



Notre Dame School

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

† Principal’s Message

From the Office

Dear Notre Dame Students and Families,

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a restful and joyful Spring Break and that your families had the opportunity to spend some meaningful time together. As we return to school, we enter the beautiful and hopeful season of Easter, a time in our Catholic faith that reminds us of renewal, new life, and the promise of hope through the Resurrection of Jesus.

April is always a special month in our school community. After the quiet reflection of Lent, Easter invites us to celebrate the joy of Christ’s love and the new beginnings that come with spring. In our classrooms and prayer gatherings, students will continue to reflect on the meaning of Easter and how we are called to live as people of hope, kindness, and service to others.

We are excited to welcome award-winning Canadian musician and children’s entertainer Norman Foote to Notre Dame School this month. Norman Foote is well known for his engaging performances that combine music, storytelling, and humour to inspire creativity and joy in young audiences. During his visit, students in K to 4 will have the opportunity to participate in a workshop and in an interactive musical presentation that encourages imagination, positive expression, and a love for music and the arts. All grades will get to watch the final performance with Norman Foote. Experiences like this support the BC Arts Education curricular competencies, as students explore creative expression, respond to artistic works, and develop confidence in communicating ideas through music and storytelling.

This time of year brings renewed energy to learning across our classrooms as students continue to grow in their academic skills and faith. We are proud of the effort students have shown throughout the year and look forward to the progress they will continue to make.

Thank you for the many ways you support our school community. Your partnership helps make Notre Dame a place where students feel safe, valued, and inspired to learn.

May the joy of the Easter season bring peace and blessings to you and your families.

God Bless, Your Partner in Education
C. Richard



Report Cards

Report Cards were sent home before Spring break. This is a friendly reminder to please sign and return the signature page with your child’s envelope to the school.

Good Friday & Easter Monday

A friendly reminder that Friday, April 3rd, is Good Friday and Easter Monday, April 6th. There will be no school on those days.

PSG Thank-You

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the **Parent Support Group (PSG)** for partnering with the school to bring **Norman Foote** to Notre Dame School. Opportunities like this enrich our students’ learning and provide memorable experiences that bring creativity, laughter, and joy into our school community.

We are grateful for the continued support of our PSG and the many ways they work alongside the school to enhance opportunities for our students. Your time, generosity, and dedication help make Notre Dame a vibrant and supportive place for our children to learn and grow.

Thank you for all that you do for our school community.

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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.



News from Our School Council

- ❑ Our next monthly meeting will be on **Tuesday April 21, 2026.**

School Mass - Safety Reminder

To support a safe, focused worship environment for our students, the **church doors will be locked once all students have entered for our school Mass.** This is part of our regular safety procedures.

We kindly ask families who wish to attend to please arrive before Mass begins at 11:00 am and enter before the doors are secured. If you arrive after that time, you may not be able to access the church until Mass has concluded.

Thank you for your understanding and for helping us maintain a safe and prayerful environment for our school community.



Key Dates This Month

Thursday, Apr. 2nd

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



Friday, Apr. 3rd

Good Friday, NO SCHOOL



Monday, Apr. 6th

Easter Monday, NO SCHOOL

Wednesday, Apr. 8th

Emergency Preparedness Practice – Earthquake Drill

Thursday, Apr. 9th

Vimy Ridge Day



Friday, Apr. 10th

Virtue Awards & Grade 1 Prayer in the gymnasium @ 9:00 am

Sunday, Apr. 12th

First Holy Communion @ Notre Dame Parish 10:00 am

Monday, Apr. 13th

PSG Monthly Meeting @ 5:00 pm



Tuesday, Apr. 14th

Emergency Preparedness Practice – Fire Drill Practice

Wednesday, Apr. 15th

KPAC – Beauty & Beast Performance in Notre Dame gym @ 1:00pm

Thursday, Apr. 16th

Spirit Day – Mismatch Day – Students & Staff wear clothes that don't match
Norman Foote Performance



Friday, Apr. 17th

Grade 2 Class Mass @ 11:00 am at Notre Dame Parish

Tuesday, Apr. 21st

School Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm



Wednesday, Apr. 22nd

Earth Day
Emergency Preparedness Practice – Lockdown Practice

Friday, Apr. 24th

Grade 5 Prayer @ 9:00 am in the Gymnasium



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Faith & Virtue Focus

For **April**, we will learn and practice the **Virtue of Justice** and the **Fruit of the Spirit, Goodness**.

What is Justice?

Justice is the virtue that helps us choose what is fair, right, and respectful for everyone. Justice means standing up for what is right, treating others with dignity, and making sure everyone is included and cared for. When we practice justice, we think about how our actions affect others and work to make our classroom, school, and community places where everyone is treated with kindness and fairness.

What is the Fruit of the Spirit, Goodness?

Goodness is the strength God gives us to choose what is right and to act with kindness and generosity toward others. Goodness helps us care for people, share what we have, and make choices that reflect love and honesty. When we practice goodness, we try to do the right thing even when no one is watching, and we help bring light and positivity to those around us.

How Can Students Model Justice and Goodness?

In the classroom:

Taking turns, including others in activities, listening respectfully to different ideas, sharing materials, and speaking up kindly when something is unfair.

At home:

Helping family members, sharing with siblings, telling the truth, being fair during games, and making choices that help others feel valued and respected.

In our community:

Showing kindness to others, helping someone who may feel left out, caring for our environment, and standing up for what is right in a respectful way.

When we practice **justice and goodness**, we help create a school community where fairness, kindness, and respect guide our actions each day.

"Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause."

— Isaiah 1:17



Virtue & Fruit of the Spirit Awards for Love

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 **Love**.

Kindergarten Awards: Lowen Howes, Joaquina Pereyra, Thomas Veiner

Grade One Awards: Owen Aven, Bowen McLeod

Grade Two: Emery Franke, Matty Termulo

Grade Three: Connor Hachey, Prince Samenada, Vincent Veiner

Grade Four: Kobey Premack, Abigail Shipton

Grade Five: Emersyn Kurjata, Matthew Maher, Miia Ollenberger

Grade Six: Lucas Alfonson, Charlotte Nguyen, Joshua Von Solatorio

Grade Seven: Morgan Kaempf, Makenna Mackie, Kyra Miana

Staff: Mrs. Willich & Mrs. Bijl



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Parent Community Information

From the PSG – Parent Support Group



Hello, Families of Notre Dame,

Welcome to April! We hope you had a wonderful Spring Break. The PSG wanted to take a moment to thank all families and staff who have participated in the various fundraisers this year. We use all funds to support the students, staff and school.

We will have an apparel order coming out soon that will feature a new apparel item! Watch for forms and information to come home soon

PSG has cookbooks available from our cookbook project for purchase. The cost of each is \$25.00, and it is full of amazing recipes from our school community.

The next wave of Hot Lunch ordering will be available soon. Thank you to the volunteers who continue to make this program available to the school.

Best wishes for a wonderful spring month from the PSG!

"Your mind is a garden, and your thoughts are the seeds. You can grow flowers, or you can grow weeds."

-Anonymous-



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 Registration Packages 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 send 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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