



St. Bernadette Catholic Elementary School

245 Lorne Avenue, Kitchener, Ontario, N2M 3Y9

Phone: 519-743-1541

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



General Information

Date: March 10, 2026
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: Learning Commons

In attendance: Kelly, Mary Lou, Tiffany, Oriely, Ayokunle, Segen, Lei Ann, Tracy,

Regrets: Joanne, Tipper

Agenda Topic/Item	Responsibility	Time Allotted	Action Required/Decisions
Welcome Land Acknowledgement Prayer * <i>Invitation to make any prayer intentions</i>	Tracy and Kelly	2 min	No additions to the agenda
Welcome and Introductions	ALL	2 min	Segen was welcomed to the meeting. This was her first time attending, and she was acknowledged for helping with the pancake event.
Principal's Report February Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Shrove Tuesday – event summary and highlights ❖ Ash Wednesday Service - overview ❖ School Teams and Sports - update ❖ Pink Shirt Day – celebration of kindness March Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Mount Mary – reflections and student experience ❖ Confessions – overview ❖ Lenten Food Drive – update ❖ March Break – upcoming April/Upcoming Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Easter mass ❖ Bible Celebration Looking Ahead/Future Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ New Kindergarten curriculum launching in September 	Tracy	10 min	School Events & Faith Life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pancake event was well organized and closely matched to attendance, with only 12 pancakes remaining. • For next year, dietary needs should be communicated earlier, with additional vegan and gluten-free options, particularly for families who are fasting. • Ash Wednesday services were dynamic and successful. Due to a bus cancellation, services were combined for all students. • Pink Shirt Day was celebrated as a positive focus on kindness and inclusion. • The school is participating in a Lenten cereal drive in support of Food for Kids. Student Trips & Experiential Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mount Mary trip included an overnight stay and extended day, supported by Ms. DG and Lei Ann. • Costs were reduced to \$250 through donations from St. Francis Church, St. Vincent de Paul, and the Knights of Columbus. • Thirty-one of 33 students were able to attend, with a cost of \$185 per family. Sports & Extracurricular Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The intermediate basketball team was on a winning streak. • The girls' intermediate volleyball team participated in a tournament that was described as a positive and enjoyable



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			<p>experience.</p> <p>Academics, Assessment & Student Well-Being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI), a voluntary survey on student physical health and well-being, will be administered soon. The Early Years Development Instrument (EDI) will be completed with kindergarten students in the classroom. Grade 4 students will complete the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT), which includes verbal, quantitative, and non-verbal tasks to help identify learning approaches. Grade 7 students will complete the CAT4 Canadian Achievement Test at the end of March. <p>Upcoming Dates & Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second week of May: Education Week activities May 15: H&S Jump Rope for Heart event
<p>Community Update</p> <p>→ Mill Courtland Information</p> <p>Joanne DeSouza the Coordinator, Facilitator, Community Support Worker from Mill-Courtland</p>	Joanne/Tiffany	5 minutes	No updates – defer
<p>Financial Update</p> <p>→ February Popcorn sales</p> <p>→ Rain garden final budget spending (see below)</p>	Oriely/Tipper	2 min	<p>Popcorn fundraising generated approximately \$1,200 in profit over the first two months. These funds will be used to cover start-up costs and to help subsidize student trips and bus transportation during the current school year.</p>
<p>Faith/Parish Updates</p> <p>→ Sacramental Preparation Information</p>	Lei Ann	5 min	<p>Sacramental Life & Faith Formation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confessions were offered using an inclusive introduction format (e.g., "I am Catholic/Christian/Orthodox"), which supported dialogue and reflection. Nine students are currently preparing to receive sacraments. Grade 4 students to participate in a Bible celebration aligned with St. John's Bible sharing, featuring one of only four copies in Canada. <p>Liturgies, Celebrations & Student Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 5 students are preparing a Passion Play to present to Junior and Intermediate students on Holy Thursday. The choir is practising in preparation for the play. A future faith activity under consideration is a human rosary. <p>Upcoming Dates & Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 16: Feast of St. Bernadette



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 4: Bible Celebration • May: Celebrate St. Mary
<p>Planning and Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TD Grant Rain Garden Final Phase Update and Report Drafting • CSAC Popcorn Sales Update: Initial Results/Reflections and Next Steps 	<p>Kelly/Tiffany</p>	<p>30 min</p>	<p>Decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining TD Grant funds will be split evenly across three categories: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ongoing Garden Maintenance 2. School Community Engagement & Learning 3. Garden Structure & Aesthetic Enhancements • A call will go out to families to use planter boxes for the upcoming season; unused boxes may be filled with flowers. <p>Actions & Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelly to email TD Bank representative to confirm the final report due date and the cut-off date for spending remaining funds. • Kelly to report back to engaged parents once dates are confirmed. • Outreach to suggested teacher representatives to validate proposed spending related to student engagement and to gather input on ideas in March. • Kelly will draft a blurb to the school community inviting families to participate in planter box planting. The message will note that Council will support start-up by purchasing seeds, while clarifying that the school and Council cannot guarantee crop growth, security, or ongoing maintenance. • Segen will share any insights on families interested in participating in planting or taking responsibility for a planter box. Council will follow up with these families with next steps and directions. <p>Garden Budget – Approved Categories & Proposed Uses</p> <p>Ongoing Garden Maintenance (\$300) Focus on sustaining the garden and supporting plant health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mulch (e.g., shredded pine) to reduce weeding and watering needs. • Replacement plants for areas where plants did not establish successfully. • Spring bulbs to be purchased in advance for fall planting. <p>School Community Engagement & Learning (\$300)</p>



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			<p>Focus on student involvement and hands-on learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paint and supplies for a potential student-led river rock art project. • Garden signs and labels to support learning and orientation. • Student gardening tools (e.g., small hand trowels) to support participation in planting activities. <p>Teacher contacts noted: Patty Meyer, Catherine Bennett</p> <p>Garden Structure & Aesthetic Enhancements (\$100) Focus on improving visual cohesion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood frames for the four smaller garden plots to align visually with the raised beds. <p>TD Grant Reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TD Grant final report is in the drafting phase. • Review by engaged members: by end of March • Finalization: by April 10th, 2026 • Submission: April 13th 2026 <p>Popcorn Fundraising – Wins & Lessons Learned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key learnings included the importance of clear information flow (e.g., list dates), effective use of limited sorting space, and strong teamwork. • Flexibility was essential in this test-and-learn approach. • The Popcorn SOP is finalized and will be used to onboard parent volunteers according to the attached schedule. • A call for parent volunteers was successful, and we have parent pairs assigned for the remainder of the year. See popcorn sorting schedule. <p>Deferring to May: New initiative idea – school movie night (Tiffany)</p>
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Adjournment

<p>Tentative Future Meeting Dates: May 12, 2026 June 9, 2026</p>			
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Next Meeting Date: May 12, 2026			
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