



Volume 10, Issue 2 - August 30, 2017

One week to go!

By Mr. A. Milardovic

With one week to go before classes begin, we are excited for the start of the new school year! Today and tomorrow are **registration days** as per the table in the article below. To be ready for next week:

- registration (today and tomorrow, bring a uniform shirt for yearbook/student card photo)
- school supplies (not sure if your classes need anything specific? See the article below to determine *what you need*)
- uniform (of course! Need a few pieces but you're on a budget? Consider the uniform sale this Thursday afternoon)
- positive attitude and a commitment to personal excellence

And spread the word for us... if you have parents with sons or daughters joining the St. Benedict community for the first time, please forward this newsletter to them and encourage them to sign up!

Although the BENN comes out bi-weekly, as is customary the first two issues come out on two consecutive Wednesdays; between this week's issue and next week's issue we hope to provide you with insight into the many clubs and sports that your son or daughter can partake in. Please do visit our newly revised website for more information!

Saints' Secrets for a Successful School Start

Registration Days

Registration takes place next Wednesday and Thursday, August 30 and 31. Registration and yearbook/student card photos will take place ***in the cafeteria--not in the gym as was stated in previous correspondence***. Please bring a uniform shirt for your photo!

Lockers and locks are assigned to students for their entire time at St. Benedict's. New students will receive their lock and combination at registration as well as an assigned locker location. Only St. Benedict *Dudley* locks may be used on lockers – all others will be removed.

Student timetables are distributed at registration. If you have a timetable issue go to the **Guidance Department** to book an appointment to see your counsellor. All changes require parent approval.

Wednesday, August 30

8:30 a.m.: Grade 9's from St. Margaret's, Blessed Mother Teresa, St. Elizabeth, St. Gabriel
9:45 a.m.: Grade 9's from Christ the King, St. Peter's, St. Joseph's, St. Michael's, Our Lady of Fatima
10:30 a.m.: Grade 9's from all Galt, Preston & Hespeler Public Schools
11:00 a.m.: All Grade 12's and returning Grade 12's

Thursday, August 31

8:30 a.m.: All grade 10's
10:30 a.m.: All grade 11's

Please refer to the registration papers from the summer for more information.



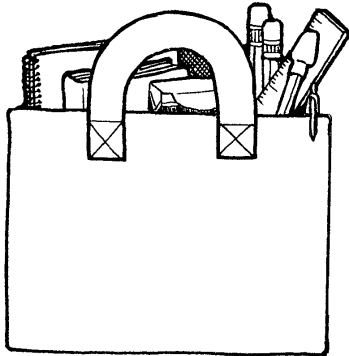
Do students have to be at school on Tuesday, September 5 or Wednesday, September 6?

Both.

On Tuesday, September 5, students have to be in their period 1 class for 10:30 a.m. Morning bus run will be 2½ hours later than normal morning pick-up time. Students who do not have a period 1 class should report to the Lecture Hall. At 11:30, grade 10-12 students will be dismissed, buses are scheduled to depart the school at 11:45. Grade 9 students will remain for Link Orientation (with lunch provided), and will be dismissed at the regular 2:05 time.

Students do **not** need to be in uniform on Tuesday.

Wednesday is the first full day of classes. Students are expected on time and **in uniform** for all of their regularly scheduled classes.



Got your eyes on school supplies?

If you are looking to update that old binder or brighten up that pen collection, you may want to make one more stop online before you hit the stores. On the school website we have updated the page **What you need** to help you be prepared for your classes. On this page you will find many of the courses listed, including requirements and suggestions for materials needed for them. While not all courses are listed, the page will give you a good idea of *what you need to succeed*.

Used uniform sale

The used uniform sale will be held in the cafeteria this Thursday--August 31--from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. There are limited quantities available. Proceeds from the sale go towards our **Saints Fund** which helps students and families in need.

Student transportation information

Students can check their transportation eligibility by going to www.stswr.ca and clicking on **Transportation Eligibility**. It is recommended that students eligible for transportation verify the details as *stop locations and times may have changed*.

Transportation details can be retrieved by visiting www.stswr.ca on August 21, 2017 and clicking on Student Login. Ontario Student Numbers are needed in order to log in and access transportation details.



News from Guidance

By Mrs. L. O'Neill

Update Regarding Counsellor Changes in Our Department

Please note that Mrs. Katherine Menjolian has retired and is enjoying time with her family at her cottage. Mrs. Menjolian was a valued member of our school community for over 15 years, and a member of the guidance department for the past 10 years. We wish her all the best in her retirement. Because of this there has been an adjustment in our caseloads (please see the chart below).

