



Wednesday, November 6, 2019 - Volume 12, Issue 7

Report Cards distributed today!

This morning in period 1, students got their report cards. If they do not have a period 1 class or were absent today, they can pick up their report cards in the Main Office.

This would be a good opportunity for you to discuss your son's or daughter's progress and to look at what he or she needs to do to continue down a successful path towards the completion of the semester. Of particular note, please look at the student's lates and absences to see if there is any concern that needs to be address. Please refer to the article below.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can always contact your son's or daughter's [teachers](#), [administrator](#), or [guidance counsellor](#).

Administrative

WHY ATTENDANCE MATTERS

There are 194 school days in a given year. Missing a “few” might not seem like a big deal, but “a day here and a day there” can add up to a substantial amount of opportunity lost.

If your Child Misses...	That Equals...	Which Is...	Over 13 School Years that's...
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years of school
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years of school
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years of school
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Almost 8 years of school

How about just being late? Surely that won't affect my child's learning?

But only missing...	That Equals...	Which Is....	Over 13 School Years that's...
10 Minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Almost 1 ½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ of a year
20 Minutes per day	1hr and 40 Min per week	Over 2 ½ weeks per year	Nearly one year
30 Minutes per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Almost 1 ½ years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years

Source: Ontario Special Needs, Tweeted August 2019

Everyday matters, routine matters. Having a healthy routine that includes regular attendance is important to child's success.

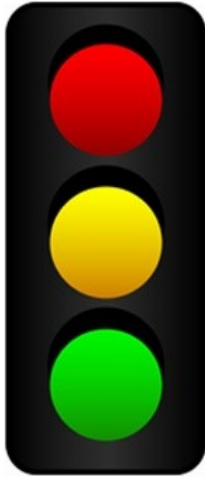
If you have a concern, please talk to us at school.



At this time of year, we invite you to reflect on your child's progress at school. We also invite to you review the number of absences and lates your child has to date which you will find in the top right-hand corner of their report card.

We know that children who attend school on a regular basis are more successful in many other areas of their lives. Regular attendance at school increases opportunities for growth. We encourage you and your

child to stay on the path to success because Attendance Matters. Please be in touch with us if you need support in improving your child's attendance.



RED LIGHT: 10+ days absent or late

Please make an appointment with your child's teacher to discuss attendance as your child's success may be at risk.

YELLOW LIGHT: 5+ days absent or late

Proceed with caution – if there is a way for the school to help improve attendance, please contact us and let's talk!

GREEN LIGHT: under 5 days absent or late

Stay on the path to success at school!

5 Things you Need to Know about School Attendance

The lowest performing students around the world miss more school than their academically successful schoolmates.

School attendance is critical to student's academic success but more importantly research shows that low performance at school, generally leads to a more difficult life with less access to good jobs.

School absenteeism from a young age has significant negative consequences that can last a lifetime.

Research indicates that absenteeism as young as JK is associated with negative grade outcomes, greater absenteeism in the future, as well as, lower student achievement in math, reading and general knowledge. Any student who misses a school day misses an opportunity to learn.

What can Parents do?

Parents can improve school attendance rates by helping their children arrive at school on time every day, following school timetables, locating sources of school anxiety that may make their children want to skip school and planning ahead to minimize absences.



Uniform Reminder

With the colder weather upon us, we would like to remind parents/students about our [uniform policy](#) at St. Benedict. The only item to be worn under a uniform top is a plain white, or navy blue short/long sleeved crew neck shirt. No hoodies or sweatshirts are to be worn under a uniform top at any time of the school year. If students are unable to be in proper uniform, they will be asked to work in the Main Office.

Community Supports for the Holiday Season

Christmas is a time for family and a time of joy and celebration. It can also be stressful.

