November 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

Student-Led Conferences

Student-Led Conferences will be held on **Wednesday, November 18 and Thursday, November 19th**.

Conferences will be in person, with two families booked every 30 minutes, from 2:15-6:30 pm each day.

Please watch for an email from the school in the coming weeks to sign up for your specific conference time.

Feeding Futures Reminder



As shared in October, our Feeding Futures initiative continues at Notre Dame School. **Classroom snack bins** offer fruit, applesauce, crackers, and granola bars daily for students who need an extra snack to fuel their bodies for learning.

If you do not want your child to receive these additional snacks, please notify both your child's classroom teacher and the school office. Thank you for your continued support!

Non-Instructional Day Reminder

Monday, November 30, is a non-instructional day. There will be no school, and Preschool, Morning Care, and After-School Care will be closed.

Please make alternate childcare arrangements if needed.

Principal Message

Dear Notre Dame Families,

November invites us to pause, reflect, and give thanks for the people who help us learn and grow. Guided by our faith theme, Rooted, we continue to deepen our relationship with God and strengthen the connections that bring our school community together.

This month, student-led conferences provide a meaningful opportunity for children to share their learning, celebrate their progress, and discuss their next steps. As you listen, ask questions, and recognize their efforts, you help your child build confidence and take ownership of their learning. We look forward to celebrating this growth with you.

As we observe Remembrance Day, we remember those who have served and sacrificed for peace, along with those who continue to serve. Through prayer, reflection, and classroom learning, we encourage students to consider how they can be peacemakers through everyday acts of kindness, understanding, and respect.

November is also a special time in our Catholic faith to remember loved ones who have died and hold them and their families in prayer. May we find comfort in God's love and in the care we offer one another.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for the many ways you support our students and staff. As the days grow colder, may our school remain a place of warmth, welcome, and belonging for every child.

God bless,
Your Partner in Education
Colleen Richard
Principal



Rooted In Faith

Student-Led Conferences

What to expect during your child's student-led conference:

Student-led conferences give your child an opportunity to share and celebrate their learning with you. **Students attend with their parents or caregivers** and take an active role in showing their work, explaining their progress, and reflecting on their successes and areas for growth.

During your visit, your child may read to you, explain a piece of writing, demonstrate a math strategy, or guide you through a classroom activity. You are encouraged to participate, ask questions such as "What are you most proud of?" or "What are you working to improve?", and celebrate their effort and growth.

Families will also meet with the classroom teacher to discuss their child's learning, ask questions and set learning goals and next steps.

Together, the student, parents or caregivers, and teacher will set a learning goal for the next term and discuss ways to support it at home and school.

These conversations help students take ownership of their learning and strengthen the partnership between home and school.



Book Fair

The **Notre Dame School book fair** is back November 16-20th in the Maker Space room downstairs. Times;



Lunch Recess (12:00 - 12:20) on:
- Monday
- Friday

During Student-Led Conferences (2:00 to 6:30)
- Wednesday & Thursday

Special Request:
Students are asked not to share money or make purchases for others to help prevent misunderstandings.

Key Dates for November

Thursday, Nov. 5th
Hat & Jeans Day - Bring a Toonie for our Foster Children



Friday, Nov. 6th
Virtue Prayer & Awards in the gymnasium @ 9:00 am
Grade 6 Immunization

Monday, Nov.9th
PSG Meeting @ 5:00pm



Tuesday, Nov. 10th
Gr.3 Remembrance Day Prayer @ 9:00 am

Wednesday, Nov. 11th
Remembrance Day - No School



Friday, Nov. 13th
Gr. 7 Mass @ Notre Dame Parish, 11:00 am

Wednesday, Nov. 18th & Thursday, Nov. 19th
Student-Led Conferences
Early Dismissal @1:45
Conferences starting at 2:15-6:30

Friday, Nov. 20th
Praise @ 9:00 am



Thursday, Nov. 26th
Spirit Day: Notre Dame Apparel Day
School Council Meeting @ 6:30

Friday, Nov. 27th
Grade 5 Prayer @ 9:00 am

Monday, Nov. 30th
Non-Instructional Day - No School for Students



Rooted In Faith

Safe Drop-Off and Pick-Up: Your Cooperation Matters

We ask all families to help keep our school parking lot and surrounding streets safe during drop-off and pick-up.

