

Notre Dame Catholic School

English & French Immersion
35 Braemar Avenue, Caledonia, ON N3W 2M5

905.765.0649 | Zone: 2

September 2026 Newsletter

Opening Prayer - Peace from God

Loving God,

Thank You for the gift of this day and for our Catholic school, where we learn about Your great love for us. Today we pray for Your special gift of Peace.

As we begin a new school year, we may encounter times of worry, nervousness and the feeling of being overwhelmed. We ask that in those moments, You fill our hearts with Your quiet, gentle calm.

Help us to be peacemakers today and every day.

Give us the courage to choose kind words, forgive others when it is hard to and to bring joy to our classrooms and our playground. As we become artisans of peace this year, guide our steps and keep our school family united in Your love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Principal's Message

Dear Families,

It is with excitement that I welcome you to a new school year! I hope that your summer provided opportunities for rest, renewal, and memorable moments with family and friends. As we begin this journey together, we look forward to welcoming students back into our classrooms and hallways, where learning, faith, and community come alive each day.

This year, our school Board will embrace the pastoral theme "Becoming Artisans of Peace." Inspired by the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:9, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God," we are called to intentionally build peace in our hearts, our relationships, our school, and our world. Just as an artisan carefully creates something beautiful with patience and skill, we will work together to foster kindness, understanding, compassion, and respect in all that we do. Through our words and actions, we hope to be instruments of God's peace and love each day.

We recognize that the partnership between home, school, and parish is essential to supporting the success and well-being of our students. Thank you for the trust you place in the Notre Dame staff as we work together to nurture the spiritual, academic, social, and emotional growth of every child.

I am also looking forward to connecting with you at our Meet the Educator event on September 23rd. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit classrooms, meet your child's teacher, and learn more about the exciting year that lies ahead.

May God bless each of our families as we begin this new school year together. We look forward to a year filled with learning, growth, faith, and opportunities to become true Artisans of Peace.

Warm regards,

Heather Graham
Principal

Office Administration

- Principal: Heather Graham
- Secretaries: C. Woods, L. Frenza
- www.notredamecaledonia.ca

School Bell Times

- School Starts: 8:55 a.m.
- 1st Nutrition Break: 10:35 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.
- 2nd Nutrition Break: 12:55 p.m. - 1:35 p.m.
- School Dismissal: 3:15 p.m.



Safe Arrival Reminder

If your child will be absent, late or leaving early from school please use the SafeArrival system. An attendance reporting system available to parents 24/7. Attendance updates can be submitted at your convenience any time before or by 9am each school day.

You have 3 options to report an absence:

- Download the mobile app;
- Use the [website](https://home.schoolmessenger.ca) (<https://home.schoolmessenger.ca>)
- Or call the toll free number: 1-844-445-4381

Important Dates in September at Notre Dame

September 8: Welcome Back to School (staggered start schedule for new JK learners)

September 15: DEADLINE to return the Student Information Verification Forms to the school

September 21: School Photo Day

September 22: HN JR & SR Soccer Tournament at the Caledonia Soccer Complex (Rain Date: Sept 23)

September 23: Meet the Teacher Night from 4pm to 5:30pm

September 23: DEADLINE to submit food orders for the month of October

September 24: Agstravaganza at the Caledonia Fairgrounds for Grade 5 Students

September 26: Sacrament of Confirmation Enrolment Ceremony at 5pm at St. Patrick's Church

September 28: Terry Fox Run Day for Students (fundraising link for donations will be shared)

September 29: Taquanyah Nature Centre for Grade 2 Students

September 30: Orange Shirt Day for National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

[View our school year calendar](#)

Tax Direction Information

Support Catholic Education in the Upcoming Municipal Election

Help protect and preserve our Catholic education system by ensuring that you are registered as an English Separate (Catholic) School Supporter. Like many Catholics, you may be surprised to find out that you are registered as a 'Public School' supporter. You are able to correct this before the upcoming election.

If you miss the update deadline, you can also bring photo identification and proof of address to your polling station on election day to ensure you are able to cast a vote for your local Catholic school trustee.

By directing your tax support to the separate school system:

- You may vote for separate school trustees in municipal elections
- Your children may attend Catholic elementary schools
- You show your support for the Catholic school system

You can visit [MPAC](#) to learn more about changing your school support online or download the MPAC school support factsheet below.



