



## Notre Dame School

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notredame@cispg.ca



# March 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,

As we enter the month of March, we are reminded of the beautiful season of Lent—a time of reflection, prayer, and renewal. This sacred season begins with **Shrove Tuesday** on March 4th, a day traditionally marked by the sharing of pancakes as we prepare our hearts for the solemn journey of Lent. The following day, on **Ash Wednesday**, we will receive ashes as a visible sign of our faith, reminding us to “turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.”

Lent invites us to grow closer to God through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. As a school community, we will encourage our students to embrace acts of kindness, generosity, and self-discipline, following the example of Jesus. Together, let us support one another in this journey of faith, guiding our children to live with compassion and love.

### Spring Break – March 17–28

As we journey through Lent, we also look forward to a well-deserved **Spring Break** from **March 17 to 28**. This time provides an opportunity for rest, renewal, and family time. We encourage students to take this break to relax, enjoy time outdoors, and continue growing in faith through prayer and acts of kindness.

We pray that all our families have a safe and refreshing break, and we look forward to welcoming our students back, re-energized and ready for the remainder of the school year.

May this Lenten season be a time of grace and transformation for your family. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in nurturing the spiritual and academic growth of our students.

Remember that my door is always open to answer questions or listen to any concerns.

Wishing you God's blessings,

God Bless,  
Your Partner in Education  
C. Richard



## March Events



**Monday, Mar 3rd**

PSG Meeting @ 5:00 am



**Tuesday, Mar 4<sup>th</sup>**

Shrove Tuesday



**Wednesday, Mar 5<sup>th</sup>**

Ash Wednesday - Mass at 11:00 at Notre Dame Parish



**Thursday, Mar 6<sup>th</sup>**

Hat & Jeans Day -Bring a toonie to support our Foster Children in Haiti

**Friday, Mar 7<sup>th</sup>**

Gr. 4 Prayer Service & Virtue Awards @ 9:00 am, Notre Dame Gym  
Basketball Tournament



**Saturday, Mar 8<sup>th</sup>**

Basketball Tournament



**Tuesday, Mar. 11<sup>th</sup>**

School Council Meeting @ 6:30

**Thursday, Mar. 13<sup>th</sup>**

Spirit Day – Pre-Saint Patrick's Day Fun Dress in Green



**Friday, Mar. 14<sup>th</sup>**

Gr. 2 Mass @ 11:00 am, Notre Dame Parish  
Second Term Report Cards Go Home



**Monday, Mar. 17<sup>th</sup> to Friday, Mar.28<sup>th</sup>**

Spring Break

**Monday, Mar. 31<sup>st</sup>**

Return to School after the Spring Break  
NET Workshop with the Grade 7 Class



## News

### from Our School Council

- Our first meeting for this school year will be on **March 11th at 6:30 pm.**
- Please check out the School Council link on the school website for more details.

## NET Team



### Notre Dame School Community Members

A team of seven young Catholics will be visiting Notre Dame School and ministering to our grade 6 & 7 students at the end of the month! The NET team will be in Dawson Creek starting the evening of Mar. 30 to Apr. 1st.

We are in need of food donations while they are in Dawson Creek and food to send with them on their travels to the next CISPG school after they leave us! **If you are interested in being a part of this missionary initiative by helping provide for the food needs of our NET Team please contact Mrs. Richard (250-782-4923 or [crichard@cispg.ca](mailto:crichard@cispg.ca)).**



## Feeding Futures



We are excited at Notre Dame School to continue 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.

## Shrove Tuesday



The PSG will provide a Pancake Lunch for all students and staff on Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. A special thank you to the PSG and the Knights of Columbus, who also offered to help prepare the lunch.

We hope this meal will be a delightful treat for the students as we continue to foster a sense of togetherness. **If your child chooses not to eat the pancake lunch provided, please send your child lunch that day.**



"Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming our Faith"





# Our Faith & Catholic Education



As we enter **March**, we reflect on the virtue of **forgiveness**. Forgiveness allows us to let go of hurt and offer grace to others, just as God continually forgives us. It teaches us to seek reconciliation and to heal relationships through love and understanding. Alongside forgiveness, we focus on **patience**, one of the Fruits of the Spirit. Patience helps us trust God's timing, remain calm in difficulties, and show compassion to those around us. Together, these virtues guide us to live with mercy and perseverance daily.

## What is Forgiveness?

Forgiveness means letting go of anger and resentment and choosing to show kindness and understanding instead. It reflects God's mercy and invites peace into our hearts and relationships.

## What is Patience?

Patience is the ability to wait peacefully, trusting that God is at work in all things. It reminds us to respond to challenges gracefully and treat others with gentleness, even in difficult moments.

