

Vanier Catholic Secondary

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www.vcss.ca

Ryan Sikkes, Principal Jeanette Gallant, Vice-Principal

March 2017

We started Lent with a moving Ash Wednesday liturgy on Wednesday, March 1. Fr. Swavek's homily reminded us that Lent is not a season to simply try and "yell at my brother 3 times a week rather than the usual 7 times per week"! Instead, it is a time to contemplate a conversion from a negative path to one more positive and affirming of Jesus' great commandments to love God and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

We hope that our school's policies and processes that we apply to student expectations and conflict resolution also follow these same guidelines. To that end, after Spring Break we

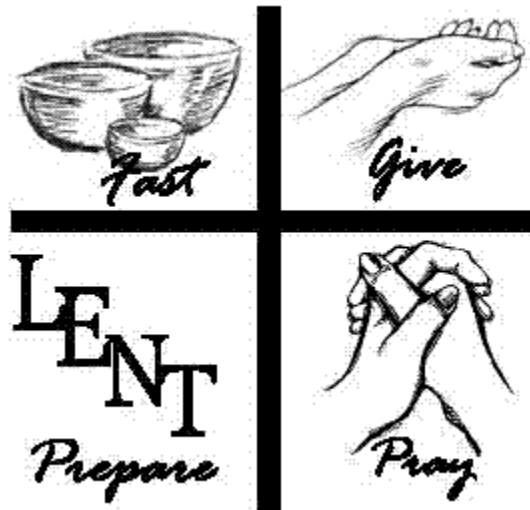
hope to have an opportunity to "reset" our student expectations by reviewing our updated school handbook. One of our philosophies with regard to student expectations is that by "taking care of the little things, the big things will take care of themselves". Our expectations around not wearing hats in schools, not using technology in classrooms unless permitted by the teacher, and coming to class on time may look and feel like little things in individual cases, but collectively send a strong message to our entire student body that student behavior and

conduct are important and our expectations will be maintained. If you have any questions or concerns about this, I invite you to contact me or Ms. Gallant to discuss them.

We finished our course selection process with our students and will begin working on a master timetable for next year in the coming weeks. We are confident that all students will have a draft timetable for the 2017-2018 school year by the beginning of June.

I wish all our students and staff a restful and relaxing spring break and look forward to celebrating the joyful Easter season shortly after our return!

Sincerely, Ryan Sikkes



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

www.vcss.ca

Dates to note—

March—May

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



- Thursday, March 16—Locker Clean Out
- March 20—March 31—Spring Break
- April 6-13—Review Week
- 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 21-22—Thinkfast
- Wednesday, April 26—LPI Sitting
- Thursday, April 27—Skills Canada Competition
- Thursday, April 27-28 —Rotary Music Festival
- Friday, April 28—Vanier Day
- Thursday, May 4-5—Young Author’s Conference
- Thursday, May 4—Student Led Conferences (Evening)
- Wednesday, May 10—Grade 10 Retreat
- Thursday, May 18—Grad Retreat
- Monday, May 22—Victoria Day—No School
- Thursday, May 25—Grad Mass
- Friday, May 26—Reception , Grand March, Cap and Gown and After Grad
- Tuesday, May 30—Grade 9 Retreat
- Wednesday, May 31—Grade 7 Retreat

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 under the School Council tabs.

The next Vanier Catholic Secondary School Council Meeting will be on April 18th at 7 pm in the Learning Commons.

Social Justice News

Get your Vader on at Vanier!! Watch good win out over evil!

On **Thursday, March 16 at 3:45 pm**, all students, staff, friends, parents and siblings are invited to a pre-DVD

release viewing of ***Rogue One: a Star Wars Story*** in the small gym. The cost is only **\$5.00** each and all money raised will go towards buying supplies for the Outreach Van. Popcorn for \$1.00. Wear a costume! Please bring your own waterbottle...and light saber.



Music Notes

Congratulations to both Junior and Senior Jazz combo in performing for the BYTE Battle of the Bands competition during Rendezvous. Junior Jazz won the opportunity to represent our school at this year's Canada 150 celebration on July 1st. Senior Jazz won the opportunity to represent our school at the Atlin Music Festival Sunday July 9th.

Grade 9 Mixer

The Vanier Grade 9 band and the FH grade 9 band will be learning and playing together on March 17th. This is a great opportunity

for students to work together and perform in a larger ensemble.

Rotary Music Festival Dates

Junior Jazz April 27 12:30pm, Showcase Performance April 28th

Senior Jazz April 27 2:10pm, Showcase Performance April 29th

Choir April 28, 1:50pm

Vanier Musical

Students interested in singing/ acting/ sound/ lights/ set design/ costumes/ make-up/ front of house/ promotions are asked to speak to Mrs. Hart.



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

667-5901 or email the school at vcss@gov.yk.ca

Learning Commons News

Ready to wage war on fake news?

Are you dealing with information overload and need quality information for your project or essay?

Increasingly, we are being inundated with unreliable and irrelevant information. Students need to use their time effectively to be savvy consumers of information. The databases at the Learning Commons contain vetted, high – quality articles and are available **24/7** from any computer...in your house, on the bus, at the Games Centre. Go to www.vcss.ca and click on the Library link. Choose Vanier and choose “full text articles”. The user name is **YukonEd** and the password is **resources**. Here you will find useful, grade-appropriate content.

If you are writing a research paper, check out the link to **NoodleTools**. This is an academic research application which provides tools for note-taking, outlining, citation, and collaborative research.

HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS

- CONSIDER THE SOURCE**
Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.
- READ BEYOND**
Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?
- CHECK THE AUTHOR**
Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?
- SUPPORTING SOURCES?**
Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.
- CHECK THE DATE**
Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.
- IS IT A JOKE?**
If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.
- CHECK YOUR BIASES**
Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.
- ASK THE EXPERTS**
Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.

IFLA
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

You can create a personal ID and use **NoodleTools** to store your research. If you need help to use these Shareable infographic by IFLA products, please see Ms. Clarke at the school at 667-5901 or email janet.clarke@yesnet.yk.ca.



Yukon Young Authors' Conference – May 4 and 5th, 2017

If there is a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, you must be the one to write it. –Toni Morrison

Each year, the Young Authors Conference takes place at FH Collins School and is open to **all students in grades 8 – 12**. If you enjoy writing stories, poetry, or plays, this is the perfect opportunity for you to learn more about your craft. Four experienced writers will be attendance to share their writing and give you feedback on your work. They are: Kathleen Winter, a writer from Montreal; Sheri D. Wilson, a poet from Calgary; Jamie Bastedo, a writer from Yellowknife; and Kelly Milner, filmmaker and graduate from Whitehorse. **The conference is FREE and lunch is included.**

All participants need to submit a manuscript **prior to April 21, 2014** in order to attend the conference. Manuscripts must be seven pages or less; poetry submissions should be a minimum of 25 lines and may consist of more than one poem. **Editing help is available in the Learning Commons. Please see Ms. Clarke or Mr. McCarron if you have any questions.**