Direction of School Support

Download

116.1 KB

October is Kindergarten Registration Month!

The Road to Kindergarten

Little one born in 2023?
Register for Kindergarten **this October**



BHNCDSB



Register for Kindergarten

Do you have a little one born in 2023? Mark your calendar - online kindergarten registration opens in October

School News

Safety Precautions Around the School

The school day is a busy one, with the morning start and afternoon dismissal being our peak busy times. Parents are asked not to park on school property during these peak times (8:40am to 9:15am and 3:00pm to 3:30pm) as buses are dropping off and picking up students as well as walkers are making their way to or from school.

- Please find a parking spot on the street if you wish to walk your child onto school premises
- Use of the Kiss & Ride area at the front main entrance: The Kiss & Ride area is a designated fire lane; and therefore, parents cannot leave their vehicles in this area to walk their child to the door as parked cars are not permitted at any time.
- Parking is not permitted at the Canadian Tire parking lot. The business receives product deliveries and the parking lot becomes very dangerous with incoming/outgoing delivery transport trucks at all times of the day.
- **Staff supervision begins at 8:40am** and children should not arrive before that time as there will not be supervision on school grounds. *Staff will be outside the school to receive children who arrive by bus. Parents are asked not to congregate on school property after dropping off your child before school or while waiting for the dismissal bell at the end of the day. It helps to foster an easier transition for the child in the morning and eliminate disruptions to classes who are still receiving instruction in the classroom until 3:15pm.
- **Parents/guardians must not enter the school at any entry door other than through the main entrance. All visitors/volunteers must sign in at the office.**

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Food & Beverage Policy at Notre Dame School

It's a fact: a healthy mind depends on a healthy body. Students who eat healthy food are better prepared to learn and are more likely to succeed in school. Please remember that the students have 2 breaks – two 40-minute breaks. Perhaps mark what they should eat at first and second break.

The Ministry of Education has a School Food and Beverage Policy that includes comprehensive nutrition standards. As part of this initiative, the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board has created its own Interim Policy that aligns with the ministry policy. Any food sold/served at Notre Dame School will meet the guidelines outlined in our board policy. Notre Dame will provide a healthy school eating environment that encourages and models healthy living.

As in the past, **home baking is not allowed** due to Health Unit Guidelines and the anaphylactic policy. In case of a birthday, perhaps send in a book to be added to the classroom library.

If allowed this year, schools will be able to choose ten special events that do not have to follow the policy. These ten days will be decided by the principal, in consultation with the staff.

Good health is a prerequisite for good learning. The School Food and Beverage Policy offers a way to encourage healthy eating in schools. For more information about Ontario's healthy schools initiatives, visit www.ontario.ca/healthyschools

A Gentle Reminder to our Knights

Notre Dame Catholic School is a an **ALL NUT and SESAME SEED safe school**.
(*Peanut butter substitutes such as WOW Butter are not permitted at school.*)

Please pack a fork, spoon, or any necessary utensils in your child's lunchbox every day.
Disposable utensils are not available at the office. *Thank you for your understanding.*



School Cash Online

School Cash Online is used to purchase items such as pizza, etc., as well as pay for class trips, submit mandatory annual consent forms, and more.

Notre Dame School will begin the food program delivery to students in October. Lunch items for purchase will be available to families in School Cash Online starting September 10th.

It is easy and convenient. To Register please go to: bhncdsb.schoolcashonline.com
Once you register, you will be able to pay for your child's costs on-line. You will also receive e-mail notifications for all new items that pertain to your child/ren. (Instructions attached below)

In 2026-2027 Notre Dame will offer the following lunch items:

1. Pizza Days from Pizza Pizza (weekly, on Friday, but offered on Thursdays when Friday is a PA day)
2. Subway Days (bi-weekly, almost always on Tuesday unless a change is needed)
3. Panzeroli Days (see attached flyer) (monthly, on Tuesday of the designated week in the month)
4. Ms. Martin's Kitchen (see attached flyer) (monthly, on Tuesday of the designated week in the month)
5. Popcorn Days (weekly, on Wednesday)