The **Community Outreach Program** can help link families with supports and resources, such as Financial/Food Supports, Grief and Coping over the holidays, and subsidies for Children's Recreation Programs. For more information call (519) 742-8327 ext. 240 or email info@familyoutreach.ca <https://www.houseoffriendship.org/how-we-help/family-neighbourhood-supports/>

Support is also available from the Self Help Foodbank, call (519) 622-6550 to see if you qualify.

If you or someone you love is feeling overwhelmed and hopeless over the holidays and you don't know where to turn, call HERE 24/7 1 (844) 437 3247, www.here247.ca.

Sensitive Santa

Is your child sensory sensitive? If so, they can still have a visit with Santa through the Sensitive Santa program.

This sensory friendly environment provides lower lighting and a quieter surrounding. Each family that attends will receive a complimentary photo with Santa to commemorate this magical holiday season.

This special time to visit with Santa is reserved for children with social, emotional or behavioral needs.

To keep this event sensory friendly and organized, we ask that each family

Register in advance. Space is limited.

Please contact hylandr@cambridge.ca or call (519) 740-4680 ext. 4292 to register.

Help us spread the word about this magical Holiday Event!

News from Guidance

Who is your Guidance Counsellor?

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. O'Connor Administrative Assistant ext. 5631

Are you considering volunteering at St. Benedict?



Volunteers are a welcome resource at St. Benedict C.S.S. The school is in a position of trust with regards to students and must strive to protect their intellectual, physical, mental, and emotional well-being. As such, the WCDSB administrative procedure (APO 001) mandates that all volunteers be screened, references checked, and Criminal Background Check (CBC) done. School administration reserves the right to oppose or rescind any volunteer placement.

If you would like to volunteer at St. Benedict, please contact [Ms. Fondacaro](#) or visit our [Volunteering](#) page on the school website.

Support Catholic Education



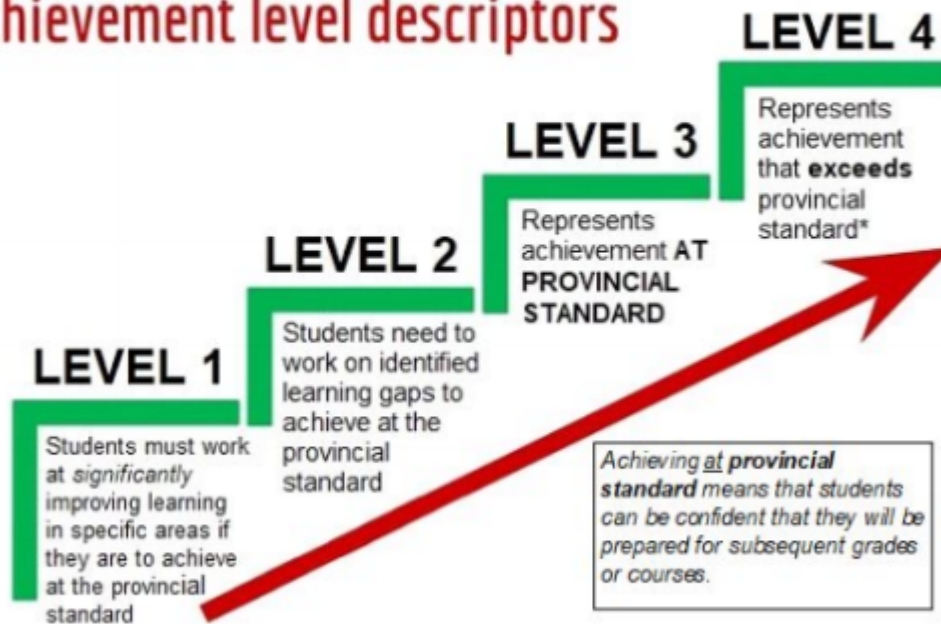
The number of Catholic ratepayers in Waterloo Region has fallen in the last number of years to below 100,000. This has happened at the same time Waterloo Region's population has grown significantly. To help counter this downward trend, in conjunction with our annual Kindergarten sign-up campaign, we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

[Learn More Here](#)

So, what are these levels of achievement?

