

The Mane Messenger

A Newsletter for the Stakeholders of Notre Dame High School

PRIDE

Building...



Positive Relationships with Integrity and Dedication to Excellence in Learning for Christ



Issue 1: Fall/Winter

Principal: Frank Durante

Administration News

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year at Notre Dame. We anticipate another great year at Notre Dame – full of exciting activities and enriched learning opportunities. Semester 1 has seen many changes and events taking place throughout the school including student assessment opportunities and the establishment of a School Council. As well, it is with great excitement that we introduce our first Notre Dame School Newsletter entitled ‘The Mane Messenger’. The information outlined in this newsletter is a celebration of events, activities and the school community as a whole that have or will take place throughout the school community. This newsletter will be compiled 2 to 4 times yearly and sent to our community via email and will also be posted on our website.

The staff has been working diligently to ensure that our focus remains on excellence in teaching and quality student learning. I would like to give a special welcome to our incoming grade tens and also to all families new to the Notre Dame community! I would also like to acknowledge the wonderful Faculty and Support Staff we have at Notre Dame. Their tireless efforts make our school extra-ordinary. From the work they perform with our students to the wonderful extras that are done to make our school special.

It is December already, the Christmas holidays are only a week away, and we have entered into the Advent season. During the Advent season our Teacher Advisors and students join in prayer with the school family over the intercom. Special thanks to Chaplain Dan Carreiro for putting together an entire group of readings and prayers that will get us ready and waiting in hope.

Fall sports season is well underway. Thank you to the many coaches for the time they have spent during the Fall Sports season with our students. As well, the many clubs and the Band and Choral students who are working hard preparing for the many concerts and events. The Musical Theatre students are also preparing for their performance this week (December 18-20).

Congratulations to all the students who achieved Honour Roll in quarter 1. These students will receive Honour Roll certificates. The entire Notre Dame family is proud of your academic accomplishments.

In October, a School Council establishment meeting was held and Notre Dame now has a School Council. I would like to encourage parents to attend the Notre Dame School Council Meetings held on Tuesday evenings throughout the year. Our next School Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 16th at 6:30 p.m. in the Learning Commons. The School Council is a tremendous forum for parents to become informed about school events, activities and programs throughout the year and I look forward to seeing you there.

Please keep in mind that students last day of school is on December 21st and all will return to school on January 8th. Please enjoy the much-deserved break.

On behalf of the entire staff at Notre Dame High School, may we wish you a safe and happy holiday!

Let us place ourselves into the hands of the Lord and pray that God will bless us and our families during the coming holidays. May each of us help to make our homes a place of joy, love, peace and safety!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

*With every best wish,
Frank Durante
Principal*



Meet our School Council Executive

Chair: Randy Procyshen
Vice Chair: Tina Osiowy
Secretary: Pina Lamb

Treasurer: Sherry Smalridge
Principal: Frank Durante

More details can be found on our Notre Dame website at: <https://www.cssd.ab.ca/schools/notredame/Parents/School-Council/Pages/default.aspx>

Literary Café

The Literary Café is an annual night where we showcase the creative talents of students and staff by celebrating the spoken and/or written word via stories, poems, songs, readings and anecdotes that are meaningful to, and/or created by, students and staff at our school.

This year's event will take place on Thursday, February 22nd, 2018 commencing at 6:30 p.m. in the Learning Commons. Students that may be interested in submitting a story, poem or other reading for this year's event is asked to speak to Mr. Rurka (Classroom 1231).

Model UN

"Notre Dame has a small, but dedicated group of students involved in the Model UN Club. This club prepares for and participates in a number of United Nations simulation events held in Calgary. The club enhances a student's research and speaking skills as well as providing students hands-on experience in committee work and debate. Events challenge students to work cooperatively to solve international problems. The fall ND student Zachary T. was awarded a Most Improved Speaker award at the Sir Winston Churchill Model UN competition. Congratulations to Zach and the other ND Model UN team members."



Notre Dame Open House - February 7, 2018

Programs

- Advance Placement
- Fine Arts
- CTS
- Pre-Engineering
- Hockey Canada Skills Academy

Important Extras

- International Travel
- Clubs and Activities
- One-To-One Tutorials (PRIDE period)
- Support for Diverse Learners
- Extensive Integration of Technology

Athletic Tradition of Excellence

Academic Success

- 90% Graduation Rate
- Pride Scholars

NOTRE DAME OPEN HOUSE

PROGRAM > 6:30 pm

OPEN HOUSE > 6:50 to 8:30 pm

February 2018

7



Notre Dame High School
11900 Country Village Link NW, Calgary, AB.
Phone 403-500-2109
cssd.ab.ca/schools/notredame



News from the International Languages Department

The International Languages Department has had a busy but exciting start of the year.

In October, more than thirty Spanish and Italian students headed to the University of Calgary to attend a Spanish and Italian Career Fair. The event took place at the Rosza Centre. Our students attended different presentations by Mr. Helmut Kaiser, French and International Languages Supervisor at CCSD, university professors and students, as well as by diplomats from the Consulates of Spain, Ecuador and Italy in Canada. Notre Dame students learned about the benefits and advantages that speaking a foreign language can have in all careers, and about study programs abroad. They also enjoyed a tour around the university campus.



