

# St. Benedict Catholic School

80 McLaughlin Ave., Milton ON L9T 8N2

Website: <http://schools.hcdsb.org/bene> T: 289-851-9353

Principal: Mr. Josey Guerin

Vice Principal: Ms. Penny Uniacke

Secretary: Mrs. Diane Reggi

Office Assistance: Mrs. Anna Guzzo

Superintendent: Mr. Camillo Cipriano

Trustee: Mrs. Diane Rabenda

## Administrator's Message

The season of Advent began last Sunday. The days become shorter and nights become longer as we await the celebration of the birth of Christ. During this time of giving when need is felt the most, the St. Benedict Community has responded. We wish to thank everyone for their very generous support of our United Way 'Paint the Town Red' initiative, Operation Christmas Child and our St. Vincent de Paul gift card drive. Amidst all this "business" we take the time to stop and reflect upon the true meaning of the season – our daily prayers and our weekly liturgies around the Advent wreath help us to keep Christ as our focus.

This month, on December the 7<sup>th</sup>, we will come together as a community of believers to celebrate an Advent Mass with Father Jim at 9:30 am here at the school. You are most welcome to attend. For the month of December, the focus for Principal awards will be "hope". We do look forward to seeing many of you here December 8<sup>th</sup> at our family Christmas gingerbread house making evening.

Mr. J. Guerin and Ms. P. Uniacke

### \* Christmas Vacation\*

**Please note:** There will be an **Early Dismissal at 2:05 p.m. on Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016**. A **two week** Christmas break will begin on Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016. School starts again on **Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. Buses will arrive 90 minutes earlier than the scheduled time.



## Upcoming Events

### December 1

Extended French Parent Information Night for Gr. 5 2017-18 School Year @ 6:30 pm

### December 7

Advent Mass at 9:30 AM

### December 8

Gingerbread House Making Family Night @ 6:00 pm

### December 12

Gr 6 BRAVO Graduation @ 1:15PM

### December 14

Dental Screening JK/SK & Gr. 2

### December 15

Dental Screening JK/SK & Gr. 2

### December 19

FDK Advent Liturgy  
9:45 am: Rooms 101, 102, 106  
1:45 pm: Rooms 103, 104, 105

### December 22

Christmas Sing-a-Long 1:30 PM

### December 23

Christmas Break Begins. Early Dismissal @ 2:05. Buses will arrive 90 min earlier

Follow St. Benedict on Twitter:  
[@StBeneHCDSB](https://twitter.com/StBeneHCDSB)



## St. Benedict Catholic School Council News

We have a few fundraising initiatives under way. Thank you to the parents for supporting our Dance-A-Thon. It was a great success with approximately \$16 000 raised to support our School improvement Plan. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped organize the fundraising event!



Our next Council Meeting is January 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. All parents are welcome!

**If there are any ideas or suggestions that you wish to be considered by Council they must be presented in writing to the Chair a minimum of 48 hours prior to the next meeting**

### Safe Arrival – Press 1

Thank you to all parent/guardians for calling in their child's absence. Just a reminder that if your child will be absent to call the school at (289) 851-9353 and press 1 to be directly linked to our Safe Arrival Program.

If you need **to pick up your child early** for an appointment, please send a note to your child's teacher indicating the time of pick up. This will minimize interruptions to the learning in our classrooms.

### ECO News

The Eco Ravens would like to thank everyone for their donations and contributions through MacGregor meats to help raise money for our water bottle filling station and to donate to charity. We are hoping to have another initiative after the new year to solidify our funds for our endeavor.

We encourage all families attending the Gingerbread House night on December 8th, to bring a reusable cup for your

beverages. Thank you for your ongoing support!

### Up-Coming Spirit Day – December 23<sup>rd</sup>

Thank you to everyone who wore Red last month for our Spirit Day. We raised over \$900.00 dollars in support of the United Way. This month's Spirit Day will be dress like an Elf (red and green) day on Friday December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you to everyone who has supported our many initiatives this holiday season.



### Advent Wreath

A popular Advent tradition in families is the Advent wreath. The wreath is usually made from a ring of evergreen branches, with four candles arrayed around the circle. Three of the candles are purple; one is pink. [The pink one is lit during the third week, as a sign of rejoicing that Christmas is almost here.]

Try to follow a routine of lighting the Advent candles at one meal each day. During the first week, only one candle is lit. During the second week, two candles are lit every day. In the third week, the pink candle is lit, along with the first two. And so on.