## How Can We Practice Forgiveness and Patience?

- **Letting Go of Grudges:** Practice forgiveness by offering a kind word or a fresh start to someone who has hurt you.
- **Taking a Deep Breath:** Cultivate patience by pausing before reacting, especially in frustrating situations.
- **Encouraging Second Chances:** Recognize that everyone makes mistakes and offer support rather than judgment.
- **Trusting in God's Plan:** When things don't happen as expected, practice patience by trusting God's perfect timing.

## Why Forgiveness and Patience Matter

Forgiveness brings healing and peace to our hearts, strengthening our relationships with others. Patience allows us to navigate life's challenges with faith and resilience. Together, they teach us to live with kindness, understanding, and a spirit of grace. Let's embrace these virtues in our schools, homes, and communities this March. By practicing forgiveness and patience, we reflect God's love and create a more compassionate world.



## Virtue & Fruits of the Spirit Awards for Courage & Self-Control

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

- Kindergarten Awards:** Mayz Cline, Shanley Lindberg
- Grade One Awards:** Mikel Bryson, Eloise Feddema, Layton Green
- Grade Two:** Ezekiel Erickson, Shay Morgan, Bria Stevens
- Grade Three:** Audrey Floriant, Mia Fossum
- Grade Four:** Zylar Hunter, Tristan Miana, Xander Pulver
- Grade Five:** Kale Depositari, Emelia Morgan
- Grade Six:** Archer Brigden, Sage Erickson, Samantha Soles
- Grade Seven:** Alick Liddle, William Steward, Joe Voss
- Staff:** Mrs. D and Mrs. Willich



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# News from Our Parent Support Group (PSG)



Hello Notre Dame Families!

The 2025 Read-A-Thon is completed, and we are SO pleased to share that the total pledges raised were \$ 8182.50!!! We want to extend our most heartfelt and sincere thanks and appreciation to all the students, families, and teachers who participated and contributed to the success of this year's fundraising event. To date, our annual Read-A-Thon has raised a total of \$60.852.97, which is INCREDIBLE!!

The top students and classes are as follows:

TOP PRIMARY STUDENT is Korbin Groebmair, who has raised \$545.00!

TOP INTERMEDIATE STUDENT is Jolene Weingart, who has raised a total of \$ 1600.00!

TOP PRIMARY CLASS was GRADE THREE, and the class total was raised by \$ 1510.00!

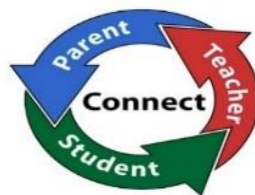
TOP INTERMEDIATE CLASS was GRADE SIX, and the class total raised was \$ 2350.00!

The PSG also acknowledged and awarded the Top Five pledge raisers for their hard work and contributions in both primary and intermediate. Thank you to Faking Sanity for their generous donation of matching the amounts of gift certificates purchased by the PSG to their wonderful book/yarn store. Thank you to Panago for the pizza coupon donation. Congratulations once again to all. Many books and hours of reading were tracked throughout the fundraising period. We want to thank all the students and families who participated.

The PSG provided Hot Chocolate Day to celebrate Catholic Schools Week and a pancake and sausage lunch for all students and staff in honour of Shrove Tuesday! Thank you to the volunteers who helped make these two days happen. We would not be able to have days where we can give back to the students and staff if we did not have those who take time out of their days to organize, order and pick up supplies & prepare and serve the treats. We appreciate the students, teachers, educational assistants and administration of Notre Dame so very much and enjoy being able to share our appreciation for them through days of celebration.

We will soon have the next wave of Hot Lunch ordering available. Thank you to the volunteers who organize the Hot Lunch program and those who volunteer their time to help make hot lunch a success! Thank you to the Grade Seven students who delivered and handed out hot lunch in the classrooms. With the support and dedication of volunteers, we will be able to continue to bring many fun activities to the school.

Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love.” – Lao Tzu



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## Weather & Outside Time



We know the weather is changing, and we will have some nicer days with puddles and sunshine. Please dress your child accordingly. Dressing in layers is helpful on those days that might start cold and warm up. Have your child bring a sweater, jacket and maybe rubber boots for those rainy days. Preparing for the changing temperatures ensures our students dress appropriately for the weather and enjoy the outside.



## 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.**



## Hallow App



As a reminder, parents can download Hallow on their own devices and pray with their students all Lent long. Here's how:

1. Goto <https://access.hallow.com/redeem/code>
2. Enter the following promo code:  
•NotreDameCISPGstudents2425



## 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

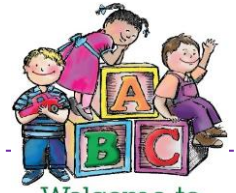
Morning classes: 8:30am – 11:30am

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

### Fridays

Morning classes only:

8:30 am – 11:30 am



Welcome to  
Preschool



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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**

The 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 3:00 pm, 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. We encourage families to consider peanut/nut alternatives for individual student lunches and snacks out of consideration 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.



## 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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