



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

January 16, 2026 - Volume 10, Issue 17

PRINCIPAL AND VICE PRINCIPAL WEEKLY VIDEO UPDATE

[Watch this week's update from the Principal and Vice Principal!](#)



Subscribe to the **St. Benedict School Holmdel** channel here: [YouTube Channel](#)

WEEK AHEAD

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

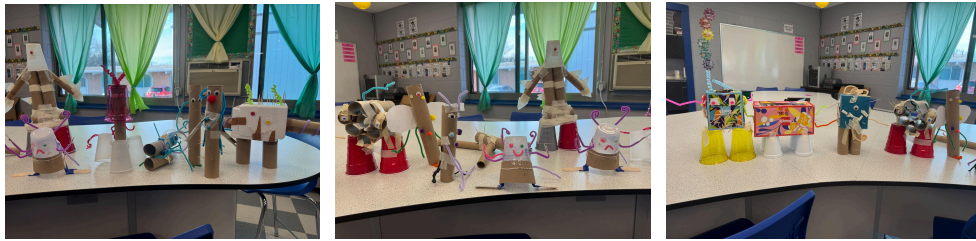
MONDAY, January 19	NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
WEDNESDAY, January 21	½ DAY
THURSDAY, January 22	½ DAY
FRIDAY, January 23	CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK SURPRISE LETTERS DUE <i>Check for the email from Mr. Cammarano for details</i>

SATURDAY, January 24	CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MASS 5:00pm
SUNDAY, February 1	POLAR PLUNGE!

CLASS NEWS

MONSTER ENGINEERING CHALLENGE

Monster Engineering Challenge for our 5th graders. Students worked through the engineering design process to build their own monsters while also understanding the differences between dominant and recessive traits. Well done, 5th grade!



SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL SCIENCE FAIR

Imagine, Investigate, Innovate!

The 5-8 Grade Science Fair will be held on **Thursday, March 5 from 6:00 - 8:00pm.**

FUNDAMENTAL MUSIC LESSONS

Did you miss enrolling in music lessons at the beginning of the year? We have open enrollment for daytime and after school classes.

During the Day: Tuesday, All instruments, Grades 3rd +

After School: Limited Openings for Grade 2 Piano and Advanced Violin.

Learn more [HERE](#).

Questions? Contact mrs.bender.fmi@gmail.com

CBA SERVICE OPPORTUNITY FOR GRADES 6-8

The Christian Brothers Academy Crew Team is hosting its 3rd Annual Row with Dennis, an indoor rowing event, on **Saturday, January 31.**

Row With Dennis was founded in January 2024 by the CBA Crew Team to benefit the Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II Memorial Fund. This fun, family-oriented, and non-competitive event raises funds to sponsor service dogs for veterans living with PTSD or TBI.

The Middle School 1000-meter erg dash event is open to both boys and girls. No rowing experience is required—students are shown how to use the rowing machines, encouraged throughout the event, and supported by CBA student-athletes and coaches. While Row With Dennis is a fundraiser, middle school participants are not required to fundraise; their participation helps raise awareness for veterans and the important role service dogs play in their lives. CBA will be offering service hours for students that participate.

Additional details available [HERE](#).

CLUB NEWS

SCHOOL CHOIR SIGN-UPS

The School Choir is open to all students in grades 3-8. If you like to sing, click [HERE](#) to print out the permission form. Return to Mrs. Remick by **Monday, January 26**.

Important Information:

- January 28: Rehearsals begin
- Rehearsals are after school on Wednesdays until 3:15pm (No rehearsal on ½ Days)
- May 13: Spring Concert
- May 20: Field Trip right after school to sing at The Villas of Holmdel.
- June 6: Sing the National Anthem at the Blue Claws Game

Any questions, email Mrs. Remick at remick@stbenedictnj.org

PARENT ASSOCIATIONS

PTA

Polar Plunge 2026



The [2026 Polar Plunge](#) is on **Sunday, February 1st** and we are "**Shore to be Freezin!**" While it may be the middle of winter, if you help us fundraise, you'll be enjoying the best of the Jersey Shore through our incentives and prizes. Last year, we raised over \$59,000 and we've upped our game to see how much we can raise this year. Want to be the top Polar Plunge fundraiser? This year our top prize includes five Banana Ball tickets!!!

Read more below to learn how to participate and the many incentives you can earn!

What is the Polar Plunge?

For those of you who are new to the Polar Plunge, each year the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH), the oldest and largest Irish Catholic organization in the United States, runs this culminating event free-of-charge to schools so that 100% of the money raised by St. Benedict School is kept by us. Held in Sea Bright, NJ, our bravest SBS Rebels will plunge (or put their little toe) into the ocean, all in support of Catholic education.

What happens in the days leading up to the Polar Plunge?

While the actual Polar Plunge takes place on February 1st, we add fun, school-spirit, and good ole' competition to the days leading up to the plunge in an effort to raise funds and have a good time. We are challenging each family to participate by including participation incentives, school-wide incentives, and top-ranking prizes. Remember, the money we raise goes directly to benefit our teachers and students.

Where do the Polar Plunge funds go?