Focus on the growing light as the weeks pass. By week four, the wreath is a bright symbol of warmth and the light of love that Jesus brings into the world and into our hearts.

A "daily countdown" Advent calendar illustrated with scenes and characters from the Bible can make this season of anticipation fun and meaningful at the same time.

## Winter Weather



**The weather has certainly turned colder. Please ensure that your children come to school dressed appropriately for outdoor weather conditions. A warm jacket, hat and mitts are essential. When weather conditions present a hazard to health as reported by Environment Canada Weather the children will remain inside.**

### Inclement Weather Guidelines

The Halton Catholic District School Board provides us with information, guidelines, and specific websites to refer to regarding various inclement weather situations. They are as follows:

- a) warmer than -15 C: students may remain outside for all regular activities
- b) between -15 and -20 C: students may remain outside for no longer than 20 minutes at a time
- c) colder than -20 C: students remain inside

**Please ensure your child(ren) come appropriately dressed for changing weather.**

### Weather Watch

Please note that for news about HCDSB school closures and/or bus cancellations due to inclement weather you can tune in to the following radio stations commencing at 6:30 a.m.

CFRB TORONTO 1010 AM  
CHFI TORONTO 98.1 FM  
CJOY GUELPH 1460 AM  
CHWO OAKVILLE 1250 AM  
CHML HAMILTON 900 AM  
CKOC HAMILTON 1150 AM  
CKMW BRAMPTON 790 AM

CJBC (French) TORONTO 890 AM  
CING BURLINGTON 108 FM  
CKDS HAMILTON 95.3 FM  
CKLH HAMILTON 102.9 FM

### Grade 5 Extended French Program Parent Meeting for 2016-2017 School Year (Current Gr. 4 Students)

An information night for parents interested in the Extended French Program will take place on **December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 PM**. It will take place at St. Benedict School in the Gymnasium.

### MedicAlert- No Child Without Program saves lives!

One out of three Canadians have a condition that paramedics and emergency responders need to know about, including many children that live with a medical condition, allergy or special need that must be communicated during a medical emergency.

**MedicAlert** is the **most trusted, most recommended medical ID service provider** in Canada. For more than 55 years, MedicAlert has protected the lives of over one million Canadians by offering **exclusive services** to those that are in need. The **No Child Without** charitable program, founded by MedicAlert in 2006, has protected over 50,000 students in the last 10 years and supported school officials to address concerns about students living with chronic medical conditions, Allergies Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes or special needs.

This program provides **children and students**, attending participating schools, one **free** MedicAlert medical ID and **free** MedicAlert service plan coverage **between the age of 4 and up until their 14th birthday**. To date, the **No Child Without** program is available across over 200 school boards, in over 6,000 schools.

\_\_\_\_\_ School has been participating in the MedicAlert No Child

Without program since \_\_\_\_\_ and we are happy to introduce the program to more students at our school! Thank you MedicAlert for providing lifesaving service!

**Parents and guardians should consider this program if their child lives with:**

- A medical condition
- Allergies and requires the use of an epinephrine injector
- Asthma or uses an inhaler
- Autism or ADHD
- Medication they need to take

For a more comprehensive list of conditions or simply learn more about the No Child Without program, visit [nochildwithout.ca](http://nochildwithout.ca).

**ABOUT MEDICALERT**

**MedicAlert Foundation Canada** is a national registered charity, and it is the most trusted and most recommended medical identification service by healthcare professionals in Canada. MedicAlert has been protecting over one million Canadians for over 55 years, by offering **exclusive benefits** including:

- **Critical assistance in seconds** - An exclusive 24/7 Emergency Hotline that is answered within an average of 5 seconds, in 140 languages
- **Family notification service** - MedicAlert tells emergency responders what they need to know about the student and notify family members in the event of an emergency
- **Designed to rigorous medical standards** - ensures all information on the MedicAlert identification adheres to globally accepted medical standards that are critically relied upon by emergency responders

**Kidssentials Hot Lunch Program**

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**To place an order and view the menu:** Visit [www.kidssentials.com/parents](http://www.kidssentials.com/parents) and create your family account.

For more information about Kidssentials meals and any allergy related inquiries, visit the website at [www.kidssentials.com](http://www.kidssentials.com). Kidssentials can also be reached by phone at 905-855-1914 or by e-mail at [mail@kidssentials.com](mailto:mail@kidssentials.com)

**SEAC – Raising Awareness of Special Education Services at HCDSB**

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**Students with Special Needs and the Christmas Holidays**

Christmas and winter break can be fun, busy, and exciting – and the excitement and change in routine can also be chaotic for many students, especially those with special needs.

