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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

March 1, 2017

Good luck to all of our winter sports teams who are playing in playoff games over the next few days!

Swimming, wrestling, volleyball, basketball—be sure to keep an eye on the website calendar or our twitter and facebook feeds for updates.

– Editor

Bennie's in the Media

THE RECORD: [High school sports in brief](#)

THE RECORD: [St. Benedict advances to District 8 final, WCSSA...](#)

THE RECORD: [Central Tech edges St. Benedict in exhibition th...](#)

THE RECORD: [Eagles, Celtics advance in District 8 basketball ...](#)

THE RECORD: [Polski turning heads for St. Benedict](#)

THE RECORD: [Local sports](#)

HAMILTON SPECTATOR: [Saints march out ... with Silver Fox t...](#)

CKCO TV: [St. Benedict and Toronto Central Tech put on great...](#)

Administrative

We need your help!

By Ms. R. DEFOREST

At the end of last semester and then again last week, our religion students attended a presentation in the lecture hall about First Nations Issues.

This presentation kicks off the Making A Difference Club's *Stand Together* campaign – raising awareness about Native Issues. At that presentation, we introduced our book drive which started

this Monday and will last all week.

Poplar Hill <http://poplarhill.firstnation.ca/> is a small community in Northern Ontario that is accessible by air and ice/winter road only. Resources are very difficult to find, and they are expensive. There is a K-8 school <http://poplarhill.firstnation.ca/?q=node/29>, and secondary school is available only through Keewaytinook Internet High school.

MAD is asking for your help: please look around your homes and see if you can find any new or gently used books that you no longer use and donate them to the bookcase in the atrium. We will arrange for these books to be delivered to the Poplar Hill First Nation Reserve.

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! Sign up forms are available in the Guidance Office. More information can be found online at www.highskills.ca.

Access your student's attendance information in real time

By MR. A. MILARDOVIC

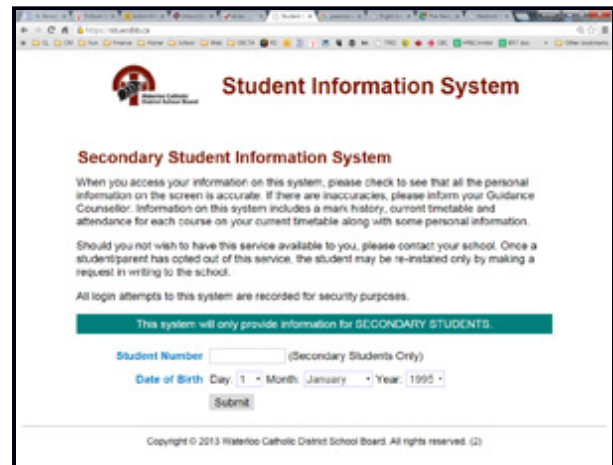
Class attendance is a key component to a student's success in their classes. Timely communication of attendance information between home and school is critical for accurate attendance records.

If a student is away from school a parent must call the attendance line at the school at 519-621-4001. The call can be placed any time, 24 hours a day. It is strongly recommended that you make this call as soon as the absence is known, or at the latest before the student returns to school.

If your son or daughter is going to be away for a trip or extended period of time for a medical reason an *Intent to be Absent* form should be completed in advance by a parent. These are available in the Guidance department.

A student, parent or guardian can access their student's attendance in real time through the Secondary Student Information System (SIS) Website. Information available to view includes student mark history, current timetable, attendance for each course on the current timetable and your contact information. The website link is <https://sis.wcdsb.ca>.

To access the student specific information, you must have the student number (which can be found on a student's timetable) and birth date. If you cannot locate the student number please call the guidance or attendance office for assistance.



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 ★.



VOL NTEER
all that's missing is U!

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

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

Who is your administrator?



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

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)

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

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



English Corner

By MRS. D. WITTMANN

To receive an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) each student must obtain 4

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.

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.

Are you in the International Certificate Program?

If you would like to earn fun volunteer hours that can be counted toward your certificate, see Mr. Mascarenhas in room 301 for a unique opportunity.

Math Contests coming soon!

By DR. L. CHERNYSH

On Tuesday, February 28th, Grade 9, 10, and 11 students will be taking part in the University of Waterloo Pascal, Cayley and Fermat Math Contests. Please register with Dr. C or Mrs. Brennan in the Math Office or in the room 309. A \$2 deposit is required that will be paid back at the day of the contest.

