



Wednesday, March 24, 2021 – Volume 13, Issue 15

A Message from Administration

Update: Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test 2021

During this ongoing time of pandemic, our secondary schools in the Waterloo Catholic District School Board remain committed to overall student success, achievement and wellbeing. The purpose of this communication is to offer an important update regarding the 2021 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT).

We remind students graduating in 2021 that the Ministry of Education has waived the literacy requirement. Current Grade 12 students do not need to complete the literacy test or course to be eligible to graduate in this 2020–2021 school year.

The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), the organization that administers the literacy test is field testing a new, online OSSLT from the end of March 2021 until June 2021. Provincially, the field test is being made available to Grade 10 and 11 students who are learning in-person and working toward their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). As this version of the test is designed to test the new online instrument, schools and school boards may choose whether or not they wish to engage with the OSSLT field test.

At WCDSB, we have decided not to administer the OSSLT in the 2020–2021 school year. We have come to this decision for three reasons.

1. In our cohort-based quadmester timetables, students have a reduced number of hours and days at school. Adding the literacy test to our fourth quadmester would further reduce the number of hours available for students to master course curriculum.
2. We are choosing to prioritize our students' overall wellbeing in this time of ongoing pandemic. We believe that it is not in our students' best interests to ask them to engage with a high-stakes standardized assessment during this time, especially when other learning goals are a priority.
3. Within the parameters of the field test being piloted by EQAO this year, only students who are able to come in person to our school sites will be able to attempt the test this spring. This format disadvantages and excludes our distance learning students who are unable to come to their homeschool to take part in the test. The loss of class time associated with administering the test also disproportionately affects our English language learners and special education students.

Our staff will continue to plan for our students to write the OSSLT (or take the literacy course) in the 2021–2022 school year. We remain committed to supporting all students on their chosen pathways to graduation and beyond.

School Schedule and Calendar

Quick Link to Our Calendar –
<https://stbenedict.wcdsb.ca/parents/current-students/school-year-calendar/>

Our calendar (with Cohort info and key dates) can be accessed through our school website
<https://stbenedict.wcdsb.ca>.

You can then access the calendar by going to ABOUT US > School Year Calendar

Spring Break & Quad 3 Final Assessments

As previously communicated March Break has been postponed to the week of April 12–16 for all Ontario schools. As a result of the March Break being moved to April 12–16, we have made some adjustments to the Quad 3 and 4 calendars to support overall student achievement and wellbeing.

Final Assessment days have been moved to April 8 (Period 1) & April 9 (Period 2). These two days will be fully remote, synchronous assessment days. Following the April break, April 19 and 20 will continue to be Assessment and Evaluation (A&E) days for the purpose of credit recovery, rescue, and reporting. Further information will be provided by classroom teachers.

Quad 4 will begin on April 21 as a fully remote, synchronous day. Teachers will have the opportunity to virtually meet all students in their course(s), and to share course overviews and expectations. We will follow a remote learning schedule, check the school calendar for specific times.



New Store Hours

Tuesday: 10am – 6pm

Thursday: 10am – 6pm

Saturday: 10am – 6pm

OR VISIT: www.mccarthyuniforms.ca

1-800-668-8261

Student Picture Days for Cohort B

Cohort B students have pictures this Thursday and Friday. We will abide by our operational guidelines to ensure a safe process. Students will be called down by class and will need to be in uniform to take their picture. Students in phys ed, classes need to bring a uniform shirt to wear over their phys ed attire.

Please contact the school if you have questions.



Lifetouch.

PICTURE DAY IS COMING



Order your school pictures today
on mylifetouch.ca



Tuesday, March 23rd through Friday, March 26th, 2021
St Benedict Catholic Sec School



- ① Visit mylifetouch.ca
- ② Enter your Picture Day ID
QX010324Q0
- ③ Order your perfect package—
and don't worry about returning
anything on Picture Day!

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Family Winter Participation

Free April Activities

The WCDSB Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (CPIC) & Ministry of Ontario PRO Grants is offering Free activities for families. [Sign up here](#) or scan the QR code below.



