



## Notre Dame School

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[www.notredameschool.ca](http://www.notredameschool.ca)

notredame@cispj.ca



# September 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,

Welcome back to a new school year at Notre Dame! As we gather together once again, we are filled with hope, excitement, and gratitude for the opportunity to learn, grow, and share our faith.

This year, we are called to embrace our mission with renewed enthusiasm, guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ. Our theme for this school year is "Celebrating our Faith." Let us remember to love one another, to act with kindness, and to strive for excellence in all that we do.

Our first day of school for students in Kindergarten to grade seven is **Wednesday, September 4, 2024**. It will be a half day of instruction for all grades, with **gates opening at 10:30** and students being **dismissed at 1:45**. On our first day, teachers will be on the playground to meet their students, and from there, the students will enter the school with their classroom teacher. **Morning & After school care** will start on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> for those students registered.

**Pre-school will start on Thursday, September 5, 2024** with Miss. Patsy meeting her students for the morning session starting at 8:30 and then in the afternoon session starting at 12:30. Pre-school students will enter through the main front doors of the school.

We are blessed to be part of such a vibrant and supportive community. Our dedicated teachers are eager to inspire and challenge you, our students, as you embark on this journey of learning and spiritual growth. Parents, your partnership is invaluable, and together, we will nurture the potential in each child, helping them to become compassionate, responsible, and faithful individuals.

As we begin this new school year, let us take a moment to thank God for His many blessings and to pray for His guidance and protection. May the Holy Spirit fill our hearts with joy and wisdom, and may we always seek to follow the path of righteousness.

Welcome back, and may this school year be filled with abundant blessings and fruitful endeavors. Remember that my door is always open to answer questions or listen to any concerns.

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



## Meet the 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	Mrs. Allison Bijl
Educational Assistant	Mrs. Keri Giesbrecht
Educational Assistant	Mrs. Marlene Smith
After School Care Provider	Mrs. Victoria Dyck
Pre-School Teacher	Ms. Patsy Whiting
Custodian	Mrs. Fem Cruz
Bookkeeper	Mr. Nelo Caguitla
Crossing Guard	Mr. Duque
Library Helper	Miss. Allen

### Feeding Futures



We are excited at Notre Dame School to launch with our "Feeding Futures" initiative.

Snack bins will be in classrooms offering fruit, apple sauce, crackers and granola bars daily for those students who may be in need or for those who may need an extra snack to fuel their bodies for learning.



## September Events

### Tuesday, Sept. 3rd

Non Instructional Day, No School for Students  
PSG Meeting at 5:00 pm

### Wednesday, Sept. 4th

Students Back to School, Half Day 10:30 –1:45

### Thursday, Sept. 5th

First Full School Day for Students



### Friday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>

Positive Thinking Day

### Sunday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>

Commissioning of Notre Dame Staff at Notre Dame Parish 10:00 am

### Tuesday, Sept 17th

School Council Meeting at 6:30pm

### Thursday, September 19th

Student Photo Day  
Meet the Teacher Event



### Friday, September 20

Co-Mission Day for Staff, **No School for Students**

### Friday, Sept.27th

Terry Fox Run

Orange Shirt Day - In Reconciliation (Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>) we will recognize of Truth and Reconciliation Day wear orange.

### Monday, September 30th

Truth and Reconciliation Day; No school In Session

## You Are Invited

Notre Dame School's **Meet the Teacher** will be on **Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>**. Please watch for the format for the event at a later date through email and the school website.



*"Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming our Faith"*

## Our Faith & Catholic Education



One of our goals in Catholic Education is "Helping Children Grow Closer to Jesus." This year, Notre Dame will continue with "Virtues in Practice" by learning about the "Fruit of the Holy Spirit". The Kindergarten through Grade Seven students will grow closer to Jesus by imitating His life and practicing the virtues. The school will focus on the same virtue and Fruit of the Holy Spirit each month. These unique qualities grow in our hearts when we live according to God's will. We help our children become kind, loving, and faithful by nurturing these fruit.

Our main objective of continuing our virtue program at Notre Dame is to offer our community, students, teachers, parents, and all staff an opportunity to open themselves up to know, value, practice, and internally analyze the virtues with regular and consistent practice. The main focus is on the practice of specific virtues each month.

Virtue is a desire to have a firm commitment to do the right thing. It allows people to give of themselves without question and to do the right thing for the sake of humanity. Students will be provided ongoing opportunities to practice these virtues daily. The goal is to educate and encourage students to ponder the virtues. This enables the community to make the virtues part of their lifelong habits while allowing them to become influential leaders in all aspects of their character formation.

At the end of each month, we will acknowledge students and staff who have exemplified the month's virtue. Every student and staff member will have been recognized by the end of June.

We are in the second year of our three-year theme, "Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming our Faith." What better way than to continue practicing and modelling the virtues in our daily lives? "Virtues in Practice" will help our students to live out their faith in their everyday lives. In September, we will begin with the virtue of "Hospitality," defined as "making people feel welcome, showing kindness to those who are new or are our guests."



## 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 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 first meeting for this school year will be on **September 17th at 6:30pm**.
- Please check out the School Council link on the school website for more details.



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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, parking lot gate is locked

**8:40 am**

Second bell, bus gate is 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**.



## 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 snack or lunch 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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# News from Our Parent Support Group (PSG)



Welcome to our new school year!

We hope you had an enjoyable summer break. We wanted to introduce the ND Parent Support Group (PSG). The PSG is a group of parents who support the students, families, teachers, EAs and administration throughout the school year. Last year, through a variety of fundraising programs, we were able to host our Annual Carnival, provide various fun days, Catholic Schools Week hot chocolate day, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Lunch, Caught Being Good prizes, Intermediate Ski Trip, classroom field trips, and a school-wide trip to the movie theatre (just to name a few). The various fundraisers that were held (Basket Raffle, Read-A-Thon, apparel orders & Purdy's) raised funds for playground activities, levelled readers, end-of-year activities and much more. If we do not have our incredible and valued parent volunteers, we cannot run effectively and efficiently. We rely on family support through fundraising and volunteering within the school to support and enhance the educational experience for all students, families and staff at Notre Dame.

Another aspect of the PSG is the Hot Lunch Program. We had an excellent hot lunch program last year that we are hoping to continue with this year. We are looking for a volunteer coordinator(s), program coordinator(s) and volunteers to help organize the required food deliveries/prep food. Training will be available for the positions. If we do not have these critical positions filled, the hot lunch program will not be able to run. We will send home information regarding hot lunch volunteers and program assistance within the first few weeks of school.

We want to extend a warm welcome to new families, new teachers and educational assistants who are joining us this year. We look forward to meeting you in the upcoming weeks and wish you a fantastic September!



"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart." Elizabeth Andrew

## VOLUNTEER



## Parent Volunteers

### Notre Dame Student/Family Handbook

We updated the Notre Dame Student/Family Handbook annually in order to provide general information for our new families and to provide important reminders for our "alumni" families. The Notre Dame Student/Family Handbook is available on our school website.

We encourage all of our families (new and returning) to take some time to review the school expectations, general information and Code of Conduct with their children. It is important that as partners in learning, that all partners ~ from our students, to parents and staff, that we all have the same information in order for us to be successful as a team, in ensuring a safe and respectful learning environment.

Volunteers are necessary and very much welcomed within the school and in a variety of ways: classroom helper, hot lunch, field trip, fund raising, 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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