



# The Benedict Buzz

**St. Benedict Elementary School Principal Newsletter**  
***Excel Challenge Honor Create Serve***

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*At St. Benedict Elementary School, we excel* in educating the whole child by **challenging** students to develop their God-given talents, **honor** each other's gifts and diversity, **create** a Christian community by sharing our gifts, and **serve** the Lord and each other.

**Issue: June 2, 2010 Last Days of School Issue**

<b>Thursday</b> <b>6-3-10</b>	Grades 1-7 Picnic Day at Revere Park – students will leave between 8:30 and 9AM – we will return around 2PM <b>AM EXTENDED CARE DROP OFF IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</b>
<b>Friday</b> <b>6-4-10</b>	<b>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL</b> 11:30 Dismissal – no lunch 8:30AM all school mass – End of Year Liturgy – please join us! <b>AM EXTENDED CARE DROP OFF IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</b> <b>NO EXTENDED CARE AFTER SCHOOL</b>
<b>Monday</b> <b>6-14-10</b>	<b>Preschool and Summer Bridge classes begin today</b>

\*\*\*\*\***SCHOOL NEWS**\*\*\*\*\*

**Ah...it is summer! Thanks for A Memorable Year!**

I don't know how it was for most people, but this school year has really gone by quickly. The students become bigger right before my eyes and it is sad to know another year is ending. This year the school staff and community celebrate many accomplishments! Some big successes this year include our DePaul Partnership, Everyday Math program, Reading Mastery in Kindergarten, Guided Reading grades 1-5, DePaul CSI Class, portfolio assessment and portfolio night, Ms. Grabe's Dance Recital, the PAWS for Excellence program, the Home and School Association with all their festivities and accomplishments, the Ball and Auction at the Chicago Cultural Center, the Barnes and Nobles Literacy Night, the Science Fair, The PAWS behavior system, and many smaller but just as significant accomplishments that happen each and every day here at St. Benedict. It has been a remarkable year and I am very appreciative to the teachers, the school and parish staff, the school parents, parishioners and board members that work so hard to make all these things happen here. I will keep all of you in my prayers over this summer.

My prayer is that all our school families have a peaceful, safe and joyous summer and we will look forward to your return in August. There will be a couple of mailings over the summer to keep families informed of important events and information. The school office will be open for most of the summer. Please call ahead for office hours as they will change during the summer. For those families who will be moving, you will be in our prayers as you plant your family roots elsewhere.

With the transition of the Schools of St. Benedict to St. Benedict Preparatory Schools, there will be many updates as we move forward. I'll be sending updates via The BUZZ email list...so be sure to read it as the summer progresses.

### **Staff Changes**

We do have a few staff members who will be leaving our school...so I ask that you also keep them in your prayers. I would like to thank Ms. Carrie Nerge (first grade teacher) who will be heading to Colorado to begin a Masters program in school psychology – we wish her well and will miss her! We will also miss 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Mrs. Amy McCue who will be staying home as MOM to her newborn son. Finally, we'd like to thank Ms. Casey Barrett, our Catapult teacher, for her years of service to us. She is moving out of state.

### **Other staff changes include**

Mrs. Nancy Feely leaving the classroom to assume Head of Elementary School (K-5) – an administrative program;

Ms. Rachel Waldron will serve as a full-time Preschool Director; Ms. Erin Barrett will be a full-time teacher, as well as the Assistant Preschool Director;

Ms. Courtney Shackelton, now preschool aide in Ms. Jill's room, will be a preschool teacher in the fall at our preschool;

Mrs. Heidi Meyer, current preschool teacher, will teach Kindergarten next year;

Ms. Stephanie Balsley, current kindergarten teacher, will teach second grade next year with Mrs. Susina;

Mrs. Hoffmann, current second grade teacher, will assist with small group/individual reading instruction and sacramental prep for grades 2 and 8;

Ms. Brittney Lowe, current library/computer teacher, will teach first grade next year with Ms. McCause;

Mr. Accardi, current assistant principal, will become the Mission Advancement Officer, overseeing development and enrollment management;

Ms. Deborah Lee will be teaching music full time next year, grades 1-8 and two HS classes;

Mrs. Melissa Guilfoyle, current preschool music teacher, will teach both PK and K music.

And in case you missed it, I will assume the CEO role next year, overseeing all school programs PK-12.

(I think that is it for now!)

