



Catholic Education |

PILGRIMS OF HOPE: ON THE PATH TO HOLINESS

for all



June 2026 School Newsletter

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

As we enter June, I am filled with gratitude for the learning, growth, and community spirit that have shaped our time together. This is a month of celebration—of accomplishments, milestones, and the many ways our students continue to show resilience, curiosity, and kindness.

At the end of June, we offer a heartfelt farewell to Mrs. Porco, who will be retiring at the end of the month after years of dedicated service to our Notre Dame community. Her compassion, patience, and unwavering commitment to the Catholic faith and to students have touched countless lives. We send her forward with our deepest thanks and appreciation knowing she has made a lasting difference to Notre Dame.

We also extend our warmest appreciation and best wishes to several staff members who will be leaving Notre Dame at the end of this school year. Each has contributed uniquely to the spirit and success of our school, and their presence will be deeply missed. Best wishes in the next chapter of their educational journey goes to: Ms. Lootsma, Mme Fernandes, Mlle Santos, Mlle Fiszau and Mr. Wyszowski. We thank each of them for the gifts they have shared with our community and wish them every success and blessing as they begin their next chapters.

As we move toward year-end celebrations, report cards, and graduations, I encourage families to take time to reflect on the growth your children have experienced—academically, socially, and spiritually. June reminds us that learning is a journey, and every step matters.

Thank you to the many volunteers who have been an integral part of the school year. We appreciate all you have done for the students and staff.

Wishing all our Notre Dame families a restful and enjoyable summer season.

H. Graham, Principal

Notre Dame Catholic School

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Twitter: @ndcaledonia

ZONE 2

Principal: H. Graham

Secretary: C. Woods, L. Frenza

BELL TIMES

8:55am: School Begins

10:35-11:15am:

1st Nutrition Break

12:55-1:35pm:

2nd Nutrition Break

3:15pm: School Dismissal





Young Authors Awards Provincial Level

Congratulations to our student winners of the 2026 provincial Young Authors Awards:

Margaux who won the English Grades 1-2 Poem category
Eva who won the French Grades 1-2 Short Story category

Thank you to our Knights above for their valued contributions to the Young Authors Awards this year!



Thank you to Mme Turcotte, ND staff, the students and volunteers for providing our Knights and the school community with an incredible stage performance this year! We thank our families for their support of our talented students with their attendance that evening with their door donations and concession stand purchases of approx. \$550. These funds will be used for the purpose of providing our school community future stage performances in support of the arts. BRAVO!!



What is Swim to Survive (+)?

There are three aspects to the Lifesaving Society's Swim to Survive program:

- #1 **At the POOL:** Three hours of in-water lessons
- #2 **In the CLASS:** Three in-classroom curriculum-based lessons
- #3 **At HOME:** Parent education about Swim to Survive

Swim to Survive (for Grade 3 Students)

The Society defines the minimum skills needed to survive an unexpected fall into deep water. These are expressed in a skill sequence in the Canadian Swim to Survive standard:

- **ROLL** into deep water
- **TREAD** water for one minute
- **SWIM** 50 metres

Swim to Survive Plus (for Grade 7 Students)

The Society defines the minimum skills needed to survive an unexpected fall into deep water. These are expressed in a skill sequence in the Canadian Swim to Survive+ standard:

- **How to ROLL, TREAD and SWIM (with long sleeve shirt and pants on, depending on ability)**
- **How to help a friend in deep water without putting themselves in danger (TALK, REACH, THROW)**
- **Basic physical fitness concepts through interval training and a fitness swim**

The Schedule:

June 18, 19, 22, 23 & 24: Grade 3 students in Mrs. Porco, Mrs. Haddow, Mme Edge's classes
June 18 & 19: Grade 7 students in Mr. Goulding's and Mme Fiszauf's classes

Planning for the 2026 – 2027 School Year

Dear Families,

Currently, we are in the planning stages about placing students in classes for the 2026-2027 school year. It has been my practice that this important year-end procedure be best accomplished through a team effort to create the most dynamic classes possible – ones that include a variety of student learning strengths, needs, talents, and gifts. Please trust that the Notre Dame educators and I put a great deal of careful thought and effort into the placement of each student. Please know that Notre Dame staff is committed to providing your child with the best possible learning opportunities regardless of whether he/she is in a straight class or split class.