FAMILY SPRING PARTICIPATION



Drumfit April 8 @ 7 p.m.



Kitchener families cook White Bean Falafel Apr. 22 @ 5 p.m. with UW Chef Mark



Getting back to positive with fitness instructor & motivational speaker Nancy Revie Apr. 27 @ 7 p.m.



Starlight Yoga with Michelle Burns April 28 @ 7:30 p.m.



Brought to you by Ministry of Education PRO grants & WCDSB CPIC. Sign up via QR code above or email diana.bumstead@wcdsb.ca.

Free for WCDSB families. Attend a session and be entered to receive a \$75 restaurant gift card. Details on sign-up form

We would like your input for the 2021-2022 budget!



2021-2022 Budget Survey



Click this slide for
more information

Board seeks input on the 2021-2022 budget

The purpose of this brief budget survey is to gain feedback from stakeholders with respect to Board priorities. While we cannot accommodate all requests, we do want to know what is important to stakeholders which will help guide our decisions. The ThoughtExchange will be open until March 26th.

Understanding that the Board priorities are intended to support Graduation rates, Well-Being and Faith Formation. Please identify what you feel is the MOST important area for investment within the budget in order to achieve our priorities?

- <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/#665456665/hub>

Understanding that the Board priorities are intended to support Graduation rates, Well-Being and Faith Formation. Where do you think the Board could obtain savings or efficiencies?

- <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/#774885485/hub>

Key Dates for Quad 3 & 4

Quad 3:

Mar 28	Palm Sunday
Apr 1	Holy Thursday
Apr 2	Good Friday
Apr 3	Holy Saturday
Apr 4	Easter Sunday
Apr 5	Easter Monday
Apr 7	BENN Newsletter Release
Apr 8	Quad 3 Period 1 Evaluation Day
Apr 9	Quad 3 Period 2 Evaluation Day
Apr 12 – 16	Spring Break
Apr 19 – 20	Credit recovery
Apr 21	BENN Newsletter Release

Quad 4: April 21 to June 25, 2021

Apr 21	Quad 4 begins virtually for all students
May 5	Quad 3 Report Card Distribution Date & BENN Newsletter Release
May 9	Mother's Day
May 19	BENN Newsletter Release
May 20	Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
May 21	Turn Around Date for Careers/Civics
May 24	Victoria Day
June 2	BENN Newsletter Release
June 4	PA Day
June 9	Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
June 16	BENN Newsletter Release
June 20	Father's Day
June 24	Period 3 Evaluations
June 25	Period 4 Evaluations
June 28	Assessment and Evaluation/Credit Recovery
June 30	BENN Newsletter Release
July 12	Quad 4 Report Card Distribution Date (Mailed)

Mental Health & Wellness

WCDSB Mental Health and Well Being Web page

Have you had a moment to check out the Board's update Mental Health and Wellbeing webpage? This is a "one stop shop" where you can find links to targeted resources to promote wellbeing during Covid, examples of meditations/calming strategies to share with students, resources specific to various roles (i.e. leadership, educators, students, families), links to services in our community, and general mental health information. Please help raise awareness about this resource!

<https://www.wcdsb.ca/programs-and-services/mental-health-and-well-being-at-wcdsb/>

A short intro video is here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmJI_QXT8xk

Please talk with Guidance, Vice Principals and/or our Principal if you feel you need School Social Work support.