As much as educators do their best to maintain structure for students, the excitement of the holidays, the many special events and activities, and the time off school can be overwhelming. The change in routine can take a child out of their comfort zone and be difficult to cope with.

Here are some tips to help parents, caregivers and educators get through these challenging times.

School Events

- ✓ Prepare your child in advance for changes in the typical school schedule and special events.
- ✓ If possible, have pictures or social stories about what your child can expect.
- ✓ Practice and rehearse what is going to happen, especially if your child will be part of a presentation.
- ✓ Talk to staff about how your child is going to participate; confirm that supports are in place to help them succeed.
- ✓ Plan for a quieter evening after the event, so your child has a chance to decompress.

Social interactions

- ✓ Use visuals to help your child understand what is going to happen
- ✓ Count down the days before school ends and then starts back up again. This makes your child aware that there will be a change in schedules.
- ✓ A daily calendar can be very helpful during the break, especially to help your child anticipate parties or family gatherings.
- ✓ Start adjusting back to your regular routine (bedtimes, naptimes, and the overall schedule) a few days before school starts back up in January, to facilitate a smoother transition.
- ✓ Consider hosting friends and family rather than visiting in a place that is unfamiliar to the child.

Holidays can be a wonderful and memorable time for children, and it is important that they feel included and excited about the experiences during this time. Hopefully some of these ideas will provide ways to create special memories for everyone.

## St. Vincent De Paul

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St. Vincent De Paul has asked for our support in doing a gift card drive for the Christmas season. Each classroom will be collecting gift cards/money to support a family in our community. The gift cards will be used to purchase items that families have indicated they need help with (i.e. food, clothing, etc.). The drive taking place the last few weeks of November and the items will be picked up on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

St. Vincent De Paul offers assistance to the community in a number of ways. The number to call for assistance is 905-875-7995.

## School Cash Online

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Please note that payments (field trips, pizza, etc.) are available through our schools Cash Online System found at:



<https://hcdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

## ESL News

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### Merry Christmas from the ESL Department!

All of our English as a Second Language teachers would like to say Thank You for the opportunity of working with our wonderful ELLs (English Language Learners) at our elementary schools throughout the Board.

Traditional English ...

Merry Christmas

**French**

**Joyeux Noel**

**Italian**

**Buon Natale**

**Portuguese**

**Feliz Natal**

**Arabic**

**Milad Mubarak**

**Korean**

**Sung Tan Chuk Ha**

**Russian**

**Schastlivogo Rozhdestva**

**Filipino**

**Maligayang Pasko**

**Japanese**

**Merii Kurisumasu**

**Polish**

**Wesolych Swait**

**India Hindi**

**Krisamas Kee Badhaee**

**Nigeria Yoruba**

**Ikini Odu Keresimesi**

**Spanish**

**Feliz Navidad**

.....And A Very Happy New Year Too!

## St. Benedict Parish News

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Our Christmas Masses at Saint Benedict Parish are as follows:

**Saturday December 24th - Christmas Eve**

5:00 pm; 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm

## **Sunday December 25th - Christmas Day**

9:00 am and 11:00 am

## **Friday December 30th - Feast of the Holy**

### **Family**

9:00 am

## **Saturday December 31<sup>st</sup> - New Year's Eve**

### **(Feast of Mary the Mother of God)**

5:00 pm

## **Sunday January 1st - New Year's Day (Feast of Mary the Mother of God)**

9:00 am and 11:00 am

## **Saturday January 7<sup>th</sup> - Vigil for the Feast of the Epiphany**

5:00 pm

## **Sunday January 8th - Feast of the Epiphany**

9:00 am and 11:00 am

Confessions are heard on every Saturday (except Christmas Eve) from 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm in the Prayer Chapel at Our Lady of Fatima School.

All Masses are celebrated at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School (709 Bolingbroke Drive in Milton. L9T 6Z3)

Please visit the St. Benedict Parish website at: [www.stbenedictparish.ca](http://www.stbenedictparish.ca) for more information.

