



Wednesday, March 7, 2018 - Volume 10, Issue 16

## Conflict Mediation at St. Benedict C.S.S.

### Building understanding and positive relationships

**By Mr. D. Witt, Principal**

Over the past few weeks, St. Benedict C.S.S. has received coverage by both The Record and CBC Radio around the restorative practice of conflict mediation. The topic of conflict mediation was first introduced at our Think Tank last May and received positive affirmation from both students and staff. Following the Think Tank, the school made a commitment to implement conflict mediation as a proactive strategy to resolve conflicts and restore relationships. In August, thirteen staff volunteered to participate in conflict mediation training by professional staff from Community Justice Initiatives (CJI), an agency which has, for many years, provided leadership in the area of conflict mediation. From the thirteen trained staff, we are building a team to facilitate mediations between members of our community. As part of the strategy, our trained staff are working alongside Shelley Schanzenbacher, a highly skilled and experienced mediator, to mediate conflict amongst students. The training is to ultimately build capacity within our staff to conduct mediations without the support of external mediators.

The primary foci of the conflict mediation is proactive prevention, de-escalation and intervention with the goal of addressing small conflicts before they become larger issues. As our practice continues to grow and become more established in our school, more staff and students are recognizing conflict mediation as an effective strategy to resolve issues and restore relationships. Small conflicts in classrooms and in hallways are being referred for mediation and we are seeing positive constructive outcomes. While no school is immune to conflict and fights, we have seen a significant drop by 74% in fight-related suspensions comparing Semester 1 2015-2016 to this past Semester 1 2017-2018. It is important to note that conflict mediation is not a substitute for a suspension and that participation is voluntary. However, where a student has been involved in a fight, a suspension will be administered, and a conflict mediation, if agreed upon by both parties, will be conducted.

While there are many factors that contribute to conflict, fighting and bullying, we are confident our strategy of conflict mediation is positively impacting issues of conflict and contributing to a positive school culture. Stay tuned for future articles to learn more about the restorative practice of conflict mediation at St. Benedict C.S.S.

### Links to local media coverage

- article and radio interview on the [CBC News website](#)
- article on [The Record.com](#)

## Administrative

# Graduation! Save the Date!

This year, St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School will be celebrating Graduation with a ceremony on **Wednesday, June 27, 2018**. The ceremony will be held at the Kitchener Memorial Auditorium Complex, in the Dom Cardillo Arena, and will begin at 7pm. In May, invitations will be sent home with four tickets for family members to attend. Additional tickets will be available for \$5 each on a first come, first served basis - while quantities last. We look forward to celebrating this important milestone in the lives of our students, as it will be one of their last memories of their time here at St. Benedict!

## News from Guidance

By Mrs. L. O'Neill

### OECTA Waterloo Bursary

The main purpose of this program is to provide financial assistance to our graduating secondary students who are continuing in their education. All students completing their students at any Catholic Secondary School in Waterloo Region may be eligible to submit an application. All awards will be made based on the expressed financial needs of the students and within the financial limitations of our Waterloo Unit. Applications are available in Guidance and are due by MAY 1st, 2018.

### Summer Employment Opportunity

And the adventure continues . . . Saturday March 24, 2018 9am – noon the African Lion Safari is hosting a job fair.

There are a wide variety of positions that they are looking to fill with students.

- Students must be a minimum of 16 years old and have a valid SIN #
- Must have transportation to the park, as there is no bus service available
- Experience is not a requirement for most positions, but is an asset
- Must be able to work weekends and holidays

Please join then at the Mombasa Market Restaurant onsite at the African Lion Safari.

### 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](http://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](http://www.uwcambridge.on.ca)

**Heart Healthy Day** is taking place at St. Benedict on April 6 and 7. They are looking for volunteers to assist

with setup, decorating, directing guests, distributing flyers and cleanup. On April 6th 3- 5pm and April 7th from 6:30am – 2pm. If you are interested please email Mrs. O'Neill (laura.oneill@wcdsb.ca) or stop by Guidance to see her.

**Great Big Theatre Company** is welcoming again this summer 2018, Secondary School Co-op students as well as Student Volunteers who would like to earn their community service hours by joining our Summer Drama Camp staff.