Gnocchi kiosk at Int. Lang. Gala



Italian 10 class baking gnocchi

On December 6, our students represented the school at the SH Languages Gala that took place at Bishop McNally High School. Our crowded kiosks offered gnocchi pasta baked by the Italian students, French crepes, and Spanish and Italian art work. The performances opened with a video using green screen made by our Italian class where they demonstrated language skills learned this year. The Spanish Club wowed the audience by performing the Latin dance La Gozadera. The dance was choreographed by Grade 12 students, Luisa and Alyssa.

Ms. Valchi's Italian 10 class would like to give a huge thank you to Mr. Waters and Ms. Bahl for providing us with all the resources to bake the gnocchi. The Spanish Club would like to thank Ms. Gutiérrez, Ms. Stelmack, and Mr. R. Ellis for helping with the supervision of the rehearsals.



Spanish Club

Challenge Exams

The second round for challenge exams will be starting at the beginning of semester 2. This round is open to any grade 11 and 12 students interested in challenging a language course. Any students interested please see Ms. Debeler in room 2023 to receive information on the challenge exam process. The portfolio assessment date is February 24th at St. Paul's centre. The challenge exam date is March 17th at St. Paul centre.

Challenging a language will give you 15 credits for that language. This means that you are challenging the language at the 30 level. You will receive a 'pass' for the 10 and 20 levels of the language on your transcript and then a grade for the 30 level.

You may also challenge a grade 10 or 11 language course with Notre Dame. This is done on a case by case basis with the language teacher.

We are looking forward to more exciting activities in semester 2. Stay tuned!

Career Centre News

The Calgary Catholic School District offers Dual Credit programs to our students. This is an opportunity to graduate with a High School Diploma and a Post-Secondary Certificate by the end of Grade 12. These two-year programs are offered to Grade 10 students and include: Carpentry, Production Field Operator, Health Care Aide, Pharmacy Assistant, Nutrition for Healthy Lifestyles and Veterinary Technical Assistant. Although there is no tuition cost to enroll in these programs, the students are responsible for the purchase of textbooks, uniforms and instructional resources.

We also offer Summer Career Discovery. This is an opportunity for Grade 11 and 12 students to Job Shadow (unpaid) for two weeks during the summer. We offer a number of areas and also invite students to, where possible, create their own personalized internship to accommodate their particular interests. Students will be supervised over the summer by an Off Campus Teacher and will receive three credits for 75 hours of Career Discovery.

Applications for these programs will be available in early 2018 and assistance in completing the required documents is available in the Career Centre.

NEW Trades Exploratory Programs!! Do you want to explore a Trade – The Calgary Catholic School District is offering the following:

Classes will be taught Off-Campus starting Semester Two (February 5th) and will run Monday – Thursday for one Semester only for each program:

Career in Pipe Trades (Female only)	Afternoons
Career in Pipe Trades (Both Female/Male)	Mornings
Career as an Ironworker	Mornings
Career in Heat and Frost Insulation	Mornings

Please stop by the Career Centre for complete details regarding the application process, and required prerequisites as soon as possible as these programs start Semester Two.

Do you want to know more? Are you interested in hosting a Summer Career Discovery student? Please contact Ms. V. Marchand in the Career Centre at 403-500-2109 ext 428.

Student Services

Students can access support from Student Services for any reason. Counsellors are certificated teachers who also possess a minimum of a master's degree in counselling or psychology. We provide personal, educational, and career counselling to students and their families. We work closely with school personnel, district programming, and community agencies to provide additional assistance as required. Meeting with a counsellor can help with problem-solving, stress reduction, and planning for the future. We are located on the second floor in room 2012, and each student at Notre Dame is assigned to a counsellor based on her/his Teacher Advisor Group.

We are excited to be a part of YouthSMART (Supporting Mental Health and Resiliency Together) this year, which is Youth Champion Initiative partnership through the Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre and the Canadian Mental Health Association. The goal is to empower students to take responsibility for promoting mental health, healthy relationships, and a sense of safety and belonging in their school communities. We have a dedicated group of student leaders who have attended two summits with other Calgary high schools. They are offering peer tutoring, running groups on test anxiety, and are currently working on mental health awareness campaigns. In February our YouthSMART ambassadors will be participating in a Bike-a-thon to raise awareness and support the Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre.

Please check out the YouthSMART site which has a lot of helpful resources: <http://www.youthsmart.ca/>

Scholarships

Please note scholarship updates are in a livebinder under Scholarships on our Notre Dame website. **Schulich Leader Scholarship** Update - Applications for the 2017-18 School Year are due to Student Services by Thursday January 18, 2018. Please submit a 600 word essay outlining academic excellence, leadership or community involvement and financial need as outlined on the criteria section of the Schulich Leader Scholarship online.