I am excited to share that, as our French Immersion program continues to grow, our school is adding an additional classroom next year. This expansion will allow us to offer a full Immersion pathway through to Grade 8, supporting our students as they continue their learning journey with us.

It has also been my practice to try to accommodate parent requests as much as possible before the new school year begins. If you feel that you need to advocate for your child's needs, contact me via email by **no later than June 11th**. Although I cannot guarantee that your request be granted, I can guarantee that it will be seriously considered during our staff discussions. Please note that I will not make requests or make changes after that date. It is my belief that our staff places your child in the best possible class scenario for the coming school year. Our children understand that sometimes disappointment happens in life (e.g. not getting the teacher they want; or not being with a certain friend) and it is in our children's best interest to continue to teach them to successfully cope with disappointment and be able to move forward with the mindset that "everything will be okay if I allow it to be okay". As the adults in their lives when we model that for them, it helps them develop the necessary resiliency to cope with bigger disappointments.

Children will be notified who their teacher is just before school begins (early September). As we are an area of changing dynamics, many staffing and class organization changes can still be made late in August, which is one of the reasons why we do not disclose class lists until near the first day of school.

Thank you for your continued support through this journey. As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Sincerely, H. Graham, Principal

hgraham@bhncdsb.ca



Haldimand County Public Library April Poetry Contest 2026

The following students made our school very proud by being awarded winners of the Haldimand County Public Library April Poetry contest this year. All primary, junior, and intermediate winners placed were from our school.

All winners were invited to the new Hagersville library for an award ceremony where they got to read their poems and receive their awards/prizes on May 23rd.

They made Miss Mendoza and Mrs. Medeiros very proud! Go Knights Go!

Primary Categories

Liam Pato – 1st Place

Gabriella Scott-Umunna – 2nd Place

Lola Hana – 3rd Place

Junior Category

Chimanda Scott-Umunna – 1st Place

Brody Bath - 2nd Place

Gabriel Owusu – tied for 3rd Place

Kolton Willis – tied for 3rd place

Intermediate Category

Gabriel Valentine – 1st Place

Lailah Smith – 2nd and 3rd Place

Class of 
2026
CONGRATULATIONS!

Asher
Kaleb
Jake
Imogen
Owen
Alexandria
Wyatt
Madison
Brian
Emma
Mark

Riel
Ethan
Natalie
Reed
David
Damien
Sophia
Samantha
Isabella
Hannah
Nevaeh

Thank you for your contributions to
Notre Dame School over the past years.
We wish you much success as you
begin secondary school in September.

The Staff at Notre Dame School



**THANK
YOU**

We are very grateful all year long for the wonderful volunteers who help out at the school: Strong Start, Subway Days, Field Trips, etc.

Thank you to Mr. Kyler and Miss Sue for keeping our school looking beautiful all year long.

Thank you to Father Jerome for his time and guidance preparing our students for Communion and Confirmation and leading our school Masses.

Supervision

An important reminder that supervision at the school does not begin each day until 8:40am. At 8:40am students are allowed to be dropped off; if raining, students will be taken inside the building and make their way to their classroom.

At 3:15pm students who do not attend the aftercare program and do not travel home by bus must be collected by a parent or guardian from their exit door.

SafeArrival

SafeArrival is an absence management system that improves student safety and makes it easy for you to let the school know about your child's absence.

You are asked to report your child's absence in advance whenever possible using one of these convenient methods:

SchoolMessenger Home App (free)

Get the app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (search for SM Home or visit <https://home.schoolmessenger.ca/> and using one of the linked app download buttons)

Web and Mobile Web: home.schoolmessenger.ca

Interactive Toll-free Phone

Call the toll-free, interactive telephone system. [1-844-445-4381](tel:1-844-445-4381)



Moving Over the Summer? New Contact Information?

Please Call Us

If you are planning to move over the summer, if for any reason your child will not be returning to Notre Dame, or you have a new phone number, please advise the office. This is vital information for planning and communication purposes.