School Cash Online Sign Up Instructions.pdf

[Download](#)
203.3 KB



PANZEROLI School Lunch Day.pdf

[Download](#)
336.2 KB



Ms. Martin's Kitchen Flyer.pdf

[Download](#)
349.9 KB

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Annual Consent Forms Required for All Students

The Student Information Verification form (pink, legal sized paper) is being sent home to all parents/guardians on the first day of school with your child. Please check their backpack. This is a standard form containing information from our student management system. Please review (double-sided) carefully and make any corrections as required. **Sign and date the forms and return to the school no later than Monday, September 15th.**

The following forms will be available for completion using School Cash Online:

1. Catholic School Code of Conduct
2. Student Information and Communications Technology Use Agreement for Primary, Junior and Intermediate Students
3. Notice of Collection and Use of Personal Information
4. The Makerspace Safety Contract (STEM)
5. Concussion Protocol
6. Mobile Device Use

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School Visitors

The security and safety of our staff and students are important. Parents/guardians/visitors to the school **MUST report to the office** when entering the school. This includes Board personnel. All school doors will be locked, and visitors must enter through the front main doors. Please use the buzzer and the speaker to identify yourself. There will be NO travel through the school by any visitors granted entry without permission.

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Change of Clothes for All Students at School

It is important that **ALL** students JK to Grade 8 have a change of clothes at the school. Accidents happen, whether a fall in a puddle outside, a spill during lunch, etc. This will prevent students from having to call a parent at home or at work and inconveniencing them during the day.

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Volunteering at the School

Thank you for considering volunteering at Notre Dame Catholic School. A Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC) is required and can be obtained by submitting an online application at the OPP.ca website. VSC documents are valid for five (5) years. Please email the school office (cwoods@bhncdsb.ca) to request a school letter, and one will be prepared and sent to you via email. Additionally, A.O.D.A. training is required, a one-time online training module to be completed by the parent/guardian. Annual consent forms to maintain a valid volunteer status will be shared with you by the school office over the 5 year validity period.

Student Accident Insurance Forms

Many families do not know that our school board **does not** cover accident costs!

If an accident happens, the board may be prevented from offering financial solutions to our families even if we wanted to. Student accident insurance, Insuremykids®, can mitigate your board's exposure and help you manage the loss for student injuries that occur on school property or during school activities, including extra- curricular sports.

Each year, many families are left financially unprotected when their children are injured at school, while participating in non-school activities or at home. If a student is injured, parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for any costs not covered by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) or their employer's health care plan. Please check with your provider regarding your coverage.

Most accident-related expenses are not fully covered under OHIP and some expenses like ambulance fees, casts, crutches, physiotherapy, and emergency dental care are usually not covered at all. This leaves you, the parent/guardian, financially responsible.

To help protect your family, it is recommended that you consider obtaining student accident insurance. As a convenience to you, the Board has arranged to offer student accident insurance through insuremykids®. Participation is voluntary, but highly recommended, and the costs are to be paid by the parent/guardian. The program is available for students up to age 26.

Coverage is provided for a wide range of accidental expenses, including:

- **Dental Expenses** - includes 10 years unlimited dental benefit coverage, future dental up to \$1,650 per tooth, and injury-related orthodontia coverage up to \$2,500 per accident.
- **Total and Permanent Disability** - up to \$350,000.
- **Loss of Limb/Loss of Sight, Hearing, or Speech.**
- **Accidental Death *Ambulance Fees *And much more.**

Insuremykids® Student Accident Insurance offers three plans with 24/7 coverage at affordable rates – their most affordable plan is \$17 per year and their most popular plan is the Platinum at \$33 per year, which provides out-of-province emergency medical coverage and travel benefits. All annual plans provide **13 months of coverage** from the date of purchase. Family rates are available for three or more children in the same family, even if attending different schools. You can also save on time and premium with an optional 3-Year or 5-Year plan, available for online purchase only.

If you wish to purchase coverage, please do so directly online at www.insuremykids.com or call 1-800-463-5437. The insurance agreement is between **You** and the insurance underwriter, **Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada**. For more information, please visit www.insuremykids.com.