School gates open and morning supervision begins at 8:30 a.m. Please do not drop students off unattended before this time, as staff are not available to supervise them till 8:30 am.



Parking lot entrances and exits must remain clear at all times. Please do not stop or park in these areas, even briefly while your child gets out of the vehicle. Blocking access prevents staff from entering or leaving and could delay emergency vehicles when every moment matters.

We have needed to place cones at arrival and dismissal times to remind parents and guardians to keep these areas clear. However, the cones must also be removable to allow immediate access in an emergency. Whether or not cones are present, entrances and exits must remain unobstructed. We rely on every driver's cooperation to maintain safe access.

Please also ensure that stopping or parking on nearby streets does not block local traffic or neighbouring driveways.

We recognize that mornings and afternoons are busy, but convenience must never come before safety. Taking a moment to choose a safe place to stop shows consideration for students, staff, other families, and our neighbours.

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



A Little Care Goes a Long Way

Bundle up from head to toe,
Ready for the wind and snow.
Keep our entrances clear each day,
So everyone can pass safely on their way.
With thoughtful choices, big and small,
We make our school safer for all.







Winter Ready: Warm Clothes for Outdoor Play



Winter is on its way in Dawson Creek! Students will continue to enjoy outdoor recess and activities when conditions allow, and dressing warmly helps them make the most of their time outside.

Please send your child with a winter coat, snow pants, a warm hat, mittens or gloves, and insulated winter boots. Layers provide extra warmth and can be adjusted throughout the day.

An extra pair of socks and mittens tucked into your child's backpack can come in handy after snowy play. Please label all winter clothing and ensure your child has indoor shoes at school.

Thank you for partnering with us to keep children warm, comfortable, and ready for winter fun!

Faith Focus: Rooted in Faith

November Virtue & Fruit of the Spirit: Peace

This November, we are helping students explore Peace—in our hearts, in our relationships, and in the world around us. As we observe Remembrance Day, we remember those who have served and sacrificed for peace and reflect on how we can be peacemakers each day.

Peace in our hearts grows when we take time to pray, pause, and turn to God for comfort and guidance. Students are learning that when feelings become overwhelming, taking a breath, finding a quiet moment, or asking for help can support a calm and thoughtful response.

Peace with others begins with our everyday choices. Listening carefully, including others, speaking kindly, and working through disagreements respectfully help build a peaceful community. Being a peacemaker also means recognizing when we have hurt someone, saying sorry, and taking steps to make things right.

This November, we invite families to reflect together: "How did we bring peace to someone today?" At school, we will encourage students to practise patience, show understanding, and choose words and actions that help everyone feel safe, valued, and welcome. May we remain rooted in God's love as we work together for peace.

A Prayer for Peace

Loving God,

Fill our hearts with Your peace. Help us listen with patience, speak with kindness, and respond to others with understanding. When we disagree, guide us to find respectful solutions and make things right. We pray for those affected by war and conflict and for all who work for peace.

May our words and actions bring Your peace to our homes, our school, and our world.

Amen.



November

Virtue: Peace



Fruit of the Spirit: Peace



November Mass at Notre Dame Parish

Friday, November 13 at 11:00 a.m.

Please join us for Mass with Father Vener, the Grade 7 students, and Mrs. Willich.

Families are warmly welcome to join our school community in prayer and worship.

For everyone's safety, the church doors will be locked once students have entered. Please arrive before Mass begins so you can enter and be seated.

November Prayer Services @ 9:00 am:

Friday, Nov. 6th - *Virtue Prayer & Awards Service*
Tuesday, Nov. 10th - *Gr.3 Remembrance Day Prayer*
Friday, Nov. 20th - *Praise Service*
Friday, Nov. 27th - *Gr. 5 Prayer*

Virtue Award Recipicents

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

Kindergarten Awards: Somma Akude, Thatcher Malkinson
Grade One Awards: Marcus Gideon Maming, Thomas Veiner
Grade Two: Olivia Berry, Harlon Shipton
Grade Three: Safrina Dimapilis, Jillian Maher
Grade Four: Zeke Erickson, Remy Hegge
Grade Five: Eli Sandberg, Nathalie Parfait, Jaden Ogueli
Grade Six: Adalynn Gatchell, Aria Wiebe
Grade Seven: Averie De Castro, Emelia Morgan
Staff: Mrs. D & Ms. Ro



Open Hearts, Joyful Spirits

We open our hearts and make room for you,
With welcoming words and kind things we do.
A seat at our table, a place in our play,
Can help someone feel they belong today.
God's Spirit brings joy that we gladly share,
Through laughter and friendship, kindness and care.
With hearts full of welcome, we each have a part
In sharing God's love, from heart to heart.

