



October 2026



Notre Dame School

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

From the Office

Our First Non-Instructional Day Reminder

Friday, October 23, is our first non-instructional day of the school year.

There will be **no school for students**, and Preschool, Morning Care, and After-School Care will be closed that day.

Please make alternate childcare arrangements if needed.

NO
SCHOOL

Feeding Futures



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

Photo Retake Day — Monday, October 26



Photo retakes will take place on **Monday, October 26**. Students who missed the original photo day or would like a retake will have their photo taken that day.

Principal Message

Dear Notre Dame Families,

October brings a beautiful change to Dawson Creek. As the leaves turn and the mornings grow cooler, our students are settling into classroom routines, building friendships, and discovering what they can do. It has been a joy to see our school community come together at the start of this year.

Thanksgiving invites us to pause and recognize the gifts in our lives. I am especially grateful for our students, whose curiosity and kindness brighten each day; for our staff, who care deeply for every child; and for our families, whose support makes Notre Dame such a welcoming place to learn and grow.

Our new diocesan theme, Rooted • Renewed • Sent, offers a lovely reflection for this season. As trees deepen their roots in preparation for winter, we are reminded to stay rooted in faith and in our care for one another. May gratitude renew us and inspire us to share God's love through small acts of kindness at home, at school, and in our community.

Please take a moment to look at the Important Dates section of this newsletter for upcoming October events and activities. We look forward to sharing these moments with you!

I wish you and your families a peaceful and joyful Thanksgiving.

God Bless,
Your Partner in Education,
C. Richard



Rooted In Faith



Character Day Event

Notre Dame will celebrate our annual Dress Like Your Favourite **Character Day** on Friday, October 30!

Students are invited to dress as a character from a favourite book, movie, or show. Costumes do not need to be store-bought.

A few creative touches can bring a character to life: a yellow shirt and a paper crown for The Paper Bag Princess, a red cape for Little Red Riding Hood, or a colourful outfit and a homemade crayon label for The Day the Crayons Quit.

We will hold an **indoor parade in the gym at 1:00 p.m.**, and parents are warmly invited to attend.

Please choose costumes that are positive, age-appropriate, and comfortable for a school day. Avoid frightening or violent costumes, and leave toy weapons and look-alike weapons at home. If you are unsure whether a costume is suitable, please check with your child's teacher or the school office.

We look forward to seeing everyone's creativity!

If you are unsure about your child's costume, please check with the classroom teacher or the office. We can't wait to see our students' creativity shine in this fun school tradition!



Key Dates for October

Autism Awareness Month



Thursday, Oct. 1st

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



Friday, Oct. 2nd

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

Tuesday, Oct. 6th

Notre Dame Pre-School
Picture Day



Wednesday, Oct. 7th

One Million Children Praying the Rosary
at 9:00 am in the school gymnasium



Monday, Oct. 12th

Thanksgiving Day - No School



Tuesday, Oct. 13th

Emergency Drill Practice - Fire Drill Practice
Fire Prevention Week - Dawson Creek Fire Department
visiting K to Gr. 3 classes
PSG Meeting @ 5:00pm



Thursday, Oct. 15th

Shake Out BC - Emergency Drill Practice - Earthquake
Drill Practice

Spirit Day - Dolly Parton Day- Western Wear or Pink &
Sparkles



Friday, Oct. 16th

Gr. 6 Prayer @ 9:00 am in the gymnasium



Thursday, Oct. 22nd

School Council Regular Meeting & AGM Meeting @
6:30 in the ND Staffroom

Friday, Oct. 23rd

Non-Instructional Day - No School for Students

Monday, Oct. 26th

Photo Retake Day



Friday, Oct. 30th

Character Day Parade @1:00pm



“Partners in Our School Community”

Parents/Guardians & Teachers Together

Foundation Skills Assessment — Grades 4 and 7

From September 28 to November 6, our Grade 4 and Grade 7 students will participate in B.C.’s Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA). The FSA gives schools information about students’ literacy and numeracy skills. Along with the learning teachers see each day, it helps us identify strengths and plan where students may need more support. FSA results do not affect students’ report cards.

Students do not need to study or prepare for the FSA. Their teachers will guide them through it as part of regular classroom learning, and families will receive their child’s results after the assessments have been marked.

Families can help by keeping school routines steady, encouraging their child to try their best, and reassuring them that the FSA is just one way we learn about their progress. If your child has questions or feels worried, please reach out to their teacher so we can support them together.



Growing Together

*At home and school, we plant the
seeds,
With patient hearts and caring
deeds.
When families and teachers work as
one,
We help each child grow toward the
sun.*



Dressing for Fall Weather



Fall weather in Dawson Creek can change quickly, and students will continue to spend time outdoors for recess and other activities.

