



Notre Dame School

925 – 104th Ave, Dawson Creek, BC, V1G 2H8

Phone : 250-782-4923 Fax : 250-782-4388

www.notredameschool.ca

notredame@cispg.ca



May 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 welcome the month of May, we are invited into a special time of reflection and devotion in our Catholic faith. May is traditionally dedicated to **Our Blessed Mother, Mary**, who is a model of faith, humility, and grace for all of us. Her life reminds us of the beauty of trusting fully in God and saying "yes" to His call with an open heart.

Throughout this month, our students will have opportunities to honour Mary through prayer, song, and participation in Marian devotions such as the Rosary. These moments are rich in tradition and offer our children a chance to grow closer to Mary and deepen their relationship with her Son, Jesus.

May also brings with it the beautiful celebration of **Mother's Day**, a time to give thanks for the incredible women in our lives—our mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, and all who nurture and love with a mother's heart. Just as Mary tenderly cared for Jesus, the love and selflessness shown by our mothers is a reflection of God's unwavering care for us. We offer prayers of gratitude for all the mothers in our community and ask Mary, our heavenly mother, to bless them with strength, joy, and peace. May they always know how deeply they are appreciated and loved.

As we near the end of the school year, I want to thank all of you—our parents, guardians, and families—for your continued support, partnership, and prayers. Your dedication helps foster a strong, faith-filled community where each child is known, loved, and encouraged to grow spiritually, academically, and personally.

Let us continue to pray for one another during this busy season, especially those preparing for important milestones such as Confirmation. May we all take a moment to pause, appreciate the blessings around us, and carry the peace and presence of Christ into our homes and hearts.

Wishing you and your family a joyful, grace-filled month of May—and a very happy and blessed Mother's Day to all the mothers in our community.

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

God Bless,
Your Partner in Education
C. Richard



May Events

Thursday, May 1st

Hat & Jeans Day -Bring a toonie to support our Fundraiser for the Moller Family

Friday, May 2nd

Kindergarten Prayer Service & Virtue Awards @ 9:00 am, Notre Dame Gym

Monday, May 5th

Non-Instructional Day – NO SCHOOL for students

Tuesday, May 6th

Wish Bone Day – Osteogenesis Day - Wear Yellow

Friday, May 9th

Kindergarten & Grade 7 Mass @ 11:00 am, Notre Dame Parish

Sunday, May 11th

Mother's Day

Monday, May 12th

PSG Meeting @ 5:00 pm

Thursday, May 15th

Spirit Day – Rodeo Day, Dress for the West

Friday, May 16th

Gr. 6 Prayer Service @ 9:00 am
Kindergarten Orientation

Monday, May 19th

Victoria Day – No School for students

Tuesday, May 20th

School Council Meeting @ 6:30

Friday, May 23rd

Gr. 1 Prayer Service @ 9:00 am

Thursday, May 29 – Saturday, May 31st

Grade 7 Soccer Trip to PG
Gr. 4 & Gr. 5 Class Trip

Friday, May 30

Gr. 5 Prayer Service @ 9:00

Parent Support Group

Hello, Families of Notre Dame!

The final round of Hot Lunch will start this month. The ND PSG wants to thank all who work together to offer this to students and staff. Without the collective efforts of the parents, it would not be feasible to have Hot Lunch. Thank you!

Looking towards the end of the year, there will be opportunities for parent volunteers to help with field trips, primary Fun Day, and more. Please ensure you have a current Criminal Record check. Once completed, it is valid for three years.

Special thanks to the Knights of Columbus for their generous monetary donation to the PSG, which will go towards field trips for the classes. Their support is greatly appreciated.

Have a wonderful month!

The ND PSG



Wish Bone Day

AWARENESS MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

National OI Awareness Week is May 3rd – 10th, 2025 It is a week to bring awareness and share information OI and share stories of those with Osteogenesis Imperfecta. OI affects 1 in every 15,000 people worldwide. This is the third year that the City of Dawson Creek has made a proclamation for OI week and Wishbone Day!

Did you know that there are fewer than 10,000 cases of **Osteogenesis Imperfecta** in Canada each year? OI is a genetic condition where the body does not produce the proper amount, or quality of collagen for bones. Type 1 collagen is a protein that is what makes bones strong and 'flexible'. There are eight different types of OI that vary greatly both within and between types.

OI is NOT a mineral deficiency

IN HONOUR OF WISHBONE DAY 2025, WEAR YELLOW ON MAY 6th! Yellow is the colour chosen for WISHBONE DAY because it SHINES with OPTIMISM and carries the PROMISE of a POSITIVE future!



"Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming our Faith"





Our Faith & Catholic Education



As we enter May, we reflect on the Virtue of compassion and the Fruit of the Spirit of gentleness.





Compassion calls us to open our hearts to the struggles and needs of others. It means noticing pain, offering comfort, and being moved to action by love. Compassion reminds us that every person carries a story, and that kindness can bring healing, hope, and connection in even the smallest moments.

Gentleness is the quiet strength of treating others with care and respect. It shows up in our words, actions, and how we carry ourselves in difficult moments. Through gentleness, we become a calming presence, offering peace where there is tension and love where there is hurt.

What is Compassion? Compassion means seeing the suffering of others and being moved to help. It's feeling with others, whether in sorrow or joy, and acting with love and mercy.

What is Gentleness? Gentleness is responding to others with kindness, calmness, and care. It's strength wrapped in softness, choosing to bring peace instead of pressure.

How Can We Practice Compassion and Gentleness?

-  **Being Present for Others:** Take time to listen and offer support when someone is struggling.
-  **Using Kind Words:** Speak with love, even when it's hard or emotions run high.
-  **Helping with a Tender Heart:** Look for ways to meet the needs of others with patience and care.
-  **Offering Grace Freely:** Forgive easily and respond to mistakes with understanding.



Why Compassion and Gentleness Matter? Compassion brings people together in love, creating communities where everyone feels seen and supported. Gentleness calms storms and nurtures peace, showing others the heart of God. Together, these virtues help us build a world that reflects God's mercy, love, and kindness.

Let's commit to living out compassion and gentleness in our schools, homes, and daily lives this May. Through simple acts of love and care, we can bring light to the world and reflect God's presence to those around us.



Virtue & Fruits of the Spirit Awards for Forgiveness & Patience

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

Kindergarten Awards: Owen Avery

Grade One Awards: Derek Adewole, James Johnston

Grade Two: Isaiah Nguyen, Kyrie Valonda

Grade Three: Cassandra Almonguera, Levi Franke, Idabel Voss

Grade Four: Sage Dueck, Emily McLain

Grade Five: Max Bull, Maximilian Noegel, Francine Justado

Grade Six: Gabrielle Basingan, Gabe Lawrence, Sophia Nguyen

Grade Seven: Tolor Gies, Easton Morgan

Staff: Mrs. Cabrera, Mrs. Chmelyk



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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.



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.**



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.

News from Our School Council

- ☐ Our first meeting for this school year will be on **May 20th at 6:30 pm.**
- ☐ Please check out the School Council link on the school website for more details.

Hallow App



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

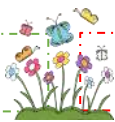
1. Goto <https://access.hallow.com/redeem/code>
2. Enter the following promo code:
•**NotreDameCISPGstudents2425**



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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.**

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!

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.



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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