### **Annual School Picnic is Thursday, June 3rd**

Permission slips for the annual school picnic went home. We are looking for chaperones willing to help attend this day. We need at least two chaperones per grade level and three in grades 1-3. If you are interested in helping this day, please contact your child's homeroom teacher. Each child needs to have a signed permission slip as well. For more questions, please contact your child's teacher.

Students supervised by teachers and chaperones will leave school around 8:30 AM and walk to Paul Revere Park. Students will be asked to bring a sack lunch and water (please no glass bottles). One last day of fun and games with schoolmates will be planned before the official end of the year. It is hoped that there are at least two parent/guardian chaperones per class (three in grades 1 through 3). If you would like to help us by chaperoning, please contact your child's homeroom teacher. There is no expected cost for this day.

Parents and students should keep the following in mind:

- Bring a sack lunch and plenty of water, preferably food items that will not spoil on a hot day
- Wear gym uniform, gym shoes and socks (for your child's protection, please no sandals and bare feet)
- Student may want to bring a blanket/beach towel to sit on (share with friend?)
- Bring a jacket/sweatshirt in case it is cold; or sunscreen if it will be hot and sunny
- Bring appropriate balls, toys, etc.:  
**Allowed items**-nerf/foam type balls, kick balls, whiffle balls, 16-inch softball, books, jump ropes, and the like.  
**Items NOT allowed:** wooden bats, baseball/softballs, hard balls of any kind, water balloons, squirt guns, radios/electronics of any kind, including cell phones, money and valuable items. If you are not sure if an item is allowable, please ask.

No water balloons or water toys will be allowed under any circumstances, so please DO NOT BRING THEM. Students are not allowed to bring water balloons or fill water balloons at the park. Additionally, for your child's safety, **no student is allowed to bring money or purchase items from park vendors.** *Students should be capable of carrying their own items. It is suggested that parents pack a backpack or carrying bag for younger children.*

**Attending this picnic is a privilege, not a right. Students with outstanding detention obligations will serve their time during picnic day.** Any student causing serious discipline problems may lose their privilege to join his/her classmates. All students attending this picnic need to return to school a permission slip signed by their parent/guardian. This permission slip will be going home soon. If you have any other questions contact the school office or your child's homeroom teacher.

**Please come to our End of School Year Mass at 8:30AM in Church on Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup>** We would love to have you there to begin our summer in prayer.

\*\*\*\*\***PARENT INFORMATION**\*\*\*\*\*

**Market Day: Stock up for the summer in the June Market Day sale.** This will be the final sale of this school year. Place your internet order by 11:00pm on Monday, June 14. Pick up your order on Thursday, June 17 from 2:45 - 3:45 in the social center. Thank you for your support.

**All Financial Obligations Need to be Paid In Full before Report Cards/Transcripts are issued** This is one topic which I don't particularly like, but it has to be done. Please make sure all monies owed for tuition, extended care,

computers, lost books, etc., are paid by Friday, or there will be a hold on your child's report cards/transcripts.

**End-of-School-Year Cocktail Party** Mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual Summer Kickoff Cocktail Party for Friday, June 4th at Mrs Murphy & Sons Irish Bistro from 7:00-9:00 pm, located at 3905 N. Lincoln Ave.

Join fellow St Ben's parents and parishioners as we wave goodbye to the school year and say hello to summer. One of our St Ben's families has graciously donated an Xbox 360 Elite Game System to raffle off that evening. So secure your sitters now. \$40/person, beer, wine, soft drinks and light appetizers are included. All proceeds will benefit the Kid's Block section of this year's BenFest.

Please contact Jenna Klein for further details, [jennagklein@hotmail.com](mailto:jennagklein@hotmail.com) or 773.835.1117.

### **Human Concerns/Outreach:**

The Common Pantry Wish list: Saint Benedict Parish supports the common pantry with a food drive every third Sunday of the month. Non-perishable items as well as toiletries, can be left in the Saint Benedict Shrine on the third Sunday of the month. Item's on the wish list include: cereal, pasta, oatmeal, Hamburger/Tuna helper, canned goods, boxed dinners, pancake mix, vegetable oil, vegetable/chicken broths, peanut butter, jelly, coffee, paper towels, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap, deodorant, toilet paper, and baby food/formula. The next collection is the weekend of June 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Your support is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions about the collection, please contact Mike O'Malley at (773) 509-3806 or by email at [nomally@stbenedict.com](mailto:nomally@stbenedict.com)

**School Tours During Summer?** To request a school tour during the summer months, please email me at [dmorand@stbenedict.com](mailto:dmorand@stbenedict.com).