As partners in helping children enjoy a comfortable school day, we ask families to check the forecast and send clothing suited to the conditions. Layers, a warm jacket, hat, gloves, and weather-appropriate footwear can make a big difference.

A spare pair of socks in your child’s backpack is also helpful on wet or snowy days. Please label outdoor clothing so lost items can find their way home.

Thank you for helping our students stay warm and ready to learn and play outside!



October Virtue & Fruit of the Spirit: Gratitude and Generosity

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this month, we are helping students notice the blessings in their lives and think about how they can share those blessings with others.

Gratitude begins with paying attention. We can thank God for the people who care for us, the opportunities we have, and the everyday moments that bring us joy. Even a simple “thank you” can help someone feel seen and appreciated.

Generosity puts that thankfulness into action. Students can be generous with more than things: they can share their time, offer help, make room for someone in a game, or use their talents to encourage others.

This October, we invite families to try a simple question together: “What are we thankful for today, and how can we share that blessing?” At school, we will encourage students to look for small ways to answer it through their words and actions. May gratitude take root in our hearts and generosity grow from it.

A Prayer for Gratitude and Generosity

Loving God,

Thank You for the people who care for us and for the many gifts You place in our lives. Help us notice Your blessings each day, even in small moments. Give us generous hearts so we can share our time, kindness, and talents with others.

May our thankfulness grow into loving actions.

Amen.

Our Foster Children

Once a month, our school will be holding a **Hat & Jeans Day** to support our school's Haiti Mission. Students are invited to wear a hat and jeans and bring \$2 to donate to this important cause.

For many years, our school community has supported children at Saint Jean Bosco Institution in Jérémie, Haiti, providing educational supplies such as books, pencils, notebooks, and school bags, and helping provide a nutritious meal each school day.

The school serves children from some of the most vulnerable families in the community. Our support helps students stay in school, learn, grow, and have opportunities for a brighter future. Throughout our mission work, we strive to respect the people and culture of Haiti and, most importantly, to uphold the dignity of every child and family we support.

Thank you for helping our students learn that even a small act of generosity can make a difference. ❤️

October

Virtue: Gratitude

**Fruit of the Spirit:
Generosity**



October Prayer Services @ 9:00 am:

Friday, Oct. 2nd - Virtue Prayer & Awards Service

Wednesday, Oct. 7th - 100 Children Praying the Rosary

Friday, Oct. 16th - Gr. 6 Prayer Service



Our Notre Dame Community

School Council

School Council Meeting & AGM — Thursday, October 22

Notre Dame School Council will hold its regular meeting and Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thursday, October 22. All parents are welcome to attend.

The AGM is our yearly opportunity to look back on School Council's work, hear updates, and learn about plans for the year ahead. It is also an opportunity to learn about serving on Council.

To be eligible for election to School Council, a nominee must be a practicing Catholic, at least 19 years old, and a supporter of Catholic education. They must be nominated for a position and approved by the Pastor before the election. CISPg employees and their spouses are not eligible to serve. Elected members must be prepared to attend meetings and take an oath of confidentiality upon election.

Please note that **this October meeting is on a Thursday, rather than School Council's usual third Tuesday of the month.** We hope you will join us!

Parent Support Group - A message from the PSG



Hello Families of Notre Dame!

Welcome to Fall! We hope that you have had a wonderful first month of school. Our monthly PSG meeting, along with the AGM, will be held on October 13th at 5:00 pm.

*This month, we wanted to share more information about the Parent Support Group. The PSG was established by the School Council and operates as a non-profit organization with no personal financial benefit.

The purpose of the PSG is to work under the direction of the Notre Dame School Council to provide support to the students, teachers, and Principal to:

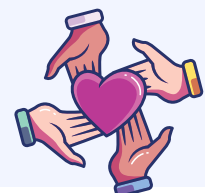
- Work towards the enhancement of programs at Notre Dame School for the betterment of the students.
- Encourage participation and involvement of parents/guardians and other Notre Dame Parish members.

Through various fundraising efforts and volunteer hours, we are able to help make enhancements to the school, provide treat days to students and staff, and support field trips and fun days for the classrooms.

*The 2026/2027 board is in need of key positions. Available positions are Vice-Chairperson and Fundraising Committee Chairperson. If you are interested and want more information, please email ndspg@cispag.ca, and we can discuss the opportunities. The monthly PSG meetings are a great opportunity to share ideas, meet other parents, and learn how to support the students, teachers and school community. We hope to see you there!

"The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others." DeAnn Hollis

Our next PSG meeting will be on **October 13th at 5:00 pm.**



Our Notre Dame Community

Morning & After School Care

Our Morning and After-School Care program is available to Notre Dame students in Kindergarten through Grade 7. Children have time to relax, play, read, make crafts, or work on homework. Families provide their child's after-school snack.

