



Notre Dame School

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October 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, Sauteaux, Chipewyan, and other Indigenous people who were not identified specifically in the treaty.

† Principal's Message

Dear Notre Dame Students and Families,
October is a month full of learning, gratitude, and community spirit here at Notre Dame School. As we move deeper into the school year, we are grateful for the ways our students, staff, and families continue to support one another in faith and friendship.

This month, we join with many across Canada in recognizing **Autism Awareness Month**. At Notre Dame, we embrace the uniqueness of every child, created in the image of God, and we celebrate the many gifts that each student brings to our community. It is a time to continue learning about inclusion, kindness, and the call to love one another as Christ loves us.

We also celebrate **Thanksgiving**, a special opportunity to pause and give thanks for God's many blessings in our lives. We are especially thankful for the gift of Catholic education, our dedicated staff, and the partnership we share with families. As St. Paul reminds us, *“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus”* (1 Thessalonians 5:18). May we carry that spirit of gratitude into our classrooms, playgrounds, and homes.

Later this month, our students will also take part in **Shakeout BC**, joining schools across the province in practicing safety and preparedness during an earthquake drill. While these practices are important for safety, they also remind us of the importance of caring for one another and being ready to serve when others are in need.

As we continue in the season of fall, let us remain rooted in our faith, thankful for our blessings, and mindful of our call to live joyfully and inclusively. May God continue to guide our Notre Dame family with wisdom, courage, and love.

God Bless, Your Partner in Education
C. Richard



From the Office

School Pictures

This year, Jessica Kimble Photography will be doing individual and class photos.

Kindergarten to Grade 4:

Picture Day is on **Wednesday, October 1st**.

Grades 5 to 7:

Picture Day is on **Thursday, October 2nd**.

Continuous Improvement Plan

On July 1, independent schools across B.C. were required to develop a **Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP)** to support student learning and well-being. These plans focus on literacy, numeracy, and student wellness, ensuring schools are using data to celebrate successes and address emerging gaps.

Notre Dame's plan is built on five years of student data and identifies three focus goals: **screening, literacy, and numeracy**. Our results also showed that student well-being at Notre Dame is already strong and positive; while this is not a formal goal area for now, we will continue to gather information and monitor this important part of student life.

Our full plan will be shared with families on our school website in **early October**. We look forward to working together in this ongoing cycle of growth to best support our students.



Character Day Parade Friday, Oct. 31st

We are excited to announce that on **Friday, October 31**, Notre Dame will once again host our annual *Dress Like Your Favourite Character Day*! Students are invited to dress up as a character from a favourite book, movie, or show. Costumes don't need to be store-bought—homemade ideas using hats, clothing, props, or creative touches are encouraged.

✨ *Example:* To dress like Pippi Longstocking, wear pigtailed and striped socks. To be Waldo, wear jeans with a red-and-white striped shirt.

At **1:00 pm**, we will hold an indoor parade in the gymnasium, and parents are warmly invited to attend.

💡 Important Guidelines for Costumes

Our goal is to make Halloween fun, safe, and inclusive for every student.

To support this:

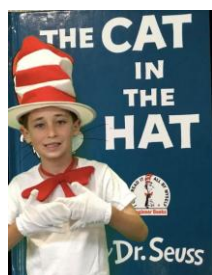
Costumes should be **positive, creative, and inclusive**. Please avoid costumes that are **scary, violent, or disrespectful** (e.g., villains, zombies, ghosts, monsters). **No weapons or look-alike weapons** are allowed (e.g., lightsabers, toy guns, swords). Characters such as Batman or Luke Skywalker are welcome—just without weapon accessories.

Students are encouraged to choose characters that celebrate imagination, fun, and kindness.

✅ **Great examples:** Fancy Nancy, Cinderella, Snow White, Superman, Spiderman, Waldo

❌ **Not acceptable:** The Joker, Wicked Ursula, zombies, ghosts, monsters

If you are unsure about your child's costume, please check with the classroom teacher or the office. We can't wait to see our students' creativity shine in this fun school tradition!



Key Dates This Month

Wednesday, Oct. 1st

Autism Awareness Month
Photo Day for students in Kindergarten to Grade 4

Thursday, Oct. 2nd

Photo Day for students in Grades 5 to 7



Friday, Oct. 3rd

Virtue Prayer & Awards in the gymnasium @ 9:00 am

Tuesday, Oct. 7th

One Million Children Praying the Rosary at 9:00 am Led by Primary/Intermediate Students



Thursday, Oct. 9th

Hat & Jeans Day – Bring a Toonie for our Foster Children

Friday, Oct. 10th

World Mental Health Day

Monday, Oct. 13th

Thanksgiving – No School



Tuesday, Oct. 14th

PSG Monthly Meeting & AGM @ 5:00 pm



Thursday, Oct. 16

Spirit Day – Dress in your Favourite Colour
Shakeout BC – Earthquake Drill Practice

