



## 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



# January 2025 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, Chipewyan, and other Indigenous peoples who were not identified specifically in the treaty.***

## Principal's Message

Dear Notre Dame Students and Families,

Happy New Year! As we begin 2025, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible energy, faith, and creativity that our students bring to our school community every day. It's their voices, ideas, and actions that inspire us to grow and become better together.

January is a time for new beginnings—a fresh opportunity to deepen your faith, set meaningful goals, and strengthen your relationships with God and one another. I encourage each of you to take a moment to reflect: How can I grow in my faith this year? What steps can I take to be a better friend, student, or leader? How can I use my gifts to serve others?

This month, we'll work together as a school family to set goals, celebrate progress, and support one another. Remember, no goal is too small when it comes to building good habits, sharing kindness, or growing in our love for Christ. When you face challenges, lean into your faith, trust in God's plan for you, and remember that you are supported by a community that believes in you.

To our parents and guardians, thank you for the many ways you encourage your children to live out their faith and values. Together, we are helping them become the leaders and disciples God calls them to be.

As we celebrate the start of this new year, let us be guided by the words of Philippians 4:13, *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”* Together, let us strive to make this year one of growth, grace, and service to others.

May this year be one of growth, service, and blessings for each of you. Please remember that my door is always open to answer questions or listen to concerns.

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





## January Events



### Monday, Jan 6th

First Day Back to School  
PSG Meeting at 5:00 pm



### Thursday, Jan. 9th

Hat & Jeans Day – Bring a Toonie to donate to our Foster Children



### Friday, Jan. 10th

School Mass Led by Gr. 4 @ 11:00 am, Notre Dame Parish

### Thursday, Jan. 16th

Spirit Day – January Blues – Dress in Blue



### Friday, Jan. 17th

Kindergarten Prayer & Virtue Awards at 9:00 in the school gymnasium



### Friday, Jan. 24th

Gr. 7 Prayer



### Monday, Jan. 27

Read-A-thon Starts



### Thursday, Jan. 30

Intermediate Ski Trip to Bear Mountain

### Friday, Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>

NI Day – No School for Students

## Kindergarten Registration



Notre Dame is excited to welcome **new Kindergarten students for the 2024-2025 school year.**

Any child who will be 5 years of age on or before December 31, 2025 may register. The Registration Package is available on Notre Dame schools website and at the school office. At Notre Dame, Kindergarten establishes a strong foundation for lifelong learning, as the teacher provides dynamic, play-based opportunities to help each child grow and learn. We focus on the whole child socially, emotionally, academically, and spiritually.

Once the school receives the registration package from families, interviews will be set up. Interviews will start the first week of February.



## Feeding Futures

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

Various fruit, apple sauce, crackers and granola bars will continue to be available in a snack box in each classroom daily.



## 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.



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As we enter January, we reflect on the **virtue** of **courage**. Courage is the strength to do what is right, even when it is difficult. It helps us trust in God's presence and face challenges with faith and determination. Alongside courage, we focus on **self-control**, one of the **Fruits of the Spirit**. Self-control allows us to act with intention, making thoughtful choices rather than reacting impulsively. Together, courage and self-control guide us in living with strength, grace, and integrity.

**What is Courage?** Courage means having the strength to stand up for what is good and true, even when we are afraid. It is trusting that God is with us in every moment and will give us the strength we need.

**What is Self-Control?** Self-control means choosing our words and actions carefully, even when emotions are strong. It allows us to pause, think, and respond in ways that reflect God's love.

### How Can We Practice Courage and Self-Control?

- 1. Daily Prayers for Strength:** Ask God to help you face your challenges with courage and patience.
- 2. Facing Fears:** When you feel afraid or nervous, take a deep breath, say a prayer, and take a brave step forward.
- 3. Choosing Kindness:** Practice self-control by responding to others with kindness, even when it is hard to do.
- 4. Pausing Before Acting:** Take a moment to stop and think before you speak or act, ensuring your choices reflect love and respect.

### Why Courage and Self-Control Matter

Courage allows us to face difficulties with faith and strength, while self-control helps us stay calm and make wise choices. Together, they help us grow in confidence, strengthen our relationships, and reflect God's goodness to those around us.

