



Notre Dame School

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January 2024 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,

Happy New Year! I hope this message finds you rested, rejuvenated, and ready for the exciting opportunities that the new year brings. Welcome back to school!

As we step into January, we embark on a fresh chapter of learning, growth, and discovery. It's a time for new beginnings, renewed enthusiasm, and the promise of endless possibilities. Whether you are returning to familiar faces or joining our school community for the first time, we are delighted to have each and everyone of you here.

Our dedicated team of educators is thrilled to continue guiding your children on their educational journey. We are committed to creating a positive and engaging learning environment that fosters curiosity, creativity, and a love for learning.

January is the beginning of a new term; it's an opportunity for students to set goals, make new friends, and embrace the joy of learning. Let us approach this term with a sense of determination, resilience, and passion for excellence.

Parents and guardians, your partnership with us is crucial to the success of our students. Your support and involvement make a significant impact, and we encourage you to stay connected with your child's educational experience.

As we drive into our new learning of lessons and adventures that await us, let us remember the importance of kindness, collaboration, and a positive attitude. Together, as a school community, we can create a vibrant and inclusive environment where every student feels valued and inspired.

Wishing you a fantastic start to 2024! May it be filled with laughter, friendship, and exciting discoveries. Let's make this January a month to remember as we embark on a journey of learning and growing together.

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

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



January Events



Monday, Jan. 8th

First Day Back to School after Winter Break
PSG Meeting at 4:15 pm

Thursday, Jan. 11th

Hat & Jeans Day

Friday, Jan. 12th

Grade 3 Mass at 11:00am



Thursday, Jan 18th

Spirit Day – Beat the January Blues – Wear Blue Day



Friday, Jan. 19th

Kindergarten Prayer & Virtue Awards 9:00 am



Monday, Jan 22nd

Read-A-thon Starts



Tuesday, Jan 23rd

School Council Meeting at 6:30 on Zoom

Friday, Jan. 26th

Grad 7 Prayer 9:00am



January 29 – Feb 3rd

Catholic Schools Week – More information to come

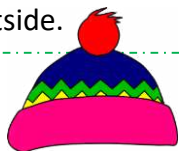
Heavenly Father, Thank you for the gift of our students. You have entrusted to our care. Please watch over them as they return to school. Bless our students, teachers, school support staff and families. Amen.



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.



Kindergarten Registration



Notre Dame is excited to welcome **new Kindergarten students for the 2024-2025 school year.**

Any child who will be 5 years of age on or before December 31, 2024 may register. The Registration Package is available on Notre Dame's school website and at the school office. At Notre Dame, Kindergarten establishes a strong foundation for lifelong learning, as the teacher provides dynamic, play-based opportunities to help each child grow and learn. We focus on the whole child socially, emotionally, academically, and spiritually.

Once the school receives the registration package from families, interviews will be set up. Interviews will start the week of January 30th into February.



Feeding Futures

We are excited at Notre Dame School to be continuing with our "Feeding Futures" initiative. Fruit, apple sauce, crackers and granola bars will continue to be available in each classroom daily.

From **January to Spring Break**, yogurt and muffins will be available on **Monday, at first recess time.** All students will be offered a yogurt and muffin in their classrooms. We are thankful to our local Northern Lights College Culinary Art students who will be providing our muffins.



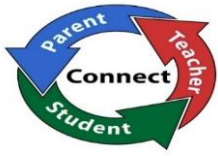
Hot lunch & Munch-A lunch Email Reminders

Please note : When you place an order for hot lunch with the Munch-a-Lunch program, you will be emailed a reminder the day before any days you have opted in to. For example : if you ordered lunch for TUESDAY you will receive a reminder email on MONDAY. If you do not receive an email reminder, you have not placed an order for hot lunch the following day. Emails will come from the **Munch-a-Lunch** program NOT the school. The school will send emails regarding ordering waves, reminders for payment due, or extenuating circumstances with lunch delivery.