Senior Football Banquet

The Senior football team completed its season with its 13th annual awards banquet on Wednesday, December 6th. It was a terrific evening of great food and laughs. The team really enjoyed working with each other and gained many valuable lessons that will make them better people in the future. The Notre Dame senior football squad had a good season in 2017. The team finished second overall with a 5-1 regular season record. The team bowed out in league play against a tough Henry Wise Wood team in the semifinals. It had a chance to continue playing at the provincial level, losing a very close overtime game to Lethbridge Collegiate Institute in the quarter finals.

This season's team was a very close unit, and had a good leadership from its senior players. Some highlights was the preseason trip to Vancouver, where the boys played Vancouver College high school and then attended a BC Lions game. During the season the team enjoyed several meals together. Once again we were very impressed with the player's outstanding commitment to the program and the pride they had in keeping the tradition of playing great football at our school. Congratulations to all these fine young men on a very memorable season!

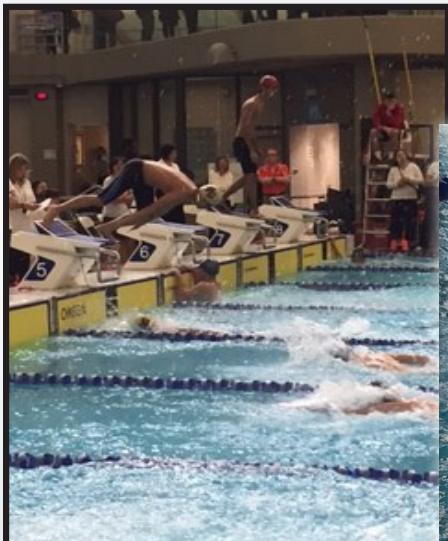
A special thanks to the coaching staff that spent countless hours working with the players. The ND staff includes the following teachers: Mr. Zubkowski (offensive coordinator), Mr. Donald (running backs coach), Ms. Bazinet (kickers coach), Ms. Conforti (director of operations) and Mr. Diluzio. The club also had outside community volunteers: Troy Rudy (defensive backs coach), Stephen Torriero (receiver coach) Frank Pellegrino, (offensive line coach), Matt Fortini (Qb's coach), Alex Brussoni (offensive line coach), Tyler Spence (defensive backs coach) Adriano Laratta (defensive backs coach), and Noah Colabella (defensive line coach).

 Awards Winners from our banquet were the following individuals:

- Joe Montanini Award (Lineman): **Liam C.**
- Luc Marmelic Award (Leadership): **Brian H.**
- Gary Deman Award (most improved): **Dryden P.**
- Ty Sparks Dedication/Commitment/Heart Award: **Mikey P.**
- W.I.N Award (Defensive): **Dan K.**
- Tony Spoletini Award (Offensive): **Javier W.**
- Lion of the Year (MVP): **Aidan M.**

Notre Dame Swim Team

Our Swim team did absolutely fantastic this year!! At the city meet on December 6th we had 5 ND swimmers place with medals. Huge congratulations to Jericho D. who placed 1st in 50m Freestyle, Marissa I. who placed 1st in 25m Backstroke, Jordan H. who placed 1st in 50m Butterfly, John P. who placed 2nd in 25m Backstroke and Parker B. who placed 3rd in 50m Backstroke!! All swimmers swam exceptionally and we all had a blast at the pool!



Way to go ND Swimmers!!!!



What a great season of getting together to be active and stay fit! It takes commitment to be in the water so early in the morning, and our students rose to the challenge. We've made some great memories together, and improved on our personal best!

9th Annual Blue and Gold Silent Auction in Support of ND Athletics



ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER

MORE INFO & ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT

WWW.CSSD.AB.CA/SCHOOLS/NOTREDAME

CONTACT LEAH.CONFORTI@CSSD.AB.CA

◆ A SAINT PATRICK'S DAY EVENT ◆

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT NOTRE DAME SPORTS PROGRAMS

**MAR
17
2018
7PM-12AM**
**TICKETS
\$30**

All parents, family, friends and alumni welcome (over 18)!

Please contact Leah Conforti to purchase tickets or for silent auction donations

Caritas Social Justice Initiatives

The Social Justice Club meets weekly to discuss ways that we can meet not only local but global needs as well, raising awareness of both the strengths and struggles of our global community.

Participation is project-based, so that students can be involved when they are able to do so.

Sandwich-Making



Locally, Notre Dame has, with the help of community partnerships, contributed over 700 sandwiches to the Mustard Seed to support those who are in work placements. We will continue to have sandwich-making events in the Gathering Area throughout the school year. All are welcome to participate.

Veterans Food Drive

The ND Family has collected food for the Veterans Food Bank to support those who have so generously sacrificed themselves to make the world a better place.

Thank you to our Veterans!



Cultural Days

We're launching a series of cultural days on Fridays during Lent here at Notre Dame to celebrate the strengths of people throughout the world, and to raise awareness of their struggles too. As a global family, these are *our* people -- our extended family -- and we need to tune in, so that we can appreciate more fully our unique and shared stories, and offer our support more generously as well. In collaboration with the Culinary Arts Program, we'll be featuring cultural menus on Lenten Fridays, and raising our awareness of our global realities through student-lead initiatives.

