



Notre Dame School

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December 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, Sauleaux, Chiepwyan, and other Indigenous people who were not identified specifically in the treaty.

Principal's Message

Dear Notre Dame Students and Families,

It is hard to believe that December is already here. As we welcome December, we also welcome the season of Advent. In the season of Advent, we prepare for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. At the first Christmas, our God presented himself to the world as a small baby. He came to be with us, to share our limitations and sufferings and show us the way back to our Father in heaven.

Jesus was born in a stable, attended by shepherds and warmed by the breath of animals. Angels proclaimed the glory of his birth singing, “Joy to the world and peace on earth to people of goodwill.” This is the true message of Christmas: God became Emmanuel; He became one with us.

Our students and staff will be participating in Advent liturgies planned for each Monday morning of Advent, as well as various Advent activities during Christian Education lessons. We are also practicing the virtue of charity where we ask students and families to help us with our ‘Giving Tree’, our annual Christmas Tree, which will be set up in our gym foyer. We will be gathering food under our Giving Tree for our local food banks to help and support families in need this holiday season. Please send a can or boxed good with your child to place under the tree. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support in supporting those in need.

In addition to these faith-filled experiences, classes will be working hard to prepare a Christmas message that will be presented to you all at our annual Christmas Concert on Thursday, December 21st.

We would like to extend a big THANK YOU to our PSG for the tremendous amount of work that has gone into organizing our Christmas fundraiser. Your work to support our school is always so appreciated. Thank you to those who have already supported our Christmas Basket Raffle fundraiser and thank you in advance to those who are still planning to participate.

We would like to extend warm Christmas blessings to you and your families. Be well this Christmas holiday season, take care of one another, and we will see you again in 2024 when we return to school on January 8th.

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



December Events

Friday, Dec. 1st

Grade 2 Prayer & November Virtue Awards Assembly – Peace – at 9:00 am

Sunday, Dec. 3rd

1st Sunday of Advent - Hope



Monday, Dec. 4th

PSG Meeting at 6:00 pm

Thursday, Dec. 7th

Hat & Jeans Day



Friday, Dec. 8th

Grade 4 Mass at 11:00am



Sunday, Dec. 10th

2nd Sunday of Advent -Peace



Friday, Dec. 15th

Grade 1 Prayer



Sunday, Dec. 17th

3rd Sunday of Advent -Joy



Tuesday, Dec. 19th

Spirit Day – Wear your Favourite Christmas Socks



Wednesday, Dec. 20th

Christmas Concert Rehearsal 9:30

Spirit Day – Wear your Favourite Christmas Sweater



Thursday, Dec. 21st

Spirit Day – Wear your Notre Dame Apparel

Evening Christmas Concert at 6:30



Friday, Dec. 22nd

Spirit Day – Dress in Christmas attire (sweaters, leggings, pajamas, Christmas colours)

Sunday, Dec. 24th

4th Sunday of Advent -Love



Dec 23rd to Jan 5th

No School – Winter Holidays

Jan 8th

School Reopens



Our Faith & Catholic Education

Charity is our virtue for the month of December.

What is Charity?

Charity is loving God with all your heart, mind, and strength and your neighbour as yourself. Charity allows us to give freely without expecting anything in return.



What can Charity look like for the students and staff at Notre Dame:

- Giving to those in need
- Donating to charities and organizations so they can afford to help others in need
- Donating items (such as clothing or toys) or food to help others
- Giving and volunteering our time to help others

We need to remember that

Doing acts of charity do not need to be big, they can be as simple as helping a sibling with homework



Christmas Concert

Lost & Found

CONCERT DETAILS:

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH: There will be a 9:30 am rehearsal practice with all students watching the other grades performing and practicing.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21ST: For the evening concert, it will begin at 6:30pm. Students are asked to arrive to their classrooms at 6:00pm. The gym doors on Tenth Street will be opened at 6:00pm for families to enter and find seats in the gymnasium for the concert performance.



WHAT TO WEAR: Students are asked to wear their 'Sunday Best'.

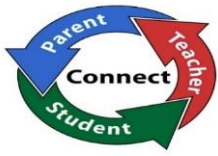


Our lost & found bin is quite full. We will be displaying all of the lost & found items in our downstairs hallway Wednesday—Friday of the last week before holidays (December 20th to 22nd). Please take a look to see if any of these items belong to your child. We will be donating all unclaimed items over the Christmas break.