Hours of operation

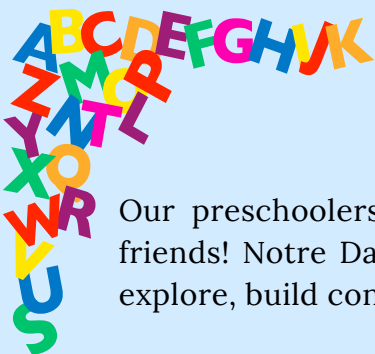
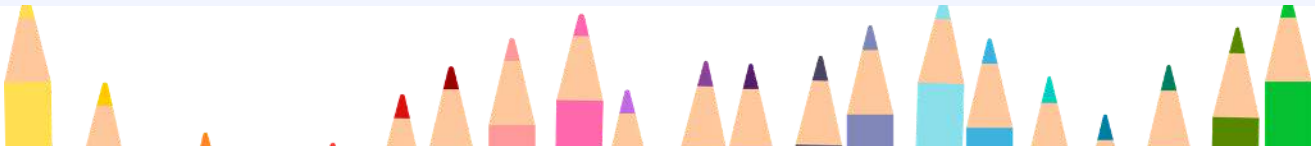
- Morning Care: 7:30–8:30 a.m.
- After-School Care: 2:45–5:45 p.m.



The program has 24 spaces, with one staff member for every 12 children. **We currently have only a few spaces left for regular attendance.** Families who need care on a regular schedule have priority for those spaces and pay the applicable monthly fee.

Drop-in care is intended for occasional childcare needs and is available only when space permits. As regular spaces fill, we may not be able to accommodate drop-in requests. Drop-in fees apply only to occasional use.

Applications are available on the school website or at the school office. Please contact the office to register or ask about availability.



Notre Dame Pre-School with Ms. Patsy

Notre Dame Preschool – Spaces Available



Our preschoolers are settling into a wonderful routine of learning, playing, and making friends! Notre Dame Preschool offers a caring, faith-filled place where young children can explore, build confidence, and develop skills for Kindergarten.

We currently have one space available in the Friday morning class, with more options available in our afternoon classes.

Preschool Hours

- Monday to Thursday: Morning class, 8:30–11:30 a.m.; afternoon class, 12:30–3:30 p.m.
- Friday: Morning class only, 8:30–11:30 a.m.

If you are interested in a preschool space, please contact the school office to learn about current availability. We would love to welcome your child!

Our Bell Schedule

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-day exit from the playground. After school supervision **is over at 3:00 pm, students must be picked up on time.**

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.

Allergy 'Aware' School



Notre Dame School is **"Allergy Aware"**. Please check with your child's classroom teacher for allergy alerts. Consider peanut- and nut-free alternatives for individual student lunches and snacks to accommodate our students and staff with food sensitivities/allergies.

Students are reminded that snacks and lunch are to be eaten in the classroom. We cannot eat recess snacks or lunch on the playground for safety reasons such as allergies.

Student Safety



Crosswalk Safety

Students are encouraged to use the **designated crosswalks** when arriving at and leaving school. A crossing guard is employed by Notre Dame School to help students cross the road safely. We ask all families to support this important safety measure by encouraging children to use the crosswalk each day.

Parking Lot Safety

For the safety of our students, the Notre Dame staff parking lot is **closed to vehicle traffic** during morning drop-off and afternoon dismissal.



Please park in designated legal parking areas along the street and walk your child to the school gates, or arrange to meet them at the sidewalk after school.

Please do not stop or park in the bus zone, staff parking lot entrances, or other restricted areas. Your cooperation helps ensure a safe and orderly arrival and dismissal for all students. Thank you for helping us keep our school community safe.

Reporting Student Absences

If your child will be absent or arriving late, please notify the school office by email, written note, or by calling 250-782-4923. We appreciate receiving absence notifications before 9:00 a.m. whenever possible.



This is an important safety procedure. If a student is absent and the school has not been notified, staff will contact parents or guardians to ensure the child is safe. Prompt communication helps us account for every student as quickly as possible.

Regular attendance is essential for student learning, and accurate attendance records are required for Ministry reporting and school funding. Thank you for helping us maintain accurate attendance records by reporting all absences promptly.

Student Pick-Up Procedures

To help ensure a safe and efficient dismissal, please make pick-up arrangements with your child before the end of the school day whenever possible. If plans change during the day, please contact the school office before 2:30 p.m., so we have time to notify your child and their teacher.



For student safety, parents and guardians picking up students during the school day are asked to sign their child out at the office before leaving the school. Students should not leave school grounds without permission from the office.