



## Notre Dame School

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



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

notredame@cispg.ca



# December 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 peoples who were not identified specifically in the treaty.***

## Principal's Message

Dear Notre Dame Students and Families,

As we enter the season of Advent, our school is filled with the joy and anticipation of Christmas. It's a beautiful time of year when we reflect on the many blessings in our lives, express gratitude for our vibrant community, and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. This holy season encourages us to slow down, treasure time with loved ones, and share our gifts generously with others, especially those in need.

December is a particularly meaningful month at Notre Dame, filled with activities that help us embrace the true spirit of the season. From Advent prayers and reflections to acts of kindness, holiday concerts, the Christmas Basket Raffle, and various service projects, we're reminded of the power of love, generosity, and community. These events offer us opportunities to come together, to pray, to celebrate, and to make a difference.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our School Council, Parent Support Group and Father Vener. Your unwavering dedication and countless contributions are instrumental in making these events possible and enriching the lives of our students. Whether organizing activities, volunteering time, or offering support, your efforts are deeply appreciated and exemplify the spirit of giving that Advent calls us to embrace. Thank you for being a vital part of our school's mission.

On behalf of our entire staff, I wish you and your loved ones a joyful, peaceful Christmas season and a blessed New Year. May God's light fill your homes with warmth and love, and may the new year bring hope, health, and happiness to each of you.

Thank you for being part of our Notre Dame family. Together, we are building a community rooted in faith, kindness, and love.

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





## December Events



### Sunday, Dec. 1st

First Sunday of Advent - Hope



### Monday, Dec. 2nd

Non-Instructional Day – NO school for students

### Thursday, Dec. 5th

Hat & Jeans Day – Bring a toonie to donate to the Holy Childhood Association



### Friday, Dec. 6th

Gr. 1 Prayer & Peace Virtue Awards



### Sunday, Dec. 8th

Second Sunday of Advent - Peace



### Monday, Dec. 9th

Student Christmas Lunch – School Wide, provided to all students

PSG Meeting at 5:00 pm



### Friday, Dec. 13th

School Mass Led by Grade 5 @ 11:00 am  
Notre Dame Parish

### Sunday, Dec. 15th

Third Sunday of Advent - Joy



### Wednesday, Dec. 18th

Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal @9:30am

Spirit Day – Wear Your Favourite Christmas Sweater



### Thursday, Dec. 19th

Christmas Concert @ 6:30, Doors open at 6:00 pm

### Friday, Dec. 20th

Last Day before Christmas Break – Pajama Day



### Sunday, Dec. 22nd

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love



### Monday, Jan. 6th

First Day Back to School



## Notre Dame Pre-School

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

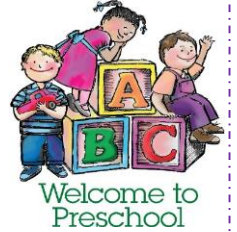
Morning classes: 8:30am – 11:30am

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

### Fridays

Morning classes only:

8:30 am – 11:30 am



## 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.

### 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 a regular schedule our monthly fees apply.



## News from Our School Council



Our next meeting will be on **January 14th at 6:30pm**.

Please check out the School Council link on the school website for more details.



*"Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming our Faith"*





## Our Faith & Catholic Education



As we journey through the Advent season, we are reminded of the virtue of Charity. In our Catholic faith, Charity is the highest form of love, reflecting God's unconditional love for us. It calls us to love others selflessly, generously, and with a pure heart. Charity is also one of the Fruits of the Spirit, growing in us when we open our hearts to God's grace and strive to be instruments of His love.



### What is Charity?

Charity is love in action. It is more than a feeling kindness or compassion; it is actively caring for others, especially those in need. Charity inspires us to give of ourselves, whether through our time, talents, or treasures, and reminds us that every act of love brings us closer to God.

### How Can We Practice Charity?

1. Daily Acts of Love: Start each day by asking God to help you love others as He loves you. Look for opportunities to show kindness, even in small ways.
2. Serving Others: Be generous with your time and efforts, whether helping a friend, comforting a family member, or volunteering in your community.
3. Forgiving Freely: Practice Charity by forgiving others, even when it's difficult, and by seeking reconciliation.
4. Sharing Joy: Offer encouragement and share joy with those around you, especially those who may feel lonely or forgotten.

### Why Charity Matters?

Charity transforms our hearts and our world. It deepens our connection with God and reflects His love to others. By practicing Charity, we bring hope and healing to those in need, and we create a more compassionate and just community. Charity teaches us that true love seeks not to be served but to serve, following the example of Jesus Christ.

