



Notre Dame School

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May 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 enter the beautiful month of May, we are reminded that spring is a season of new life, hope, and growth. In our Catholic tradition, May is also a special month dedicated to Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Throughout the month, students will have opportunities to learn about Mary and reflect on her example of faith, kindness, compassion, and gentleness.

For May, we will focus on the Virtue of Compassion and the Fruit of the Spirit, Gentleness. Compassion calls us to notice when others are in need and respond with kindness and care. Gentleness is the quiet strength to speak and act with patience, calmness, and respect. Together, they help us build a caring and peaceful school community.

As a school community, we are called to live with compassion and gentleness each day in our classrooms, on the playground, and in our homes. When we choose to listen carefully, forgive, include others, and respond with kindness, we help make our school a place where everyone feels safe, valued, and loved.

We are also grateful for the continued partnership of our families, staff, parish, School Council, and Parent Support Group. Your support, generosity, and commitment help make our school a welcoming and faith-filled place for all.

As we continue through the Easter season, may we remember the joy and hope of Christ’s resurrection and carry that hope into all that we do. May Mary watch over our school community and help us grow in compassion and gentleness each day.

God Bless, Your Partner in Education
C. Richard



Non-Instructional Day

Special Note: SD#59 has a Pro-D Day on May 1st. Notre Dame School will be in session on May 1st and will have a Pro-D Day on May 15th.

Monday, May 18th

Please note that Monday, May 18, is Victoria Day, and there will be no school. We hope all of our families enjoy a safe and restful long weekend. Classes will resume on Tuesday, May 19.

Congratulations to Our Students

Congratulations to all of our students who recently celebrated their First Holy Communion. This is a very special step in your faith journey as you receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. We are proud of your preparation, reverence, and commitment to growing in your faith. May God continue to bless you and your families on this joyful occasion.

Congratulations to: Chizalum Akude, Charlie Gilbertson, Maria Andrea Laygo, Catriona Maming, Amity Maniti, Alvin Ogueli, Aaliyah Placido, Ari Sallenbach, Sean Matthew Termulo and Glen Valonda.



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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, May 19, 2026, at 6:30pm**

Wish Bone Day



AWARENESS MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

National OI Awareness Week is May 2nd – 9th, 2026. It is a week to bring awareness and share information about OI and share stories of those with Osteogenesis Imperfecta. OI affects 1 in every 15,000 people worldwide. This is the third year the City of Dawson Creek has issued a proclamation for OI Week and Wishbone Day!

Did you know that there are fewer than 10,000 cases of **Osteogenesis Imperfecta** in Canada each year? OI is a genetic condition where the body does not produce the proper amount, or quality of collagen for bones. Type 1 collagen is a protein that is what makes bones strong and 'flexible'. There are eight different types of OI that vary greatly both within and between types.

OI is NOT a mineral deficiency

IN HONOUR OF WISHBONE DAY 2026, WEAR YELLOW ON MAY 6th! Yellow is the colour chosen for WISHBONE DAY because it SHINES with OPTIMISM and carries the PROMISE of a POSITIVE future!



Key Dates This Month

Friday, May 1st

Virtue Awards Prayer in the gymnasium @ 9:00 am

Tuesday, May 5th

RED Dress Day

Wednesday, May 6th

Wish Bone Day – Osteogenesis Day - Wear Yellow

Thursday, May 7th

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



Friday, May 8th

Grade One Mass @ 11:00 am at Notre Dame Parish

Sunday, May 10th

Mother's Day



Monday, May 11th

PSG Monthly Meeting @ 5:00 pm

Tuesday, May 12th

Emergency Preparedness Practice – Fire Drill Practice

Thursday, May 14th

Kindergarten Orientation Time 9:30

Central Middle School comes to visit with Grade 7 Students

Friday, May 15th

CISPG Non-Instructional Day – No School for students

Monday, May 18th

Victoria Day – No School



Tuesday, May 19th

School Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm

Wednesday, May 20th

Parent Meeting for Grade 7 Families at Central Middle School @7:00pm

Thursday, May 21st

Spirit Day – Comfy Day – Dress in your jammies or sweats

Friday, May 22nd

Kindergarten Prayer @ 9:00 in ND Gymnasium
PSG Carnival Night 5:30-7:30



Friday, May 29th

Praise @ 9:00 am in the Gymnasium



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Faith & Virtue Focus

For **May**, we will learn and practice the **Virtue of Compassion** and the **Fruit of the Spirit, Gentleness**

What is Compassion?

Compassion is the virtue that helps us notice when others are hurting, struggling, or in need and respond with kindness, care, and understanding. Compassion means showing concern for others, including those who may feel left out, and doing what we can to help. When we practice compassion, we think about how others are feeling and work to make our classroom, school, and community places where everyone feels loved and supported.

What is the Fruit of the Spirit, Gentleness?

Gentleness is the calm and caring way God helps us speak and act toward others. Gentleness means using kind words, being patient, and treating others with respect, even when we are upset or frustrated. When we practice gentleness, we choose to solve problems peacefully and show others that they are important and valued.

How Can Students Model Compassion and Gentleness?

In the classroom:

Including others in activities, helping a classmate, using kind words, listening respectfully, and solving problems

At home:

Helping family members, being patient with brothers or sisters, speaking kindly, and showing care when someone is upset.

In our community:

Being kind to others, helping someone who feels left out, caring for people in need, and treating everyone with respect.

When we practice **compassion and gentleness**, we help create a school community where kindness, patience, and love guide our actions each day.

*“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 Forgiveness & Patience

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

Kindergarten Awards: Mateo Laygo, Lily Halverson, Lennie Franke

Grade One Awards: Mayz Cline, Colson Rose

Grade Two: Jarred Liddle, Jillian Maher, Alvin Ogueli

Grade Three: Polo Billones, Arlo Pulver, Allen Kyrie Valonda

Grade Four: Landen Bassett, Sylvia Misner, Jaden Ogueli

Grade Five: Jhayztyl Gonzales, Kishan Sandhu, Zylar Hunter

Grade Six: Max Bull, Liam Kimble, Lanna Parfait

Grade Seven: Nicholas Madge, Nolan Ardelian

Staff: Mrs. Cruz & Ms. Rose



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Parent Community Information

From the PSG – Parent Support Group

Hello Families of Notre Dame,



Carnival will be hosted on May 22nd from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. We hope to see you there! It is a community event so please share with friends and family. We hope for a successful night and fun for all. There are some volunteer spaces still available to be signed up for. If these spots are not filled, the station will be closed for that shift. Here is that link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COB49AEA72BA5FDC34-62454398-2026>

We had the final ordering wave of Hot Lunch. Thank you to all volunteers and vendors who have made it possible this year.

Looking towards the end of the school year, there will be opportunities for parent volunteers to help with field trips, Primary Fun Day, and more. Please ensure you have a current Criminal Record check. Once completed, they are valid for three years.

Have a wonderful month!
the ND PSG



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.

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. Please do not block the driveway entrances. 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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