



Notre Dame School

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October 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, Saulteaux, Chiepwyan, and other Indigenous people who were not identified specifically in the treaty.

Principal’s Message

Dear Notre Dame Students and Families,

As October arrives, we are reminded of the beauty and change that this season brings. It is a time to reflect on the many blessings in our lives and to show gratitude for the gift of our community here at Notre Dame.

This month, we celebrate Thanksgiving, a special time to give thanks for the gifts of family, friendship, and faith. As a school, we will be focusing on gratitude and encouraging our students to reflect on how they can share God’s love and kindness with others. Let us also take this time to remember those in need and find ways to give back as a community showing generosity,

As we move through this busy time of year, please keep an eye on our calendar for upcoming events, including our Thanksgiving Mass and school-wide initiatives. These moments help us live out our faith and reinforce the importance of service to others.

In keeping all students and staff safe, the Ministry of Education requires us to practice various emergency drills throughout the school year. These drill practices include six fire drills, three earthquake drills and two lockdown drills. Teachers have been reviewing and practicing with the students what to do in the case of a fire, earthquake and lockdown. Throughout October, we will continue practicing these drills. We do ask that you please remind your child(ren) that they, the students, are safe during these emergency practices and that we practice for all our safety.

As the weather cools, please ensure that students come to school dressed warmly, as we will continue to have outdoor play and activities. Additionally, with the cold and flu season approaching, please keep your child home if they are unwell, and continue to emphasize good hygiene habits at home.

I want to thank each of you for your continued partnership and support. Together, we are helping our students grow not only academically but also spiritually, as they learn to live out their faith in meaningful ways.

Wishing you and your families a blessed October filled with gratitude and generosity.

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





Notre Dame Staff, Your Partners in Education

Principal	Mrs. Colleen Richard
School Secretary	Mrs. Gen Cabrera
Pastor	Rev. Venerando Sabacan
Kindergarten	Mrs. Alyssa McLain
Grade 1	Mrs. Nikki Chmelyk
Grade 2	Mrs. Dawn Mountifield
Grade 3	Mrs. Nicole Mackrell
Grade 4	Mrs. Sharlene Weingart
Grade 5	Mrs. Shannon McKenzie
Grade 6	Ms. Lindsay Alexander
Grade 7	Mrs. Bradi Willich
French/Library Teacher	Mrs. Brittany Juell
PHE Teacher	Mr. Joshua Haukenfrers
Learning Resource Teacher	Mrs. Jenna Gilbertson
Educational Assistant	Ms. Lorena Wilson
Educational Assistant	Mrs. Shannon Duff
Educational Assistant & Morning Care	Mrs. Allison Bijl
Educational Assistant	Mrs. Keri Giesbrecht
Educational Assistant	Mrs. Marlene Smith
Educational Assistant & After School Care	Mrs. Victoria Dyck
Pre-School ECE	Ms. Patsy Whiting
Custodian	Mrs. Fem Cruz
Bookkeeper	Mr. Nelo Caguitle
Crossing Guard	Mr. Albert Duque
Library Helper	Miss Melissa Allen



October Events



Thursday, Oct. 3rd

Hat & Jeans Day – Bring a Toonie to wear your hat & the money goes to support our foster children

Friday, Oct. 4th

Grade 7 Prayer & Virtue Awards



Friday, Oct. 11th

School Mass Led by Grade 7 @ 11:00 am
Notre Dame Parish



Monday, Oct. 14th

Thanksgiving – No School in Session



Tuesday, Oct. 15th

School Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm

Wednesday, Oct. 16th

Grade 7 Parent Meeting @ 6:30 pm

Thursday, Oct. 17th

Spirit Day – Plaid Day
BC Shake Out – Earthquake Drill Practice

Friday, Oct. 18th

Living Rosary Led by Grade 4



Friday, Oct. 25th

Non-Instructional Day – No School for students

Wednesday, Oct. 30th

Photo Retakes



Thursday, Oct. 31st

Character Day Parade



"Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming our Faith"



Our Faith & Catholic Education



This October, we focus on two powerful virtues: **gratitude** and **generosity**, both of which are deeply connected. Gratitude is about recognizing the blessings in our lives, while generosity, one of the Fruits of the Spirit, is the natural response to that thankfulness. When we appreciate what we have, we are inspired to share our blessings with others.

What is Gratitude?

Gratitude means being thankful for the people, experiences, and gifts around us. It helps us shift our focus from what we lack to what we have.

How Can We Practice Gratitude and Generosity?

1. Gratitude Journals: Write down three things you're grateful for each day.
2. Grateful Conversations: Share something you're thankful for with your family daily.
3. Acts of Generosity: Let your gratitude inspire acts of kindness toward others.
4. Saying Thank You: Remember to express thanks to those who help you.



Why Gratitude and Generosity Matter

Gratitude improves our mood and strengthens relationships, and generosity allows us to share those blessings with others. Let's make these virtues part of our school and home life this month!

This October, let's work together to foster a culture of gratitude in our school and homes. Whether through words, actions, or simply reflecting on the beauty around us, we can all find ways to be more thankful.



Morning & After School Care

Our Morning & Afterschool Care program is available for kindergarten to grade 7 students within our school.

There are 24 spaces available with a ratio of 1 staff member for every 12 children. Our program will provide a beginning and continuation of care for your child before and following their school day. This will include an opportunity for relaxation and dynamic play. Students will have a chance to eat their self-provided afterschool snacks and will be given an opportunity to do quiet activities such as reading, a craft and homework.

Hours of operation

Morning School Care: 7:30 am – 8:30 am

Afterschool Care: 2:45 pm – 5:45 pm.