\*\*\*\*\***MS. ERIN'S PRESCHOOL BABY BENGAL BITS**\*\*\*\*\*

### **Summer! Summer! Summer Time Fun!!! Don't delay! Register**

**Today!!!** We are getting ready for the summer program here in the preschool. We will be having a fun filled summer once again! We will be enjoying many fun, exciting and educationally based field trips to the areas around the city and suburbs. Registration information has gone home through your child's mailbox. If you are in need an extra form, please see Ms. Barb at the preschool front desk. The summer program will be run in two sessions. Session one is filled but we still have room in the second session preschool program. We will have the preschool summer club, Bridge to Kindergarten and Bridge to First grade clubs. Session I will run from June 14<sup>th</sup> through July 9<sup>th</sup>. Session II will run from July 12<sup>th</sup> through August 6<sup>th</sup>. Please see the registration forms sent home for tuition costs. **Registration forms are available at the front desk.** If you have any questions about the summer program, please contact Erin Barrett at (773) 588-7851 or via e-mail at [ERBarrett@stbenedict.com](mailto:ERBarrett@stbenedict.com)

**\*\*\*\*\*Athletic Update from Athletic Director, Chris Deakins \*\*\*\*\***

**End of Year Bowling Party!**

The Elementary Athletic Association will be hosting an end of the year bowling party on June 5, 2010 at Waveland Bowl. We will have drink and food specials as well as door prizes and raffles. Please join us for a fun evening of bowling and fellowship. See the attached flyer for more details. Please contact Chris Deakins or Deb Gordils with questions.

**Summer Running Club!**

Our cross country coach, Stephanie Stecz, is organizing a summer running club. Please see the attached flyer. If you have questions, please contact Elementary School Athletic Director, Chris Deakins.

# The HSA Corner

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of another extraordinary year, our gratitude goes out to everyone who has had a hand and a heart in enriching our school community. We do not want to miss the opportunity to thank all who volunteered countless hours and immeasurable talents this year. The sum of the St. Benedict's volunteerism, spirit and support is overwhelming!

This past year has been filled with *fun* raising and *fundraising* and one for which we are most grateful. Here are a few of the highlights from the 2009-2010 school year:

- Earned over \$17,000 through our annual Wreath & Wrap fundraiser.
- Fulfilled teacher wish lists through our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Baby & Kids Green Garage Sale.
- Provided two teacher appreciation luncheons, as well as monthly "Snack Tuesdays" throughout the school year.
- Created the Family Directory, an invaluable resource to our school families.
- Supported school recruitment efforts at Kindergarten and Preschool Open House Nights, as well as Catholic Schools Week Open House.
- Built community through the Ice Cream Social, "Whine-Free" Wine and Cheese Mixer for Kindergarten parents, and Evening Lecture Series, and Girls' Night Out events.

Thank you for all of your support ~ these events would not be possible without your support throughout the year!

It is with heartfelt appreciation to Fran Fazio, HSA president for her leadership during this school year. She led us through a very ambitious and prosperous year.

We would like to extend a big thank you to our Advisory Board members that are wrapping up their terms for their dedicated service - Lorraine Sikora, Chris Hegg, Lynn Castiglioni, Christine Allison, and Terri Aluise.

We would also like to welcome the two new members who will be joining the Home & School Association Board in the fall ~ Jenni Petrillo, Katie Troelstrup, and Joy Walton. We look forward to working with you!

Thank you to the countless number of parents who invested enormously in numerous volunteer activities and fundraising initiatives - **you** make all the difference!

To all of our St. Benedict families, the Home & School Association wishes you a safe and adventurous summer break. We look forward to seeing you back in the fall! If you would like to get in touch with the HSA during the summer, please email [hsa@stbenedict.com](mailto:hsa@stbenedict.com).

Sincerely,

The 2009-2010 HSA Advisory Board

*St. Benedict Home & School Association –  
"nurturing a sense of community within our schools"*

*If you have any HSA related questions or general questions about community activities at St Ben's, please send an email to the new HSA mailbox. The email address is [hsa@stbenedict.com](mailto:hsa@stbenedict.com)*

### **Upcoming Events**

June 3rd	Picnic Day grades 1-7	all day
June 4th	last day of school mass@ 8:30	11:30 dismissal

Peace!

Ms. Rachel Gemo

St. Benedict Elementary School Principal

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