We are a federally registered non-profit charity (1994).

Our Drama camps for youth ages 3-14 years, operate throughout the summer months, July & August.

Our school volunteers have assisted us greatly in the past in implementing our camp programs and we look forward to working together again this summer 2017 with many new and returning students.

Co-op Students and student Volunteers can register online with Great Big Theatre Company at:

[www.gbtc.com /Theatre Day Camp / Volunteer](http://www.gbtc.com/TheatreDayCamp/Volunteer)



## College or University Financial Assistance

### Financial help for students attending university and college in 2018-19

Is your child making plans to attend college or university next fall? Visit [Ontario.ca/OSAP](http://Ontario.ca/OSAP) to see what financial aid is available to help pay for tuition and other expenses. Apply early and use the OSAP comparison tool to help your child make the best choice for their future.

Find out more and apply at [Ontario.ca/OSAP](http://Ontario.ca/OSAP)

## Support Catholic Education



The number of Catholic ratepayers in Waterloo Region has fallen in the last number of years to below 100,000. This has happened at the same time Waterloo Region's population has grown significantly. To help counter this downward trend, in conjunction with our annual Kindergarten sign-up campaign, we are also launching a campaign to increase the number of "official" Catholic school supporters in Waterloo Region.

[Learn More Here](#)

## Academic

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### 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 on [Enrichment@St.Benedict](#).

### English Corner

**By Mrs. D. Wittmann**

To receive an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) each student must obtain four credits in English (one 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.

### Advanced Placement (AP) Blog

**By Mrs. D. Wittmann**

You'll see the benefits of taking an AP class right away. In AP classes, just like in university, you'll face new challenges and learn new skills in the subjects you care about. All with the support of your classmates and teachers. Visit the [Advanced Placement blog](#).

# Sports

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## Spring Sport Tryouts and Information

### Girls Rugby

Attention all girls! If you're interested in playing on the girls' rugby team this year, please come to room 326 at the beginning of lunch on Friday for a brief meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting, please see Miss Buhlman or Miss Mitchell for details.

### Senior Boys Soccer

Students interested in trying out for the senior boys soccer team are invited to come to room 125 by 11:10am this Thursday for an important meeting.

### Varsity Girls Soccer

All girls who are interested in trying out for the Varsity Girls Soccer team this year need to attend a meeting this Thursday, in Room 314 at the start of lunch. Please see Mr. Bailey in the Science Office if you are not able to be there. Tryouts will be starting right after the March Break.

## Swimming Saints Savour Success

**By Ms. S. Skinn**

Our swim team girls have had a very successful time in Windsor for our OFSAA 2018 competition! The team relay finished in 4th place, besting their time and placing from last year's 7th spot. At the start of the meet Kyanna Vi and Lauren Mage qualified for the 200m free event. Lauren took the gold medal and Kyanna bested her time and moved up from 17th to 11th in the finals. Shaunna swam individually in the 50 free finishing 9th overall. All this just on day 1! What a way to start our time at OFSAA! In total points St. Benedict girls were 2nd overall at the end of day 1.

Day 2 of competition had Lauren and Shaunna competing in the 100m free event. Both made it through the preliminary rounds to the afternoon finals. Lauren was second in the finals taking the silver medal and Shaunna finished 9th overall. A great way to finish off our time in Windsor! The girls are looking forward to next year's competition in Toronto.



**The girls relay team.**



**Silver medalist Lauren Mage (right).**

# Silver medal CWOSSA finish for Sr. Girls Volleyball

**By Ms. R. O'Brien**

Please congratulate the members of the Sr. Girls Volleyball Team on their amazing silver medal finish at CWOSSA on Thursday, February 22.

In the final game, the Saints won the first two sets and battled for the third set just missing it at 25-23.

Preston took the 4th and 5th set despite our Saints fighting for every ball.

After an exhausting 14 hour volleyball day of highly competitive games, the players were very grateful to all the staff, staff's family, students' family and friends who cheered them on - we saw you in the stands, you know who you are, thank you for coming out!!!

We, coaches Stefan and O'Brien, are also grateful to all of you who have supported these athletes (and us!) throughout the season, both in the classroom and from the stands.