Cheese Toast for Charity

In partnership with the Culinary Arts Program, we'll be doing our part to support the lunch needs of the ND family through our 'Cheese Toast for Charity' Campaign, with proceeds going directly to global needs. Start up in Semester 2 at the Toastrz kiosk, let's make a difference both here at home and abroad as well!

"Did You Know That" Educational Campaign

We'll be helping inform our school community about current social justice issues including Homelessness, the Struggles faced by Refugees, the Environment, and PTSD through our "Did you know that..." campaign. Short and substantial, let's up our awareness together!

Toastrz

Sometimes, we just need some toast or a bowl of cereal in the morning to start our day, and grabbing a bite before leaving home slips through our fingers. The Toastrz Initiative is a way to meet that need for the Notre Dame Family through a basic sustainable breakfast program, a partnership between the ESI program and Culinary Arts.

We're glad to be a part of the community, and we're committed to ensuring a great start to another great day at ND!



Happy Birthday ND Family!

We're a family here at ND, and celebrating birthdays is a great way to remind ourselves of that! Everyone counts, and with every cupcake made and decorated by our Culinary Arts program, and with every cupcake delivered to TA by the Toastrz Team, we're marking a special moment in our ND community, yours! Happy Birthday ND Family, where we all belong!



Celebrating Success

We're getting together! *It takes a village to raise a child*, and we recognize that celebrating together is an important part of building strong communities.

The ESI program comes together to celebrate student success and to discuss ways to build capacity. We've all got unique gifts, abilities and a desire for success. We're discovering through working together and exploring possibilities with community partners both in class and through work experience opportunities.

ND Team Unified

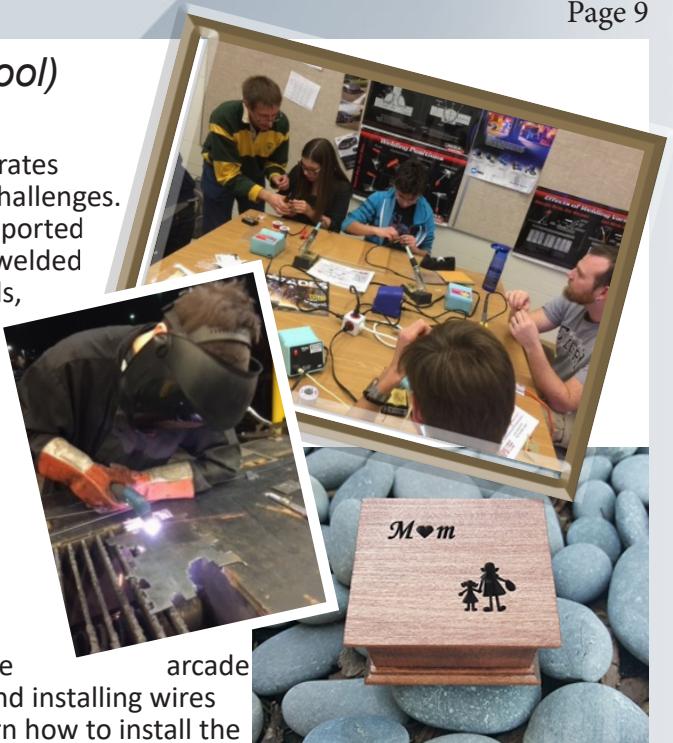
What an amazing group of athletes, coming together to enjoy not only sport but also one another! Unified Sport is an opportunity for our ESI and ESII programs to partner and play with other outstanding individuals in our ND family, developing skills and competencies as athletes and individuals. What a great team effort!



Makers Club at ND (Thursdays after school)

Background:

This is a club based on the “Makers Movement” which incorporates woodworking, welding, robotics, electronics and engineering challenges. Within our makers club the projects are student driven but supported by expert teachers. Past projects have included: Forged roses, welded belt buckles, acoustic speakers, wired speakers, cribbage boards, hardwood coasters, metal Christmas ornaments, small soldering/LED projects. Future projects may be Ukuleles, Arcade consoles, lamps, rocket stoves, pallet furniture. This great club allows access to a full wood shop (with CNC router), Welding lab (with plasma table) and Engineering lab (with 3D printer).



Intention:

The idea is for each student to gain some hands on skills, culminating in larger and larger student chosen projects. For example this year we might teach students the tools and techniques needed to design and build a cabinet for an old style game. Then they would learn skills like soldering, connecting and installing wires or a mother board, buttons and joysticks. Then they would learn how to install the program that would turn their project into an actual Arcade. This is just an example of one major project that our Makers Club Members might attempt.

Benefit:

Here are a few skills someone would get out of Makers Club: 3D printing and design, bowl turning, Mig, Tig and oxyacetylene welding, veneering, dovetail joints, programming, safe tool usage, forging, electrical circuit design, furniture making, metallurgy, soldering, plasma cutting etc. etc. etc.

Want to join?

Ivan Mazuryk, Mitch Patterson, Mark Alger Mike MacDonald are teachers involved with the club. We meet every Thursday after school, if you are interested or have any questions please let us know.



