



Notre Dame School

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

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

www.notredameschool.ca

notredame@cispq.ca



January 2026 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,

I hope that everyone enjoyed a restful and joy-filled Christmas break, spending time with family, friends, and loved ones. As we begin a new calendar year together, we are grateful for the opportunity to return to our school community, renewed in faith and ready to continue our learning journey.

January is a time of fresh beginnings—an opportunity to reflect, reset, and grow. At Notre Dame School, we remain committed to nurturing the whole child: academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. As we enter the second half of the school year, we look forward to continuing to support our students as they grow in confidence, compassion, and responsibility, guided by our Catholic values.

We hope that this new year brings renewed energy, kindness, and a spirit of cooperation to our classrooms and hallways. Together, as staff, students, and families, we will continue to build a caring and inclusive community where every child is known, valued, and supported.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11

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



From the Office

Report Card - Reminder

This is a friendly reminder that report cards were sent home in the last week of December, before the Winter break. A **parent signature page** was included in the report card envelope. Please sign and return the page to the school with your child. Thank you.

Return to School

Classes will resume on **Monday, January 5th**, with school gates opening at 8:30 am.



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.

Thank -You

I would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to our school community for the many thoughtful gifts and treats received for Christmas. Your kindness, generosity, and care are truly appreciated and mean more to me than you know. I am so grateful to be part of such a supportive and caring community. ❤️ C. Richard

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Kindergarten Registration



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

Any child who will be 5 years of age on or before December 31, 2026, may register. The Registration Package is available on Notre Dame's school 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.

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.



News from Our School Council

- Our next monthly meeting will be on **January 20, 2026, at 6:30 pm.**



Key Dates This Month

Monday, Jan. 5th
First day back to School



Thursday, Jan. 8th
Hat & Jeans Day – Bring a Toonie for our Foster Children

Friday, Jan. 9th
Virtue Prayer & Awards in the gymnasium @ 9:00 am



Monday, Jan. 12th
PSG Monthly Meeting @ 5:00 pm



Wednesday, Jan. 14th
Intermediate Ski Trip (Grades 4 to 7)



Friday, Jan. 16th
Grade 5 Class Mass @ 11:00 am at Notre Dame Parish

Tuesday, Jan. 20th
School Council Meeting @ 6:30



Thursday, Jan. 22nd
Spirit Day – Dress in BLUE for the January Blues

Friday, Jan. 23
Grade 4 Prayer Service @ 9:00 am in the gymnasium



Monday, Jan. 26th
Read-A-Thon Starts

Wednesday, Jan. 28th
Bell Let's talk Day

Friday, Jan. 30th
Non-Instructional Day – No School for Students

Net Team – Community Request for Support

Our school will be welcoming the **NET (National Evangelization Team)** on **March 2–3**, with departure on **March 4**. The NET Team works with schools to inspire students through faith-filled presentations, leadership activities, and opportunities to grow in their relationship with God.



To support this visit, we are looking for **host families** and **food donations**. Families may donate **food items that students can take with them** during their stay. Any support is greatly appreciated and helps make this meaningful experience possible for our students.

If you are able to help or would like more information, please contact: crichard@cispg.ca

Thank you for your generosity and continued support of our faith community.



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Faith & Virtue Focus

For January, we will learn and practice the Virtue and Fruit of the Spirit, Courage and Self-Control.

What is Courage?

Courage is the virtue that helps us do what is right, even when it is difficult or uncomfortable. Courage means trusting God, standing up for what is good, and making positive choices—even when we are afraid or unsure. With courage, we act with faith, honesty, and strength.

What is the Fruit of Self-Control?

The Fruit of Self-Control helps us manage our words, actions, and emotions. It guides us to pause, think, and choose responses that reflect God's love. When we practice self-control, we show courage by making wise decisions, staying calm in challenging moments, and treating others with respect.

How Can Students Model Courage and Self-Control?

In the classroom:

Trying new or challenging tasks, asking for help when needed, staying focused on learning, using calm words when frustrated, and making respectful choices.

At home:

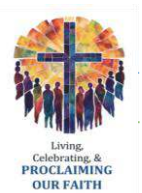
Following routines, listening to caregivers, practicing patience, managing emotions, and choosing kind words and actions—even during disagreements.

In our community:

Standing up for others, making safe and responsible choices, showing respect, and acting with integrity in all situations.

When we practice courage and self-control, we grow stronger in faith and become positive role models for others.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."
— Joshua 1:9



Virtue & Fruit of the Spirit Awards for Peace

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

Kindergarten Awards: Iver Feddema, Marcus Maming

Grade One Awards: Victor Bandong, Jacky Mattson

Grade Two: Vayda Judge-Dokken, Lizzie Noegel, Dos Valonda II

Grade Three: Leila Giesbrecht, Kimberly Staples

Grade Four: Andrea Laygo, Brylle Odiamar

Grade Five: Lukas Groebmair, Zylar Hunter, Orion Liddle

Grade Six: Ryla De Rama, Hudson Kurjata, Nica Semilla

Grade Seven: Sage Erickson, Hayden Fontaine, Samantha Soles

Staff: Ms. Ro, Mrs. Groebmair



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Parent Community Information

From the PSG – Parent Support Group



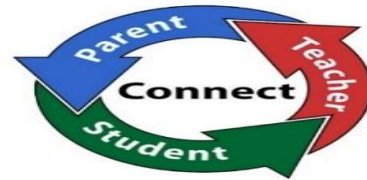
Hello Families of Notre Dame,

Welcome to 2026! 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 Mia Dioquino (Kindergarten), and Third Place was Amelia Sluggett (Preschool). Congratulations once again to all of our fundraising families. Thank you as well to the volunteers who organized, sorted and handed out a very large chocolate order. It was very "sweet" of all who helped out 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 extremely thankful for all of 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!" - Jenna Gilbertson
Grade One basket "Girl Power!" - Jordy Fossum
Grade Two basket "Handsome and Handy" - Ryla De Rama
Grade Three basket "Lucky Lady" - Kari Hora
Grade Four basket "Busy Basket" - Hayden Hora
Grade Five basket "Paws & Claws" - Ramon Arevalo
Grade Six basket "Family Night" - Danica Wulff
Grade Seven basket "Sweet Tooth" - J. Odiamar



VOLUNTEER



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 – Registration Packages For 2026-2027 are Available

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



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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."** 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.



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