



# Notre Dame School

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## October 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 to October, a month filled with the promise of autumn leaves, cozy sweaters, and the excitement of the upcoming holiday season. As the leaves change colours, our school community continues to grow and thrive.

In October, we celebrate the beauty of nature’s transformation and the growth and learning happening within our school. It’s a time for us to embrace the changing seasons and inspire our young learners to embrace change in their lives, fostering resilience and adaptability.

This month, our dedicated teachers and staff will continue to provide a nurturing and engaging learning environment where our students can explore new ideas, ask questions, and develop a love for learning. We have planned exciting educational activities and events, including our first Virtue awards ceremony, Grade 6 Mass, School Prayer Service, and Character Day Parade.

As we dive into this month, let’s remember the importance of kindness and gratitude. Encourage your children to be mindful of the blessings in their lives and to show kindness to others. October is a great time to teach them gratitude, empathy and small acts of kindness.

We look forward to another month of growth, learning and togetherness. Thank you for being a vital part of our Notre Dame family. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me.

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



#### October Events

**Monday, Oct. 2nd**

Truth and Reconciliation Day; No school in session

**Thursday, October 5th**

Hat & Jeans Day



**Friday, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>**

Grade 4 Prayer & September Virtue Awards



**Monday, Oct. 9th**

Thanksgiving – No School in session

**Tuesday, Oct. 10th**

PSG Meeting at 6:00 pm  
World Mental Health Day



**Friday, Oct. 13th**

Grade 6 Mass at 11:00 am at Notre Dame Parish

**Tuesday, Oct. 17th**

School Council Zoom Meeting at 6:30pm

**Wednesday, Oct. 18**

Living Rosary – Grade 4

**Thursday, Oct. 19th**

Spirit Day - Flannel Day – Wear Plaid Day  
Shake Out BC – Earthquake Drill Practice



**Friday, Oct. 20th**

NI Day – No school for students

**Friday, Oct. 27th**

Grade 5 Prayer



**Tuesday, Oct. 31**

Character Day Parade



## Our Faith & Catholic Education



October's virtue is **Gratitude**, how appropriate that we will be celebrating Thanksgiving in just a few short days. Gratitude is the virtue that makes us aware and appreciate the gifts we receive each day.

Our quote for the month **"This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad"** (Psalm 118:24) will be the foundation for our work. To express thankfulness is a simple way to share our faith as it fills our hearts with a readiness to cherish all that we have.

The goal of this virtue is:

- To help our students give thanks for what they have and for who they are instead of focusing on what they are not and do not have.
- To help our students and ourselves learn to be attentive and to stop and enjoy the moments of happiness and joy in our lives.
- It is important to not lose our sense of wonder and thanksgiving for the simple things.
- To teach our children to be grateful for life itself and to live in accordance to the purpose which we were created for.



## Morning & After School Care Program

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, a craft and homework.

### 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 second meeting for this school year will be on **October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 on Zoom.**
- Please check out the School Council link on the school website for more details.

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## Character Day Parade

We are excited to announce that this year for Halloween, Notre Dame is once again hosting “Dress like your favourite Character” on Tuesday, October 31. On this day, students are invited to come to school dressed up as characters from a favourite book, movie, or show. There is no need to go out and buy a character costume; instead, students are encouraged to gather an assortment of hats, clothing, signs, or other props to create a homemade costume.

For example, to dress like Pippi Longstocking, wear pigtails and long striped socks, or wear jeans with a red and white striped shirt like Waldo.

We will offer an outside parade around the playground if the weather permits. Parents are welcome to come to watch on the playground at 1:00 pm.

To support students’ feelings of safety and security in our building, violent or frightening costumes such as villains or monsters will not be considered acceptable. Additionally, no weapons or dangerous-looking items will be permitted to accompany an outfit. This means students are welcome to dress up as characters like Luke Skywalker, Batman, etc., as long as they do not bring any of their weapon-like accessories.

Below are some examples of both appropriate and inappropriate costumes to better support your child in deciding on a costume:

### Appropriate Examples

- Fancy Nancy
- Cinderella, Snow White, etc.
- Greg Heffley (the Wimpy Kid)
- Ramona
- Superman, Spiderman, etc.
- Olivia
- Junie B. Jones
- Pippi Longstocking

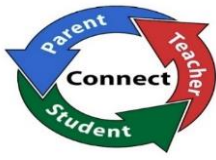
### Inappropriate Examples

- Villains (The Joker, Wicked Ursula, etc.)
- Characters with guns/weapons
- Dracula, or other vampires
- Grim Reaper
- Zombies
- Monsters
- Ghosts

If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to contact your child’s classroom teacher or the office. We are all looking forward to doing something a little different in a new way for our students.



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## News from Our Parent Support Group (PSG)



Hello, Families of Notre Dame! Welcome to Fall! We hope that you have had a wonderful first month of school.

Our **monthly meeting** and AGM will be held on **October 10th**, starting at **6:00 p.m.** During the AGM portion of the meeting, voting will be held for the Executive Board positions. The elective positions being voted for are President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Fundraising Chair, and Secretary. We want to create a Fundraising Committee consisting of several parents. If this is something that interests you and you are not able to attend in person, please email [ndspsg@cispg.ca](mailto:ndspsg@cispg.ca).

We wanted to share more information about the Parent Support Group. The School Council established the PSG and operates as a non-profit organization with no personal financial benefit. *The purpose of the PSG is to work under the direction of the Notre Dame School Council to provide support to the students, teachers, and Principal to:*

- a. Work towards the enhancement of programs at Notre Dame School for the betterment of the students.*
- b. Encourage participation and involvement of parents/guardians and other Notre Dame Parish members. Through various fundraising efforts and volunteer hours, we can help enhance the school, provide treat days to students and staff, and support field trips and fun days for the classrooms.*

The **2023/24 Hot Lunch Program** started at the end of September. We want to give **HUGE THANKS** to the program coordinator and the volunteers who will make this possible. If you wish to volunteer for hot lunch or other in-class activities, please pick up the paperwork for a criminal record check at the office. Volunteers are very important to our various fundraising programs and classroom support for teachers and students.

The monthly meetings are an excellent opportunity to come and share ideas, meet other parents, and find out how to take part in supporting the students, teachers and school community. We hope to see you there!

**“The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.”**

*DeAnn Hollis*

## Emergency Preparedness

In keeping all students and staff safe, the Ministry of Education requires us to practice various emergency drills throughout the school year. These drill practices include six fire drills, three earthquake drills and two lockdown drills.

Teachers have been reviewing and practicing with the students what to do in the case of a fire, earthquake and lockdown. Throughout October, we will be practicing these drills. We do ask that you please remind your child(ren) that they, the students, are safe during these emergency practices and that we practice for all our safety.



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## 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 through 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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