They have broken records this year; 1st D8 win in 8 years and 2nd D8 win for Bennie's ever (as far as the banner in the gym tell us) and they pushed farther in CWOSSA than last year, knocking out the favoured-to-win Forest Heights in the Semi Finals. They represented our team, our school, and our district very well this year!



# SAINTS BASKETBALL

## 2018 SPRING LEAGUE BASKETBALL PROGRAM

THIS 10 SESSION PROGRAM IS DESIGNED FOR BOYS AND GIRLS TO  
IMPROVE THEIR SKILLS AND GAIN A THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING  
OF THE GAME OF BASKETBALL

No basketball experience is necessary.  
Players must be prepared to learn, try their best and

**Age Divisions:** Grades 4, 5, 6  
Tuesdays from 6pm to 7:30pm  
From April 10<sup>th</sup> to May 29

Grades 7, 8  
Tuesdays from 7:30pm to 9pm  
From April 10<sup>th</sup> to May 29

**Cost:** \$85

**Registration:** Tuesday, March 6, 2018  
7pm - 9pm  
St. Benedict Atrium  
(enter through front doors  
by the library)

### Program Features

- Emphasis is on developing solid fundamentals and basic principles of play in a fun and encouraging environment
- Fundamental stations and/or large group instruction emphasizing offensive moves and defensive footwork
- Daily League games and team competitions
- Will be grouped according to gender if numbers permit
- League reversible jersey for each player
- Certificate of Achievement
- Awards and Prizes

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

JOHN MALNERICH  
ST. BENEDICT C.S.S.  
519-621-4050 ext 3070  
[John.Malnerich@wcdsb.ca](mailto:John.Malnerich@wcdsb.ca)  
Or  
Go to: <http://stbenedict.wcdsb.ca>  
And look under "Student Life".



**Coaching staff  
includes**  
John Malnerich,  
(Head Boys' Coach)  
and  
Former and Current  
Senior St. Benedict  
Players

We wish to personally invite our future Saints to our 12th Annual St. Benedict Spring League Basketball Program which will be taking place in April and May. This 10 session program will be packed with games, contests and a complete program of instruction covering basketball fundamentals. You also receive a team reversible jersey. You will be placed on a team that will compete each week for the League Championship. Awards and prizes will be given out.

The league will take place on Tuesday evenings beginning April 10th and will end on May 29th. The Freshman Division (Grades 4-6) will run from 6pm to 7:30pm and the Senior Division (Grades 7&8) will run

from 7:30pm to 9pm. Go to our school website (<http://stbenedict.wcdsb.ca>) and select "Student Life" then "Spring Basketball Program". Schedules, program information and registration forms are all there. Cost for the league is \$85.

We will need to limit our enrollment in order to provide maximum instruction and playing time. Registration will occur on Tuesday, March 6, from 7pm to 9pm in the Atrium at St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School. Come get registered and enjoy a terrific experience!

SUMMER BASKETBALL CAMP IS JULY 9th TO JULY 13th SO MARK IT IN YOUR CALENDARS. INVITES AND BROCHURES WILL BE SENT OUT AT THE END OF MARCH.

## Student Activities

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### Clubs

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#### Magic the Gathering Tournament

The Games Club will be hosting the "Magic the Gathering Masters 25 Draft Tournament" on Thursday, April 5, 2018. Calling on all Magic the Gathering players or aspiring players to join in on the tournament.

There will be prizes awarded to all who join the tournament.

Please see Mr. Riso in room 227 any time to sign up for the tournament.

#### Seams Sew Easy

The Seams Sew Easy club has started up again! Come on down to Room 217 after school Thursdays and join us! Here is your chance to learn how to make a pair of pajama bottoms, carry on bag, and much more! Learn how to use a sewing machine as well as a serger.

#### Star Trek Club

Are you interested in Science Fiction? Then come out to room 123 at lunch every Friday to watch an episode of Star Trek! Bring your lunch and get ready to sit back and travel the galaxy and the pursuits of humanity by watching an episode each week. Live long and prosper!

#### E-Car Club

The E-Car club runs every day at lunch Monday through Thursday in room A4. All are welcome! See Mr. Castela if you are interested.

## The Arts

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### Princess Rosie Stories advances to Regionals!