International Travel

April 27 – May 2, 2018

New York City Here we come!

Close to 100 Fine Arts students will be packing their bags and leaving on a jet plane this April! Once again we are excited to provide this exceptional learning opportunity for ND students. Thanks to the parents, administration, and District personnel, student will see the best Broadway has to offer including:

Once on This Island

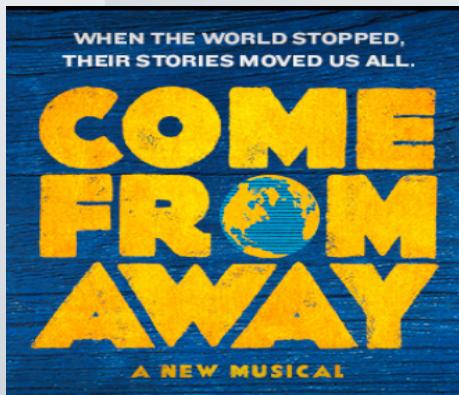


School of Rock



The Acclaimed Canadian Musical and Multiple Tony and Grammy nominated show:

Come from Away



Plus the world premiere of: This Flat Earth

An urgent response to our times, *This Flat Earth* is a startling and deeply felt story of growing up in our confounding world.

Directed by Rebecca Taichman
Playwright: Lindsey Ferrentino

From the Fine Arts Department

Tis the Season To Celebrate!

Notre Dame Fine Arts are gearing up for a great performance season and year of celebration! As we begin our 12th year we are excited by the growth and diversity in all our programs. Highlighted below are just SOME of the wonderful events which involved students, staff and parents.



Murder At Café Noir!

Our maintstage show this year, promises to be a unique celebration of drama, music and food! Following in the footsteps of Humphrey Bogart and the musical trends of the 1940s, the production is a “tip of the hat” to days of yore – when men wore fedora’s, film was in black and white and women wore pearls for supper. Auditions were held in November and rehearsals began in December. Watch for details of the production! The interactive dinner theatre will feature jazz performances, character improvisation, audience participation and of course great “eats” from our culinary Kitchen! Hope to see you in March!



Film Studies

Notre Dame Musical Theatre Class Presents: "Every Story Is A Love Story" – December 18, 19 and 20th
Selections from Carousel, Phantom of the Opera and Aida

Notre Dame Musical Theatre class is excited to present this year's revue show “Every Story Is A Love Story”, featuring songs from the musicals *Phantom of the Opera* by Andrew Lloyd-Webber, *Carousel* by Rodgers and Hammerstein, and *Aida* by Elton John and Tim Rice. This year's class has 44 students, and features some of the biggest (and hardest) musical sequences we've yet attempted. Please support the musical theatre class. Tickets will be on sale every day at lunch. \$5/students and \$10/adults. Doors open at 6:30 pm, show starts at 7:00 pm.

Film 35 – Students are completing final film projects

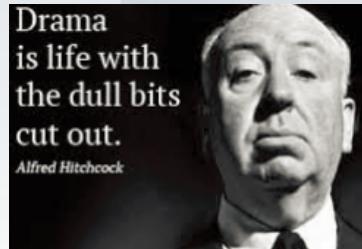
Students have: written, cast, shot, edited and will present their final submissions at Open House in February

Film 25 – Students have worked together to create a group project

- Each student has taken a responsibility based on their personal interest – music, acting, writing, costumes, props, effects make-up, camera work, editing etc.
- Focus: Film Noir of the 1940s – the likes of Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall
- Watch for a “screening” at our Open House in February!

Film 15 – An interpretation of the Great Alfred Hitchcock!

- Students are writing, casting, filming and editing their “take on Alfred Hitchcock”
- Students may be sharing their short presentations at our Open House in February.



Improv

Weekly rehearsals, monthly shows and now our very own Soap Opera! Join us – as our **World Turns** for a Noon hour of characters both - **Bold and Beautiful** – in Notre Dame's own – **The Young and The Scriptless!!!**

Musical Theatre

Rosza Centre
December 14



“It Takes a Village” celebrates the solidarity and synergy of all those involved in Notre Dame Music, including students, volunteers, clinicians, and directors. The appropriately chosen feature piece, Dogon, is a series of dances from a tribal village. It Takes a Village to raise a child, and it took Total Effort from All Members (T.E.A.M.) of our village to produce this show!

Term 1 Highlights...

ND Music, welcomed Student teacher Mr. Scott Tkaczuk! A recent University of Calgary Bachelor of Music graduate, Mr. Tkaczuk is in the final semester of his Bachelor of Education with the Werklund School of Education at the University of Calgary. A music specialist and low brass player, Mr. Tkaczuk has performed with the Canadian Arm Forces – HMCS Tecumseh Naval Reserve Band as well as the National Band of the Naval Reserve. We welcome his enthusiasm and experience!