Our Notre Dame Community

School Council

Thank you to everyone who participated in our recent School Council elections! We are pleased to welcome our newly elected executive:

- Chair: Charmaine Moeller
- Vice-Chair: Olive Akude
- Treasurer: Glenda Macarat
- Members: M. Thola, P. Gerwien, C. Zozobrado
- Sub-Committees:
  - R. Veiner – Secretary
  - J. Mattson – Maintenance and Repairs

We appreciate their willingness to share their time and talents in support of our students and school community. Thank you also to our outgoing members for their dedication and contributions.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 26, at 6:30 pm.

Parent Support Group - A message from the PSG



Hello Families of Notre Dame!

October was a busy month, wasn't it?! Welcome to November! We are very happy with the Hot Lunch Program! Thank you to the coordinators and volunteers who have made this happen. Also, THANK YOU to the Grade Seven Class for volunteering to distribute the lunches to the classrooms. It is greatly appreciated by all!

PSG has kicked off our annual **Holiday Purdy's fundraiser**! Purdy's is Canada's top chocolatier, known for a wide variety of tasty chocolate products made with 100% sustainable cocoa and premium ingredients. Purdy's makes a great gift for friends, families, co-workers, employees and teachers! Reminder: **All orders are due by November 20th, 2026**.

https://fundraising.purdys.com/fundraising/campaign/000041138

Basket Raffle 2026
It is that time of year when we begin collecting items for one of our FAVOURITE school fundraisers. Each classroom is responsible for collecting NEW items for a designated gift basket. Each child is asked to contribute an item(s) with at least a $15-$20 value. Alternatively, a monetary donation can be made, which will allow an item to be purchased for the basket. Students will be bringing home raffle tickets to be sold to family and friends in December. To ensure that our basket raffle is a success, please have your ITEM or MONEY brought to the classroom by November 20th, 2026.

We hosted the AGM on October 13th. The members voted for the board positions as follows:
President: Rachel Veiner
Vice-President: Sarah Maher
Treasurer: Michelle Allen
Secretary: Vicki Rose
Fundraising Chair: Caitlyn Trail

Our next regular meeting will be on November 9th at 5:00 pm.

To receive the meeting agenda by email, please request it at ndspsg@cispg.ca. It is a great way to follow along and stay in the loop on the PSG projects and events.



Rooted In Faith

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.

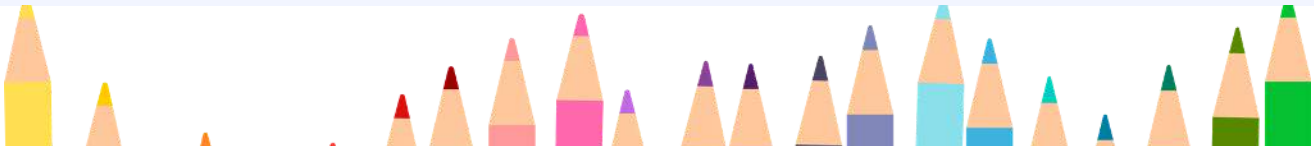
Hours of operation

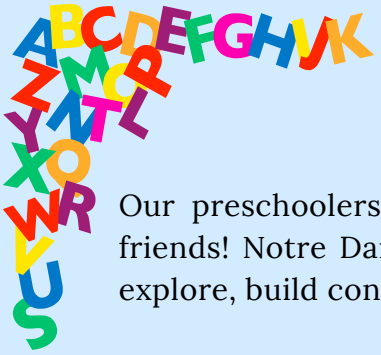
- Morning Care: 7:30–8:30 a.m.
- After-School Care: 2:45–5:45 p.m.

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!

Rooted In Faith

Notre Dame Routines & Informaiton

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.