Mrs. Lesley O'Toole: A-Di & International Students, ext. 5190

Mrs. Karla Arkell: Dj - Ki, ext. 5636

Mr. Nick Betik: Kl - Pl, ext. 5633

Mrs. Laura O'Neill: Po - Z, ext. 5634

Mrs. Christine O'Connor, Administrative Assistant, ext. 5631

Course changes

In order for a student to make changes they must pick up a pink sheet in Guidance and have a parent/guardian sign off on the change. Pink sheets with changes must be brought to Guidance before September 13, 2017. Please note changes are not always possible due to scheduling restrictions. Students please follow your assigned schedule until you have met with a Guidance counsellor.

St. Benedict welcomes International students

This fall the St. Benedict community has welcomed several International Students to our school. We have a growing number of Chinese students, as well as students from South Korea, Hong Kong and Colombia. These students are here on student visas and will study at our school with the intent to graduate with their Ontario Secondary School Diploma. While a few of our International students live with relatives while they are here, the vast majority of them live with "home stay" families. All of them bring something special to our community and we look forward to learning more about them and the countries and cultures that they come from.

College and University Presentations

We have been fortunate in arranging visits to our school with liaison officers from several Ontario universities and colleges who will be making presentations to interested grade 12 students. These presentations will begin at the end of September and provide an excellent way for students to ask questions about specific schools that they are interested in. Students must sign up to attend the presentations that they are interested in attending, by the end of lunch the day prior to the visit. While we do not limit the number of visits that students may attend, we do encourage students to be selective about

the visits that they attend as many of them take place during class time. Students are responsible for any school work that they miss if they choose to attend a presentation. Please refer to the complete list of presentations that is posted on our school website.

Community Service Opportunities

In addition to fulfilling an important diploma requirement, volunteering provides students with a way to give back to their community. As opportunities become known to the guidance department, they will be announced on the announcement system, posted on the Guidance bulletin board and listed in the BENN. You can also visit <http://www.uwcambridge.on.ca/volunteer-centre.php>

Follow us on Twitter . . . @sbguidance for announcements about volunteer opportunities, important dates and deadlines, scholarship opportunities and everything Guidance!

New St. Benedict school website launched

By Mr. A. Milardovic

In early August, the final touch-ups were made and the new school website was launched. Three months in the making, the new site--affectionately dubbed version 3.0--was developed on the WordPress platform, unlike the first two iterations of the site which were completely coded by hand.

While the website will lose some of its *personality*, the new version provides several key advantages. Of most note is the flexibility of viewing the site across many more devices than was previously possible.

The site's homepage will still feature the information slide show, calendar, and social media feeds, and the menu has been reorganized. There is also a new announcement section which, on the home page, will show all the announcements for the site. In many instances, specific announcements pertaining to clubs, teams, and academic areas will also be displayed on their pages.

The screenshot shows the St. Benedict school website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Register for School, Delays/Cancellations, Transportation, Multi-Year Plan, and School Cash. Below this is a large blue banner with a countdown timer for school start: "We hope you are having a safe and enjoyable summer! School begins in... 12 Days 15 Hrs 33 Min 53 Sec". The main content area features a photo of the St. Benedict admin team with the text "St. Benedict admin team" overlaid. To the right of the photo is a calendar of events for August 2017, including BENN Newsletter releases and Link Crew training sessions. At the bottom, there is a row of service icons: the Learning Commons, Student Information System, Book a Guidance Appointment, School Cash Online, Career Cruising, and High Skills.

Over four hundred pages were cleaned up, updated, and converted over to the new platform. As new teams and clubs are created, more pages will be added.

Parents, students, and staff should have no trouble navigating the new site. Still, if you are looking for something and cannot find it, please email the [webmaster](#).

Fall sports season set to start



While the calendar may still tell you that it's summer, the high school fall sports season begins shortly. Watch the announcement section of the school website for tryout dates and times.

Fall sports include: Girls Basketball, Cross Country, Girls Field Hockey, Boys Football, Golf, Junior Boys Soccer, Tennis, and Boys Volleyball.

Each sport has its dedicated page, announcement feed, and schedule posted on the website calendar. Also follow our sports teams on our Twitter feed and Facebook page.

Fall sport tryouts and information meetings

Please keep an eye on the school website, twitter, and Facebook feeds for up-to-the-minute information about fall sport tryouts and information meetings. Each sport has its own page and news feed which you can find on the school website under **Student Life**.

Senior Girls Basketball

Girls interested in playing on the senior girls basketball team are invited to an information meeting on Wednesday, September 6 at lunch in room 301. See Mr. Mascarenhas if you cannot attend.

Senior Boys Football

Attention all Grade 11 and 12 students interested in playing Senior Football: Practices begin next Wednesday immediately after school on the front field. Bring appropriate athletic wear and a water bottle. If you have not received and submitted team paperwork, you need to see Coach Vale in the Phys.Ed. office before you leave school Tuesday!

Do you want to have fun? Join a club!

We strive to be a **place for all** at St. Benedict. Currently there are over thirty different clubs and activities listed on our website. Don't see something you like? Want to start a new club? Talk to a teacher

or someone in the Student Activities office... don't be afraid to start something new!

