



## Notre Dame School

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# September 2023 School Newsletter

## “Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming Our Faith”

***Notre Dame would like to acknowledge that we are blessed to live, work, and play on Treaty 8 land, the traditional territory of the Cree, Sekani, Dunne-za, Dene-thah, Saulteaux, Chiepwyan, and other Indigenous people who were not identified specifically in the treaty.***

### Principal's Message

Dear Notre Dame Students and Families,

Welcome back! We look forward to sharing this school year with you all. Our entire school team has worked diligently to prepare the classrooms, hallways and playground for students and a fresh start to the new school year. Through everyone's efforts, the building is transformed into a dynamic learning environment, ready for students to continue to develop and share their God-given gifts and talents.

This year will be full of new beginnings as we continue strengthening our sense of community by welcoming new friendships, celebrating shared experiences and creating joyful memories. We all look forward to working with you to continue building a school community centered on our Catholic values and excellence in education. Through the ongoing partnership of home, school and parish, we will continue to work together to ensure the safety, health and well-being of all our Notre Dame community members.

Our first day of school for students is **September 6, 2023**. It will be a **half day** of instruction for all grades, **with gates opening at 10:30 and students being dismissed at 1:45**. On our first day, teachers will be on the playground to meet their students, and from there, the students will enter the school with their classroom teacher.

We look forward to an exceptional school year growing and learning with you and your child. On behalf of the Notre Dame School team, I wish to welcome you to a new school year.

Please email or call if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing everyone on **Wednesday, September 6, 2023**.

Remember that my door is always open to answer questions or listen to any concerns.

*God Bless,  
Your Partner in Education  
C. Richard*



*Dear God,  
Thank you for looking after our school.  
Thank you that you love each and everyone of us here.  
Help us to learn, play and share together,  
So that the wonderful world you have made  
Becomes more beautiful everyday.  
Amen*

## Meet the Notre Dame Staff, Your Partners in Education

Principal	Mrs. Colleen Richard
School Secretary	Mrs. Gen Cabrera
Kindergarten	Mrs. Alyssa McLain
Grade 1	Mrs. Nikki Chmelyk
Grade 2	Mrs. Dawn Mountifield
Grade 3	Mr. Joshua Haukenfrers
Grade 4	Mrs. Sharlene Weingart
Grade 5	Mrs. Shannon McKenzie
Grade 6	Ms. Lindsay Alexander
Grade 7	Mrs. Bradi Willich
French/Library Teacher	Miss. Karma Hamilton
PHE Teacher	Mrs. Nicole Mackrell
Learning Resource Teacher	Mrs. Jenna Gilbertson
Educational Assistant	Ms. Lorena Wilson
Educational Assistant	Mrs. Shannon Duff
Educational Assistant	Mrs. Allison Bijl
Educational Assistant	Mrs. Brittany Juell
Educational Assistant	Mrs. Keri Giesbrecht
Educational Assistant	Mrs. Chelsea Franke
Educational Assistant	Mrs. Joanna Tait
After School Care Provider	Mrs. Victoria Dyck
After School Care Provider	Mrs. Michelle Jordanov
Custodian	Mrs. Fem Cruz
Bookkeeper	Mr. Nelo Caguitle
Pastor	Rev. Venerando Sabacan

## You Are Invited

Notre Dame School's Meet the Teacher will be on Thursday, September 14th Please watch for the format for the event at a later date through email and the school website.

## September Events



### Friday, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>

Co-Mission day for Staff, No School for Students

### Tuesday, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>

Non Instructional Day, No School for Students

### Wednesday, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>

Students Back to School, Half Day 10:30 –1:45

### Thursday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>

First Full School Day for Students



### Monday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>

PSG Meeting at 6:00 pm

### Thursday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>

Meet the Teacher Event

### Friday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>

Grade 7 Mass at 11:00 am



### Tuesday, Sept 19<sup>th</sup>

School Council Meeting at 6:30pm

### Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>

Hat & Jeans Day



### Friday, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>

Terry Fox Run

### Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>

Student Photo Day



### Friday, Sept 29<sup>th</sup>

Grade 7 Prayer & Virtues Assembly at 9:00 am  
Orange Shirt Day - In recognition of Truth & Reconciliation (Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>) we will wear orange.



### Monday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>

Truth and Reconciliation Day; No school in session



*"Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming our Faith"*

## Our Faith & Catholic Education

One of our goals in Catholic Education is “Helping Children Grow Closer to Jesus.” This year, Notre Dame will continue with “**Virtues in Practice**”, the students in Kindergarten through Grade Seven will grow closer to Jesus by imitating His life and virtues. The whole school will focus on the same virtue each month.

Our main objective of continuing our virtue program, at Notre Dame, is to offer our community, students, teachers, parents, and all staff an opportunity to open themselves up to know, value, practice, and analyze internally the virtues with regular and consistent practice. The main focus is on the practice of specific virtues each month.

Virtue is a desire to have a firm commitment to do the right thing. It allows people to give of themselves without question and to do the right thing for the sake of humanity. Students will be provided ongoing opportunities to practice virtue on a daily basis. The goal is to educate and encourage each student to ponder on the virtues daily that they are requested to practice internally. This serves to encourage the community as a whole to make the virtues part of his or her own lifelong habits, while giving the opportunities to become effective leaders in all aspects of their character formation.

At the end of each month we will acknowledge students and staff who have exemplified the virtue of the month. By the end of June every student and staff member will have been acknowledged.

The overall theme for the year is “**Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming our Faith**”, what better way than to continue practicing and modeling the virtues in our daily lives. “Virtues in Practice” will help our students to live out their faith in their everyday lives. In September, we will begin with the virtue of “Hospitality”, which is defined as “making people feel welcome, showing kindness to those who are new or are our guests”.