Historically, students were often compared to others in their class, course, or grade when being assessed and evaluated. Fortunately, teachers now use content and performance standards from the Ontario Ministry of Education curriculum expectations to ensure that assessment and evaluation practices and procedures are fair, transparent, and equitable for all students.

Achievement level descriptors



*Achievement at **Level 4** does not mean that the student has achieved expectations beyond those specified for the grade and/or course.

****If you want to know more about the levels of achievement, consider having a conversation with your child's teacher and/or an administrator.****

Updates to the GRT fare card promotion

Fare Cards processed after September 1 are now preloaded with \$25

Students currently attending a Cambridge high school and who have not previously taken part in this promotion are eligible to receive GRT's EasyGO fare card pre-loaded with \$25 in stored value (increased from last year to still be equivalent to 10 rides at the new 2019 high school reduced fare rate).

Students have until December 31, 2019 to take advantage of this promotion. More information can be found here: www.grt.ca/cambridgehs

New! Online Request Option for Parents and Students

In an effort to make getting the card easier, parents and students can now request a card by completing the online consent form available here: www.grt.ca/cambridgehs

The card, loaded with \$25, will be sent directly to your high school for student pick up.

Cambridge high school students

Tap & Ride

with the EasyGO fare card

Get your card by **December 31, 2019** and get **\$24*** pre-loaded

Pick up your card at Ainslie or Charles Terminal

Bring with you:

- A printed, signed GRT consent form
- Your Cambridge high school student ID or student timetable with your name

*New customers only. Part of the Transit Supportive Strategy for the City of Cambridge.

Free \$24* pre-load

GRT
GOING YOUR WAY

grt.ca 519-585-7555 TTY: 519-575-4608 (Deaf and Hard of Hearing)

Academic

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 at St. Benedict

By Mrs. D. Wittmann

Advanced Placement (AP) is an internationally recognized program that allows students to enrich the Ontario Curriculum with the goal of achieving university accreditation.

What does the research say about AP students?

Research shows that the best predictor of whether or not a student completes a university degree is not their high school grades or standardized tests. Rather, the best predictor is how many challenging courses a student has taken in high school. Students who challenge themselves with AP courses and exams are much more likely to complete a university degree in four years or less.

Visit the Advanced Placement blog:

<https://advancedplacementsaintbenedict.wordpress.com/>

Grade 9s and 10s up for the Computing Challenge

By Mr. A. Milardovic

On Wednesday, November 13 over one hundred and forty grade 9 and 10 students put their logic and problem-solving skills to the test and participated in the University of Waterloo's Beaver Computing Challenge. The contest--run internationally--is comprised of fifteen multiple choice questions of varying degrees of difficulty which relate to programming concepts. There is no coding involved, but a strong sense of problem-solving is required to answer some of the questions.

This is the first time St. Benedict has participated in the Beaver, and we are enthusiastic about the large number of students who participated! Results should be available within the next few weeks..

Students who enjoyed the contest should consider joining Coding Club if they are interested in programming, and think about taking the ICS 3U Introduction to Computer Science or ICS 3C Introduction to Computer Programming course when they make their course selections.

Many thanks to Mr. Anderton, Mrs. Brennan, Ms. Gonzalez-Day, and Mr. Szpiech for getting their math and computer classes involved!

For more information about the Beaver contest, [check out their page](#) on the University of Waterloo's website.



Co-operative Career Fair coming up

Please join us in the atrium on Monday, December 9 between 10am and 12pm for our Co-op career fair. Meet with students to find out about their experiences this semester.

We will also be joined by :

- **Volunteer Action Centre:** Find out about local volunteer opportunities
- **Youth Job Connect:** Discuss their school year and summer programs.
 - This program is ideal if you are a student, 15 – 18 and need some help to find a summer job or part-time work during the school year. Youth Job Connection Summer offers:
 - Minimum 20 hours of paid participation in employment related workshops
 - • 1:1 coaching and support to identify interests and increase job search skills
 - • Paid job placements with local employers, to gain exposure and hands on experience
 - • Assistance with work related costs such as clothing and transportation

- **Specialist High Skills Major Board staff:** Ask any questions or get more info about SHSM



Are you looking for your SHSM information?