If nothing else, be sure to *get involved!*



Clubs, clubs, and more clubs!

Doctor Who club

“All of time and space, everything that happened or ever will...where do you want to start?”

Doctor Who Club takes place most Fridays, immediately after school in room 226. Join us every week for adventures in time and space with fellow fans, and lots of pizza, as we watch both new and classic episodes from all 50+ years of the world's longest running (and best) science fiction & fantasy series. There are also monthly raffle prizes featuring various goodies. The Doctor is back...and it's about time. Meetings start Friday, September 8th.



Model UN club

Are you interested in world issues? Do you enjoy debating with friends and fellow students? Do you enjoy learning about other countries? Are you a problem solver? Would you like to make a difference in the world someday? Become a member of the Model UN club. We meet every Wednesday at lunch in Room 225. New members welcome, attendance is voluntary. See Mr. Martinello if you are interested.

Concert Band

Come and play in the Concert Band Wednesdays from 2:15-3:30 in room 101! Concert Band is open to all students from grades 9-12 who play flute, clarinet, alto sax, tenor sax, french horn, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba or percussion instruments. Our first meeting is Sept. 13 (no instruments this first day). Fun, friends and great music! See Ms. Laforet for more details.

Jazz Band

Looking for a different kind of music group? Enjoy playing swing, Latin, rock, funk or fusion? Join the Jazz Band Thursdays from 2:15-3:30 in room 101! Saxes, trumpet, trombone, piano, guitar, bass guitar and drums. Sign up on the music room door. Our first meeting is Sept. 14 (no instruments the first day). See Ms. Laforet for more details.

Praise & Worship

Do you like Christian praise music? Do you sing or play at your church? Maybe you write your own worship music! The Praise & Worship Team provides music for school Masses and prayer gatherings and you are welcome! Information meeting Thursday, September 7 at 2:15 in room 103. Details given at the meeting. See Ms. Laforet for more details.

Concert Choir

The Concert Choir is forming Mondays from 2:15-3:30 in room 103 this year. Choir is open to everyone who loves to sing. We sing all styles of music and enjoy singing together in harmony. Sign up on the music room door. The first rehearsal is Sept. 18. A little bit of everything for everyone. See Ms. Laforet for more details.

Star Trek club

Are you a fan of science fiction? Then join the **Star Trek club!** Mrs. Kot is hosting and we meet every Friday at lunch in room 123 to watch an episode of various Star Trek series and films. Bring your lunch with you, hope to see you there... live long and prosper! Our first gathering will be on Friday, September 8 at lunch.

Because I Am A Girl club

This club is about gender equality, raising awareness of the plight of girls and boys here at home and around the world who suffer as child labourers, child brides, the lack of access to education and food for girls in many cultures, and how both girls and boys need to be part of the equality solution! Girls and boys welcome! We need to work together to be part of equality solutions! We will have discussion, participate in activities and hopefully bring greater awareness to the rest of our school and home communities. Join us every Wednesday at lunch in room 123.

Games club

Games Club will meet every Thursday starting on Sept 14th in room 227 after school. Learn how to play various strategy board games and card games such as Risk and Magic the Gathering. See Mr. Riso in room 227 for details, all are welcome.

Lost club

Lost Club will meet every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday starting on Sept 13th in room 227 during lunch. Bring your lunch and get "Lost" in the greatest show ever, starting with season one next week. See Mr. Riso in room 227 for details, all are welcome.

Clemens Mills Library news

IDEA|EXCHANGE.



Borrow a Chromebook!

You can now borrow a Chromebook with your library card for 2 hours at a time. Just ask at the main desk in the Clemens Mill library. Did you know that you can also borrow **Sports & Outdoor Game Equipment**, **Video Games**, **Electric & Acoustic Guitars**, and more?

No Food in the Library

We need to keep the library clean at all times for students and members of the public (we are now open to the public at 10 a.m.) enjoying the space and services... and lunch food has been causing the library to be messy and smelly – yuck! What does this mean? Students are not allowed to eat in the library and will need to eat their lunch food before coming into the library.

Library Activities

We also have a new Charging Station coming this September that you can use to recharge your phone while on the go! While you're here at the library, try one of our board games, join a pop-up activity, chat quietly with friends, read or study. Check out our **event calendar** for all teen events.

Library Hours

We are open during school hours and on the evenings and weekends. The Clemens Mill Library is now open to the public during weekdays at 10:00 a.m.

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday*

8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Friday*

9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Saturday

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Sunday**

* Students please use public library entrance after 2:00 p.m. on weekdays and on weekends.

** Open Sundays between Labour Day weekend and Victoria Day weekend.

Visit your school's [library web page](#) for more information.

Follow us online!



Thanks for the reading 😊 if you like this issue make sure to forward it to your friends.