- December 8 & 18: The annual Feeder School Concert Tours
- December 4-8: Vivo Fine Arts Week
- November 3-5: Band Camp River's Edge— Concert band students and Guest Conductor: Earl Paddock
- October 7 & 8: Clinics with Guest Conductor DALE LONIS
- October 4: Workshop with Reggie Thomas
- October 2: Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra Rehearsal Trip to Dvorak's New World Symphony
- Black and White: Annual ND Music Foundation Fundraiser



Art 10 – Students have been working in charcoal, pencil, water colour and now are exploring acrylic. Next is sculpture with ceramics, and action figures with wire.

Art 20 – Students have been doing pencil crayon drawings and now are onto large acrylic canvases (24-30 inches)

Watch for selections displayed at the Rozsa Center show.

Vivo Fine Arts Week: over 20 student works displayed for the community to enjoy

Science Department

This Semester has seen exciting things happen in the ND science department. In September we celebrated our diploma results. Some subjects boasting over a 50% standard of excellence performance. Our Science team works hard to bring an excellent program to our students daily, but we also want to select experiences to enrich the student experiences. The Physics students just returned from West Edmonton Mall to complete their curricular outcomes in Galaxy Land. Mr. Giers might have been spotted riding the roller coaster. Our Science club has applied to perform their study using the synchrotron at the University of Saskatchewan. Notre Dame has won an award for previous work using the million-dollar particle accelerator, we hope that this year's group will be chosen. ND Science is also looking to establish partnerships with the University of Calgary. Partnerships in science allow students to explore and use university lab spaces letting students become familiar with programs, equipment, and laboratory use at the post-secondary level. Our Physics students will be visiting the U of C first. We are also arranging an evening in Priddis at the Rothney astrophysical observatory for interested students.

Calgary Catholic district is also recognizing the importance of the Science 20 and 30 level courses. More and more students are opting for this science as it grows as a formidable and acceptable course for many programs. Many students never realized that Science 30 was acceptable, or the fact that a student can move to Science 30 from any successful 20 level Biology, Chemistry or Physics. The District has produced informational posters that ND will be posting in each science classroom. Our science teachers and student services will be happy to answer questions regarding this course.

Student Council News

Our Student Council has had a busy first semester celebrating the school life and spirit of ND. We began the school year by organizing a Club & Activity Fair for our Gr. 10 students on the first day of school. The Fair highlighted all the groups and clubs that our students could join this upcoming year. We continued our 'back to school' celebrations with a Welcome Week that allowed our Gr. 10s to participate in some fun activities during lunch in the Gathering Area.

In October, we celebrated Halloween through student delivered 'Boo-o-grams', a TA Pumpkin Challenge which was won by Ms. Solobay's TA and participating in 'Trick or Eat'. The 'Trick or Eat' campaign was a huge success where students went door to door in our neighbourhoods collecting non-perishable food

for St. Vincent DePaul Society on Halloween. Over 30 boxes of food were collected in one night!

The joyful season of December started with our Festive Fridays where students participated each week through Spirit days of wearing their PJs, paying \$1 to wear a hat or dressing in an ugly Christmas sweater. On Dec. 1st we celebrated our Winter Wonderland Dance where over 300 students danced to great music in our Gathering Area. To cap off our year we ended with a TA Gingerbread Challenge which was won by Ms. O'Connell's TA and participating in the TA Christmas Music Challenge where TA's identified Christmas songs over the intercom during TA. (TA winner had not been determined yet.)

Christmas Angel Tree Hamper Project

This Christmas our student body responded with great charity and excitement to our school wide Hamper Project. On November 20th, Mr. Carreiro the school chaplain highlighted a sermon from Pope Francis who said "let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and in truth" Students across the school responded to the need in their community and brought in over 3000 items, far exceeding the goal of 1700 (1 per every student). We were not only able to make all of the hampers for our community but two truck loads were also sent to St. Vincent de Paul. For two weeks food, personal, and household items flowed into the school. Students and volunteers helped out in so many ways to make this Project possible. Thank you to everyone for your love and generosity. This is great testament to the light of Christ who lives in each one of us!



*May the blessings of Christ be on you
and your family this Holiday Season*



Calendar of Events

DECEMBER

4	Mon.	Advent Liturgy (intercom)
4-8	Mon.-Fri	VIVO Fine Arts Week (5:00 pm)
5	Tues.	District Choirs Advent Concert
8	Fri.	Feeder School Concert Tour (P1-P4)
11-16	Mon.-Fri.	Fine Arts Week (noon hour shows)
14	Thurs.	Rozsa Centre Show (doors 6:30 pm/show 7:00 pm)
18-20	Mon.-Wed.	Musical Theatre Class (7:00-10:00 pm – Theatre) Alternate Date
21	Thurs.	Christmas Break (last day of classes - full day)

JANUARY / JANUARY DIPLOMA & SCHOOL EXAMS

8	Mon.	School re-opens
11-12	Thurs.-Fri.	No Classes
		Semester 1 Exams (Eng/Social Part A)
15-19	Mon.-Fri.	Regular Classes
		Music Photo Shoot (4:00 – 7:00 pm - Theatre)
16	Tues.	School Council Meeting (6:30 pm - Learning Commons)
19	Fri.	Last Day of Classes before Exams
22-30		Semester 1 Exams (continued)
26-27	Fri.-Sat.	Jr. High Feeder Basketball Tournament
30	Tues.	End of Semester 1; Quarter 2
31	Wed.	Start of Semester 2; Quarter 3