Do you know that all the trainings, confirmation pages, and progress reports are sent to your school email account? It is very important to check your school email account regularly. If you think there are any errors in your progress report, please see Mrs. Crowell in the co-op office.

Are you signed up for SHSM?

Training opportunities are happening! Check your school email account for messages about upcoming certifications.

You can also go to highskills.ca and go under trips and trainings for your school and sector to see what is coming up.

Arts & Culture

Business

Construction

Energy

Environment

Health & Wellness

Hospitality & Tourism

Info & Communications Tech

Justice, Emergency Services
& Community Safety

Manufacturing

Transportation

GOT QUESTIONS?

See your guidance counsellor or Mrs. Crowell in the co-op office.

St. Benedict Library Learning Commons



All St. Benedict students should have an Idea Exchange library card.

This card allows you to access your school's library databases and eBooks, and to sign out books and other materials from your Library Learning Commons. Printing is available from the library computers for a cost of 25 cents per side. Your school print credits cannot be used in the library.

If you aren't sure if you have a library card or you have lost your card, please come to the member services desk.

Sports

Winter sports are about to start up!

Watch the calendar on the school website in the coming weeks to see when regular season games begin.

Sports results

SENIOR BOYS VOLLEYBALL

St. Benedict CSS 3, St. Mary's HS 1

JUNIOR BOYS FOOTBALL

Resurrection CSS 27, St. Benedict CSS 7

Senior Boys Volleyball wrap-up

Congratulations to the Sr. boys volleyball team for an outstanding 18-2 season! The team competed at CWOSSA recently and made it to the semi-finals. There they played the tournament favourites, Grand River Collegiate. In an intense battle to 3 sets, your Saints demonstrated amazing physical and mental play, securing their place later that night in the CWOSSA finals! The team was pumped but their great play was outdone by WCI who took the win. Thank you all who took the time and were able to make it our to support the team - your energy, cheers and support were so greatly appreciated. Please congratulate your back to back D8 champs and CWOSSA finalists!

Former Saint Football Player Shining at McMaster

Josh Cumber was never the biggest player on the field, but he always had the biggest heart! The 5-time District 8 All-Star and captain of the Saints football team from 2013-2017 just completed an incredible season for the McMaster Marauders. As a 2nd year player, Josh started every game for the Marauders at the defensive back position and played a huge role in their Yates Cup victory over the mighty Western Mustangs. In the Yates Cup, Josh had an interception, forced fumble and several key tackles. Although McMaster's season ended with a loss to the University of Calgary Dinos in the Mitchell Bowl, St. Benedict is proud of Josh's accomplishments and look forward to celebrating many more successes with him in the future.

Check out [this feature on Josh](#) on CHCH TV.

Student Activities

The Social Justice sector on SAC is super excited to bring their many new ideas to the school community in these coming months. This past month Social Justice aided with the school wide food drive for our community. Social Justice will soon be putting up a brand new bulletin board in the school themed around a "superhero". These "superheroes" will be inspirational role models that could be from our community or anywhere in the world! We are so excited to show the St. Benedict's community all we have been working on and are looking forward to another successful month this year!

Clubs

Champions for Change looking for winter wear to help less fortunate

The Champions for Change committee has asked that teachers engage their classes in a challenge to collect hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and socks for the homeless and less fortunate in Cambridge. Donations will be collected in the big box in the atrium.

We hope to have these donations delivered to Trinity Community Table by November 29th. Thank you so much for your support!

Eco Club update for the season

As we prepare for the Christmas season, Bennie's Eco Club has some great activities planned and lots of Eco tips for the environmentally conscious individuals!