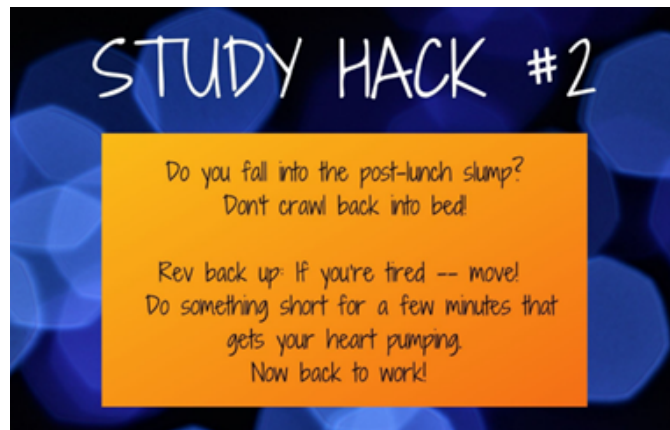
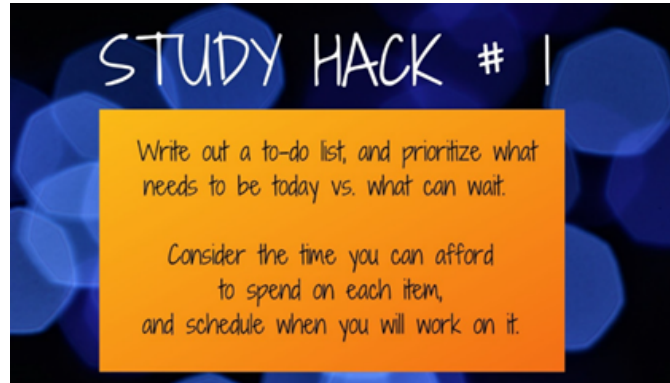
March Mental Health Tip

Are you noticing a bit more of an emotional rollercoaster this month? You are not alone! Our normal school year rhythms have shifted so much, and we look forward to the rest and recovery that we will enjoy during our April/spring break. We have also hit the “anniversary” of when covid dramatically changed our lives, and as we reflect on this past year we may be caught by surprise when unexpected emotions resurface. This is a normal part of processing a big change, and it reminds us that it's a good time to be incorporating more self-care practices into our days. Check out the Self-Care 101 (<https://smho-smso.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Self-Care-101.pdf>) for more tips on how to support wellbeing during this time.



March Study Hacks

You may notice that during the pandemic it's harder to concentrate, complete assignments, sleep, remember things, and stay organized, which may be connected to the ongoing stress we carry with us during a pandemic. Here are a few tips that can help things get back on track.



The Counselling Collaborative of Waterloo Region (<https://counsellingwr.ca>) is a partnership of 6 local counselling agencies working together to make counselling services more accessible to individuals with a limited income. Fees may be fully or partially subsidized depending on individual circumstances and the service requested. Visit their website or call (519) 804-1097 to book a phone/video appt.

Learning to Livestream

By Mr. A. Renner

We would like to extend a huge thank you to our school council, who have helped us to purchase cutting edge livestreaming equipment with proceeds from the Cambridge Gaming Association. Our new equipment includes an AVMatrix Video Switcher, a remote camera controller, and two PTZ cameras, which we can use with existing lighting and sound equipment to live stream from our stage.

As the setup is portable, it can also be used from the gym, the chapel, the lecture hall, the atrium, the comm tech studio... pretty much anywhere in the school! The new setup also allows participants in different rooms to record live at the same time, which helps us to observe social distancing and safety protocols. We are currently experimenting with the equipment and learning all the ins and outs – we look forward to using the equipment soon for virtual events, and even when we can gather again in the future, to live stream events to a wider audience. Thank you to the school council and the Cambridge Gaming Association for your support in this exciting project!



Pictured above: Ryan Carriere (grade 12) at the sound console, Gabriel Delarosbil (grade 9) at the drum kit.





AN EVENING WITH PARENTS AND STUDENTS

5 GREAT REASONS FOR A CAREER IN THE TRADES

In this dynamic presentation, Job Talks Executive Director Dr. Jon Callegher will share with parents his latest research on the emotional and experiential challenges facing young people today. He will also reveal 5 data-driven reasons for why working in the skilled trades, especially in a post-COVID-19 world, is an ideal career option.