The money raised for the Polar Plunge goes directly to our teachers and students by supporting [these PTA initiatives](#) including:

- Capital Improvements including to the Multi-Purpose Room/Gym and Outdoor Basketball Hoops (\$44,584.91)
- Contributions to the New Music Room Fund (\$27,700)
- 2025-2026 Teacher Mentoring Program (\$10,000)
- Curriculum and Furniture for Classroom Learning (\$10,027)
- Student Assemblies (\$6,321)
- Our free Foundation for Life Series events including STEAM Night and Art Museum
- Staff appreciation days
- Student scholarships and more!

How can you help make this our best Polar Plunge yet?

There are a variety of ways for you to help us reach our highest fundraising totals yet by visiting our [Polar Plunge 2026 Campaign Page](#).

- **Take the plunge:** Remember, taking the plunge includes dipping your toe, going into your ankles, knees, waist, or, for the brave, head first. It's a fun event- don't miss out!
- **Take the challenge:** Not interested in braving the cold, but you still want to show your school spirit and engage in a little friendly competition? No worries! You can still participate by creating your own fundraising page.

Please be sure to read all of the directions for registration and fundraising page creation that are linked below:

POLAR PLUNGE DIRECTIONS: Click [HERE](#).

2026 AOH POLAR PLUNGE FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION: Click [HERE](#).

What incentives are being offered this year?

Our incentives are better than ever this year!

The following prize tiers will be available to all SBS families that reach the designated level by Friday, January 30th at 12pm:

- **Raise \$75: Personalized Polar Bear Sign:** Be one of the coolest families around with a personalized Polar Bear sign that has your family name on it that will be displayed outside of school for everyone to see your school spirit. You get to keep it, too!
- **Raise \$150: Dress Down Day Pass:** Missing those dress down on any day passes? Get an "Any Day in February Dress Down Day Pass" (sans a few blackout dates) for your family *and* a Polar Bear Sign.
- **NEW THIS YEAR! Raise \$300 or More: Polar Plunge Hall of Fame:** Show your SBS Spirit by being inducted to the SBS Polar Plunge Hall of Fame on Friday, February 6th at the First Friday Mass and have your name proudly displayed in the hallways of St. Benedict School for the year *and* an "Any Day in February Dress Down Day Pass" for your family *and* a Polar Bear Sign.

The following three prizes will be awarded based on the SBS families with the top three highest amounts raised as of Friday, January 30th at 12pm:

- **First Place (Family): Take Me Out to the Banana Ball Game**



Get ready for the 6/13/26 Banana Ball Game: Loco Beach Coconuts vs. Party Animals at Fire Pit #7. Includes 5 tickets, your own private fire pit with Adirondack chairs, and a great view of the game!

Value: \$425 with a \$250 Visa Gift Card for food and beverages for a total of \$675

- **NEW THIS YEAR!** Second Place (Family): Music Under the Stars



Spend a summer night at PNC Bank Arts Center with a delicious tailgate and a live concert.

Value: \$350 Live Nation Gift Card and \$100 DeMarco's Gift Card for a total of \$450

- **NEW THIS YEAR!** Third Place (Family): Blast at the Boardwalk



Head to Jenkinson's Boardwalk for the rides, arcade games, mini-golf, and food.

Value: \$225 Jenkinson's Gift Card

*The following prize will be awarded to the **SBS teacher** with the highest amount raised as of*

Friday, January 30th at 12pm.

- **First Place (Teacher):** Chill out with a \$150 gift card to the spa of your choice.

Be on the lookout for whole-school incentives when we get close to reaching the \$25,000 and \$50,000 marks!

Is there anything else I need to know?

Over the course of the next few weeks, we'll be sending out Polar Plunge updates to keep the momentum going. Be on the lookout!

We look forward to the coming days as SBS works to raise our highest total yet! If you have any questions, please reach out to pta@stbenedictnj.org.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

DIOCESAN TUITION ASSISTANCE FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

The Tuition Assistance Applications for the 2026 - 2027 school year opened on November 1, 2025. You will be able to access the application through the link on the SBS website under:

Parents/Financial Information/Financial Assistance

- The application opened on November 1, 2025
- The Round 1 Deadline is March 1, 2026
- The Round 2 Deadline is May 5, 2026

For additional information, please refer to the Diocesan Tuition Assistance letter located under: Parent/Financial Information/ Financial Assistance.

REBEL RACK

If you have general questions about returns, exchanges, sizes and/or store inventory, please email rebelrack@stbenedictnj.org.

ORDERING FORMS AND LINKS

The SBS Rebel Rack accepts cash or check payments. All purchases made in-person at the shop can also be made with Venmo as payment found at:

Venmo @**Rebel-Rack**

<https://www.venmo.com/u/Rebel-Rack>

The QR code to scan is available at the shop, also pictured on right.

- ★ Visit the [Rebel Rack Spirit Shop](#) for more details.
- ★ PLEASE NOTE: Full zip fleeces are sold only at [Flynn O'Hara](#)

REMINDERS

- ★ WEEKLY PACKET: Attachments Available [HERE](#).
- ★ SCHOOL CALENDAR
Located on the website in the top left titled "Calendar" or bookmark the page here:
<https://school.stbenedictholmdel.org/calendar-1>
- ★ SBS SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS



SCHOOL FACEBOOK

official Facebook page for St. Benedict School is:

<https://www.facebook.com/stbensholmdel>



SCHOOL INSTAGRAM

@stbensholmdel



SCHOOL TWITTER

@stbensholmdel



ST. BENEDICT
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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