



Notre Dame School

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November 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 month of November, we are reminded of the beauty of reflection and gratitude. The leaves may be falling, and the days growing shorter, but this time of year offers us a moment to pause and appreciate the many blessings in our lives.

November is a special month in our Catholic faith as we celebrate All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, honouring the saints and remembering our loved ones who have gone before us. These celebrations encourage us to reflect on our call to holiness and deepen our connection with God and one another. Let us continue to lift each other in prayer, remembering that we are all part of a larger community of faith and love.

This month, we are also excited to host Student-Led Conferences where students can share their learning journeys with their parents. These conferences are an excellent way for students to take pride in their growth and accomplishments as they reflect on their learning, set goals, and demonstrate their understanding. We are proud of how our students take ownership of their education and develop important skills like self-reflection, responsibility, and communication. We encourage parents to engage with their children during these conferences, celebrating both the successes and the stretches that are a natural part of learning.

As we journey through November, let us reflect on the gift of community—our students, teachers, staff, and families—and appreciate the ways God's love is present in our daily lives. I encourage each of us to continue nurturing this spirit of faith and service, growing closer to Christ and one another.

May this month be filled with peace, reflection, and spiritual growth for us all. Let us continue to walk together in faith, united in God's love.

God bless you and your families

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





November Events



Friday, Nov. 1st

Grade 6 Prayer & Virtue Awards



Monday, Nov. 4th

PSG Meeting & AGM @ 5:00 pm

Thursday, Nov. 7th

Hat & Jeans Day – Bring a toonie for our Foster Children in Haiti

Friday, Nov. 8th

School Mass Led by Grade 6 @ 11:00 am
Notre Dame Parish



Monday, Nov. 11th

Remembrance Day – No School in Session
Multiculturalism Week



Tuesday, Nov. 12th

Grade 3 Remembrance Day Prayer



Friday Nov. 15th

Louis Riel Day

Tuesday, Nov. 19th

School Council Zoom Meeting @ 6:30 pm

Wednesday, Nov. 20th & Thursday, Nov. 21st

Student Led Conferences – Early Dismissal at 1:45



Thursday, Nov. 21st

Spirit Day – Wear your Notre Dame Apparel

Nov. 18th to Nov. 22nd

Book Fair

Friday, Nov. 22nd

Grade 5 Prayer



Friday, Nov. 29th

Grade 2 Pray



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 regular schedule our monthly fees apply.



News from Our School Council

- Our next meeting will be on **November 19th on Zoom 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 move into November, we reflect on the virtue of **Peace**. In our Catholic faith, **Peace** is more than the absence of conflict—it is a deep sense of harmony that comes from trusting in God’s presence and love. Peace is also one of the Fruits of the Spirit, and it grows in our hearts when we live with faith and seek to understand and love others.

What is Peace?

Peace begins within us when we feel calm and assured in God’s care. It means having a still heart, even when the world around us is busy or challenging. Peace allows us to approach life with kindness, patience, and understanding.



How Can We Practice Peace?

1. Daily Prayer: Spend time in quiet prayer each day, asking God to fill your heart with Peace.
2. Peacemaking: Be a peacemaker at school and home by choosing forgiveness over anger and listening to others with an open heart.
3. Mindful Moments: Take moments of silence throughout your day to reconnect with God’s Peace, especially when things feel overwhelming.
4. Acts of Calm and Kindness: Bring Peace to others through gentle words and compassionate actions, especially when others are upset.

Why Peace Matters?

Peace strengthens our relationship with God and others. It helps us respond to challenges with grace and patience and creates an environment of love and understanding in our homes and schools. When we practice Peace, we invite God’s presence into our lives and share that presence with everyone around us.

This November, let’s focus on cultivating **Peace** in our hearts and communities. Whether through prayer, quiet reflection, or acts of kindness, we can bring God’s Peace to life each and every day.



Virtue & Fruits of the Spirit Awards for September



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

- Kindergarten Awards:** Harlon Shipton, Lane Oman
Grade One Awards: Eva Burgess, Safrina Dimapilis, Jillian Maher
Grade Two: Henry Giesbrecht, Connor Hachey, Nisha Sandu
Grade Three: Bronwyn Fontaine, Sylvia Misner, Summer Stevens
Grade Four: Mico Pascual, Layla Nguyen, Adalynn Gatchell
Grade Five: Nikolaas Voss, Holt Brigden, Aurora Feddema
Grade Six: Crickett Fossum, Maddie Wright, Ryder Floriant
Grade Seven: Sahiba Sandhu, Kolbie Brochu
Staff: Shannon Duff, Keri Giesbrecht



“Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming Our Faith”





News from Our Parent Support Group (PSG)



Hello, Families of Notre Dame!

October was a busy month, wasn't it?! Welcome to November! We are very happy that Hot Lunch has returned! Thank you to the coordinators and volunteers who have made this happen. It is greatly appreciated! **Reminder: if you hope to volunteer within the school, ensure your criminal record check is current. If it has lapsed, or you do not have one completed, you can ask Mrs Cabrera for forms at the office.**

THANK YOU to those who sent recipes for the **Notre Dame Cookbook Project!** We received over 200 beloved recipes and are in the process of editing and final approval. We will run a pre-order for them shortly, so please watch for correspondence coming home.

PSG kicked off our annual Holiday Purdy's fundraiser in October. Purdy's is the Top Canadian Chocolatier known for its wide variety of tasty chocolate products made with 100% sustainable cocoa and premium ingredients. Purdy's makes an excellent gift for friends, families, co-workers, employees and teachers! A reminder that all orders are due back by November 25th, 2024.

Remember that the Customer Number to use is **53779**, and the campaign is called **NDS 2024 CHRISTMAS.**



Basket Raffle 2024

It is that time of year when we begin collecting items for one of our **FAVOURITE** school fundraisers. Each classroom is responsible for collecting **NEW** items for a designated gift basket. Each child is asked to contribute an item(s) with at least a \$10-\$15 value. Alternatively, a monetary donation can be made, allowing an item to be purchased for the basket. Students will bring home raffle tickets to sell to family and friends in December. Please have your item or cash brought to the classroom by November 15th, 2024, to ensure our basket raffle is successful.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will occur on November 12th at 5:00 pm. We will be hosting our AGM and our regular monthly meeting.

"Choose to be optimistic, it feels better" - Dalai Lama.



Student –Led Conferences



Book Fair



Student-Led Conferences will be held on **Wednesday, Nov. 20 and Thursday, Nov. 21st.** Students will be dismissed early at **1:45** on both days to allow for conferencing with families.

Conferences will be in person this year, with two families booked every 30 minutes. Starting at 2:15 to 7:00pm each day.

Students will need to be present with their families to lead the conference and then meet with the classroom teacher to discuss, answer questions and set goals for moving forward with the student.

Please watch for an email from the school to sign up for your specific time for your conference in the up coming.

The **Notre Dame School book fair** is back from November 18 - 22 in the Maker Space room downstairs.

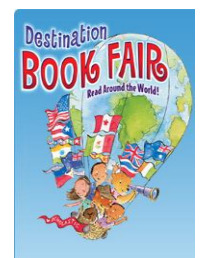
Times:

Lunch Recess (12:00 - 12:25) on:

- Monday
- Tuesday
- Friday

During Student Led Conferences

- Wednesday & Thursday



Thank you for your support. Each classroom gets to choose books for their classroom library as a result of your support!



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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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