



# St. Bernadette Catholic Elementary School

245 Lorne Avenue, Kitchener, Ontario, N2M 3Y9

Phone: 519-743-1541

Website: <http://stbernadette.wcdsb.ca/>



## General Information

**Date:** May 12, 2026

**Time:** 6:00 pm

**Location:** Learning Commons

**In attendance:** Tracy, Mary Lou, Kelly, Tiffany, Lei Anne, Oriely

**Regrets:**

Agenda Topic/Item	Responsibility	Time Allotted	Action Required/Decisions
<b>Welcome</b> <b>Land Acknowledgement</b> <b>Prayer</b> * Invitation to make any prayer intentions	Tracy and Kelly	2 min	
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	ALL	2 min	<b>Addition to the agenda:</b> Parent request for a garbage can in the school yard to help contain the litter issue
<b>Principal's Report</b>  <b>April Events</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Lenten Project (Cereal Drive)</li> <li>❖ Empathy Project (Gr8s)</li> <li>❖ Feast of St. Bernadette</li> <li>❖ Welcome to Kindergarten</li> <li>❖ Esports, Soccer, Track and Field, Girls at Bat</li> </ul> <b>May Offerings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Education Week Activities: Living Rosary, Folk Dance</li> <li>❖ Fiction Festival</li> <li>❖ Jump Rope for Heart</li> <li>❖ Quad Meet Track and Field</li> <li>❖ EQAO Dates</li> </ul> <b>June Offerings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Cultural Day (TBA)</li> <li>❖ End of the year Mass (June 12<sup>th</sup>)</li> <li>❖ Talent Show (June 23<sup>rd</sup>)</li> <li>❖ Play Day (June 24<sup>th</sup>)</li> <li>❖ Report cards (June 23<sup>rd</sup>)</li> <li>❖ Projections/Enrollment – roughly 444 for next year's student population.</li> </ul>	Tracy	20 min	<b>April:</b>  <b>Lenten Project (Cereal Drive):</b> Focused on giving back to our school community. Donations supported <i>Food for Kids</i> , directly helping families at St. Bernadette.  <b>Grade 8 Empathy Project:</b> Part of a Board-wide initiative, including connection with seniors at Conestoga Lodge. A meaningful experience that helped students engage with the broader community.  <b>Feast of St. Bernadette:</b> Students explored school virtues through class projects connected to Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations. Theme: " <i>Being brave like Bernadette.</i> "  <b>Welcome to Kindergarten:</b> 27 families attended. A positive, energetic evening focused on welcoming new families into the school community. Interest in School Council was noted.  <b>Sports &amp; Activities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stratford trip (A Midsummer Night's Dream) prioritized over Esports Day due to a special opportunity</li> <li>• Co-ed soccer underway</li> <li>• Track &amp; Field Quad Meet scheduled (adjusted due to regional field renovations)</li> <li>• <i>Girls at Bat</i> program secured through lottery selection</li> </ul> <b>May:</b>



# St. Bernadette Catholic Elementary School

245 Lorne Avenue, Kitchener, Ontario, N2M 3Y9

Phone: 519-743-1541

Website: <http://stbernadette.wcdsb.ca/>



			<p><b>Grade 4 Bible Celebration (May 1):</b> A special milestone supported by parish partners.</p> <p><b>Catholic Education Week:</b> A busy and engaging week with strong participation from students and staff.</p> <p><b>Fiction Festival:</b> A week of activities designed to spark a love of reading. Highlights included <b>24 guest readers</b> (many in costume).</p> <p><b>Living Rosary:</b> Students led a school-wide prayer focused on the Glorious Mysteries for the month of May.</p> <p><b>Folk Dance Team:</b> Performed both at the festival and for the school community.</p> <p><b>Jump Rope for Heart (May 15):</b> Focus on inclusive participation, with a modest fundraising goal.</p> <p><b>EQAO:</b> The school is focused on supporting students so they feel comfortable and prepared.</p> <p><b>June:</b></p> <p><b>EQAO (Grade 6):</b> Scheduled for early June. Cultural Day has been shifted in the schedule to help students stay focused and prepared for testing.</p> <p><b>Cultural Day (June 5):</b> Will take place in classrooms this year.</p> <p><b>Talent Show &amp; Play Day:</b> Dates will be finalized soon. These events will be scheduled on separate days to ensure each has dedicated time.</p> <p><b>Projected Enrolment:</b> Approximately <b>444 students</b> expected for the next school year.</p>
<p><b>Community Update</b> → Mill Courtland Information</p>	<p>Joanne/Tiffany</p>	<p>5 minutes</p>	<p><b>Defer to June</b></p> <p>Joanne DeSouza the Coordinator, Facilitator, Community Support Worker from Mill-Courtland could not attend tonight's meeting as she was scheduled for a community event.</p>
<p><b>Financial Update</b> → March and April Popcorn sales → Rain garden final budget spending (see below)</p>	<p>Oriely/Tipper</p>	<p>2 min</p>	<p><b>At a glance:</b> Popcorn is sold for \$1.50 per bag (cost: \$0.85), with sales averaging over 900 bags per month.</p> <p><b>Total raised (after costs):</b> Approximately <b>\$2,037</b> in profit to date (on average \$500/month)</p> <p><b>How funds will be used in June:</b> To give back to students, Parent Council has approved <b>\$40 per class (20 classrooms)</b> to support end-of-year celebrations. Teachers can use these funds to purchase treats or small items for their class.</p>



