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Ryan Sikkes, Principal Jeanette Gallant, Vice-Principal

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### *Prayer for Refugees and Those who are Displaced by War and Conflict*

Lord God, no one is a stranger to you and no one is ever far from your loving care. In your kindness, watch over refugees and victims of war, those separated from their loved ones, young people who are lost, and those who have left home or who have run away from home. Bring them back safely to the place where they long to be and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and to all in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**



### Principal's Message

This newsletter finds us at the half-way point of the year—the point at which we actively start thinking in earnest about next year! Course selection and timetabling activities will be taking place over the next weeks and months. There's never a bad time to have the "what do you want to be?" conversation with your children, but there is certainly no better time than right before course selection season starts as the choices made today can have lasting effects in the future.

I firmly believe that education is to prepare students for a good and worthwhile life, which can look very different from one person to the next. I encourage parents and guardians to really listen to the hopes and desires of their children and perhaps think beyond the traditional post-secondary pathways at the wide variety of options that are available after secondary school. Our school counsellors are here to help in this process—just ask!

The last weeks and months have seen some troubling developments around the world in terms of justice, peace, and democracy. I'm heartened by the fact that education is more than just training students for work or to participate in our economy. Of equal importance is helping our students develop the skills needed to propagate our democratic society including critical thinking, empathy, and the ability to assess and analyze multiple perspectives. Each day, I see students developing these skills and I grow more confident in the next generation of leaders.

Finally, I wish to inform our school community that I will be taking some leave from the school over the next two years to further my studies in a doctoral program I am pursuing at the University of British Columbia. I will be taking "chunks" of time over the next two years for this purpose while remaining the principal of the school. We will begin the process of recruiting for an additional vice-principal to assist in the times when I will be away. More information will be shared as it is known. I appreciate the support and encouragement I've received from

For the latest news and  
information, please visit  
our school's website:

**WWW.VCSS.CA**

# Dates to note—

## February—June

The official 2016-2017 School Calendar can be accessed online at the Yukon Education website.



Monday, January 30—First day of Term 3  
Wednesday February 8-15—Ottawa Music Trip  
Friday, February 24—Heritage Day—No School  
Tuesday, February 28—Shrove Tuesday  
Wednesday, March 1—Ash Wednesday Celebration  
Wednesday, March 8—Secondaire et Spectacle  
Friday, March 10—Interim Reports Mailed Home  
Thursday, March 16—Locker Clean Out  
March 20—March 31—Spring Break  
April 6-13—Review Week  
April 7-8—Think Fast  
Thursday, April 13—Term 3 concludes  
Thursday, April 13—Stations of the Cross  
Friday, April 14—Good Friday—No School  
Monday, April 17—Easter Monday—No School  
Tuesday, April 18—Term 4 Begins  
Friday, April 28—Vanier Day  
Thursday, May 4—Student Led Conferences (Evening)  
Monday, May 22—Victoria Day—No School  
Thursday, May 25—Grad Mass  
Friday, May 26—Reception , Grand March, Cap and Gown  
and After Grad

## *School Council Corner*

The members of our current council are

Valerie Royle, chair

Edith Elder

Michael Lauer

Stella Martin

Maureen Long

Contact information, meeting agendas, and minutes are all available at [www.vcss.ca](http://www.vcss.ca) under the School Council tabs.

The next Vanier Catholic Secondary School Council Meeting will be on **Monday, February 20** starting at 5:30. A special presentation for parents on the revised curriculum and information on BC's new graduation program will take place at 7:00 that night. All parents/guardians/public are welcome.

## *Music Notes*



- Ottawa Music Trip February 8-15<sup>th</sup>
- Ottawa students visiting Whitehorse February 22-28
- BYTE Battle of the Bands February 24<sup>th</sup>

# Iron Chef



Foods & Nutrition 10/11/12 recently completed their Iron Chef Challenge. Students were given a secret ingredient and had to plan a recipe. Block 5/6 students had to use a green apple in their recipe, and block 3/4 students had to use a mango. Students made a variety of recipes including pork tenderloin with an apple glaze, dessert caramel pizza, and pork belly with mango sauce. This semester's winners were Jayhron Aguilar and Kimberley Garaygay in block 5/6 and Josh Romero and Jennifer Ferrer in block 3/4. Congrats to all students for a wonderful semester, and extra thanks to our panel of judges.



**SchoolConnects**  
by synrevoice

After a semester of having no automated call-out system in place, we are pleased to report that we have finally secured a replacement.

SchoolConnects will allow us to send out daily attendance notifications through **phone calls, email, or SMS texts**. Our default for all households will be to send phone calls home each day—if you'd prefer a different method, please contact Alex in the school office at

On a recent Tuesday at lunch, Vanier's Room 1 became a place of Coding Mayhem with rainbow Spheros being golfed on a home-made course and Cubelet robots evading capture.

Spheros and Cubelets are learning toys for students and we are using them in our club to get engaged in coding.

Several members of the Vanier Social Justice Club are also members of the Thursday Lunch time Coding Club. In a cool combination of their unique special interests, this group spent a SJ meeting showing the students in room 1 how to play with Spheros and Cubelets. With the Spheros, we demonstrated how to change their colours, drive them in different speeds to all corners of the classroom and putted with them across sand traps and water holes on our golf course.

With the Cubelets, we put on our thinking caps to create a flashlight in which we controlled the brightness moved when we waved our hands towards it and away from it.

The Room 1 students were excited and intrigued as they took over control of these small robots. Thank you to SJ members Josh, Simon, Emily, Raghvi and Eva for showing off your coding talents!

Social Justice Club and the Vanier Coding Club are open to students from all grades. You are welcome to drop by and give it a try!

The Social Justice Club meets every Tuesday at lunch time in the Foods Room. Bring your lunch, bring a friend!

The Vanier Coding Club meeting every Thursday at lunch time in the Photo Computer Lab. Please eat your lunch before you come.



SJ students show Chloe how light to up a Cubelet robot .



Damon barely misses the sand trap in Sphero golfing.



Eva gets the Sphero moving fast!