This January, let's focus on living with courage and practicing self-control at school and at home. Through prayer, thoughtful actions, and trust in God, we can grow in strength and become examples of faith and love for others.



Living,  
**CELEBRATING,**  
and Proclaiming  
**OUR FAITH**



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## Virtue & Fruits of the Spirit Awards for November

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

**Kindergarten Awards:** Jacky Mattson

**Grade One Awards:** Emery Franke, Alexa Maming, Alvin Ogueli

**Grade Two:** Amari Caparros, Leila Giesbrecht, Nathan Maming

**Grade Three:** Kalyna Depositar, Jaden Ogueli, Kobey Premack

**Grade Four:** Orion Liddle, Thomas Madge

**Grade Five:** William Knutson, Hudson Kurjata, Charlotte Nguyen

**Grade Six:** Hayden Fontaine, Brynn Kishkan, Blake Lazinchuk

**Grade Seven:** Summer Bijl, Francis Justado, Shannen Termulo

**Staff:** Lindsay Alexander



## 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.



## 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



Welcome to Preschool

## 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.**



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## News from Our Parent Support Group (PSG)



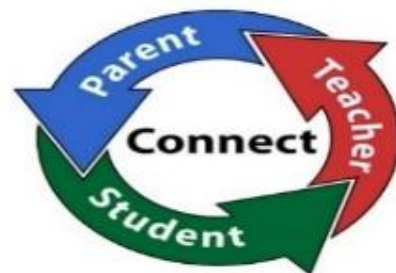
Hello Families of Notre Dame,

Welcome to 2025! We wish you joy and peace for the New Year, along with renewed strength and hope. We wanted to take time once again to thank all who participated in the Purdy's Fundraiser. Prizes were awarded to our TOP THREE fundraising sales. First Place was the Grade Two Classroom, Second Place was Tolor Gies (Grade 7), and Third Place was the Martin Family. Congratulations once again to all our fundraising families. Thank you too to the volunteers who organized, sorted, and handed out a large chocolate order. It was very "sweet" of all who helped in all aspects of this fundraiser.

Our annual Basket Raffle was also a great success! We thank all families for donating to the baskets and send our CONGRATULATIONS to each basket winner! We thank the volunteers who helped ensure that our traditional Christmas Fundraiser was a success this school year. The collection, sorting, purchasing and wrapping each basket is a HUGE undertaking, and we are very thankful for all the hours you put in to make it a success. Additionally, we are thankful for all those who participated in selling tickets, helping make it a successful event.

The winners are as follows:

Kindergarten basket "Boy Oh Boy!" - Brandi Smith  
Grade One basket "Girl Power!" - Doreen Alfonso  
Grade Two basket "Handsome and Handy" - Trina Bassett  
Grade Three basket "Lucky Lady" - Brandy Tower  
Grade Four basket "Busy Basket" - Lou Duperron  
Grade Five basket "Paws & Claws" - Beng Estable  
Grade Six basket "Family Night" - Karen Mitton  
Grade Seven basket "Sweet Tooth" - Peter Lavandier



We have our 6th Annual Read-a-thon starting up this month! This is a fun literacy event in which students participate by reading as often and as much as they can for one month. In addition to reading, students collect pledges to raise money for Nelson Levelled Readers used in the primary reading program and books that will support the intermediate classroom literacy programs. Checklists/Sheets to encourage reading will be coming home mid-month. These will be checked/kept track of weekly to enter students' names into draw boxes for weekly draws for prizes for all grades. To date our Read-A-Thons have raised almost \$53,000!!! We are excited for this fundraiser to get underway. Information will be coming home soon with students.

We also wanted to take a moment to say THANK YOU to our Hot Lunch group. We are extremely thankful to the Hot Lunch team for organizing, implementing, and preparing the food for each classroom this year. It is wonderful to have it available for our school. In addition, we are very thankful for the Grade Seven students for their assistance. They have been delivering the food coolers to each class and handing out lunch to the students. We are extremely impressed with the leadership and level of responsibility that they show each hot lunch day and are incredibly happy to have them working as part of the Hot Lunch team.

The Notre Dame PSG



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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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