr. Girls Volleyball vs Rockway MC
3:30pm Sr. Boys Basketball @ Woodland Christian HS
5:00pm Jr. Boys Basketball @ Woodland Christian HS
Graduation Photos

Tuesday, January 10
10:40am Games Club
10:40am Arts Council
10:40am DECA Business Club
10:40am Movie Club
10:40am Accepting Differences Club
Graduation Photos

Wednesday, January 11
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 Jr. Girls Volleyball @ Resurrection CSS
3:00pm Sr. Girls Volleyball @ Resurrection CSS
3:30pm Jr. Boys Basketball @ St. Mary's HS
5:00pm Sr. Boys Basketball @ St. Mary's HS
Graduation Photos

Thursday, January 12

8:00am Wrestling: Bluevale Tournament
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 Jr. Boys Basketball vs St. Mary's HS
3:30pm Jr. Girls Volleyball @ Woodland Christian HS
3:30pm Sr. Girls Volleyball @ Woodland Christian HS
4:30pm Sr. Boys Basketball vs St. Mary's HS
BENN Newsletter release
Graduation Photos
EQAO Gr. 9 Math Assessment

Thursday, January 19
10:40am DECA Business Club
10:40am Lacrosse Club
10:40am Accepting Differences Club
2:15pm Math Club
2:15pm Seams Sew Easy
3:00pm Midget Boys Basketball @ St. David CSS
4:00pm Midget Boys Basketball vs Resurrection CSS
6:00pm Grade 9 Cookies 'n' Cram
6:00pm Badminton Club
6:30pm Grade 8 Parent Night
Graduation Photos

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**



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 Sr. Boys Hockey vs St. Mary's HS
6:00pm Badminton Club
Graduation Photos

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.