Student Transportation

Bus Transportation

Special precautions are being taken to ensure your child safely travels to school every day. Your child's safety is our concern, and their best behaviour is necessary. Every time the bus driver's attention is averted from the road to speak to students who aren't behaving properly, there is a potential situation for an accident. It is a privilege NOT a right to ride the school bus. Student behaviour will be recorded and an incident report submitted by the bus driver to the Principal. Inappropriate behaviour will NOT be tolerated, and students will be responsible for his/her actions and will be dealt with accordingly.

Please remind your child about the importance of proper behaviour on the bus. Only students who follow the conduct code of behaviour for riding the bus will be allowed to continue to ride. **Please note that no student will be allowed to get off or on at another stop due to the transportation policy and insurance purposes.** There will be NO exceptions to this rule, (such as babysitting purposes, birthday parties, etc.)

If you have any questions regarding your child's bus, please call the transportation department (519-751-7532 or 1-877-226-6353 – ext.#3). *The school receives email updates about bus delays, etc. just like parents would if they are subscribed to the transportation website (www.stsbhn.ca). The school is unaware of any further details about a bus issue more than what has been shared by Student Transportation via email. **Please do not call the school.**

Your child's bus company can be contact directly if needed. Please keep the following telephone numbers readily available during the school year:

Bus Routes 450, 453, 790, 791, 792, 795, 796, 797, 799 call ~
First Student Ancaster: (905) 522-3232

Bus Route 260 call ~
Voyageur Transportation Services: (519) 787-2202

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Transportation Portal

Transportation details (bus stop information, bus time schedule) **for the coming school year** can be accessed by logging into the online portal available at stsbhn.ca. From the Home Page you can choose Parent/Student Log In. You must create an account allowing you access to your child's Transportation details.

The portal is now accessible to the public, with information for the 2026-27 school year available to parents/guardians. Parents/guardians can submit a new bus request, submit a change request to existing bus information or request a courtesy bus route. Not all requests can be accommodated. Please use the following link if a bus submission is needed.



BusPlanner Workflow

Note: Enter the Student ID Number, available from school office or school portal. Leave blank if unknown. Contact the school office and record this number for your records as it is required to access the Transportation Parent Portal.

🔗 transinfobhn.ca

Grand Erie Public Health

School Zone Safety

The rush of cars, buses and children arriving at school can create many dangers. Help keep kids safe on the way to and from school.



Drivers:

- Slow down and be ready to stop for school buses and pedestrians
- Respect the crossing guard's instructions
- Be aware of children potentially running in front or behind buses or other obstructions (snowbanks) Make sure your child gets out from the passenger side of your vehicle
- Park away from the school and walk your child onto school property

Teach your children to:

- Stop, look, listen, and make eye contact with drivers before crossing
- Walk only on the sidewalk and follow the crossing guard's instructions
- Do not use cell phones or earphones when walking

For more information, visit [School Zone Safety - CAA School Safety Patrol](#).

Adapted with permission from Grey Bruce Public Health

More News From Grand Erie Public Health

Plans of Care for Prevalent Medical Conditions

At this time of year, we'd like to bring your attention to the Plans of Care we provide students who have a prevalent medical condition that requires support or monitoring for the upcoming school year. The following are medical conditions that require a Plan of Care as determined by the B.H.N.C.D.S.B. policy and/or provincial legislation:

***Asthma *Anaphylaxis *Diabetes *Epilepsy**

The information letter was shared with school families via email on the first day of school. Please call Mrs. Bookman at (905) 765-0649 to inform her if support is needed. When completing a form for your child, please email the form to kbookman@bhncdsb.ca, or drop it off at the school office.

Mrs. Bookman, the school S.E.R.T., ensures that the necessary information is communicated to staff for the new school year. *(Plans of Care already in place for current students will be automatically reviewed and updated for the upcoming school year by Mrs. Bookman.)*

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Administration of Prescribed Medication

We, at Notre Dame, must follow Board policies & procedures for the administration of medication during school hours. If needed, please contact the principal for information about arranging the administration of medication. Authorization to provide such service must be made in writing by the parent and physician on the appropriate form (obtained at the school). **Only prescription drugs will be administered.** Non-prescription drugs such as aspirin (or other over-the-counter medication) will NOT be administered to the students.

