



Notre Dame School

925 – 104th Ave, Dawson Creek, BC, V1G 2H8
Phone : 250-782-4923 Fax : 250-782-4388



www.notredameschool.ca

notredame@cispg.ca



April 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 step into April, we are reminded of the beauty of renewal and growth that surrounds us. While Easter has passed, its message of hope, resurrection, and new beginnings continues to resonate within our hearts and minds.

April allows us to reflect on the lessons learned during Lent and the Easter season. It is a time to carry forward the spirit of love, compassion, and selflessness that Christ exemplified in his life and teachings.

In our new school learning and daily responsibilities, let us not forget the importance of nurturing our spiritual well-being. Let us pause, pray, and deepen our relationship with God, seeking His guidance and grace in all we do.

As we witness nature springing to life around us, may we also embrace the chance for personal and communal growth. Let us cultivate a spirit of resilience, perseverance, and optimism, knowing that through faith and determination, we can overcome any challenge that comes our way.

In the month ahead, let us strive to be a positive change in our school and broader community. Let us extend a hand of kindness to those in need, offer encouragement to our peers, and embody the values of respect, empathy, and inclusivity in all our interactions.

Let us make April a month of purposeful action, heartfelt reflection, and joyful celebration of the blessings surrounding us.

Wishing you all a month filled with renewed hope, abundant blessings, and a deep sense of purpose. Remember that my door is open to answer questions or listen to your concerns.

God Bless, Your Partner in Education
C. Richard



April Events

Tuesday, Apr. 2nd

Back to School



Thursday, Apr. 4th

Hat & Jeans Day – Bring a Toonie for our Foster Children



Friday, Apr. 5th

Grade 4 Prayer & Forgiveness Virtue Awards at 9:00 am

Monday, Apr. 8th

PSG Meeting at 5:00 pm



Tuesday, Apr. 9th

Vimy Ridge Day

Friday, Apr. 12th

Grade 1 Mass



Tuesday, Apr. 16th

School Council Meeting at 6:30

Thursday, Apr. 18th

Spirit Day - Fun In the Sun Day



Friday, Apr. 19th

Grade 3 Prayer
Read –Athon Movie Night



Monday, Apr. 22nd

St. George’s Day



Friday, Apr. 26th

Grade 2 Prayer



Monday, Apr. 29th

Non-Instructional Day – No school for students

Weather & Outside Time

We know the weather is changing, and we will have some nicer days with puddles and sunshine. Please dress your child accordingly. Dressing in layers is helpful on those days that might start cold and warm up. Have your child bring a sweater, jacket and maybe rubber boots for those rainy days. Preparing for the changing temperatures ensures our students dress appropriately for the weather and enjoy the outside.



Kindergarten Registration



Notre Dame's **Kindergarten students registration for the 2024-2025 school year** remains open.

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 are ongoing until we have reached the cap for admissions numbers.



Items of Interest

New Applications for the school year 2024-2025:

Notre Dame School is currently accepting applications for September 2024's Kindergarten class! Some of our other grades also have room for new students for the 2024-2025 school year. Application forms can be downloaded from our website or picked up in the school office. Please send in any application forms as soon as possible, as our Admissions Committee will begin reviewing our Kindergarten applications soon.

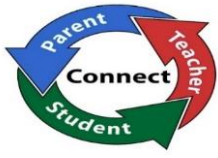
2023 Tax Receipts: Tax Receipts for the 2023 year have been mailed out by the school bookkeeper in the first week of February. If you did not receive it please contact the school

News from Our School Council

- Our next meeting for this school year will be on **April 16, 2024** at 630pm.
- 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!

Welcome to April! We hope you had a wonderful Spring Break. The PSG wanted to take a moment to thank all families and staff participating in the apparel ordering, Easter Purdy's Fundraiser and the Butcher Block Fundraiser. There have been a couple of fundraisers (and more to come) where the profits have been directed towards the Grade Seven Annual Terry Wilson Soccer trip in Prince George. This tournament is hosted by CIS every year for the schools under the umbrella of Catholic Independent Schools. It is costly for us to attend each year. Costs have included bussing, meals and a group activity (swimming). The PSG helps with various fundraisers throughout the year to help make this trip a reality, and we rely on the support of our school families participation and support.

PSG is hopeful we will be able to host Carnival in May. We will look at the Signup Genius sent home to families in March at the April PSG Meeting on April 8th @ 5:00 pm. If we do not have the volunteer spots filled, we cannot proceed. Please ensure that you have signed up for a shift!

The Fifth wave of Hot Lunch begins this month. Thank you to the volunteers who continue to make this program available to the school. The next wave of Hot Lunch will be available for ordering later this month.

Best wishes for a wonderful spring month from the PSG!

"Your mind is a garden, and your thoughts are the seeds. You can grow flowers, or you can grow weeds."
-Anonymous-

Hot Lunch Program

If your child is absent on a day they have ordered hot lunch, it is up to the parent to email or call the school if they want their child's hot lunch kept at the office to be picked up or sent home with a sibling. If the school does not hear from the family it will be donated. Unfortunately, the school does not have the manpower to call families to make arrangements on what to do with their child's lunch on days absent. If you have any questions please contact the school principal.



Feeding Futures

We are excited at Notre Dame School to be **continuing** with our "Feeding Futures" initiative of having snack bins in all classrooms. 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.

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Our Faith & Catholic Education



Justice is our virtue for the month of April.

What is Justice?

- Justice means that we deal fairly with others, recognizing the equality and dignity of all.
- It requires that we work to ensure that all people, especially the poor and the weak, have access to opportunities
- Justice is extended to people, animals, the environment; the whole universe.

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

- Our students and staff will model the virtue of justice by
 - † *treating others in a just, equitable and unbiased manner.*
 - † *playing by the rules, take turns and share.*
 - † *being open-minded and listen to others.*

- **We need to remember that**

“Be the change you want to see in the world.” – Gandhi

Love 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 **Love in our school community.**

Kindergarten Awards: Layton Green, Jillian Maher

Grade One Awards: Nevaeh Alexander, Demilade Oyedeji, Nisha Sandhu

Grade Two Awards: Luna Cazes, Norie Rorison, Eli Sandberg

Grade Three Awards: Shelbyrose Lindberg, Emalyn McLain

Grade Four Awards: Lucas Alfonso, William Knutson, Emelia Morgan

Grade Five Awards: Kevin Banocnoc, Kyra Miana, Jolise Weingart

Grade Six Awards: Skyler Alingod, Tolor Gies, Kaiya MacLean

Grade Seven Awards: Ivan Chmelyk, Adriana Strickland

Staff Awards: Ms. Whiting, Mrs. Giesbrecht

Special Guests: The Net Team: Mickela Curotte, Thomas Corrigan, Blaise Letterio, Chris Vandenberg, Mariah Barter, Mackenzie Danahy, Amanda Dalgado, Aofie Kiely



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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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