



Notre Dame School

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March 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,

As we welcome the month of March, we are reminded that this season calls us to renewal, reflection, and hope. In our Catholic tradition, March often falls within the season of Lent, a time when we are invited to grow closer to God through prayer, acts of kindness, and service to others. As a school community, we continue to encourage our students to live out our faith through their words, actions, and daily choices, reflecting Christ’s love in all that they do.

March is also a wonderful time in our classrooms. Teachers and students are deeply engaged in learning, setting goals, and continuing to build strong academic and social foundations. I am continually inspired by the curiosity, perseverance, and compassion our students show each day. Thank you to our dedicated staff for the care and commitment they bring to their work, and to you, our families, for your ongoing partnership and support.

Please note that **Spring Break will take place from Monday, March 16th, through Friday, March 27th.** School will resume on **Monday, March 30th.** We hope this break provides your family with an opportunity to rest, spend meaningful time together, and enjoy the blessings of the season.

As we journey through this month, let us remember the words from Isaiah 40:31:

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.”

May this time of renewal strengthen our hearts, our faith, and our community.

Thank you for being such an important part of our Notre Dame School family.

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



Front Entrance Reminder

For the safety of our students and staff, all visitors are required to use the **front entrance buzzer** to gain entry to the school.

There may be times when our secretary is assisting a student, answering the phone, or making announcements, so **we kindly ask for your patience if there is a short delay in being let in.**

Students have been instructed not to open the doors for visitors. Entry will be granted only by the office. This procedure helps us maintain a safe and secure learning environment for everyone.



Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in keeping our school community safe.

Report Cards

Report Cards will be sent home in the last week of March, before Spring 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.

Spring Holidays

Our last day of school before the spring break will be **Friday, March 13th.** Classes will resume on **Monday, March 30th.** We wish all our students and families a joyful and restful Spring break!

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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.



Key Dates This Month

Tuesday, Mar. 3rd

NET Team Retreat with the Grade 7 students

Thursday, Mar 5th

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

Friday, Mar 6th

Virtue Prayer & Awards in the gymnasium @ 9:00



Monday, Mar 9th

PSG Monthly Meeting @ 5:00 pm



Thursday, Mar 12th

Epilepsy Day - Wear Purple Today

Friday, Mar. 13th

Grade 3 Class Mass @ 11:00 am at Notre Dame Parish



Monday, Mar. 16th – March 27th

Spring Break

Monday, Mar. 30th

School Resumes – Welcome Back

FORMED - Grow in Faith at Home

A friendly reminder that our parish/school community has access to **FORMED.org** — a wonderful Catholic online platform filled with faith-based movies, children's programs, Bible studies, sacramental preparation resources, audiobooks, and more for the whole family.

This is a beautiful opportunity to continue growing in faith at home, especially during Lent, Advent, or anytime your family would like to deepen their relationship with Christ.

Steps to Register on FORMED:

Access the Sign-Up Page: Go to formed.org/signup.

Find Your Parish: Enter your parish name, zip code, or city in the search bar to locate your specific parish.

Enter Details: Input your name and email address.

Verify Email: Check your email inbox for a link from FORMED to finalize your account activation.



Top Read-Athon Winners



News from Our School Council

- Our next monthly meeting will be on **March 10, 2026, at 6:30 pm on Zoom.**

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.



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Faith & Virtue Focus

For March, we will learn and practice the Virtue of Forgiveness and the Fruit of the Spirit, Patience.

What is Forgiveness?

Forgiveness is the virtue that helps us let go of anger and choose mercy, just as Jesus forgives us. Forgiveness means taking responsibility for our actions, saying sorry when we hurt others, and being willing to give someone another chance. When we practice forgiveness, we heal relationships and grow in kindness and understanding—even when it is difficult.

What is the Fruit of the Spirit, Patience?

Patience is the calm and steady strength God gives us to wait, listen, and respond with love. Patience helps us stay peaceful when things are challenging, when others make mistakes, or when we need to try again. When we practice patience, we grow in self-control, understanding, and trust in God's plan.

How Can Students Model Forgiveness and Patience?

In the classroom:

Taking turns, listening without interrupting, staying calm when frustrated, apologizing when needed, accepting apologies, and working through conflicts respectfully.

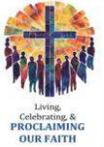
At home:

Using calm words during disagreements, waiting without complaining, helping siblings, admitting mistakes, and offering forgiveness to family members.

In our community:

Showing understanding when others struggle, giving people time to learn, speaking kindly, and choosing peaceful solutions to problems.

When we practice forgiveness and patience, we help make our school and community a place where everyone feels safe, supported, and valued.



“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

— Ephesians 4:32

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 **Courage**.

Kindergarten Awards: Bryar Lardner, Violet Nguyen

Grade One Awards: Theo Hultgren, Ophelia Nguyen

Grade Two: Charlie Gibertson, Amity Maniti

Grade Three: Ryan Rose, Shaina May Solatorio, Bria Stevens

Grade Four: Jaxyn Green, Summer Obrigewitch, Summer Stevens

Grade Five: Hudson Giesbrecht, Shelbyrose Lindberg

Grade Six: Francine Justado, Theo Lardner, Wesley Pohl

Grade Seven: Marco Amano, Ryder Floriant, Crickett Fossum

Staff: Mrs. Chmelyk and Mr. Haukenfrers



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Parent Community Information



From the PSG – Parent Support Group

Hello, Families of Notre Dame,

The 2026 Read-A-Thon is completed, and we are SO pleased to share that the total pledges raised were \$8,575.00!!! This is AMAZING news for the partner texts and classroom libraries. We want to extend our most heartfelt and sincere thanks and appreciation to all the students, families, and teachers who participated and helped contribute to the success of this year's fundraising event. **To date, our seven rounds of our annual Read-A-Thon have raised a total of \$69,428.00, which is INCREDIBLE!!**

The top students and classes are as follows:

TOP PRIMARY STUDENT is Avery from Kindergarten with a total raised of \$465.00!

TOP INTERMEDIATE STUDENT is Jolise with a total raised of \$1100.00!

TOP PRIMARY CLASS was KINDERGARTEN with a class total raised of \$ 1,647.50!

TOP INTERMEDIATE CLASS was GRADE SEVEN with a class total raised of \$ 2,425.00!



The PSG also acknowledged and awarded the Top Five pledge raisers for their hard work and contributions in both primary and intermediate. Thank you to Faking Sanity for their generous donation, matching the amount of gift certificates purchased by the PSG to their wonderful book/yarn store. Thank you to Panago for donating pizza coupons. Congratulations once again to all. A lot of books were read, and many, many hours of reading were tracked throughout the fundraising period. We want to thank all the students and families who participated. The PSG will be sending a Sign-up Genius home in the coming weeks for volunteer opportunities for our intended Spring Carnival. To run Carnival this spring, we will require support across many aspects of the event. Please watch your emails for more information coming out soon.

The PSG provided cookies to celebrate Catholic Schools Week and a pancake-and-sausage lunch for all students and staff in honour of Shrove Tuesday! Thank you to the volunteers who helped make these two days happen. We would not be able to have days when we can give back to students and staff if we did not have those who take time out of their days to organize, order, pick up supplies & prepare and serve the treats. We appreciate the students, teachers, educational assistants, and administration of Notre Dame so very much, and we enjoy sharing our appreciation for them through days of celebration.

Thank you to the Grade Seven students who deliver and hand out hot lunch in the classrooms. With the support and dedication of volunteers, we will be able to continue to bring many fun activities to the school.

"Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love." –

Lao Tzu

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.

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.

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!

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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