



# Notre Dame School

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## February 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,  
As we enter February, a time marked by chilly winds and warming hearts, I am grateful for the incredible sense of community that defines our Notre Dame school family. This month, we continue our journey of faith, love, and learning with a renewed spirit and a commitment to nurturing the whole person.

In February, we celebrate the Feast of Saint Valentine, a time to reflect on God's boundless love and share it with one another. Additionally, Ash Wednesday on February 14 marks the start of our 40-day Lenten journey towards Easter. As a school community, we'll gather for Ash Wednesday, receiving ashes as a visible sign of repentance and acknowledging our dependence on God's mercy. This period is a time for self-reflection and spiritual renewal, encouraging us to turn our hearts back to God and embrace His transformative love. May this Lenten season bring growth in faith as we draw closer to the profound significance of Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

In our classrooms, our dedicated teachers will guide our students in understanding the profound connection between love and faith, encouraging them to embody these virtues daily. As a Catholic school, we are not just educators but stewards of faith, fostering an environment where our students can grow spiritually, academically, and socially.

I encourage you to join us this month, whether attending a Mass, Prayer service, or simply taking a moment each day for personal reflection and prayer. As a united community, we strengthen the bonds of love that make Notre Dame an exceptional place.

May February be a month of love, grace, and spiritual growth for each member of our school family. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in the education of our students.

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

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



### February Events

**Thursday, Feb. 1st**  
Spirit Day – Jersey Day



**Friday, Feb. 2nd**  
Non-Instructional day – No School for students

**Monday, Feb. 5th**  
PSG Meeting at 5:00 pm



**Thursday, Feb. 8th**  
Spirit Day – Hat & Jeans Day – Bring a Toonie for our Foster Children

**Friday, Feb 9th**  
Grade 3 Mass at 11:00pm at ND Parish  
PSG - Pancake Lunch for all students (Shrove Tuesday)



**Tuesday, Feb 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Shrove Tuesday  
Intermediate Ski Trip



**Wednesday, Feb 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Ash Wednesday  
Valentine’s Day & 100 Days In School



**Thursday, Feb 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Spirit Day – Comfy Day – Dress to feel comfy and relaxed



**Friday, Feb 16th**  
Grad 6 Prayer & Courage Virtue Awards 9:00am



**Monday, Feb 19<sup>th</sup>**  
BC Family Day – No School



**Tuesday, Feb 20<sup>th</sup>**  
School Council Meeting at 6:30

**Wednesday, Feb 21st**  
Class Pictures

**Thursday, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Performance by Axis Theatre

**Friday, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
Grade 5 Prayer



**Wednesday, Feb 28<sup>th</sup> & Thursday Feb 29<sup>th</sup>**  
Student Led- Conferencing – Early Dismissal (1:45)

**Wednesday, Feb 28<sup>th</sup>** - Pink Shirt Day





## 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  $-19^{\circ}\text{C}$ . **When the temperature hits  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ , 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 30<sup>th</sup> into February.

## Reminder: Notre Dames Cell Phone Permission Form

Notre School recognizes that Parents/Guardians may find it necessary for their child to bring a cell phone to school due to safety issues when they are taking the bus or walking home. There is a cell phone permission form in the student registration package that must be filled in and signed before the phone is brought to school.

**The following guidelines are in place to ensure that the cell phone does not interrupt student learning or become misused while at school.**

1. The cell phone will be turned off and placed in the student's backpack or locker. (The school will not take responsibility for lost or stolen cell phones.)
2. The cell phone can be turned on again once the student has left school grounds and is on their way home. Please do not ask students to text or phone you during the day, as we have a phone in the office that students are allowed to use. This includes apple watch us.

**If the student is found in violation of this protocol, the following will occur:**

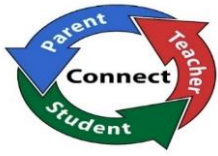
**First offense:** The student is asked to turn off the phone and put it in the student's backpack or locker. The parent/guardian will be notified.