If you have questions about Hot Lunch please email ndspsghotlunch@gmail.com



"Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming Our Faith"



News from Our Parent Support Group (PSG)

Hello, Families of Notre Dame,

Welcome to 2024! We wish you joy, peace, and renewed strength and hope for the New Year. We wanted to take time once again to thank all who participated in the Purdy's Fundraiser. Prizes were awarded to our **TOP THREE** fundraising sales. **First Place** was Sawyer Mountifield (Grade 7), **Second Place** was Mia Dioquino (Preschool), and **Third Place** was Mayumi Vielle Delos Santos (Preschool). Congratulations once again to all of our fundraising families. Thank you to the volunteers who organized, sorted and handed out a large chocolate order. It was very "sweet" of all who helped in all aspects of this fundraiser.

Our annual **Basket Raffle** was also a great success! We thank all families for donating to the baskets and send our **CONGRATULATIONS** to each basket winner! We thank the volunteers who helped ensure our traditional Christmas Fundraiser was successful this school year. The collection, sorting, purchasing and wrapping of each basket is a HUGE undertaking, and we are incredibly thankful for all the hours you put in to make it a success. Additionally, we are grateful to all those who participated in selling tickets and helped make it a successful event. The winners are as follows:

Kindergarten basket "Boy Oh Boy!" - Randy Groebmair
Grade One basket "Girl Power!" - Therese Tejada
Grade Two basket "Handsome and Handy" - Dean Gerwien
Grade Three basket "Lucky Lady" - Victoria Dyck
Grade Four basket "Busy Basket" - Candy Michaluk
Grade Five basket "Paws & Claws" - Alisa Tom
Grade Six basket "Family Night" - Jan Aasen
Grade Seven basket "Sweet Tooth" - Kristin Wright



We have our 5th **Annual Read-a-thon** starting up this month! This is a fun literacy event in which students participate by reading as often and as much as they can for one month. In addition to reading, students collect pledges to raise money for **Nelson Levelled Readers** that are used in the primary reading program and books that will support the intermediate classroom literacy programs. Checklists/Sheets to encourage reading will be coming home mid-month. These will be checked/kept track of weekly to enter students' names into draw boxes for weekly draws for prizes for all grades. Last year, as a group, we raised over **\$11,131.00** !!! To date, our Read-A-Thons have raised **\$44,130.00** !!! We are very excited for this fundraiser to get underway. Information will be coming home soon with students.

We also wanted to take a moment to say **THANK YOU** to our Hot Lunch group. We are extremely thankful to the Hot Lunch team for organizing, implementing and preparing the food for each classroom this year. It is wonderful to have it available to our school. In addition, we are very thankful to the Grade Seven students for their assistance. They have been delivering the food coolers to each class and handing out lunch to the students. We are very impressed with the leadership and level of responsibility they show each Hot Lunch day and are very happy to have them working as part of the Hot Lunch team.

The Notre Dame PSG

News from Our School Council

- Our next meeting for this school year will be on **January 23, 2024** on Zoom at 6:30pm
- Please check out the School Council link on the school website for more details.

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Our Faith & Catholic Education

Courage is our virtue for the month of January.

What is Courage?

- The ability to face fears or obstacles
- Strength when dealing with pain or sadness
- Moving out of our pain or sadness
- We don't let fear hold us back from doing what is right
- Another word for courage is brave



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

- Our students and staff will model the virtue of courage by being risk-takers in the classroom, thinking outside the box, going outside of their comfort zones and exploring their own potential and possibilities. Staff will support students on using positive self-talk and trying to make a habit of saying "I Can"

We need to remember that

" Courage doesn't mean you don't get afraid. Courage means you don't let fear stop you"
– Bethany Hamilton

Peace 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 **Peace in our school community.**

Kindergarten Awards: Eloise Feddema, Lizzie Noegel, Matty Termulo

Grade One Awards: Amari Caparros, Leila Giesbrecht, Nathan Maming

Grade Two: Ariana De Castro, Ikenna Oramah

Grade Three: Orion Liddle, Thomas Madge, Tristan Miana

Grade Four: Charlotte Nguyen, Denisse Nica Semilla

Grade Five: Kristelle Almonguera, Ryder Floriant, Brynn Kishkan, Samantha Soles, Crickett Fossum

Grade Six: Ricky Dufour, Myra Erickson, Jaspar Judge-Dokken

Grade Seven: Kai Bijl, Arthesa Leguira

Staff: Madame Hamilton, Mr. Caguitla, Mrs. Juell, Mrs. Mountifield



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Please Review Our 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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