Jon has shared his message on CBC radio, TV, and at conferences internationally. He is a marketing professor in Toronto and has a Ph.D. from the University of Waterloo.



featuring

DR. JON CALLEGHER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JOB TALKS

DATES & TIME
APRIL 7, 2021 | 6:30 PM

WHERE
ONLINE VIDEO CONFERENCE

and
LEONARD BUMBACCO, OYAP COORDINATOR
shares how to get involved at WCDSB schools

REGISTER NOW: bepwr.ca



This program is funded by the Government of Ontario



Visit www.oyap.com

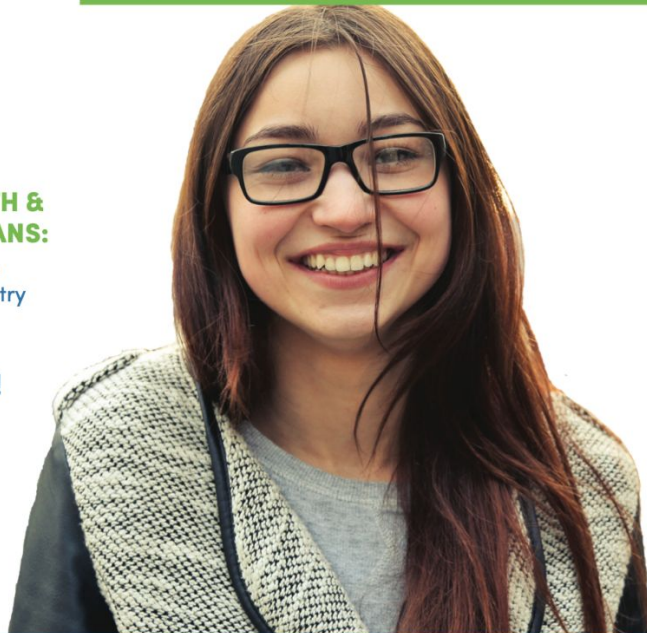


EXPLORE YOUR FUTURE THROUGH THE BEP



GRADE 7-12 YOUTH & PARENT/GUARDIANS:

Get career advice from recent grads and industry professionals at this **FREE VIRTUAL SPEAKER SERIES!**



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SIGN UP AT WWW.BEPWR.CA

FOR THE **EXPLORE YOUR FUTURE CAREER SPEAKER SERIES**
FEB 10 | FEB 24 | MAR 10 | MAR 24 @ 6:30 - 7:30PM



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NEWS

**The Business & Education Partnership of Waterloo Region is excited to present
Explore Your Future 2021 for grade 7-12 students and their parents/guardians in Waterloo
Region!**

Interactive sessions will run every other week from **6:30 - 7:30 PM**.

Thanks to our sponsors and partners, this learning experience is **FREE** to attend.

March 24: Helping Professionals - Careers Making a Difference for Others

Want to help others? Learn how people like you use their skills to support and heal people and communities.

1 ticket gets you access to all 4 sessions!

Click on the image above to register.

Cambridge High School Students

Get a **Free** EasyGO fare card



Loaded with

\$25*

- Visit grt.ca/cambridgehs to learn how to get your fare card
- Complete the online consent form by June 1, 2021

* Terms and conditions apply. Part of the Transit Supportive Strategy for the City of Cambridge.



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



Frequently Asked Question

Is there a cohort-specific schedule?

YES THERE IS!

Cohort A Cohort B



COVID Test/Screening and Outbreak Protocol

All students (or guardians on their behalf) will be asked to engage in a daily self-assessment before reporting to school and anyone feeling unwell or identifying a concern based on their self-assessment should not report to school. [COVID-19 School Screening](#)

Once at the school, all students will be required to wear mask at all times. Students are to sanitize their hands upon entering and leaving the classroom.

[Operational guidance: COVID-19 management in schools \(Ontario.ca\)](#)

What to do when my child isn't feeling well?

[Read the memo for parents and guardians from the Region of Waterloo Public Health Unit.](#) The document provides direction for parents and caregivers regarding the role of families, Public Health and schools.