FEBRUARY

7	Wed.	Open House (6:30-8.30 pm)
14	Wed.	Ash Wednesday Celebration (10:00 am – Gym)
		Progress Report Distribution (TA)
15-16	Thurs.-Fri.	Teachers' Convention (no classes)
19	Mon.	Family Day (no classes)
21	Wed.	Parent Grad Meeting (6:00 pm – Gym)
22	Thurs	Literary Café (6:00-8:00 pm – Learning Commons)
23-24	Fri.-Sat.	NDI & NDLC Basketball Tournament
26-28	Mon.-Fri.	In House Registration
27	Tues.	School Council Meeting (6:30 pm - Learning Commons)

MARCH

1-2	Thurs.-Fri.	In House Registration
3	Sat.	S2 Instrumental Intensive Workshop (entire school)
14-15	Wed.-Thurs.	Mainstage Production Dinner Theatre
14-16	Wed.-Fri.	Graduation Photo Bookings (Learning Commons)
17	Sat.	Blue and Gold Silent Auction (7:00 pm – Gym)
21-22	Wed.-Thurs.	Mainstage Production Dinner Theatre
23	Fri.	PD Day (no classes)
26	Mon.	Holy Week Prayer Service (TA)
29	Thurs.	Last day of classes before Spring Break (full day)
30	Fri.	Good Friday

APRIL / APRIL DIPLOMA EXAMS

2	Mon.	Easter Monday
9	Mon.	School re-opens
9-17		Diploma Exams (ELA; Social; Math; Chem; Biology; Physics; Science (hybrid))
11	Wed.	End of Quarter 3
12	Thurs.	Start of Quarter 4
17	Tues.	School Council Meeting (6:30 pm - Learning Commons)
18	Wed.	Progress Report Distribution (TA)
19	Thurs.	Parent Teacher Conference (Evening 4:00-8:00 pm)
20	Fri.	PD Day (no classes)
20-23	Fri.-Mon.	Platinum Graduation Pictures (Gym)
20-21	Fri.-Sat.	Sr. Boys Soccer Kick Off Tournament
23	Mon.	Parent Teacher Conference (9:00-3:30 pm)
24-27	Tues.-Fri.	One Act Production
27-28	Fri.-Sat.	Sr. Boys Soccer Kick Off Tournament Alternate Date

MAY

4	Fri.	Jr. Boys Soccer Kick-Off Tournament
7-11	Mon.-Fri.	AP Exams
15	Tues.	VIVO Fine Arts Week
16	Wed.	Notre Dame Feast Day Mass (Gym)
17	Thurs.	PD Day (no classes)
18	Fri.	Rozsa Center Show (doors 6:30 pm/show 7:00 pm)
21	Mon.	Victoria Day (no classes)
24	Thurs.	Principal's Address P2 (Gym)
25	Fri.	Distribution of Grad Gowns (8:00 am – 12:00 pm Learning Commons)
26	Sat.	Grad Banquet (BMO Centre)
28	Mon.	Graduation Mass (10:00 am)
30	Wed.	Convocation (2:00 pm)
		Jubilee Auditorium
		Meet the TA (6:30 pm)

JUNE / JUNE DIPLOMA & SCHOOL EXAMS

5	Tues.	Night of the Pride
5	Tues.	School Council AGM Meeting (6:30 pm - Learning Commons)
6	Wed.	Pride Scholars (6:00 pm gathering area)
7	Thurs.	Fine Arts Gala (7:00 pm – Theatre/Gathering Area)
12	Tues.	Last Day of Semester 2
13-27		Locker Clean-out
15	Fri.	Semester 2 Exams
		NDMF Season Celebration
		Tee up for Touchdown Golf Tournament
21	Thurs.	National Aboriginal Day (no exams)
29	Fri.	Teacher Organization (am only)



Connections

CALGARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT MONTHLY NEWS

DECEMBER 2017

Board of Trustees' Christmas Message

The Advent season is an opportunity to prepare for the joyful celebration of Christ's birth through prayer and reflection. This ties perfectly into our faith theme for the year, "Ask; and it will be given you" (Matthew 7:7). Together, as a district, we have been exploring the power of our faith through prayer, reflection and gratitude. Advent is also an opportunity to reflect on the things we are grateful for. Like all of us, I am grateful for my family, friends and health. To read the full message, visit our website under [News](#).

Chief Superintendent's Christmas Message

We hope our Calgary Catholic community is feeling the spirit of the season as we prepare for Christmas. We also hope that during this festive season, we can all find a moment or two to thank God for our blessings and reflect. For the 2017-2018 school year, we have been exploring the power of prayer. Every year we choose a faith theme to guide us in our journey and this year it is, "Ask, and it will be given you," as the first part of a three-year theme, "Ask, and it will be given you; search and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." (Matthew 7:7). To read the full message, visit our website under [News](#).