News from Our School Council

- Our next meeting for this school year will be on January 16, 2024 on Zoom at 6:30pm
- Please check out the School Council link on the school website for more details.

"Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming Our Faith"



News from Our Parent Support Group (PSG)

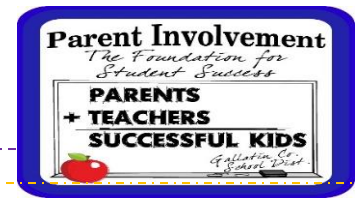
Happy Holidays, Families of Notre Dame,

Our basket raffle fundraiser is underway! We are extremely thankful for all the donations to help build the baskets. They look AMAZING! Students are responsible for selling raffle tickets and must return all tickets to the school so we can draw for the prizes correctly. All tickets sold and unsold are required to be handed in by December 15th at the very latest. The baskets will be drawn for at the end of the Christmas Concert on December 21st, 2023.

Thank you to all who participated in the Purdy's Fundraiser! Your continued support for this 'sweet' fundraiser is greatly appreciated. Our total sales were \$16,369.75, resulting in a fundraising profit of \$4,297.06!

We wish all students, parents, guardians, teachers, support staff and administration a wonderful holiday season. We want an abundance of health & wellness, happiness & laughter, and peace & renewed strength for the upcoming year.

The Notre Dame Parent Support Group



Feeding Futures

We are delighted to introduce a new initiative that Notre Dame School will be launching in December called "Feeding Futures." We understand that food insecurity is a real concern for some of our students. To address this, we will be placing healthy snack bins in all classrooms. Any student in need is encouraged to ask their teacher for a snack. This initiative is aimed at ensuring that no student goes hungry and that we provide a supportive and caring environment for all our students

Report Cards

Report Cards will be sent home in the last week of December.

There is a parent signature page in report card envelope. Please sign and return the signature page with your child's envelope to the school.



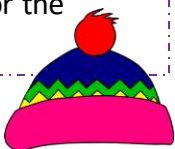
Parent Signature: _____



Weather & Outside Time

As we know the weather can be frightfully frigid as our winter continues.

Our policy states that children will be outside for the morning and lunch recess if the temperature is -19°C . **When the temperature hits -20°C , then the children will be kept inside.** Please dress your child accordingly. Dressing in layers is helpful on those days that might start out cold and then warm up. Have your child bring a sweater, jacket, snow pants, mittens and toques. Being prepared for the changing temperatures ensures our students are dressed proper for the weather and can enjoy the outside.



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Gratitude Virtue Award Winners

Congratulations to all the students and staff who have received awards and to each of you for helping us practice the virtue of **Gratitude** in our school community.

Kindergarten Awards: Jarred Liddle, Khayleb Cabilangan

Grade One Awards: Kimberly Staples, Bria Stevens

Grade Two: Kalyna Depositari, Kobey Premack, Levi Franke

Grade Three: Xian Albaytar, Zylar Hunter, Nico Maniego

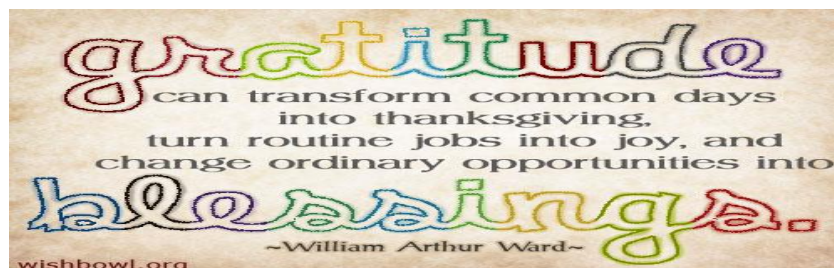
Grade Four: Joshua Von Solatorio, Theo Lardner

Grade Five: Hayden Fontaine, Sophia Nguyen, Aliyah Fernandez

Grade Six: Marco Billones, Kolbie Brochu

Grade Seven: Ram Cruz, Fiona Phillips

Staff: Mr. H, Mrs. Dyck, Mrs. Tait, Mrs. Jordanov



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Reminders of School Procedures

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 - 1st Recess: Grades 2,3,5,7

10:30 – 10:45 - 2nd 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 snacks or lunch snacks 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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