Thank you for your co-operation. 905-765-0649

Message from Student Transportation

From STSBHN (the transportation department): As we look ahead to the 2026-2027 school year, please note that the **Transportation Parent Portal will open on August 4, 2026**, at which time you will be able to review your child's transportation information. If you need to request a change, please ensure that **all change requests are submitted no later than September 2 at 12:00 noon**.

The **Transportation Request Form** is available here:

https://transinfobhn.ca/Workflow/Forms/CA_ON_STSBHN/TransportationRequestV2.aspx?FormVersionId=e9c46559-d052-46ae-b0af-d48c49c7b271 .

We encourage families to review transportation details as soon as the portal opens and submit any necessary requests before the deadline to help ensure a smooth start to the school year.





Balanced School Day Schedule

Morning Bell 8:55 am

1st Nutrition Break 10:35 -11:15 am

2nd Nutrition Break 12:55-1:35 pm

Dismissal Bell 3:15 pm

ALL Students

Please update the office of any changes to the end of the school day normal routine (ie. early dismissal, etc.) before 2:30pm.

Thank you!



The Before and After School program continues to be offered at Notre Dame School.

Contact Mary Anne Whitford for updates and additional information.

Please call (905) 765-1975.



S.A.C Update

We want to thank our co-chairs and committee members for their support this year. We want to invite families to come out to SAC next year. Every year SAC pays a portion of the Christmas Turkey Lunch expense, etc. Fundraising continues for the outdoor playground equipment project. Spending decisions are made with discussions and ideas that happen at these meetings. Parent volunteers are encouraged to attend. All are welcome! Please watch your email inbox for information that will be sent about our first scheduled meeting in the new school year.



School Update

We would like to thank you for your on-going support throughout the year. The monies from pizza, Subway, popcorn, Panzeroli and Whiff Rims Dance Fundraiser benefited our students again this year. We had funds to pay for all buses to the church and sporting events with no cost to our students. Monies also covered teacher expenses for classroom purchases and instructional needs.



God Bless our Grade 8 Knights who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 30th. May the light of the Holy Spirit inspire you, guide you, guard you, and fill you, with joy of Jesus Christ.



- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Asher | Riel |
| Jake | Alexandria |
| Madison | Samantha |
| Emma | Hannah |
| Mark | Nevaeh |

Congratulations!

CONGRATULATIONS!!

This year's participating Knights from Grades 4 to 8 who represented Notre Dame Caledonia at the 2026 Cross Country Meet in made us proud!

Their dedication and skill made them

FIRST PLACE winners for this year's competition.

Thank you to the staff who supervised and supported our participants through many weeks of practice.

GO KNIGHTS!!





JUNE 2026

S M T W T F S

	1 Gr8 to Tim Hortons Onondaga Farm Gr3/4E&F Funvilla Trip	2 Subway	3	4 Pizza	5 PA Day	6
7	8	9 Kinders to Twin Valley Zoo	10 Board Track & Field Day Sparky Program	11 Track & Field Rain Date Water Safety Presentation	12 Gr 1-2 Trip to Whitehorse Bowling Gr 7 Art Gallery PIZZA	13
14	15 Play Day	16 Subway Play Day Rain Date	17 Gr 8 Grad Mass Trip to Activate: 5/6E,6/7F,6F(5/6F)	18 Trip to Activate: 4/5E&F, 5F (5/6F) Swim to Survive: Gr3(3/4F), Gr7(6/7F)	19 Pizza Swim to Survive: Gr3 (3/4F), Gr7E	20
21 	22 Swim to Survive: Gr3 (3/4E), and Gr3 (2/3E)	23 Term 2 Reports Swim to Survive: Gr3 (3/4E) (2/3E) Gr. 8 Grad	24 Swim to Survive: Gr3 (2/3E) (3/4E)	25 Last Day of School	26 PA Day	27
28	29	30	National Indigenous History Month #NIHM2026			



Wishing the staff & students
a safe & healthy summer holiday.
See you back on
September 8th!

**School Year 2026-27
Mark Your Calendar**

- School Resumes September 8th
- PA Days: October 6, November 20
- Meet the Teacher: TBD

Holidays:
Thanksgiving ~ October 12th
Christmas Break ~ Dec 21st to Jan 1st