## New Program Being Offered – Morning & After School Care

Our Morning & Afterschool Care program is open for kindergarten to grade 7 students within our school.

There are 24 spaces available with a ratio of 1 staff member for every 12 children. Our program will provide a beginning and continuation of care for your child before and following their school day. This will include an opportunity for relaxation and dynamic play. Students will have a chance to eat their self-provided afterschool snacks and will be given an opportunity to do quiet activities such as reading or coloring.

### Hours of operation

Morning School Care: 7:00 am – 8:30 am

Afterschool Care: 2:45 pm – 5:45 pm.



**Applications** for the Morning & Afterschool Care Program can be found on our school website or at the school office.

## News from Our School Council

- ❑ Our first meeting for this school year will be on **September 27 at 6:30pm**.
- ❑ Please check out the School Council link on the school website for more details.

*“Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming Our Faith”*



## Our Bell Schedule

### 8:30 Playground gates open:

Students enter the school through the playground gates and mudroom doors upon arrival at **8:30**. Students will change their shoes and then head to their classroom.



### Morning Welcome

First bell, parking lot gate is locked

**8:40 am**

Second bell, bus gate is locked

**8:45 am**

Morning announcements

### Recess Breaks:

**10:15-10:30** - 1<sup>st</sup> Recess: Grades 2,3,5,7

**10:30 – 10:45** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Recess: Grades K,1,4,6

### Lunch Breaks:

**12:00-12:25**

Outside Play

**12:25-12:45**

Eating in their classrooms



### End of the Day Dismissal:

**2:45 pm**

End of the day exit from the playground. After school supervision **is over at 3:00pm, students must be picked up on time.**



## Allergy 'Aware' School

Notre Dame School is **"Allergy Aware"**. Please check with your child's classroom teacher for allergy alerts. Consider peanut/nut alternatives for individual student lunches and snacks out of consideration to our students and staff with food sensitivities/allergies. Students are reminded that snacks and lunch are to be eaten in the classroom. We cannot eat recess snack or lunch on the playground for safety reasons such as allergies.

## Student Safety

### Cross Walk Safety:

Students are encouraged to cross the road **using the cross walk** for safety. A crossing guard is paid and hired by the school for student safety.



### Parking Lot Safety:

The Notre Dame Staff Parking will be closed at the **beginning and end** of each day for student safety. Please park along the road and walk to the gates or have your child meet you at the sidewalk. Thank you for your support in keeping our students safe.



### School Absences:

Please contact the school office though email, a written note or call (250-782-4923) if your child will not be at school or will be arriving late. We would appreciate it if you could call in absences before 9 am. This is a safety issue. When a child is not at school and there has been no call in from parents, the school will call you to make sure that your child is home safe with you. It is our responsibility to locate your child as soon as possible.



As well, numerous unexplained absences throughout the year place our school funding in jeopardy. Absentee notes are important to our school funding!

## School Newsletters & Calendars

Monthly school newsletters and calendars will be available on our [school website](#) at the beginning of each month, and emailed out to families.

You can also check us out on Facebook for upcoming events.



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# News from Our Parent Support Group (PSG)



HELLO, and WELCOME to our new school year!

We hope you had an enjoyable summer break. We wanted to introduce the ND Parent Support Group (PSG). The PSG is a group of parents who work together to support the students, families, teachers, EAs and administration throughout the school year. Last year through a variety of fundraising programs, we were able to complete the concrete basketball court and fence extensions for the playground and provide various fun days for the students and staff...hot chocolate day, treat days, Caught Being Good prizes, intermediate ski trip, field trips, and a school-wide trip to the movie theatre. The various fundraisers (Basket Raffle, Read-A-Thon, apparel orders, Purdy's, Eclair Lips) raised funds for playground activities, levelled readers, and end-of-year activities. If we do not have our incredible and valued parent volunteers, we cannot run effectively and efficiently. We rely on family support through fundraising and volunteering within the school to support and enhance the educational experience for all students, families and staff at Notre Dame.

Another aspect of the PSG is the Hot Lunch Program. We had a wonderful hot lunch program last year that we are hoping to continue with this year. We are looking for a volunteer coordinator(s), program coordinator(s) and volunteers to help organize the required food deliveries/prep food. Training will be available for the positions. If we do not have these extremely important positions filled, the hot lunch program will not be able to run. We will send home information regarding hot lunch volunteers and program assistance within the first few weeks of school.

We want to extend a warm welcome to new families, new teachers and educational assistants that are joining us this year. We look forward to meeting you in the upcoming weeks and wish you a fantastic September!



"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart." Elizabeth Andrew

## VOLUNTEER



### Notre Dame Student/Family Handbook

We update the Notre Dame Student/Family Handbook annually in order to provide general information for our new families and to provide important reminders for our "alumni" families. The Notre Dame Student/Family Handbook is available on our school website.

We encourage all of our families (new and returning) to take some time to review the school expectations, general information and Code of Conduct with their children. It is important that as partners in learning, that all partners ~ from our students, to parents and staff, that we all have the same information in order for us to be successful as a team, in ensuring a safe and respectful learning environment.

### Parent Volunteers

Volunteers are necessary and very much welcomed within the school and in a variety of ways: classroom helper, hot lunch, field trip, fund raising, and for field trips as supervisors of small groups of students.

All volunteers must complete the CISPG volunteer application form (available at the school office and included in the student application form), sign the confidentiality form, and submit a Criminal Record Check.

Criminal record checks are completed through the RCMP (forms can be found in the office). This takes time, so if interested, fill the forms out at the beginning of the school year. It is a good idea to check each year to see if you are required to do the process again as these must be done every three years.

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