



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



December 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, Sauleaux, Chipewyan, and other Indigenous people who were not identified specifically in the treaty.

† Principal's Message

Dear Notre Dame Students and Families,

As we journey through **Advent**, our school community prepares our hearts to welcome the gift of **Jesus' birth** with hope, peace, joy, and love. This sacred season invites us to slow down, pray together, and look for ways to bring Christ's light into the world through our words and actions.

At Notre Dame School, students and staff will be sharing in **Advent liturgies, classroom celebrations, and acts of service** that help us live out our faith in community. Each candle we light reminds us that Christ is near and that His love grows brighter when we share it with others.

Our last day of school before the Christmas break will be **Friday, December 19th**, and we will return to classes on **Monday, January 5th**.

On behalf of the **Notre Dame School staff**, I want to thank our families for your continued support, kindness, and partnership. We wish all our students and families a **happy, safe, and joy-filled Christmas holiday** surrounded by faith, love, and laughter.

Wishing all our families a blessed Christmas and a joyful New Year!

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him.”

— Romans 15:13

God Bless, Your Partner in Education
C. Richard



From the Office

Report Cards

Report Cards will be sent home in the last week of December, before Christmas break. There is a **parent signature page** in the report card envelope. Please sign and return the signature page with your child's envelope to the school.

Winter Holidays

Our last day of school before the winter holidays will be **Friday, December 19th**. Classes will resume on **Monday, January 5th**. We wish all our students and families a joyful and restful Christmas break!



Service Project – School Virtue

Charity is loving one another as Jesus loves us, helping to provide for the needs of others. Students and families are asked to send in canned and/or boxed goods for Christmas Cheer this year to share with those in need. We will gather the goods in the boxes outside the office.



Feeding Futures

We are excited at Notre Dame School to be continuing with our "Feeding Futures" initiative. Snack bins will be available in classrooms, offering fruit, applesauce, crackers, and granola bars daily for students who may be in need or for those who require an extra snack to fuel their bodies for learning.

“Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming our Faith”



Special Student Lunch

As part of our "Feeding Futures" initiative, we are excited to share that on Friday, December 12th, a special lunch will be provided for all our students. This meal is a wonderful opportunity for our school community to gather in the spirit of warmth and celebration.

The menu will include:

Roasted Turkey
Creamy Mashed Potatoes
Seasonal Vegetables
Savory Gravy



We hope this meal will be a delightful treat for the students as we continue to foster a sense of togetherness.

If your child has **specific dietary restrictions** or allergies, please notify us by Thursday, December 6th, so that we can make the necessary accommodations. **If your child chooses not to eat the provided meal, please send a lunch for them to eat on that day. All students will be eating in the gym together.** Thank you for your continued support in making our school a welcoming and inclusive place for all. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

News from Our School Council

- ❑ Our next monthly meeting and AGM will be on **January 20, 2026, at 6:30 pm.**
- ❑ Our **School Council** held its **Annual General Meeting** last month, and we are pleased to introduce this year's elected members. We are deeply grateful for their time, leadership, and commitment to supporting our Notre Dame School community.

2025–2026 School Council Executive:

Chairperson: Duncan Malkinson

Vice Chairperson: Pauline Gerwin

Pastor: Venerando Sabacan

Treasurer: Glenda Macarat

Secretary: Marissa Thola

Directors: Sharlene Weingart and Jashua Sandhu

We thank all members for their continued dedication to strengthening the partnership between home, school, and parish. Your involvement plays a crucial role in helping our students grow in **faith, knowledge, and community.**



Key Dates This Month

Thursday, Dec 4th

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



Friday, Dec 5th

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



Sunday, Dec 7th

Second Sunday of Advent - Peace



Monday, Dec. 8th

PSG Monthly Meeting @ 5:00 pm



Wednesday, Dec. 10th

International Human Rights Day



Friday, Dec. 12th

Grade 6 Class Mass @ 11:00 am at Notre Dame Parish
Turkey Lunch – for all students

Sunday, Dec. 14th

Third Sunday of Advent - Joy



Wednesday, Dec. 17th

Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal @9:30am
Spirit Day – Wear Your Favourite Christmas Sweater



Thursday, Dec. 18th

Christmas Concert @ 6:30, Doors open at 6:00 pm

Friday, Dec. 19th

Last Day before Winter Break
Spirit day - Pajama Day

Sunday, Dec. 22nd

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love



Registration for 2026-27

Notre Dame is excited to welcome **new students for the 2026-2027 school year.**

Registration packages will be sent out before the Winter holiday.

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

Happy Holidays



"Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming our Faith"





Faith & Virtue Focus

For December, we will learn and practice the Virtue and Fruit of the Spirit, Charity.

What is Charity?

Charity is the virtue of loving God above all things and loving others as God loves us. It means giving freely of our time, kindness, and care—especially to those in need. Charity calls us to see Christ in others and to share God's love through our words and actions.