In early December, the Eco Club will be giving away FREE hot chocolate at lunch for anyone who brings in a reusable mug. We will also be hosting an Eco-friendly gift wrapping session at lunch mid-December. Stay tuned for the dates for these two events and follow the Eco Club on Instagram: [bennies_eco_club](#).

Christmas Eco Tips:

1. Use LED Christmas lights
2. Instead of wrapping paper (which is NOT recyclable), use Eco-friendly gift wrap like newspaper, brown paper, cloth (table cloths, scarves), etc.
3. Make your own Christmas cards using recycled paper and materials
4. Instead of buying gifts, make a donation on someone's behalf (eg. towards planting trees, donate to an organization like Friends of the Earth)
5. When buying gifts, choose companies that are Eco-friendly (eg. Ten Tree plants 10 trees for every article of clothing that you buy!)

Have an amazing November and December and join the Eco Club on Mondays at lunch in room 300 to be part of the solution!

The Arts

COMING IN DECEMBER!

**ST. BENEDICT DRAMA PRODUCTIONS PROUDLY
PRESENTS**



December 5, 6 and 7

Shows at 7:00 pm nightly, matinee show at 2:00 on Saturday

Tickets go on sale on [School Cash Online](#) on
Thursday, November 21 at noon

Other News

TEEN DROP IN ZONE

FALL/WINTER SCHEDULE
AGES 13-19



HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday : CLOSED

Tuesday : 3-10PM

- HOMEWORK HELP **3-10**
- DROP IN FOR THE YOUNGINS* (AGES 11-13) **4-6PM**
- JUST HANGIN' OUT** **6-8**

Wednesday : 3-10PM

- FRONT DOOR QUICK ACCESS COUNSELLING **1-7PM**
*BY APPOINTMENT ONLY 519-749-2932***
- FOOD4U DINNER **6-7PM**
- MUSIC ROOM JAM SESSIONS **6-745PM**
- RECREATION AND SPORTS IN THE GYM **745-945PM**

Thursday : 3-10PM

- EMPLOYMENT READINESS & VOLUNTEER HELP **3-10PM**
- GIRLS GROUP (AGES 13-18) **5-7PM**
- HOMEWORK HELP **5-8PM**
- MUSIC ROOM JAM SESSIONS

Friday : 3-10PM

- NEWCOMER YOUTH PROGRAM (AGES 13-21) **5-7PM**
- EMPLOYMENT READINESS & VOLUNTEER HELP **5-10PM**
- FRIDAY NIGHT FLIX **5-745PM**
- MUSIC JAM SESSIONS **6-745PM**
- RECREATION AND SPORTS IN THE GYM **745-945PM**

Saturday : 4-9PM

- RECREATION AND SPORTS IN THE GYM **5-845PM**
- HOMEWORK HELP **5-9PM**

Sunday : CLOSED

**INDICATES A PAID REGISTERED PROGRAM

FREE TIME

- PING-PONG
- POOL
- BOARD GAMES
- MUSIC ROOM
- VIDEO GAMES

SPORTS

- BASKETBALL
- FOOTBALL
- SOCCER
- VOLLEYBALL
- WEIGHT TRAINING

LEADERSHIP & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- HOMEWORK HELP
- MUSIC ROOM JAM SESSIONS
- JUST HANGIN' OUT**
- NEWCOMER YOUTH**

SOCIAL MEDIA

FOLLOW US AND KEEP UP TO DATE

- Instagram
@yyouthprograms
- Twitter
@YTeenZone
- Facebook
@YMCA Teen Drop in Zone

Chaplin Family YMCA Teen Drop in Zone

The YMCA Teen Drop in Zone is a safe place for teenagers age 13-19 to come together and enjoy the space for free and without a membership. In the Teen Zone, there is a variety of fun activities that youth can participate in including pool and ping-pong matches, jam sessions in the music room, games in the lounge room, and basketball in the gym. There are some programs run through the Teen Zone such as Dinnertime on Wednesdays, Girls Group on Thursdays, and 'Flix Fridays. Other programs require registration such as

the Just Hangin' Out program for youth with special needs and the Newcomer Youth program for newcomers to Canada. Visit the Chaplin Family YMCA for more information and to hang out!