# St. Bernadette Catholic Elementary School

245 Lorne Avenue, Kitchener, Ontario, N2M 3Y9

Phone: 519-743-1541

Website: <http://stbernadette.wcdsb.ca/>



			<p><b>How it works:</b> Teachers will purchase items and submit receipts to the office for reimbursement. Classes will be reminded that these celebrations are supported by Parent Council and the popcorn fundraising contributions from families.</p> <p><b>Looking ahead:</b> The remaining funds will be carried forward into the next school year and will continue to be considered by Council to support student experiences and school-related costs.</p>
<p><b>Faith/Parish Updates</b> → Sacramental Preparation Information</p>	<p>Lei Ann</p>	<p>5 min</p>	<p>See related updates in the Principal's Report above.</p> <p><b>First Communion:</b> Celebrated in early May, with <b>9 students from St. Bernadette</b> participating (59 students in total across the parish). Preparation wrapped up in late April.</p> <p><b>Looking ahead (Sacraments):</b> A reminder letter will be shared in June with information about opportunities for Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation preparation next year.</p> <p><b>Parish-School Connection:</b> Continued strong connection between parish and school through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in the Grade 4 Bible Celebration</li> <li>• Involvement in the Living Rosary during Catholic Education Week</li> <li>• Visits to the school, including Kindergarten Welcome Night and Fiction Festival</li> </ul> <p><b>Parish Leadership Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fr. Paul will be with the parish until June 24th, then moving into a new role at St. Mary's</li> <li>• Fr. Murray will be moving to Resurrection Manor</li> <li>• <b>Fr. Stephen Gilbert</b> will be joining as the new priest</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Events:</b> The parish Garage Sale has been moved from spring to September</p>
<p><b>Planning and Engagement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSAC Popcorn Sales Update and Decisions about June</li> <li>• TD Grant Rain Garden Final Phase: Spending Update and Timeline</li> </ul>	<p>Kelly/Tiffany</p>	<p>20 min</p>	<p><b>Popcorn Fundraiser (Summary)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Popcorn fundraising will continue through June, with ordering adjusted to minimize leftover stock.</li> <li>• Any remaining popcorn will be added to school food support program for students in</li> </ul>



# St. Bernadette Catholic Elementary School

245 Lorne Avenue, Kitchener, Ontario, N2M 3Y9

Phone: 519-743-1541

Website: <http://stbernadette.wcdsb.ca/>



			<p>need.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The fundraiser is expected to restart in October next school year.</li><li>• The standard operating procedure for ordering and sorting popcorn is updated and reflective of lesson learned and current process and can be used by parent volunteers on an on-going basis.</li><li>• Fundraising timing and cadence will be revisited by Council in September.</li></ul> <p><b>TD School Garden Update</b></p> <p><b>Project complete:</b> Spring planting and garden maintenance are now finished for the season. A small supply of mulch and river rocks has been stored on-site for future use.</p> <p><b>Student engagement:</b> Supplies (paint, signs, brushes, and seeds) have been purchased and will be delivered to the school on May 15th for classroom use. School staff to help coordinate use across classes.</p> <p><b>Funding &amp; reporting:</b> All grant funds have now been fully used. A draft final report will be shared with school leadership and contributors for transparency before submission to TD at the end of June.</p> <p><b>Community use:</b> Families are encouraged to use the planter boxes. This invitation will be re-shared with these minutes. Any inquiries will be coordinated through the school, with follow-up support by parent volunteer as needed through June.</p> <p><b>Looking ahead:</b> Parent Council noted the opportunity to involve parent volunteers and classes in ongoing garden care (fall and spring) to support sustainability of the space.</p> <p><b>School Yard Cleanliness (Garbage Can Request)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A request was raised about adding a garbage can to the school yard. The school confirmed that garbage cans are not permitted on school grounds across the Board, and students are not allowed to eat outside.</li><li>• It was noted that food litter is still being found in the yard. The school shared that the custodian completes a daily yard check, and this responsibility will continue to be emphasized moving forward.</li><li>• Families are encouraged to contact the school office if there are specific concerns about yard cleanliness, so the custodian can be informed and respond in a timely way.</li><li>• While student involvement in yard clean-up has been considered in the past, this is not a regular practice due to safety considerations and past feedback from families.</li></ul>
--	--	--	--



# St. Bernadette Catholic Elementary School

245 Lorne Avenue, Kitchener, Ontario, N2M 3Y9

Phone: 519-743-1541

Website: <http://stbernadette..wcdsb.ca/>



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A parent volunteer who has been helping with clean-up will step back from routine collection and defer to school staff, only stepping in if there is an immediate safety concern (e.g., broken glass before the school day begins).</li></ul>
<b>Adjournment</b>			
<b>Last meeting of this school year:</b> June 9, 2026			
<b>Next Meeting Date: June 9, 2026</b>			