What is the Fruit of Charity?

The Fruit of Charity is the joy that comes from showing genuine love and compassion. When we act with charity, we reflect the heart of Jesus, who gave Himself completely for others. It reminds us that love is not just a feeling—it is a choice to serve, forgive, and care for one another.

How Can Students Model Charity?

In the classroom:

Including others, offering help to a classmate, sharing supplies, and using kind and encouraging words.

At home:

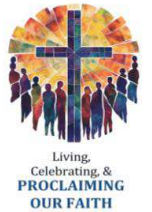
Helping with chores, speaking with love and respect to family members, praying for others, and showing gratitude.

In our community:

Donating to those in need, volunteering time to help others, and spreading kindness wherever we go.

When we practice charity, we bring Christ's love into the world.

"And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love."
— 1 Corinthians 13:13



Let us make December a month filled with love in action and hearts that reflect God's goodness.

Virtue & Fruit of the Spirit Awards for Gratitude & Generosity

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

Kindergarten Awards: Melody Alexander, Halle Gagnon

Grade One Awards: Olivia Berry, Lane Oman

Grade Two: Eloise Feddema, Layton Green

Grade Three: Isaiah Nguyen, Demilade Oyedeji, Zoe Salta

Grade Four: Levi Franke, Idabel Voss

Grade Five: Tatum Erickson, Adalynn Gatchell, Thomas Madge

Grade Six: Ramon Arevalo, Arya Wuff

Grade Seven: Brynn Kishkan, Blake Lazinchuk

Staff: Madame Juell, Mrs. Giesbrecht, Mr. Caguitla



"Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming our Faith"





Parent Community Information



From the PSG – Parent Support Group

Hello Families of Notre Dame!

Happy Holidays to our Notre Dame Families!

Our basket raffle fundraiser is underway! We are extremely thankful for all the donations. All profits from our various fundraising events are used to support the students. Tickets will be coming home this month to sell. Students are responsible for each selling one book of raffle tickets, and are required to return all tickets to the school in order for us to be able to properly draw for the prizes.

TICKET PURCHASERS MUST BE 19 YEARS OF AGE. This is in accordance with the BC Gaming Licensing Branch Regulations. All tickets, both sold and UNSOLD, are required to be handed in by December 15th at the very latest.

This year, the baskets will be drawn at the in-person Christmas Concert on December 18th, 2025.

We have copies of our Notre Dame Cookbook for sale. Copies are \$25.00. Please send your purchase request to the office or ndspspg@cispg.ca.

Thank you to all who participated in the Purdy's Fundraiser! Your continued support for this 'sweet' fundraiser is greatly appreciated. Our total sales were \$16,409.93, which resulted in a fundraising profit of \$4,922.98.

Thank you for your support of the Parent Support Group. We wish you a joyous holiday season.



Morning & After School Care Spaces are still Available

Our morning and after-school care program is available for kindergarten to grade 7 students at our school.

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 are available on our school website or at the school office.

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



We only have spots open in the afternoons for students to register.



"Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming our Faith"





Net Team – Request for Community Support

Notre Dame School Community Members,

A team of seven young Catholics will be visiting Notre Dame School and ministering to our 7 students in March! The NET Team will be in Dawson Creek from the evening of **March 2nd to the 3rd, leaving on the 4th.**

Food Donations

We are in need of **food donations** while they are in Dawson Creek, as well as **items they can take with them** as they continue their travels to the next CISPG school.

Looking for Host Families



We are also seeking **host families** to warmly welcome and billet members of the NET Team during their stay. Hosting a NET missionary is a beautiful way to support their ministry, offer Christian hospitality, and allow your family to share in this joyful experience. Whether you can host one team member or a small group, your generosity helps make their mission possible.

If you are interested in being a part of this missionary initiative by helping provide for the food needs of our NET Team, or if your family is able to open your home for one or two nights, or if you would like to learn more about what hosting involves, please contact **Mrs. Richard** (250-782-4923 or crichard@cispg.ca).

Thank you for considering this meaningful way to support Catholic ministry in our school and across our diocese.



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°C .

When the temperature hits -20°C , 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.



Christian Education Update Term 2

We would like to share a quick update regarding Christian Education for the second term.

Grades K–4 will receive Christian Education with **Madame Juell**.

Grades 5–7 will continue Christian Education with their **classroom teachers**, supported by **Mrs. Ausma**.

We also want to extend our sincere thanks to **Mrs. Gilbertson** for teaching Christian Education during the first term.

We are grateful for the care and dedication each of these teachers brings to nurturing faith and learning in our school community.



"Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming our Faith"





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."** In September, classroom teachers sent alerts about allergies in individual classrooms. We ask that you 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 and that food is not shared. 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 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.



"Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming our Faith"