Message from Guidance

Guidance has great news for ALL students looking to submit their community service hours paper-free. We now have a fillable form available for submitting Community Service hours! Here is the link: <https://stbenedict.wcdsb.ca/student-services/guidance/community-service-hours/>

Complete the form and your hours will automatically be submitted and updated in the system. As a reminder, there were changes made regarding graduation requirements involving community service requirements for the 2020-2021 school year:

- graduates for 2020-2021 have a reduced requirement for 20 hours rather than the usual 40
- this is in recognition that gathering CSH is a challenge for students during the ongoing pandemic
- these hours can be generated in typical ways, also at the principal's discretion students can use hours:
 1. earned during the school day
 2. earned by performing household or community-based tasks – no max hours for duties performed at home, but this is at the principal's discretion
 3. 10 hours paid employment at principal's discretion
 4. flexibility and principal's discretion can be applied to international students
 5. co-op experience, either paid or unpaid, could also be considered at the principal's discretion

Please be sure to submit your hours ASAP.



Harbouring Hope

-A Journey of Transformation



The Project

All WCDSB Students are invited to participate in Student Senate's board-wide campaign:

Harbouring Hope Scrapbook



Submission Categories

Submit your original work to be included in the scrapbook. We are looking for:

- **Graphic Art**
- **Visual Art**
- **Poems**
- **Short Stories**



Contact Us

All media submissions, questions, and concerns, should be directed to the following email address:

Harbouringhope2021@gmail.com

Thank You in advance
-Student Senate



Submission Themes

Submit your media under one of the the following themes:

- **Hope for YOUR future**
- **Hope for OUR future**
- **Connections to faith**
- **Diversity**
- **Inclusion**



Academics

University of Waterloo Math Contests

Math contests are a fun way to help students build their problem solving skills. The University of Waterloo has several math contests for our students through their Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing.

Grade 9, 10 and 11 students: there is still time to sign up!

Grades 9 through 11 students can participate in the Fryer, Galois, and Hypatia contests. Find contest details here:

<https://cemc.uwaterloo.ca/contests/fgh.html>.

The deadline to register is March 26, 2021.



All contests will be written from home under the supervision of an adult. To register for any of the contests, go to: <https://cemc.uwaterloo.ca/contests/registration.html>. If you do not have an account with the CEMC, register as a "New Individual." Note: it may take up to 5 days to create a new account.

If you have any questions, please contact your student's math teacher.

Join us for Homework Club

Wednesdays - 1:45 - 3:00pm **ONLINE**

Google Classroom Code: [ojocdyl](#)

Meet with Mrs. Borba for all your **LITERACY** needs:

[Click here for: Borba Literacy Meet](#)



Meet with Mr. Chaves for all your **NUMERACY** needs:

[Click here for: Chaves Numeracy Meet](#)



We got your learning needs covered :)

Every Wednesday, join Mrs. Borba (Literacy) or Mr. Chaves (Numeracy) **ONLINE** from 1:45-3:00pm!

JOIN the Google Classroom <https://classroom.google.com/c/MjM2MzY1NjE0NDI5?cjc=ojocdyl>

or simply CLICK on the Teams Links!!

[Click here for: Borba Literacy Meet](#)

[Click here for: Chaves Numeracy Meet](#)

Can't WAIT to see you SAINTS online!

News from the Library

Clemens Mill
IDEA|EXCHANGE

Your school library is an important resource for success in high school. Currently the school library is accessible to teachers and their classes from 8am to 10am. Students may access the library individually at 10am, using the Clemens Mill Library front doors. Clemens Mill library is open for light browsing of our books, DVDs and other materials and hold pickups.

All visitors are asked to complete the [COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire](#) before entering our physical spaces, wear a face mask, and limit their visit to 60 minutes or less.

Did you know....

Clemens Mill Library has lots of new reads for teens. Take a break from online and read a good book! Check out [What's New In Teen Fiction!](#)

We also have DIY Kits which are simple maker kits complete with instructions that you can take home. Check out the kit(s) currently offered at [Idea Exchange website](#).

