

May 13, 2026

St Martin de Porres School Council Meeting May 13, 2026 at 18:30 EST

Summary

The School Council reviewed successful events from April and early May, including Catholic Education Week, the 50th-anniversary celebrations, and the McDonald's fundraiser. Financial updates focused on upcoming Grade 6 graduation expenses and purchasing outdoor recess equipment. Initial logistics were set for the upcoming Summer Play Day in June.

Principal's Report

We had a wonderful month of April at St. Martin de Porres. The Grade 6 students had their annual visit to All Saints and it went so well that many are already looking forward to starting Grade 7 there in September.

We also had a very successful McDonald's fundraiser. I went just after 5pm and it felt like an indoor recess at the school. There were so many familiar faces there, participating in the fundraiser.

We also had our boys and girls basketball teams representing the school at their tournaments at St. James School. The students did an amazing job of representing the school and I was lucky enough to be able to go over and watch each team play a game. Both times I saw St. Martin de Porres defeated Holy Redeemer and the students were very proud of their efforts on the court. It was an unforgettable experience for all involved.

We also had our Clean up the Capital Day, where students worked hard to pick up any garbage in our yard and help make the school look beautiful. The Grade 6 students did an exceptional job cleaning the area in front of the school.

We also worked with OSTA to practice bus evacuation drills with the students, helping to ensure their safety if they are ever faced with an emergency situation on the ride home from school, or on a field trip.

To wrap up the month of April, Mr. Hopewell and I hosted an assembly where we highlighted all of the fun activities that would take place during Catholic Education Week, from May 4th to 8th.

We had special theme days for each day of the week, the Open House, liturgies and 50th Anniversary celebrations on Tuesday, May 5th.

On May 6th we had the cake raffle. Thanks to many generous contributions and lots of tickets bought for the raffle, the Grade 6 team raised a total of \$1800¹ to help cover some of the costs of their Grad Trip on Monday, June 15th and the Grade 6 Leaving Ceremony, which will be held at Holy Redeemer Parish, from 11am to 1pm on Tuesday, June 23rd.

On Thursday, May 7th we had a schoolwide Bingo game, which was a big success. Lots of students won prizes and many told me afterwards that they were one number away from winning. I ran the game on Google Meet and Mr. Hopewell helped the students at the prize table, which was located at the front office.

¹ This was originally reported as \$1,050, but Mr. Skinner subsequently corrected this figure via email.

That day, the Book Fair also wrapped up. So many kids were excited to purchase their favourite books or posters.

Finally, the Grade 6 students played the staff in a game of Soccer Baseball on Friday, May 8th. There were some awesome hits and plays in the field, but the real highlight of the event was the laughter shared by students and staff, on and off the field. Everyone truly was a winner, regardless of the final score.

Principal's Report – Community Comments/Questions

One council member shared that the grade one field trip was scheduled at the same time as the soccer-baseball game and consequently couldn't watch the match. Mr. Skinner appreciates the feedback.

Another council member shared that their experience volunteering for the Scholastic Book Fair was confusing. They didn't realize there was a check-in process for the volunteering. Suggest a little bit better explanation/organization. Mr. Skinner, again, appreciates the feedback and plans to collaborate with the library staff (and Mr. Hopewell) in the future to smooth these things out.

Vice Principal's Update (Summarized)

Mr. Hopewell shared a number of updates about the same community/school events with additional details. Some brief cliff notes are summarized here,

1. One of the school teachers put together a 36 minute long video of the five decades the school has been and place and how it has evolved. This is something Mr. Hopewell wants to share with the broader community, but concerns around privacy are holding that up.

2. The school cookbook that the staff have been working on should be available via SchoolCash Online in the coming weeks, hoping to raise more money for the graduating class gifts.
3. Mr. Hopewell also shared that he wants to give each graduating student a lock as part of their parting gifts. This led to a conversation around budget,
 - a. Treasurer shares earmarked funds for grads: 450 earmarked for Engraving (cost 432 last year), 1300² for Grad Gift.

Treasurer's Update / Funding Conversations

Treasurer shared current financial position. Expects final surplus in the account to be 3,700 (based on estimated Pizza Day revenue).

Council discussed several more earmarked funds questions.

1. Reminder that we need to retain a surplus to help the new school opening in Sept 2027 with seed money for their council (total not estimated).
2. Outdoor equipment fund: There are receipts coming soon for reimbursement that relate to skating equipment. These are delayed because Mr. Hopewell is working on Sport Chek to see if they can get a discount. Skate sharpening equipment receipt is ready and will be shared soon.
3. Outdoor equipment fund: There was a proposal to buy plasma cars and milk crates, but it wasn't confirmed. One kindergarten teacher has gone ahead and purchased 4 used plasma cars on Facebook Marketplace. Council Chair notes that he was not able to get an answer from CSPA on whether we can buy used equipment and issue reimbursements. Chair commits to escalate conversations with CSPA so we will not be gated on this for either buying more outdoor equipment or reimbursing already purchased equipment. Treasurer notes that there is about 1800 left in the outdoor equipment budget. Mr. Hopewell notes that there may be issues storing milk crates, so

² The original answer was 1200, but the Treasurer updated this number later in the meeting.

we may not be purchasing those. Mr. Hopewell also notes that buying more plasma cars will also create a storage problem, so we may not be getting more than the 4 already purchased.

New Business

No votes occurred since the last meeting, nothing to summarize.

April meeting minutes were accepted by Council via vote.

Next meeting date set to June 3, 2026 via vote.

Council chair shared an update regarding late pizza orders. After talking with more school staff a lot of new potential problems were raised with respect to allowing parents to make late orders for pizza days. These issues made it clear that while Jojos could handle an order change and Council could coordinate the communications, there was no way to process payment without generating significant new problems or extra work. Therefore, there are no plans to allow late pizza day orders.

Council chair shared that we will like spend about 30 dollars on two more orders of napkins for pizza days in June.

Council members discussed the McDonald's fundraiser. Council chair commits to follow up with McDonalds to ensure the cheque was sent and confirm the final total.

Council Members discussed the proposed Cobb's Bread fundraiser. Chair shared that unfortunately Cobb's is not doing anymore fundraisers this year and was only doing them as a pilot program. We will follow up with them next year and hopefully get this program started.

Council Members and Mr. Skinner discussed Summer Play Day. Inflatables appear to be manageable from Mr. Skinner's perspective. Mr. Skinner reminds the Chair that popsicles were also budgeted. Council discusses the popsicle logistics to confirm number, brand, number of coolers to bring, etc. Council and Mr. Skinner agree to distribute all the popsicles at the same time and not run a station that hands out popsicles all day. Treasurer confirms we have 300 dollars budgeted for this. Current student count is 633.

Chair shares details of a local municipal councilor candidate who reached out to ask for anyone in the community that wants to discuss community issues in their potential riding (Stittsville).

Chair reminds all attendees that any questions can be sent to the council email. That inbox is monitored and, if you so desire, your questions will be addressed privately.

Chair shared a question from the community Facebook Group and Mr. Skinner shared details on the graduation ceremony. Holy Redeemer Parish, 11am-1pm, Tuesday June 23rd.

Open Forum for Community Questions

What happened with the idea of a popcorn fundraiser? Chair notes that Council and Community response was mild, given the already busy schedule of things, Chair decided to drop this fundraiser option.

Meeting End

Council and Staff thank everyone for their attendance and participation before ending the meeting.