**Second offense:** The cell phone must be turned into the office for the day and the student and parent/guardian may pick it up at the end of the day.

**Third offense:** Upon arrival to school the cell phone must be turned into the office for the day and the student may pick it up at the end of the day. This will be the routine for the remainder of the school year.



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## News from Our Parent Support Group (PSG)

Hello, Families of Notre Dame,

Our fourth wave of Hot Lunch begins on February 6 and will run until March 14. We want to take a moment to thank our organizers and volunteers who help make the program run smoothly and the families who place orders. It is greatly appreciated as all funds raised go to supporting the students.

Our SCHOOL WIDE Read-A-Thon began on January 22 and will run until February 23. This is our fifth year with this program/fundraiser. Students continue to track their reading for the duration while raising money for our levelled reader and intermediate reading programs. In the previous three years, we have raised \$44,130 as a school!

**Reminder to send checklists/tracking sheets weekly to be entered into the prize draws each FRIDAY.** At the end of the Read-a-thon, the Parent Support Group will provide a classroom pizza party to the TOP PRIMARY CLASS and TOP INTERMEDIATE CLASS for funds raised as a group. The PSG will also award prizes to the top primary and intermediate students for individual funds collected. A school family movie night in the gym will be taking place and will be announced at a later date.

A school apparel order will be placed in February. The order forms will be sent home with students. During Catholic Schools Week, the PSG was happy to give teachers, administrators, and students hot chocolate. Thank you to the volunteers who made this possible. We greatly appreciate Notre Dame's students, teachers, educational assistants, and administration. The PSG feels that even small acts of kindness can make a difference in one another's lives. Have a wonderful February!

*"Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love." – Lao Tzu.*



## News from Our School Council

- Our next meeting for this school year will be on **February 20th, 2024** at 6:30pm
- Please check out the School Council link on the school website for more details.

## FORMED

Formed continues to be available for our school! It's like Netflix for Catholics. There's all kinds of shows for kids and families. The Parish and our school purchased the subscription so that we can enjoy it for free. I use some of the shows in class so I'll share when I do and you can watch at home, too. If you aren't Catholic and curious about the traditions, there are many videos to inform about the practices, prayers, Mass, etc. Not much is free anymore, so please check it out!

FORMED, a revolutionary tool to help your parishioners understand, live, and share our Catholic faith.

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<https://signup.formed.org/>

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Find your parish by location or zip code (Ex. St Rose of Lima Denver CO or 12345)

signup.formed.org

- Enter Notre Dame Parish and look for Dawson Creek

- Enter your name and email



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## Our Faith & Catholic Education



**Love** is our virtue for the month of February.

### What is Love?

- Showing genuine concern for others
- Making unselfish acts of kindness
- Loving our family and friends
- Being compassionate, caring, thoughtful, patient and selfless
- Forgiving others, and asking for forgiveness when we do something wrong

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

- Our students and staff will model the virtue of love by
  - † wanting the best for others
  - † making sacrifices for the good of others
  - † helping others
  - † praying for others
  - † showing acts of kindness

- **We need to remember that .....**

“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

– Corinthians 13:13

## Charity 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 **Charity** in our school community.

**Kindergarten Awards:** James Johnston, Katrina maming, Yazmine Tuguigui

**Grade One Awards:** Korbin Groebmair, Arlo Pulver, Prince Samenada

**Grade Two:** Sylvia Misner, Summer Stevens

**Grade Three:** Lukas Groebmair, Matthew Maher

**Grade Four:** Ramon Aevalo, Aurora Feddema

**Grade Five:** Gabrielle Basington, Jett Bijl

**Grade Six:** Colten Lenart, Blayke Premack

**Grade Seven:** Ayo-Oritise Onuwaje, Jefe Sanchez

**Staff:** Mrs. Cabrera, Mrs. Gilbertson, Mrs. Mackrell, Mrs. Weingart



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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** - 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 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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