Please congratulate the cast and crew of "The Princess Rosie Stories." They are moving on to the Regional showcase of the the National Theatre School Drama Festival, which will be held from April 16-21 at John F Ross SS in Guelph. Also, please congratulate Felicia Chaves, Ryan Pinheiro, James Rotondi and Alex Verbeem, who won an award of Distinctive Merit for music and sound effects. Most of all, our students represented Bennies incredibly well, cheering on other schools and sharing a positive culture of respect and kindness everywhere they went. They truly made us proud!

## Other News

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# Bishop's Banquet

In Honour Of  
The Most Reverend

Bishop  
Douglas  
Crosby

Bishop of the Diocese of Hamilton

**13th ANNUAL**

**Keynote Speaker:**

**The Most Reverend**

**Bishop Douglas Crosby**



**Tuesday • May 1, 2018 • 5:30pm**

**Catholic Education Centre • St. Mary's Parish Hall**  
**35 Weber Street West • Kitchener • Ontario**



For Tickets & Information Contact Ms. Jody Fritz :  
Tel: 519.578.3660 ext. 2373 or Email: [jody.fritz@wcdsb.ca](mailto:jody.fritz@wcdsb.ca)  
A charitable receipt will be issued for a portion of the ticket price.



**CREATE. IMPACT. INSPIRE.**



**FOCUS!**

**STUDENT VIDEO CONTEST**

TOPIC: CLIMATE CHANGE

WHO: GRADES 8-12

DEADLINE: MARCH 15, 2018

PRIZES: WIN \$5,000

Learn More: <https://www.kimberley-foundation.org>

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## Calendar of Events

Be sure to visit our school website for an updated calendar with detailed information links for most calendar entries.

**Thursday, March 8**

SHSM Event: Electrical Safety + Spill Response Training

**10:40am:** Reach for the Top

**10:40am:** Anime Club

**10:40am:** Robotics & Engineering Club

**10:40am:** Champions of Change

**10:40am:** Accepting Differences Club

**10:40am:** Praise & Worship Music Team practice

**10:40am:** MarioKart club

**10:40am:** Lost Club

**10:40am:** Girls Soccer information meeting

**11:10am:** Senior Boys Soccer meeting

**2:15pm:** Seams Sew Easy Club

**2:15pm:** Math Club

**2:15pm:** Games Club

**2:15pm:** Jazz Band

**Friday, March 9**

**10:40am:** Girls Rugby meeting

**10:40am:** Programmers Club

**10:40am:** Star Trek Club

**10:40am:** Finance Club

**10:40am:** Lost Club

**2:15pm:** Doctor Who Video Club

**Sunday, March 11**

Daylight Saving Time starts

**Monday, March 12**

March Break begins

**Monday, March 19**

**10:40am:** Programmers Club

**10:40am:** Arts Council

**10:40am:** Finance Club

**The BENN Newsletter**

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**Wednesday, March 21**

SHSM Event: Abstract Painting Techniques

SHSM Event: Conflict Resolution & Ambulation/Lifting Techniques

BENN Newsletter release

**10:40am:** Ultimate Frisbee Club

**10:40am:** Accepting Differences Club

**10:40am:** Guitar Club

**10:40am:** Cosmo Club

**10:40am:** Programmers Club

**10:40am:** Lost Club

**10:40am:** Model United Nations

**2:15pm:** Yearbook Team

**2:15pm:** Concert Band

**Thursday, March 22**

SHSM Event: Self Defense Training

**10:40am:** Reach for the Top

**10:40am:** Anime Club

**10:40am:** Robotics & Engineering Club

**10:40am:** Champions of Change

**10:40am:** Accepting Differences Club

**10:40am:** Praise & Worship Music Team practice

**10:40am:** MarioKart club

**10:40am:** Lost Club

**2:15pm:** Seams Sew Easy Club

**2:15pm:** Math Club

**2:15pm:** Games Club

**2:15pm:** Jazz Band

**Friday, March 23**

**10:40am:** Programmers Club

**10:40am:** Star Trek Club

**10:40am:** Finance Club

**10:40am:** Lost Club

**2:15pm:** Doctor Who Video Club

**St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School**

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FAX: (519) 621-4057

Attendance: (519) 621-4001