## **Student Articles**

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### **Operation Christmas Child**

by: Samantha.M, Alyssa.B, Solana.V and Tomas. B (Grade 5)

“Hey St. Benedict, we are the newspaper club! Our theme we want to talk about is Operation Christmas Child!” Operation Christmas Child is when we send boxes that we have filled with little Christmas gifts to 3rd world country's like Haiti, Chile, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Ukraine, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Gambia, Guinea, Uruguay, Sierra Leon and Equatorial Guinea. St. Benedict community donated 504 boxes! Samantha.Y from grade 4 said, "It's a great thing to do and it's very helpful". Noah.M from grade 7 said, "It's a good way to do nice things". Think about the kids in those countries not getting any presents on Christmas at all. That's why we're giving boxes to them on Christmas so they will have something to open. Think about how happy they will be, finally getting to open something on Christmas. Talk about the community and the common good that's being used just for thinking of others and sending boxes of gifts. Operation Christmas Child brings hope for kids from ages 2-14.

If you brought in boxes for Operation Christmas Child, you are contributing to community and the common good. Have a Merry Christmas everyone! THANK YOU!

### **Community and the Common Good**

By: Maria, Paula, Akemi, Miriam, Hannah, Valentina (Grade 5)

This year the grade 5's are learning about community and the common good. We are learning about how to help to be a better community. We have learned a lot of things about community and the common good. Some examples are picking up garbage, holding the doors for other people and showing kindness. We have seen a lot of people do

kind things for others and the community. Community and the common good could be shown to humans and animals. The grade fives have also been showing community and the common good like packing and collecting the operation Christmas child boxes. You could show community and the common good anywhere. For example, when you are in the school yard you can include others in your games, share your toys and when there is a problem solve it with kind words. The grade 5's have also sent emails to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Minister of Parliament Lisa Raitt to try to get them to help people in the First Nation's reserves to help them have access to clean water. So, remember, wherever you are, and whatever you are doing, you can always think of others and do something kind that will make a difference in your community.

### **THE RAVENS VOLLEYBALL**

By: Ella, Karen, Jenise, and Sophia (Grade 5)

ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL is very lucky to have a great set of girls and boys representing the St. Benedict volleyball team. The newspaper team interviewed some members of the volleyball team to ask them questions and this is what we found out. The Ravens team agrees that they could not be the team they are without their coaches. The team believes that their strengths are that they work really hard and collaborate well together. The St. Benedict team feels being on the team is fun, busy, and it feels good being on the court. The volleyball team loves representing St. Benedict as the Ravens, but sometimes it makes them nervous, as the whole team expects you to play your best and hardest. Thank you, Ravens for representing St. Benedict so well. Good luck in the finals!!

### **CHRISTMAS**

By: Ana. R and Erin. J (Grade 6)

Jingle bells jingle bells jingle all the way! Guess what, it's Christmas! But don't think about the presents for Christmas, think about what Christmas

means to you. We asked Mr. Guerin, Mrs. Murray our librarian, and one of the St. Benedict students, Daniel. K in gr.7. The 1st question we asked is; What does Christmas mean to you?

Mr. Guerin said: Christmas is a celebration of Jesus and renewal of hope. Jesus is the light of the world. Winter can be dark but if we believe in Jesus we can get through the darkness. Christmas is time to spend with your family, and time for relaxation.

Mrs. Murray said: Christmas to me means spending time with my family, giving back to each other and the less fortunate. Christmas also means sharing the good will, counting our blessings and of course celebrating Jesus' birth.

Daniel. K said: Christmas means the holy event of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

The 2nd question; Do you have any Christmas traditions? If so, what are they?

Mr. Guerin said: On Christmas Eve Mrs. Guerin's family and my family get together for dinner then we go to mass. On Christmas Day, whoever gets up first wakes every one up and even if it's 4:00am we open presents. Then Mrs. Guerin's family comes over and opens their presents. After we eat breakfast then we go to mass. In the afternoon, the rest of the family goes to sleep and Mr. Guerin starts a new book.

Daniel. K said: We make special cookies and we host big family gatherings.

Mrs. Murray said: We go to my mom's place and we have a family gathering and we read a verse from the Bible. After that we eat... a lot. Then on Sundays we go back to my mom's place to light an advent candle.

3rd question for Mr. Guerin about the school is; What are things that the school will be doing for Christmas?

Mr. Guerin said: The school will be doing some Kindergarten Christmas caroling, we will also do

some gingerbread houses, an advent liturgy and of course, Operation Christmas Child, which we have already done.

Christmas is not about the presents as you could see by all the responses we got, Christmas is about Jesus our Saviour. Have a Merry Christmas St. Benedict!