



CONNECTIONS

January 26, 2012

Letter from the Principal

Dear St. Benedict School Families,

After our recent three-day then five-day weekends I feel like I need to welcome everyone back to school. It seems almost as if we are just returning from an extended Christmas Break! I know that snow days, while a fun break from routine for many of us, can also cause a great deal of stress for some families. I certainly hope that you were able to enjoy the days and apologize if they were a source of inconvenience.

This was my first experience determining how we as a school would react to inclement weather. As a result, it was a bit disorganized at first but, by the last day I think that things went fairly smoothly. As you now know the best places to find out whether St. Benedict School is having a late start or closure are on our website (thank you Michael Hughes for your prompt updates!) or through the local media outlets (KING, KOMO, KIRO).

I will be making decisions regarding delays or closures as early as possible. Ideally you will know the evening before if St. Benedict is scheduled for a late start or a closure. Unfortunately, since we are dealing with the weather, this sometimes has to happen in the morning. When that is the case I will try to have it done by 5:00 AM. As always, the weather dictates my ability to decide.

Finally, after an extended break due to snow there are always questions about make up days. Based on state guidelines and the number of hours we attend over the course of the year, we are not required to make up the days that we have just missed. (Based on our clock hours we could miss over nine days and still be in compliance with state guidelines.) At the present time we are not going to be making up the three days.

Having said that, if we have another storm and miss additional days of school, the staff and school commission will strategize on how to recover the educational time that we have missed. We will work in this direction not because we are *required* to do so, it is because it is the right thing to do to maintain a high level of academic excellence at St. Benedict School.

Have a wonderful weekend and, as always, please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Brian Anderson, Principal,

St. Benedict Catholic School

Important Dates

Friday, January 27

- Free Dress & Pizza Lunch

Sunday, January 29

- Catholic Schools Mass: 10AM
- Open House & Tour: 11:45 AM
- Scholastic Book Fair begins

Monday, January 30

- Community Appreciation Day

Tuesday, January 31

- Parent Appreciation Day
- PAC Meeting: 7 PM
- Spring Musical Auditions: 7PM

Wednesday, February 1

- Student Appreciation Day
- Wurst Meeting: 7 PM

Thursday, February 2

- Teacher Appreciation Day

Friday, February 3

- Grandparents and Special Friends Day: 8:30 AM

Saturday, February 4

- Father Daughter Dinner/Dance: 5:30–8:30 PM

Sunday, February 5

- Super Bowl Sunday in Audit.

4811 Wallingford Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98103
Phone: 206-633-3375
Fax: 206-633-3236
Extended Day Phone: 206-633-0507,
ext. 109

Submit Connections articles to Lisa
Wrenn at lowen@pointb.com by 3:00
PM on Tuesday. *Submissions are dependent upon space and priority.*

School Open Houses

Please encourage friends or families who might be thinking about enrolling their children at St. Benedict school to attend any of the upcoming open houses: Sunday, Jan 29 at 11:45 AM, Thursday, Feb 9 at 9:15 AM, or Thursday March 29 at 9:15 AM.

Tuition Assistance 2012-2013

The 2012-2013 Fulcrum Foundation application for tuition assistance has been posted to the Fulcrum Web site and online applications are now being accepted: <http://fulcrumfoundation.org/tuition>. Applications MUST be completed and paperwork turned in to the school office by February 15, 2012 for eligibility for Fulcrum and/or St. Benedict Tuition Assistance.

Application Information Fall 2012

All application forms for Preschool, Pre-K and Kindergarten for the 2012/2013 academic year are due in the school office by FEBRUARY 1. Please call the school office for an application form or download the application form at www.stbens.net.

Making Wishes Come True

The Scrip Holiday Contest was a huge success bringing in almost \$4,200 in profits!

The Kindergarten class took 1st place and voted to award Mrs. Fitzpatrick's class 4 Amazon Kindle Fires from the Wish List. The 2nd grade class received "Honorable Mention" for their amazing effort with sales volume. Ms. Moreland will receive \$200 toward the purchase of a new reading table for her classroom.

Thanks to the MANY of you that participated in the contest. We hope you'll plan to purchase scrip on a regular basis if you aren't already doing so. An easy way to get in the habit is by starting with grocery or coffee cards. Keep the scrip cards in your wallet where you keep your dollars or in front of your credit card and you won't miss them when it's time to pay. In a short time you'll be used to paying with scrip cards for your groceries or coffee and St. Ben's will earn money as you purchase. Let's keep growing our scrip profits and see what other "wish list" items we can provide our staff with.

St. Benedict Robotics

We'll be starting up the robots again. This club meets Tuesday and Thursday mornings, from 7:30 AM until the bell. This is a 6-week session and costs \$40. Registration forms are available in the office.

Kudos to the Speech Team

The Speech Team participated in the Seattle Prep Speech Tournament on Saturday, concluding the speech team's year. Representing St Ben's were: Isabella Sundy, Justin Leary-Bignayan, Chiara Maggiore, Ella Hileman-Kaplan, and Jackie Toepfer, and Mallory Johnson who earned enough points to proceed into the final rounds (a difficult task to accomplish). They all did a wonderful job, and it was fun seeing them improve on their public speaking skills.

Special thanks go to Chris Miller and Arcadio Bignayan for acting as judges at the tournaments, and to Lily Sundy for providing snacks for the team. Without these parent volunteers, St Ben's would be unable to complete in these speech tournaments. — Lisa Berendts and Chantel Suehring.

Happy Hour Anyone?

Neighborhood Grills supports St. Benedict through our scrip/gift card program by giving 50% of the gift card value back to the school. For every \$25 card you purchase St. Ben's keeps \$12.50! This is the largest return of any gift card item we carry. Neighborhood Grills has multiple locations with Green Lake Bar and Grill and East Lake Bar and Grill being the closest to the Wallingford area. Take a look at the Happy Hour menu provided in the Thursday packet, **purchase your scrip**, and swing by with the kids for dinner one evening. No cooking or cleaning for an evening, the family is fed, and St. Benedict School is earning money at the same time. Everyone benefits! To see other menu options visit <http://www.neighborhoodgrills.com/>.

Super Bowl Plans?

You're invited to a Super Bowl Party

Who: St. Benedict School Family & Friends
What: Super Bowl Potluck
When: February 5th
Where: St. Benedict BuzzBee Auditorium
Why: Watch the Giants & the Patriots battle for the Super Bowl Title

Auction Procurement Due 1/27!

Due to the inclement weather last week, auction procurement has been extended to this Friday, January 27. Taking inventory and producing the auction catalog takes a lot of work, so the auction committee appreciates your timely submissions!