Celebrating Faith Day & Shepherd Leadership Recipients 2017



On Wednesday, November 1, the Calgary Catholic School District came together as a community to celebrate the annual Faith Day event at the BMO Centre. Over 5,000 employees gathered to listen to keynote speaker, Bishop McGrattan, lead the district in prayer and reflection and help explore the 2017–2018 faith theme, "Ask, and it will be given you" (Matthew 7:7). Faith Day is also an opportunity to recognize employees in the district who model the qualities of a shepherd leader. Visit our website under [News](#) to learn more.

Auburn Bay & Airdrie Sod Turnings

CCSD recently celebrated two sod turnings and site blessings in the communities of Auburn Bay and Airdrie. On Friday, October 27, members of the CCSD community, along with government representatives, gathered in the community of Auburn Bay, where a new K-6 school is scheduled to open in fall 2020. On Monday, November 13, a sod turning and site blessing was celebrated in the community of Morningside in Airdrie where a new Catholic elementary school is also expected to open in fall 2020. Currently, CCSD has five new schools in various stages of development. Learn more on the CCSD website under Schools/[Future Schools](#).

Did you know?

Our annual District Day with the Calgary Hitmen will take place on Friday, February 23. Mark your calendars and check the district website soon for more information on ticket sales.

CCSD Partners with the National Women's Hockey Team

CCSD has an exciting new partnership with the National Women's Hockey Team. Watch some of the best female hockey players in the world as they train for the 2018 Winter Olympics at WinSport. Tickets are only \$10 and \$7.50 will go back to your school for fundraising. Buy tickets and learn more on our website under [News](#).

Diploma Preparation Courses – December 2017 & January 2018

Diploma Preparation Courses are being offered at Bishop Grandin, Notre Dame and Father Lacombe High Schools in December and January to prepare students for exams. Visit our website under Students/Academic Support/[Diploma Preparation Courses](#) to learn more and register.

Hear the Angels Sing

Join us in celebrating the songs of Advent and Christmas at the annual Calgary Catholic School District High School Choral Festival, featuring Bishop Carroll, Bishop McNally, Bishop Grandin, Bishop O'Byrne and St. Mary's. The event takes place on Tuesday, December 5 at 7 p.m. at St. Michael's Catholic Community (800 - 85 Street SW). Hope to see you there!

Christmas Holidays

Calgary Catholic schools and administrative offices will be closed beginning on Friday, December 22 and will reopen on Monday, January 8. We wish everyone a joyful Christmas season!



2018-2019 Regular and Year-Round Calendars Considerations/Highlights – November 2017

The following considerations and highlights provide rationale and background for the 2018-2019 regular and year round school calendars.

School Year Information

- 196.5 Operational Days
- Regular and Year Round Instructional Days (Kindergarten to Grade 9 – 182 total days: Grades 10-12 – 183.0 total days (Semester 1 – 91 days, Semester 2 – 92 days)

How is the calendar created?

- An advisory committee made up of school principals, district staff (Instructional Services, Transportation, Human resources, Information Technology, Communications), ATA Local 55 and Administrative Council meet regularly to design calendars for the current and future years. The school calendar is created based on Alberta School Act legislation, district procedures and needs, school and district website feedback provided by parents, students, teachers and staff.

Calendar Feedback

- In the Fall of 2017, extensive feedback for the creation of the 2018-2019 calendar was sought out through Internet surveys, Student Advisory Committee, Teacher Advisory Committee, School Councils, School/Department Staff, Board of Trustees and individuals in the community.

What revisions occurred due to the feedback received?

- Moved the Nov. 12 (K-9) PD day to Nov. 2 (K-12)  and expanded to include High School. Rational – solves the concern around students missing classes on Friday, November 2 (The day between Faith Day and the weekend).
- Moved the March PT Conferences (K-9)/PD Day (Gr.10-12) from March 22 to March 15. Rational – supports the success of Parent-Teacher interviews.
- Moved the April 26 (K-9) PD Day/PT Conferences (Gr.10-12) to April 23. Rational – Limits the disruption to the flow of school days.

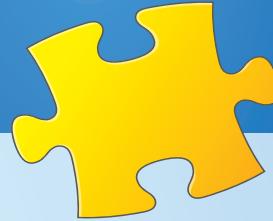
First Day of Classes

- Regular calendar students begin on Tuesday, September 4, 2018 – Year-Round calendar students start Thursday, August 2, 2018.
- Regular calendar teachers start on Wednesday, August 29, 2018 – Year-Round calendar teachers start Wednesday, August 1, 2018.

CALGARY CATHOLIC
SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL COUNCIL

January Parent & Trustee Forum



The power of relationships with our children

Spend an evening with **Dr. Jody Carrington**, psychologist and human relationship specialist, talking about how successful relationships help children become successful students.

Learn how connection and conversation with our children—no matter what age—can be the most powerful tool, and sometimes the hardest thing to do.

Expect lots of stories and much laughter.

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

7–9 p.m.

Coast Plaza Hotel
1316 - 33 St. NE

RSVP to your school principal by January 18, 2018.



School and Home Working Together