

# GRADE 5 NEWS SEPT 2024

## Special Dates in September

Sept 19 – Photo Day & Meet the Teacher  
Sept 20 – NID  
Sept 27 – Terry Fox Run & Orange Shirt Day  
Sept 30 – Truth & Reconciliation Day

## Special Dates in October

Oct 11 – First Mass  
Oct 14 - Thanksgiving  
Oct 18 – The Living Rosary Prayer  
Oct 31 – Character Day

**Virtue Awards:** One of our goals in Catholic Education is "Helping Children Grow Closer to Jesus." Each month, all classes focus on the same virtue, which will help our children become more kind, loving, and faithful.

September virtue: Hospitality

October virtue: Gratitude

**Agenda:** I ask that students bring their agenda home daily for parents to review and sign each night. Parents/guardians may also use it to communicate with the teacher. We will often write an "Ask me about" sentence. Please ask your child about it! It may reinforce learning, or it might be something interesting that they learned that day. It may help to engage your child in conversations about school.

**Spaces EDU:** If you have not logged in yet, please do so! We will post regular updates, reminders, photos, and student work to keep you engaged in student learning and activities. Feel free to comment and like your child's work! It is meant to be interactive and a positive online environment. I sent an email to each parent with an email address on file. If you would like an invite, please send me your email address.

**Allergies:** Following CISPG policy 329, "Student: Anaphylaxis." Notre Dame School is an Allergy-Aware School. We try to create and maintain a safe environment for children with food allergies. We encourage parents **not** to send foods with nuts and shellfish in grade 5. We have students with allergies to all nuts and shellfish. Please consider peanut-free/nut alternatives for individual student lunches and snacks for our students and staff with food sensitivities/allergies. Students are reminded that snacks and lunch are to be eaten in the classroom. For safety reasons, such as allergies, we cannot eat recess snacks or lunch on the playground.

Some best practices we do in the school setting to be allergen-aware are:

- Students wash their hands before and after lunch.
- Allergy Alert Signs are at all classroom door entrances.
- Students are not to share food.
- Our custodian washes desks down twice throughout the day.

- If a child brings an allergen in their lunch or snack, that child will be moved to eat in an area not generally used by the general student population to have their snack/lunch.
- Notre Dame school staff and our family community are aware of allergies through school and classroom newsletters and SPACES EDU.

**Birthday/Celebration Treats:** Notre Dame students often celebrate their birthdays with their class, and I would like to continue supporting this tradition. I ask that you please give me one week's advance notice so that I have time to notify the families (I will do this via Spaces EDU) and prepare treats for students with allergies and food intolerances. We have sensitivities to gluten, wheat, dairy, nut, eggs, shellfish, and food dye in our classroom this year. Alternately, you could consider sending non-food items such as stickers, pencils, and other fun trinkets.

**Spotlight Student:** Every week, until all students have had a turn, a student's name will be chosen to be in the spotlight for the week. They get to create a personalized bulletin board with photos, awards, art, and anything else that can be hung on a clothespin. They also have special privileges and have a show-and-tell opportunity. The class will ask the spotlight students questions about themselves, and then students will write friendship letters as a grade 5 keepsake. I will have our four new students start since they will benefit most from going first. I will send a notice to families the week before their child's turn. Please note that we will take excellent care of any items coming into school. We will not put holes in pictures or papers. If you email me in advance, I can print photos for you, but they will be of lower quality. Thank you for supporting this class activity!

**Library:** Students can exchange library books every Monday.

**Volunteers:** If you would like to volunteer your time in the classroom, your assistance would be appreciated! We can set up a regular time each week for one-on-one reading, art activity support, or word work - or you can come for special events (field trips, etc.). Please stop by the office for a criminal record check form and volunteer form. Note: processing criminal record checks could take up to two weeks!

**Behaviour Expectations:** Students are given daily reminders about classroom expectations, such as listening, working, and staying in their seats. Students struggling to meet these and other classroom expectations will be spoken to in private first. If their choices continue to disrupt their learning or others, students will be required to complete a reflection sheet to help them analyze their choices in class. The reflection sheet will be sent home for their parent/guardian to review and discuss with them. The next step will be a phone call home to discuss the issue and plan for mitigation. If the above steps fail to help the student meet expectations, then the Principal will be asked to intervene.

### McKenzie Money:

I use McKenzie money to motivate students to engage actively in our classroom community. It provides the opportunity to develop better work habits. It also allows students to connect to real-world experiences such as adding and subtracting, saving money, making changes, and using money to buy objects/services. McKenzie's money is like Monopoly play money. Students can earn dollars by bringing in their agenda signed, following directions, and from payroll each Friday for doing their assigned jobs. They can also lose money by not following class rules, expectations, and other "tax forms." Students can spend their money at the "store" biweekly. They can buy special erasers, pencils, stickers, fun days for the class, the teacher's chair, and much more! Donations to the store are always welcome.

Students are not permitted to use McKenzie money in the following ways:

- to sell items to other students
- to buy items from other students
- to wager on games
- to share or exchange their money (they can pool their money at the time of making a shared purchase)
- any purpose other than buying items directly from the teacher or teacher store.

### Learning Update:

~ Math – Our main focus will be reviewing place value and number sense to 1 million. This will include comparing, ordering, and rounding numbers, as well as mental math addition and subtraction strategies. Next, we will study multiplication and division strategies with whole numbers. Other skills that we will learn and practice are math facts, graphing, and probability.

~ Science – In term 1, we will study body systems' basic structures and functions. This includes the digestive, musculoskeletal, respiratory, and circulatory systems. Students will learn scientific terms, watch videos demonstrating the functions, compare human and animal characteristics, and create hands-on models and diagrams.

~ English Language Arts – Students will enhance their phonics skills and expand their vocabulary through interactive activities that involve decomposing and composing words using prefixes, suffixes, base words, and root words. Students will learn various sentence structures such as compound, dialogue, opinion, past tense, etc. They will then learn how to create structured paragraphs with topic sentences. Through guided reading individually and in small groups, students will study text features, develop visualization skills, and make inferences about text to build comprehension skills. Students will practice oral language skills through our structured small group conversations, spotlight student activities, and during drama games.

~ Social Studies – Students learn the roles of the three levels of government (municipal, provincial, and federal) and study and participate in the election process. Students will be able to describe their rights as Canadian citizens, symbols of government, and the differences in First Nations government.

~ Career Education - Students will develop leadership and teamwork skills while doing comprehensive classroom jobs. In their teams, students will use collaboration, problem-solving, and decision-making skills and contribute to the classroom in meaningful and purposeful ways.

~ Arts Education - This term, the focus is on Canadian artists. Students will study a variety of artist's work and recreate styles using a variety of painting, oil pastel, weaving, and pottery techniques.

~ Christian Education – Students will learn the prayers of the church and talk with and listen to God through a variety of expressions and forms of prayer. Students will study and participate in liturgy and sacraments and practice living in community with others and Jesus.

**Prayer and Mass:** Families are encouraged to attend Prayer assemblies and Mass, which are student-led events. Please arrive before the start time and remember not to bring food or drinks into the gym or church.

**Communication:** I cannot stress enough how important it is to reach out to me when any concerns arise. I am here to answer questions about the classroom and your child's learning. It can also be helpful to let Mrs. Richard or me know if anything outside of school may affect your child. A move, the death of a loved one, or even a tough morning can be addressed with care and understanding by our team at Notre Dame. Thank you so much for your support this year!

I look forward to meeting you all at our Meet-the-teacher event!

Thank You!

Mrs. Shannon McKenzie