This December, let us embrace Charity in all we do. Through acts of generosity, kindness, and love, we can become living witnesses of God's boundless love. May the spirit of Charity guide our hearts and actions, reminding us that "God is love" (1 John 4:8), and when we love one another, we honor Him.



## Virtue & Fruits of the Spirit Awards for October



Congratulations to all the students and staff who have received awards and to each of you for helping us practice the virtue of **GRATITUDE** and Fruit of the Spirit of **GENEROSITY**.

**Kindergarten Awards:** Olivia Berry, Kolson Mingo

**Grade One Awards:** Vayda Judge-Dokken, Lizzie Noegel

**Grade Two:** Benjamin Manson, Prince Liam Lhiam Samenada

**Grade Three:** Luna Hora, Norie Rorison

**Grade Four:** Tatum Erickson, Matthew Maher, Nico Maniego

**Grade Five:** Ramon Abraham Arevalo, Arya Wulff

**Grade Six:** Kristelle Chole Almonguera, Tenley Juell, Liam Kropp

**Grade Seven:** Marco Billones, Jase Martin

**Staff:** Brittany Juell, Patsy Whiting, Nicole Mackrell



*"Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming Our Faith"*







## Christmas Concert



### CONCERT DETAILS:

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18th:** There will be a 9:30 am rehearsal practice with all students watching the other grades performing and practicing.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19th:** For the evening concert, it will begin at **6:30pm**. Students are asked to arrive to their classrooms at **6:00pm** through the gym doors. The gym doors on Tenth Street will be opened at **6:00pm** for families to enter and find seats in the gymnasium for the concert performance. Students will go straight to their classrooms.

**WHAT TO WEAR:** Students are asked to wear their 'Sunday Best.'



## Weather & Outside Time



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 properly for the weather and can enjoy the outside.

## Lost & Found



Our lost & found bin is quite full. **We will be displaying all of the lost & found items in our downstairs hallway Wednesday—Friday of the last week before holidays (December 18th to 20th).** Please take a look to see if any of these items belong to your child.



## Special Student Lunch



As part of our "Feeding Futures" initiative we are excited to share that on **Monday, December 9th** a special lunch will be providing for all our students. This meal is a wonderful opportunity for our school community to gather in the spirit of warmth and celebration.

**The menu will include:**  
Roasted Turkey  
Creamy Mashed Potatoes  
Seasonal Vegetables  
Savory Gravy



We hope this meal will be a delightful treat for the students as we continue to foster a sense of togetherness.

If your child has **specific dietary restrictions** or allergies, please let us know by Wednesday, Dec. 4th so we can make the necessary accommodations. **If your child chooses not to eat the provided meal choice, please send a lunch for your child on that day to eat. All students will be eating in the gym together.**

Thank you for your continued support in making our school a welcoming and inclusive place for all. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to the school office.



## Report Cards



Report Cards will be sent home in the last week of December. There is a **parent signature page** in the report card envelope. Please sign and return the signature page with your child's envelope to the school.

## Service Project – School Virtue



*Charity is loving one another as Jesus loves us, helping to provide for the needs of others.*

Students and families are asked to send in canned and/or boxed goods for Christmas Cheer this year to share with those in need. We will gather the goods in the boxes outside the office.



*Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming Our Faith*





## News from Our Parent Support Group (PSG)



Happy Holidays, Families of Notre Dame,

Our basket raffle fundraiser is underway! We are extremely thankful for all the donations that helped build the baskets. They look AMAZING! Students are responsible for selling raffle tickets and are required to return all tickets to the school in order for us to be able to draw for the prizes properly. All tickets sold and unsold must be handed in by December 9th at the latest. The baskets will be drawn for the in-person Christmas Concert on December 19th, 2024, this year.

Thank you to all who participated in the Purdy's Fundraiser! Your continued support for this 'sweet' fundraiser is greatly appreciated. Our total sales were \$ 16,884.50, resulting in a fundraising profit of \$ 4,434.81.

We are thrilled to announce that our heartfelt project, the 2024 Notre Dame Cookbook, has been printed and is on its way to our school! In each book, you will find over 250 recipes that families have submitted. This cookbook is more than just a collection of recipes; it celebrates the love, traditions and flavours that define our families and bring us together. We have limited quantities coming to us, and we are placing a pre-order so you can have your copy before the holidays. Copies are \$25/per book, with funds raised for classroom requests and field trips. Order forms will come home.

We wish all students, parents, guardians, teachers, support staff and administration a wonderful holiday season. We wish you all abundant health & wellness, happiness & laughter, and peace & renewed strength for the upcoming year.



The Notre Dame Parent Support Group



Merry  
Christmas



*Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming Our Faith"*



## 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.



*"Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming Our Faith"*