Chaplin Family YMCA Newcomer Youth Program

The Newcomer Youth Program is a 10-week program for newcomers to Canada. During these 10 weeks, registered youth have opportunities to participate in recreational activities, build leadership skills, connect with their community, and make friends from a variety of cultural backgrounds. This program is for teenagers ages 12-21 and runs on Fridays from 5:00-7:00pm. Registration for the new year starts soon! For more information, email yyouthprograms@ckw.ymca.ca or visit the Teen Zone in the Chaplin YMCA building.

Calendar of Events

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

Thursday, November 21

Bullying Awareness Week

9:30am: SHSM Training: Food Handling part 2

9:30am: SHSM Training: Event Management

9:30am: Univ/Coll visit: Laurentian University

10:40am: MCU Club

10:40am: DECA Business Club

10:40am: Chess Club

10:40am: Racing Saints E-Car Team

2:15pm: Band

Friday, November 22

Bullying Awareness Week

9:30am: Univ/Coll visit: Redeemer University

10:40am: MCU Club

10:40am: Coders Club

2:15pm: Doctor Who Video Club

Monday, November 25

10:40am: Fresh Club

10:40am: MCU Club

10:40am: Finance Club

2:15pm: Choir

Tuesday, November 26

10:40am: Arts Council

10:40am: DECA Business Club

10:40am: Champions for Change Club

10:40am: Racing Saints E-Car Team

11:30am: Reconciliation

Sunday, December 1

First Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 2

10:40am: Fresh Club

10:40am: MCU Club

10:40am: Finance Club

2:15pm: Choir

Tuesday, December 3

10:40am: Arts Council

10:40am: DECA Business Club

10:40am: Champions for Change Club

10:40am: Racing Saints E-Car Team

Wednesday, December 4

BENN Newsletter release

10:40am: Eco Club

10:40am: Model UN Club

10:40am: Cosmo Club

10:40am: Spoken Word Club

10:40am: MarioKart Club

10:40am: Racing Saints E-Car Team

2:15pm: Magic the Gathering club

Thursday, December 5

9:00am: SHSM Training: Massage Techniques

10:40am: MCU Club

10:40am: Coders Club

10:40am: DECA Business Club

Wednesday, November 27

8:00am: Arts & Tech Day

9:00am: SHSM Training: Creative Arts & Humanities Day @ U of G

10:40am: Eco Club

10:40am: Model UN Club

10:40am: Cosmo Club

10:40am: Spoken Word Club

10:40am: MarioKart Club

10:40am: Racing Saints E-Car Team

2:15pm: Magic the Gathering club

Thursday, November 28

9:00am: SHSM Training: Chainsaw Safety

10:40am: MCU Club

10:40am: DECA Business Club

10:40am: Chess Club

10:40am: Racing Saints E-Car Team

2:15pm: Band

6:30pm: Catholic Schools Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, November 29

10:40am: MCU Club

10:40am: Coders Club

2:15pm: Doctor Who Video Club

The BENN Newsletter

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage subscription](#)



10:40am: Chess Club

10:40am: Racing Saints E-Car Team

2:15pm: Band

2:15pm: Doctor Who Video Club

7:00pm: Beauty and the Beast

Friday, December 6

Professional Activity Day

7:00pm: Beauty and the Beast

Saturday, December 7

2:00pm: Beauty and the Beast

7:00pm: Beauty and the Beast

Sunday, December 8

Second Sunday of Advent

See the calendar on the
school website for the most
up-to-date information!

St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School

50 Saginaw Parkway, Cambridge, ON N1R 5W1

Telephone: (519) 621-4050

FAX: (519) 621-4057

Attendance: (519) 621-4001