This event is open to all students! The deadline for the registration is Friday, February 10th, at 2:00 p.m. Don't miss it!

Leadership projects help students improve their school

By MR. J. CURTIS

If your students don't think they can change the world, give them a chance to take their first steps by changing a part of their own little world.

At St. Benedict in Cambridge, students in the Servant Leadership course (IDC4UX) have a rare opportunity to put their learning into practice at their own school with the "20% Project".

For the past few years, we have implemented a culminating activity in the course that challenges students to solve a problem at St. Benedict with a personal connection to them. Student leaders are encouraged to think about how they can improve the community, whether it is a social justice campaign that they feel passionate about or a practical solution to a pet peeve of theirs.

The 20% Project gives students one day a week to think, research, plan, develop, implement, and evaluate a solution. Students are encouraged to choose a project that will motivate them, that will inspire others, and will make a difference in our school. They are told to choose something that has always been burning in their heart, but they never had the time to work on it.

Student projects have included a fundraising day for Skills Canada with a trades competition and cake decorating demonstration; a mental health awareness day with guest speakers and inspirational posters; a proposal for artificial turf on the football field; an awareness campaign

about international exchange students with a chopsticks tutorial; an implementation of a social council responsible for gathering student input; a Facebook page for homework help; and, implementing a program to include students with special needs in the social events of our school.

Every week, students have the full class time (75 minutes) on Friday to do whatever they want on the project in the classroom or around the school. Students can perform Internet research, conduct surveys in classrooms, or meet with teachers and/or administration to discuss their proposal or get approval to implement the project.

At the beginning of the period, students must conference with the teacher about their plan for the period and receive constructive feedback before continuing with the project. At the end of the day, each student is also required to write a blog entry that documents their progress on the project and, in an effort to build collaboration, they must comment on at least one other student project. The blended learning environment encourages 21st century digital communication skills, as well as motivation for students to keep working.

Not all projects end in success.

Students discover that following their passion isn't as easy as they had hoped. They often run up against unforeseen obstacles that not only teach them about school policies and procedures, but also force them to use problem-solving skills to work around the bureaucracy. If they're not truly motivated, they will easily give up.

Many students also struggle with personal communications because they are used to talking to people in the digital world. When the project requires them to ask for—and conduct—a meeting with a teacher or vice-principal, they struggle to get up the nerve to speak one-on-one. They will simply send an email and wait for the person to reply. As time slips away, they will be forced to meet face-to-face to get results and, if they are not passionate about the project, they will avoid that personal contact.

Even in failure, students learn so much. They might recognize how much time and effort is required for capital projects, such as replacing a



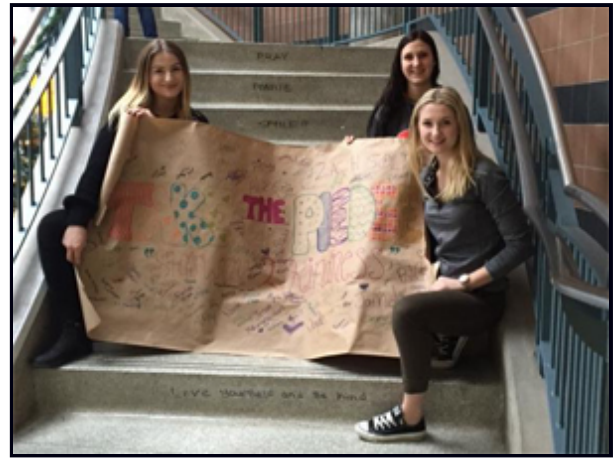
Phys Ed teacher Nat Dufresne talks about healthy active living at a Mental Health Symposium organized by a Leadership student.



Students with special needs join the Leadership class for a musical performance at the Christmas assembly.

gym floor or inviting fast food franchises into the cafeteria, or learn why laptops in the library would never work because of the lack of supervision or not enough money in the school budget.

At the end of the semester, students make a brief “TED Talk” presentation to the class and special guests, including any teacher or administrator involved in the projects. Whether students have successfully changed the school or end up disappointed in not accomplishing their goals, each and every one of them has learned more about their leadership skills and the hard work required to make their dreams come true.



Leadership students displays the anti-bullying pledge banner on the *Steps to Kindness* on Kindness Day.

Athletics

Winter sports teams are playoff bound!

Congratulations to the Sr. Girls Volleyball team on an amazing win Monday night against Resurrection. They won their semi-final game, winning three sets of four in a riveting point by point play in sets 2 and 3. They took the fourth set with a strong lead! Congratulations the Sr. Girls on advancing to the Finals on Wednesday night at 8, hosted here at Bennie's.