Friday, Oct. 17th

Gr. 6 Prayer Service @ 9:00 am in the gymnasium

Tuesday, Oct. 21st

Photo Retakes



Tuesday, Oct. 24th

Praise @ 9:00 am in the gymnasium

Monday & Tuesday, Oct. 27th & 28th

Provincial Pro-D Day – No School for students

Tuesday, Oct. 28th

School Council Meeting & AGM @ 6:30

Friday, Oct. 31st

Character Day Parade



News from Our School Council

- ❑ Our next monthly meeting and AGM will be on **October 28th at 6:30 pm.**



"Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming our Faith"





Faith & Virtue Focus

This month at Notre Dame School, our virtue focus is **Gratitude**, and our Fruit of the Spirit is **Generosity**.

What is Gratitude?

Gratitude means being thankful for the many blessings in our lives—big and small. It is noticing the good around us, appreciating what we have, and saying “thank you” to God and to others. When we practice gratitude, we open our hearts to joy and see life as a gift.

What is Generosity?

Generosity is the way we show gratitude by sharing what we have with others. It is giving our time, talents, or treasures freely and joyfully, without expecting anything in return. Generosity reflects God’s love because He gives to us so abundantly.

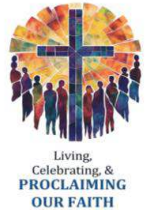
How Can Students Model Gratitude & Generosity?

In the classroom: Saying “thank you” to teachers and classmates, keeping a gratitude journal, or sharing kind words with peers.

At home: Helping with chores without being asked, writing a note of thanks to parents or siblings, or praying as a family to thank God for blessings.

In our community: Donating to food drives, sharing toys or games at recess, or including others in play. When we practice gratitude and generosity, we bring joy to others and grow closer to God.

Let us make October a month where our words and actions shine with thankfulness and a giving spirit!



Morning & After School Care – Spaces are still Available -

Our Morning & after-school 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 after their school day. This will include an opportunity for relaxation and dynamic play. Students will have a chance to eat their self-provided afterschool snacks and be allowed to do quiet activities such as reading, a craft and homework.

Hours of operation

Morning School Care: 7:30 am – 8:30 am

Afterschool Care: 2:45 pm – 5:45 pm.



Applications for the Morning & After-school Care Program can be found on our school website or at the school office. If we have space, drop-in days are available. Please note that drop days are for random times when 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.



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Parent Community Information



From the PSG – Parent Support Group

Hello Families of Notre Dame!

Welcome to Fall! We hope that you have had a wonderful first month of school.

Thank you to those who have stepped up to help with the Hot Lunch Program. We will be offering Hot Lunch for order on three days beginning on October 14th. It takes many hands to make the program run effectively. If you have not done so, pick up a criminal record check package from the office. Once completed, they are valid for three years. This will allow you to help out in the classroom and school when there is an opportunity.



Our monthly meeting, along with the AGM, will be held on **October 14th at 5:00 p.m.** We will be nominating and voting for positions on the PSG Board. Board positions are President, Vice President, Treasurer, Fundraising Chair, and Secretary. If a position interests you or you want to know more about what duties are involved, please email ndspsg@cispjg.ca.

We wanted to share more information about the Parent Support Group. The PSG was established by the School Council and operates as a non-profit organization with no personal financial benefit.

The purpose of the PSG is to work under the direction of the Notre Dame School Council to provide support to the students, teachers, and Principal to:

- a. Work towards the enhancement of programs at Notre Dame School for the betterment of the students.
- b. Encourage participation and involvement of parents/guardians and other Notre Dame Parish members.

Through various fundraising efforts and volunteer hours we are able to help make enhancements to the school, provide treat days to students and staff, support field trips and fun days for the students and staff.

The monthly meetings are a great opportunity to come and share ideas, meet other parents, and find out how to take part in supporting the students, teachers and school community. We hope to see you there!



“The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.” DeAnn Hollis

Notre Dame Pre-School with Ms. Patsy

Monday to Thursday

Morning classes: 8:30 am – 11:30 am
Afternoon classes: 12:30 pm -3:30 pm

Fridays

Morning classes only:
8:30 am – 11:30 am



Currently, we only have spots open in the afternoons for students to register.



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Reminders & Resources

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, parking lot gate is locked

8:40 am

Second bell, bus gate is 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 is our #1 Priority

Cross Walk Safety:

Students are encouraged to cross the road **using the crosswalk** for safety. A crossing guard is paid and hired by the school for student safety.



Parking Lot Safety:

For student safety, Notre Dame Staff Parking will be closed at the beginning and end of each day. **Please park along the sidewalk in legal parking areas 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 **email, write a note, or call the school office (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 a.m.

This is a **safety issue**. When a child is not at school and parents have not called, 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.



Numerous unexplained absences throughout the year also jeopardize our school funding. 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. 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.

School Newsletters & Calendars

Monthly school newsletters and calendars will be available on the [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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