Applications for the Morning & Afterschool Care Program can be found on our school website or at the school office. There are **drop in days available if we have space**. Please note that drop in days are for random times that a family will need childcare. **Drop-In day fees are for drop ins only**. This means if your child attends on regular schedule our monthly fees apply.

News from Our School Council



- Our next meeting will be on **October 15th 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)



Hello, Families of Notre Dame!

Welcome to Fall! We hope that you have had a wonderful first month of school.

Our monthly meeting along will be held on October 7th at 5:00 pm. We want to create a Fundraising Committee consisting of several parents. If this is something that interests you and you are not able to attend in person, please email ndspsg@cispg.ca.

We wanted to share more information about the Parent Support Group. The School Council established the PSG and operates as a non-profit organization with no personal financial benefit. The purpose of the PSG is to work under the direction of the Notre Dame School Council to provide support to the students, teachers, and Principal to:

- a. Work towards enhancing programs at Notre Dame School for the betterment of the students.
- b. Encourage participation and involvement of parents/guardians and other Notre Dame Parish members.

Through various fundraising efforts and volunteer hours, we are able to help make enhancements to the school, provide treat days to students and staff, and support field trips and fun days for the classrooms.

The 2024/2025 program needs key positions to get started. If you are interested, please email ndspsg@cispg.ca, and a rundown of the positions will be provided. Many hands make light work.

The monthly meetings are an excellent opportunity to come and share ideas, meet other parents, and find out how to support the students, teachers, and school community. We hope to see you there!

“The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.” DeAnn Hollis



Notre Dame Pre-School



Parent Volunteers

VOLUNTEER



Notre Dame's Preschool/Pre-Kindergarten has classes with Ms. Patsy on:

Monday & Tuesday

Morning classes: 8:30am – 11:30am

Afternoon classes: 12:30 pm -3:30 pm

Wednesday & Thursday

Morning classes: 8:30am – 11:30am

Afternoon classes: 12:30 pm -3:30 pm

Fridays

Morning classes only:

8:30 am – 11:30 am



Welcome to Preschool

Volunteers are necessary and very much welcomed within the school and in a variety of ways: classroom helper, hot lunch, field trip, fundraising, and for field trips as supervisors of small groups of students.

All volunteers must complete the CISPG volunteer application form (available at the school office and included in the student application form), sign the confidentiality form, and submit a Criminal Record Check.

Criminal record checks are completed through the RCMP (forms can be found in the office). This takes time, so if interested, fill the forms out at the beginning of the school year. It is a good idea to check each year to see if you are required to do the process again as these must be done every three years.



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Character Day Parade Thursday, Oct. 31st



We are excited to announce that this year for Halloween, Notre Dame is once again hosting our annual “Dress like your favourite Character” Day on Thursday, October 31. On this day, students are invited to come to school dressed up as characters from a favourite book, movie, or show. There is no need to go out and buy a character costume; instead, students are encouraged to gather an assortment of hats, clothing, signs, or other props to create a homemade costume.

For example, to dress like Pippi Longstocking, wear pigtails and long striped socks, or wear jeans with a red and white striped shirt like Waldo.

We will offer an outside parade around the playground if the weather permits. Parents are welcome to come to watch on the playground at 1:00 pm.

To support students’ feelings of safety and security in our building, violent or frightening costumes such as villains or monsters will not be considered acceptable. Additionally, no weapons or dangerous-looking items will be permitted to accompany an outfit. This means students are welcome to dress up as characters like Luke Skywalker, Batman, etc., as long as they do not bring any of their weapon-like accessories.

Below are some examples of both appropriate and inappropriate costumes to better support your child in deciding on a costume:

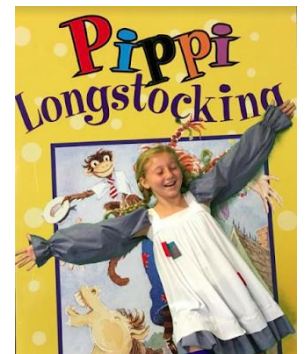
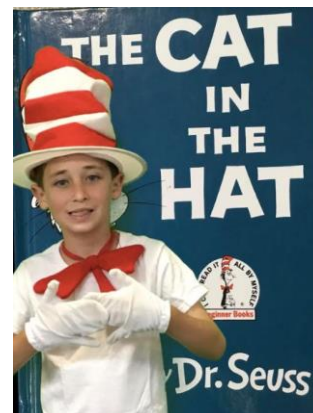
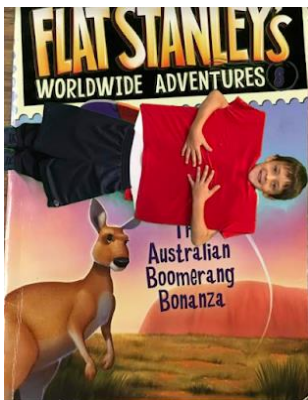
Appropriate Examples

- Fancy Nancy
- Cinderella, Snow White, etc.
- Greg Heffley (the Wimpy Kid)
- Ramona
- Superman, Spiderman, etc.
- Olivia
- Junie B. Jones
- Pippi Longstocking

Inappropriate Examples

- Villains (The Joker, Wicked Ursula, etc.)
- Characters with guns/weapons
- Dracula, or other vampires
- Grim Reaper
- Zombies
- Monsters
- Ghosts

If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to contact your child’s classroom teacher or the office. We are all looking forward to doing something a little different in a new way for our students.



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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

8:40 am

Second bell, gates are locked

8:45 am

Morning announcements & Classes Begin

Recess Breaks:

10:15-10:30

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**.

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.



Allergy 'Aware' School



Notre Dame School is **"Allergy Aware"**.

Please check with your child's classroom teacher for allergy alerts. We encourage families to 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 snack or lunch on the playground for safety reasons such as allergies.



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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