Congratulations to the Junior girls volleyball team as they defeated Pere Rene in the semi-finals three sets to zero. The team faces a tough competitor in Resurrection on Wednesday at 6:00 here in the Bennie's gym. Come out and cheer us on in the Championship game.

Congratulations to the Senior Boys Basketball team on their 73 to 32 semi-final win Monday night against St. Mary's. Top point getter was Devante Douse with 21. The Saints advance to the District 8 Finals this Thursday night at 8pm here at St. Benedict.

Congratulations to the Midget Boys Basketball Team for their 31 to 24 semi-final win against Resurrection. They move on to the District 8 Championship Thursday at 4pm here at St. Benedict.

BENN BOX SCORES

Jr. Boys basketball

Resurrection 44, Saints 42
Saints 64, Rockway MC 28
Saints 45, Resurrection 44

Sr. Boys basketball

Saints 69, Resurrection 37
Saints 73, St. Mary's HS 32

Jr. Girls volleyball

Resurrection 3, Saints 2
Saints 3, St. David 0
Saints 3, Resurrection 1
Saints 3, ES Pere-Rene 0

Sr. Girls volleyball

Resurrection 3, Saints 2
St. David 3, Saints 1
Resurrection 3, Saints 1
Saints 3, Resurrection 1

Sr. Boys hockey

Saints 7, St. Mary's HS 4
Resurrection 7, Saints 4
Msgr. Doyle 7, Saints 2

Senior Saints B-ballers win prestigious tournament

By MR. J. MALNERICH

Congratulations go out to the members of the senior boys basketball for winning the 46th Annual Silver Fox tournament. They beat Cardinal Newman 55 to 49 in the final. This tournament is a very prestigious event that features the best teams in Ontario.

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

Ultimate Club

By MR. N. BETIK

The Ultimate Frisbee Club continues to meet Wednesdays at lunch in the gym. Come out and join this fast-paced and newly popular co-ed sport. Please bring your gym clothes and athletic shoes to participate. No experience is needed. Newcomers are welcome and no experience is necessary! Please speak to Mr. Betik, or Mr. Dufresne if you have any questions. See you Wednesday!

Are you a fan of Science fiction?

By MRS. C. KOT

Then join the Star Trek Club! Mrs. Kot is back and we meet every Friday at lunch in Room 123 to watch an episode of various Star Trek Series and films. See you there!

Equestrian Club

The equestrian club will resume Thursday Feb. 16th at lunch in room 320.

Putting your (virtual) money where your mouth is

By MR. A. MILARDOVIC

Do you like money? Do you want to learn how to make more, keep more, save more, and invest more? Then the Financial Club is the club for you! The club meets on a drop-in basis Mondays and Fridays starting this Friday. Students interested in joining this semester's stock market challenge

should come this Friday or next Monday to get the access code. Come get your million dollars, and see what you can do with it by June!

Student Activities

The Arts

Other News

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Support for a local family

SPECIAL TO THE BENN

Joshua is an 11 year old boy from Hespeler, born with Congenital Muscular Dystrophy, a disease with no cure that will someday sadly take his life. While his health is declining, he and his family are trying to raise money to travel and make lasting memories with the little time they have left.

Local photographer Lindsay Pardo of Juniorkins is offering FREE mini photo shoots for kids with any minimum \$50 donation to the family. Please help make their dreams come true.

For more info please visit their facebook page at <https://m.facebook.com/juniorkinsportraiture/>

To make a donation go to <https://www.gofundme.com/346s2ww>



Family Day weekend at Idea Exchange!

Family day weekend at Idea Exchange is chocked full of activities! Discover your inner superhero or tap into your creative side on Saturday, February 18 with Superhero Lego Stay and Play programs at Queen's Square and Preston locations and Preschool Picassos at Clemens Mill. On Sunday, February 19, visit the Queen's Square location for Family Art Afternoon from 1:30 – 3:30pm and create an artistic masterpiece as a family!

YES! Due to popular demand we are OPEN at our Hespeler location on Monday, February 20 from 1:00 – 4:00pm. Discover and Play from 1:00 – 4:00pm and check out Bumbling Bert's Comedy Magic Show at 2:30pm. Bumbling Bert has magical entertainment for the whole family! Watch as he shocks and amazes with his silly, zany whirlwind of jokes and magic!