Code of Conduct

When you enroll your child in a Catholic School within the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board, there are clear expectations about acceptable and non-acceptable behaviour for all members of the school community (students, staff, parents and visitors). These expectations will reflect Catholic values including respect for personal dignity, personal space, personal property and difference in background. If you have any concerns as a parent, please address them to your child’s teacher. Often you will hear another side to a story or sometimes students may misunderstand the teacher. Please remember to role model proper behaviour. Inappropriate remarks, yelling, swearing at a staff member will not be tolerated!!! Sometimes we may not always agree so it is imperative to talk to the teacher. If the conflict can’t be resolved, please talk to the Principal. It is always wise not to discuss staff members in front of the children.

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Dress Code at Notre Dame Catholic School

School uniforms are not worn at the BHNCD SB elementary schools, but appropriate dress is required at all times. As a Catholic School, one of our goals is to promote modesty in dress and decency in behaviour. In order to do this, certain types of clothing are not acceptable at Notre Dame School. **THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT TO BE WORN TO SCHOOL:**

- 1. Cut off shorts (short shorts)
- 2. Tube tops/spaghetti straps
- 3. Any tops displaying midriff
- 4. T-shirts with inappropriate slogans/pictures

Any attire offensive or immodest is not permitted. As a sign of respect, hats are not to be worn inside the school.

Thank you for supporting our Catholic vision.

Notre Dame School Spirit Wear

We will join together and celebrate our school by wearing
Notre Dame spirit wear* or school colours (purple and gold/yellow).

Every Wednesday of this school year will be a
spirit wear day/school colours day.

Please join us!

*A spirit wear pop up store will be available this fall for anyone wanting to
purchase spirit wear items.

Watch your email inbox for more details.

School Advisory Council

The council is an advisory group to the Principal. The school council works in conjunction with the school to assist in purchasing resources as well as strengthening the bond between St. Patrick's Church and Notre Dame Catholic School, supporting school fundraising, augmenting the school improvement plan and fostering a sense of pride in our school identity. Monthly meetings are scheduled and all are welcome. If interested, please contact the school office to provide your email address to receive more information.

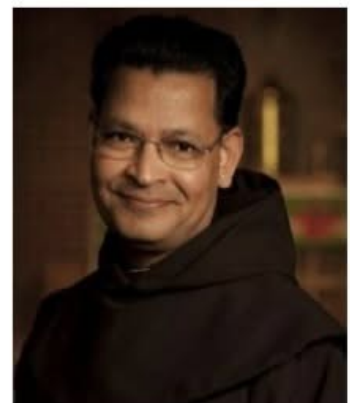
St. Patrick's Catholic Church News

Welcome to Father John Pinto, OCD

A warm welcome to Fr. John Pinto, O.C.D. Originally from Mangaluru, Karnataka, India, Fr. John is a Discalced Carmelite priest with many years of pastoral ministry in Canada. He most recently served at Guardian Angels Parish in Vancouver, BC. He also served at St. Thomas More Parish in Calgary, Alberta. We are blessed to welcome Fr. John to our parish family this year in which he is celebrating his 40th anniversary of priestly ordination and look forward to his pastoral leadership and ministry among us.

He welcomes everyone to attend Mass. Come one and all. All are welcome to attend on Saturday evening at 5:00pm or Sunday at 8:30am or 10:30am. Please visit the church

website: www.stpatrickscaledonia.com



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The Sacrament of Baptism

Learn what it means to be Baptized in the Catholic Church and how to be Baptized as children and adults. Please register for Baptism preparation class by calling the church office at 905-765-2729.

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The Sacrament of Communion

As dates are arranged by St. Patrick's Church for students in Grade 2 to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion, communication will be sent home by your child's teacher.

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The Sacrament of Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Saturday, **November 7th at 2:00pm** at St. Patrick's Church for all Grade 8 students. An information package to be sent home with your child to be completed and returned to the office or the church by September 18th. Confirmation gown rentals will be required for all Confirmandi. Rental fee is \$20 and payment can be submitted via School Cash Online.

Notre Dame Catholic School Contacts/Staff for 2026-27

Principal: Mrs. H. Graham

Secretaries: Mrs. C. Woods, Mrs. L. Frenza

Priest: Father John Pinto (905) 765-2729

Church: St. Patrick's Church

Parish Secretary: Maryann Wijayapura

Superintendent: Mr. M. Lawlor

Trustee: Mrs. T. Poirier

Teacher in Charge: Mrs. K. Consoli

School Council Co-Chairs: T.B.A.

