



# Notre Dame School

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## March 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 welcome in the beautiful month of March, we are filled with gratitude for the many blessings that surround our school community. This season of Lent serves as a touching reminder of the importance of reflection, renewal, and our enduring commitment to faith.

In the spirit of our Catholic values, our students continue to shine brightly with acts of kindness, compassion, and a genuine sense of community. It is heartening to witness the positive impact that each one of them has on our school family.

This month, we embark on a journey of spiritual growth and self-discovery as we observe the Lenten season. Our classrooms and halls will be filled with thoughtful discussions, prayers, and activities that deepen our connection to our faith. Let us embrace this time as an opportunity for personal reflection and communal prayer, as we prepare our hearts for the joyous celebration of Easter.

We are also excited to share that we will be hosting several events throughout March, fostering a sense of togetherness and celebration; including our monthly Mass service, Stations of the Cross service, spirit days, and the intermediate ski trip. There are ample opportunities for students, parents, and staff to come together and strengthen the bonds that make our school so special.

As we move forward, let us keep the flame of faith burning brightly in our hearts, lighting the path for ourselves and those around us. Together, we are a beacon of love, compassion, and unwavering faith. May March be a month of spiritual growth, renewed hope, and joyous moments for all of us. Thank you for your continued support, dedication, and commitment to the values that make Notre Dame a truly special place.

Wishing you and your families a blessed and fulfilling month. Remember that my door is open to answer questions or listen to your concerns.

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



#### March Events

**Friday, Mar. 1st**  
Virtue Awards (Love) 9:00am



**Monday, Mar. 4<sup>th</sup>**  
Non-Instructional Day – No School for students  
PSG Meeting at 5:00 pm



**Thursday, Mar. 7<sup>th</sup>**  
Hat & Jeans Day - Bring a Toonie for our Foster Children

**Friday, Mar. 8<sup>th</sup>**  
Grade 2 Mass at 11:00 am



**Tuesday, Mar. 12<sup>th</sup>**  
Intermediate Ski Trip  
School Council Meeting at 5:00 on Zoom



**Thursday, Mar. 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Science World Presentation at 1:50 pm

**Friday, Mar. 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Grade 4 Stations of the Cross at the Parish – 1:00pm  
Report Cards Go Home



**March 18<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>**  
Spring Break – No School



**Fri. March 29<sup>th</sup>**  
Good Friday

**Sun. Mar. 31<sup>st</sup>**  
Easter

**Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
Back to School

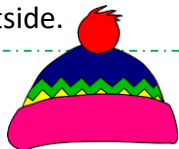




## Weather & Outside Time

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.

## Feeding Futures

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

After the **Spring Break**, we will **no longer** be providing yogurt and muffins on **Monday, at first recess time.** We want to thank our local Northern Lights College Culinary Art students who have provided our muffins and all those parent volunteers who helped organize and hand the food out each Monday.

In April we will revisit the Feeding Futures grant to see if we can offer another way to support within the school.



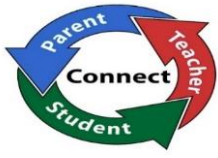
## News from Our School Council

- ❑ Our next meeting for this school year will be on **March 12th, 2024** at 5:00 pm on Zoom.
- ❑ Please check out the School Council link on the school website for more details.



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## News from Our Parent Support Group (PSG)

Hello Notre Dame Families!

The **2024 Read-A-Thon** is completed, and we are SO pleased to share that the total pledges raised was \$ **9,704.00** !!! This is **AMAZING** news for the levelled reader/Intermediate reading programs. We want to extend our most heartfelt and sincere thanks and appreciation to all the students, families, and teachers who participated and helped contribute to the success of this year's fundraising event. We will be celebrating with a family movie night in April. To date, our annual Read-A-Thon has raised **\$52,670.47**, which is **INCREDIBLE!!**

The top students and classes are as follows:

**THE TOP PRIMARY STUDENT** is Nisha Sandhu, who raised **\$560!**

**THE TOP INTERMEDIATE STUDENT** is Joles Weingart, who raised **\$1610!**

**TOP PRIMARY CLASS** was **GRADEONE** with a class total raised of **\$2050.35!**

**TOP INTERMEDIATE CLASS** was **GRADE FIVE**, and the class total raised was **\$2956.00!**



*The PSG also acknowledged and awarded the Top Five pledge raisers for their hard work and contributions in both primary and intermediate. Thank you to Faking Sanity for their generous donation of matching the gift certificates purchased by the PSG to their fantastic book/yarn store. Thank you to Panago for the pizza coupon donation. Thank you to those who donated prizes for the Weekly Draw prize cupboard. Congratulations once again to all. Many books were read, and many hours were tracked throughout the fundraising time. We want to thank all the students and families that participated.*

The PSG will send a Sign-up Genius home in the coming weeks for volunteer opportunities for our intended **Spring Carnival**. For Carnival to run this spring, we will require support in many aspects of the event. Please watch your emails for more information coming out soon.

The PSG provided Hot Chocolate Day to celebrate Catholic Schools Week and a pancake and sausage lunch for all students and staff in honour of Shrove Tuesday! Thank you to the volunteers who helped make these two days happen. We would not be able to have days to give back to the students and staff if we did not have those who take time out of their days to organize, order and pick up supplies & prepare and serve the treats. We appreciate the students, teachers, educational assistants and administration of Notre Dame so very much and enjoy being able to share our appreciation for them through days of celebration.

We will have the next wave of Hot Lunch ordering available soon. Thank you to the volunteers who organized the hot lunch program and those who volunteered to help make hot lunch a success! Thank you to the Grade Seven students who delivered hot lunch in the classrooms. With the support and dedication of volunteers, we can continue to bring many fun activities to the school.

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

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## Our Faith & Catholic Education



**Forgiveness** is our virtue for the month of March.

### What is Forgiveness?

- Letting go of feelings of resentment and vengeance
- Forgiveness is letting go of your feelings of anger
- Letting go of the desire for revenge
- When you forgive someone, you do not have to make up or become friends with that person, especially if it is likely that they will hurt you again

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

- Our students and staff will model the virtue of forgiveness by
  - † Remembering that everyone makes mistakes
  - † Sharing their feelings without taking revenge
  - † Accepting people without judgment or criticism
  - † Taking responsibility for our own mistakes
  - † Making amends instead of punishing ourselves with guilt
- **We need to remember that .....**  
“The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.” – Gandhi

## Courage 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 **Courage** in our school community.**

**Kindergarten Awards:** Charlie Gilbertson, Ari Sallenbach & Dos Valonda II

**Grade One Awards:** Kruz Lander, Shay Morgan & Ryan Rose

**Grade Two Awards:** Landen Bassett, Raya Mullin & Abigail Shipton

**Grade Three Awards:** Toluwani Adeyemi, Finley Martin & Xander Pulver

**Grade Four Awards:** Holt Brigden & Qwynn Scholz

**Grade Five Awards:** Morgan Kaempf, Nicholas Madge & Maddie Wright

**Grade Six Awards:** Summer Bijl, Danae Duff & Easton Morgan

**Grade Seven Awards:** Christopher Ausma, Taynton Himmelspeck, Aaliyah McLain & Hayes Pillipow

**Staff Awards:** Ms. Alexander, Mrs. McKenzie & Mrs. McLain



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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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