Idea Exchange now lends Region of Waterloo Museums family passes that can be signed out on your library card. Come in and borrow a pass from us and visit McDougall Cottage on Grand Avenue in Cambridge or Joseph Schneider Haus in Kitchener. This pass provides regular admission for a family of two adults and their children to: Waterloo Region Museum/Doon Heritage Village; Joseph Schneider Haus; McDougall Cottage. Put yours on hold today online or at any Idea Exchange location.

For a full listing of Family Day weekend events, please visit ideaexchange.org. Admission is free and all are welcome!

Idea Exchange location closures and openings – Monday, February 20, 2017

Hespeler will be open for Family Day, 12:00 – 4:00pm.

Queen's Square, Preston, Clemens Mill and Design at Riverside will be closed.

Bennie's Cadet visit Dave FM

Jacob Mills is in grade 11 at St Benedict's. What you may not know about Jacob is that he is an army cadet. Last Thursday morning, Jacob and some of his fellow army cadets were on our local morning radio show – Dave FM/Dave Rocks. Please go to [the Dave FM Facebook video page](#) to see Jacob and his friends live on the air. There are clips in there of Jacob teaching local radio personality Darryl Law how to play a chanter, and the cadets were showing him how to be a good army cadet. As well, they got the opportunity to report the weather and sports.

That's cool, Jacob!

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, February 15

2:15pm Concert Band
2:15pm Games Club
2:15pm Movie Club
6:00pm Coffee House
6:00pm Jr. Girls volleyball FINALS
8:00pm Sr. Girls volleyball FINALS
BENN Newsletter release
National Flag of Canada Day

Thursday, February 16

8:00am Wrestling: District 8 Championships
8:00am Electrical Safety + H&S Training
10:40am Accepting Differences Club
10:40am Equestrian Club
10:40am Lacrosse meeting
2:15pm Math Club
2:15pm Seams Sew Easy

Tuesday, February 28

8:00am Wrestling: OFSAA Championships
8:00am CAD/CAM Training
8:00am Smart Serve
8:00am Graphic Design
10:40am Games Club
10:40am Arts Council
10:40am Movie Club
10:40am Accepting Differences Club
Shrove Tuesday
Math Contests

Wednesday, March 1

8:00am Wrestling: OFSAA Championships
10:40am Cosmo Club
10:40am Reach for the Top
10:40am Seams Sew Easy
10:40am Robotics Club

4:00pm Midget boys basketball FINALS
6:00pm Badminton Club
8:00pm Sr. boys basketball FINALS

Friday, February 17

10:40am Start Trek Club
10:40am Programmers' Club
2:15pm Doctor Who Club
2:15pm Worship band

Monday, February 20

10:40am SBTv Crew meeting
2:15pm Flute Choir
Family Day Holiday

Tuesday, February 21

10:40am Games Club
10:40am Arts Council
10:40am Movie Club
10:40am Accepting Differences Club

Wednesday, February 22

8:00am Confined Space + H&S Training
8:00am International Auto Show
8:00am Coaching Training
9:30am Sr. Boys Curling D8 finals
9:30am Sr. Girls Curling D8 finals
10:40am Cosmo Club
10:40am Reach for the Top
10:40am Seams Sew Easy
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

Thursday, February 23

8:00am Photo Retakes
8:00am Wrestling: CWOSSA Championships
10:40am Accepting Differences Club
10:40am Equestrian Club
10:40am Lacrosse meeting
2:15pm Math Club
2:15pm Seams Sew Easy
6:00pm Badminton Club
7:00pm School Council meeting

Friday, February 24

10:40am Start Trek Club
10:40am Programmers' Club
2:15pm Doctor Who Club
2:15pm Worship band
7:00pm Semi-Formal

Monday, February 27

10:40am Reach for the Top
10:40am Robotics Club
10:40am Spirit Council
10:40am SBTv Crew meeting

10:40am Model UN Club
10:40am Movie Club
2:15pm Concert Band
2:15pm Games Club
2:15pm Movie Club
BENN Newsletter release
Ash Wednesday

Thursday, March 2

8:00am Graphic Design
8:00am Finance/Quickbooks workshop
10:40am Accepting Differences Club
10:40am Equestrian Club
10:40am Lacrosse meeting
2:15pm Math Club
2:15pm Seams Sew Easy
6:00pm Badminton Club

Did you know?

There are over 1,500 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 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



2:15pm Pit Band
2:15pm Flute Choir

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.