Kindergarten French Immersion Pathway (K1): Mrs. K. McNiven

E.C.E.: Mrs. V. Gaspar

Kindergarten French Immersion Pathway (K2): Mrs. M. Fitzhenry

E.C.E.: Mrs. L. Tinebra

Gr. 1F: Mme S. McQueen

Gr. 1/2F: Mme S. Turcotte

Gr. 2/3F: Mme M. Banda

Gr. 3F: Mme M. Cecchini

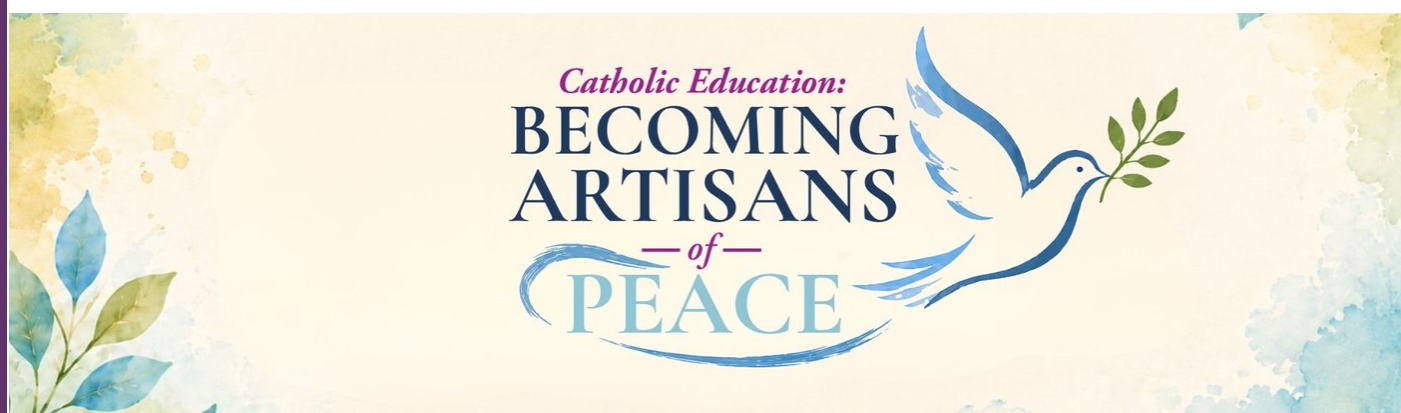
Gr. 4/5F: Mme V. Santos

Gr. 5/6F: Mme L. Alvarado

Gr. 6/7F: Mr. H. Lee

Gr. 8F: Mr. J. Hoover
Kindergarten English (K1): Mrs. K. Consoli
E.C.E.: Mrs. J. White
Gr. 1/2E: Mrs. C. Goulding
Gr. 2/3E: Mrs. D. Vellone
Gr. 3E: Mrs. A. Verkuyl
Gr. 4E: Mrs. T. Haddow
Gr. 5E: Mrs. K. Gallagher
Gr. 6E: Miss C. Stanisa
Gr. 7E: Miss N. Paczkowski
Gr. 8E: Mr. W. Mowat
Core French: Mme P. Zezella
STEM: Mrs. T. Mosher
Kindergarten Prep: Mrs. A. Nydam
French Immersion Prep: Mrs. B. Medeiros
Resource Teacher: Mrs. K. Bookman
Library Technician: Miss. S. Bayr
Educational Assistant: Mrs. C. Park
Educational Assistant: Ms. D. Haughton
Educational Assistant: Mrs. A. Bortolotto
Custodians: Mr. Kyler, Miss Sue, Mr. Orlando
Lunch Monitors: Mrs. L. Passalacqua, Miss K. Telesford
A SPECIAL THANKS

- To the staff of Notre Dame Catholic School, who did so much work behind the scenes to make our children feel welcome this new school year.
- To our parent community for the outstanding & ongoing support we receive.
- To Mr. Kyler, Miss Sue and Mr. Orlando for giving us a clean, safe school. We appreciate the many hours of hard work in preparing for the new school year.
- To our Kindergarten students, who will be starting school for the first time. Welcome and Congratulations!



Notre Dame is a school of BHNCD SB