To pick up a free kit, simply come to the library using the Clemens Mill Library front doors. The library opens at 10am.

We are planning to update the library website and would like St. Bennie's students' input. We are asking St. Bennie's students to please take a few minutes to [complete our short survey](#) to help us better plan a website that meets your needs! This survey is voluntary and is completely anonymous.

If you need help finding a good book or resources for assignments, please contact your school library, Ms. Pilon at ppilon@ideaexchange.org.

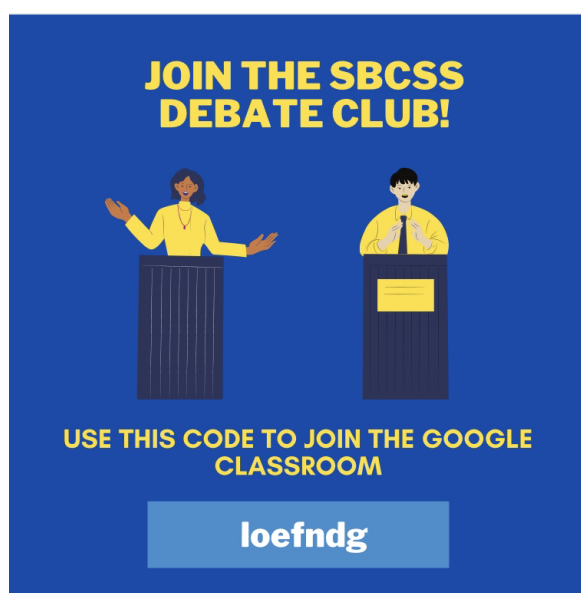




And check this out!

Cambridge Idea Exchange's School Liaison illustrated the new offerings they have that might be of interest to families in your school particularly hard hit economically by COVID--free Parks Ontario passes to sign out, podcast kits on loan, board games, puzzles, garden tools. Check out their [unusual stuff to borrow page!](#)

Clubs



Student Activities



Other News



Tolerance for Uncertainty

Thursday 1:30-3:00pm

Feb 18-April 8

Using the practices of emotion-focused therapy, compassion and mindfulness interventions, this 8 session virtual program will guide people to accept their feelings, tolerate distress and thrive.



To register please contact Julie at juliew@langs.org OR 519-653-1470 ext 348

Calendar of Events

Thursday, March 25

Picture Day – Cohort B

8:00am: Period 2 Cohort B Face to Face

12:25pm: Period 1 All students Distance learning

Friday, March 26

8:00am: Period 2 Cohort B Face to Face

12:25pm: Period 1 All students Distance learning

Sunday, March 28

Palm Sunday

Monday, March 29

8:00am: Period 2 Cohort B Face to Face

12:25pm: Period 1 All students Distance learning

Tuesday, March 30

8:00am: Period 2 Cohort B Face to Face

12:25pm: Period 1 All students Distance learning

Wednesday, March 31

8:00am: Period 2 Cohort B Face to Face

12:25pm: Period 1 All students Distance learning

2:00pm: 2021–2022 Co-President Meeting

2:00pm: Debate Club

Thursday, April 1

Holy Thursday

8:00am: Period 1 Cohort A Face to Face

12:25pm: Period 2 All students Distance learning

Friday, April 2

Good Friday

Saturday, April 3

Holy Saturday

Sunday, April 4

Easter Sunday

Monday, April 5

Easter Monday

Tuesday, April 6

8:00am: Period 1 Cohort A Face to Face

12:25pm: Period 2 All students Distance learning

Wednesday, April 7

BENN Newsletter release

8:00am: Period 1 Cohort A Face to Face

12:25pm: Period 2 All students Distance learning

2:00pm: Debate Club

Thursday, April 8

Quad 3 – Period 1 Evaluation Day

Friday, April 9

Quad 3 – Period 2 Evaluation Day

Monday, April 12

Spring Break

Be sure to check out the
calendar on the school
website for updates
and changes!

The BENN Newsletter

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