



Vanier Catholic Secondary

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www.vcss.ca

February-March, 2012

Principal's Message

Although I have only lived in the Yukon these past two years, I think I am as amazed as everyone else at how nice the winter has been so far. Perhaps it is too early to wish for Spring, but the returning sunlight and mild weather certainly do put these thoughts in our minds. As with any Spring, it is not only the weather that changes, the activity level of students and staff increases as well. January closed our last semester with, I hope, a successful exam week and February presents us with a new semester with fresh challenges. Don't relax your guard though, as time seems to fly by. Reality is, that with the up-coming Spring break, the rest of the year will speed by before we know it. Grad activities are increasingly evident, vacation planning is happening, and, believe it or not, now that

Kindergarten registration is underway, planning for next year is beginning.

On a more personal note, I would like to express my deep gratitude to all the individuals and groups that came together in support of our school community during the tragic death of the Rusk family. While no one can anticipate such a tragedy nor the depth of the hole in the fabric of what makes us community, the support from all corners was immediate and heartfelt. Our students were exemplary in sharing the life stories of Rebekah and Gabe. In truth, though, the staff, here at Vanier and at Holy Family, were incredible. No one could have done a better job of managing this crisis as it unfolded. Our children are in good hands.

God Bless,

Edward Frison

Principal



Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

To everything there is a season,
and
a time to every purpose under
heaven:

A time to be born, and
a time to die;
a time to plant, and
a time to pluck up
that which is planted;

A time to kill, and
a time to heal;
a time to break down, and
a time to build up;

A time to weep, and
a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and
a time to dance;

A time to cast away stones, and
a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and
a time to refrain from
embracing;

A time to get, and
a time to lose;
a time to keep, and
a time to cast away;

A time to rend, and
a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and
a time to speak;

A time to love, and
a time to hate;
a time of war; and
a time of peace.

For the latest news, school information and homework assignments, visit our informative school website:

www.vcss.ca



Dates to note for 2012

We've enclosed a March/April Calendar with this newsletter for posting in your home.



The official 2011-2012 School Calendar can be accessed online at the YTG Department of Education website—www.education.gov.yk.ca

Tuesday, Feb. 29—Interim reports mailed home
Saturday, March 3—Arctic Winter Games
Monday, March 5–Friday, March 16—**Spring Break**
Thursday, March 22—Parent Teacher Interviews
Friday, April 6—Good Friday—**No School**
Monday, April 9—Easter Monday—**No School**
Friday, April 13—End of Term III
Monday, April 16—Start of Term IV
Friday, April 20—report cards mailed
April 19-28—Dominican Trip
Monday, April 30—PD day—**No School**
May 4-5 — Thinkfast
Monday, May 21—Victoria Day—**No School**
Friday, May 25—Grad Weekend begins
Tuesday, June 12—Awards I—7 p.m.
Friday, June 15—Last day of classes
Monday, June 18—Exams begin
Monday, June 25—Last day of school
Tuesday, June 26—BCPEs finish

School Council Corner

Greetings from School Council! It has been a busy start to the year, with two meetings held to develop a new Catholic Education Strategic Plan.

In addition, the Secondary Programming Advisory Committee, chaired by the Department of Education, met to review progress on the seven work streams the committee is pursuing (Experiential programming, French programs, Apprenticeship & Trades, Technology in the schools, Student Support Services, the First Nations pillar and the new facilities planned for FH Collins).

Finally, Council met with the new Minister of Education, Scott Kent, on Tuesday January 31st to discuss areas of interest.

Sincerely,

Paul Flaherty

Chair, Vanier Catholic School Council

Parent –Teacher Interviews

Thursday, March 22, 4:00-8:00 p.m.

These interviews are meant for parents and teachers of senior students (in grades 10-12) who need to discuss their student's/child's progress thus far in Semester 2, or by the request of the teacher (in grades 8-9).

For on-line booking, please follow the directions found on the Vanier website—www.vcss.ca. If you have any difficulty, there is a "help" button for this program. You are also welcomed to contact Vanier office staff, at 667-5901, to book you appointments.



Social Justice Club News

Matchmaker, Matchmaker

The Social Justice Club caught the love bug during the month of February and organized the Matchmaker activity at Vanier. This popular event involves having students fill out questionnaires about their likes and dislikes, and then a couple of weeks later, they are given the opportunity to purchase a print-out which lists suitable matches who have similar tastes and preferences. Happily, a large number of students purchased their matches and the SJ Club will donate this money to continued recovery efforts in Haiti.

The SJ Club is helping out locally and globally!

With the fundraising efforts of Art Cards and baked goods at this year's Global Village Craft Fair, the Vanier Social Justice Club has been able to make several donations to local and global organizations near and dear to our members' hearts.

Creation of Hope : We have recently sent \$500.00 to Creation of Hope, an organization based out of Ontario but involved in operating schools in Kenya for children in need. The money sent will help purchase school supplies and school uniforms.

Little Footprints/Big Steps : \$100 was also sent to Morgan Wienberg, a young woman who recently graduated here in Whitehorse and her new organization, to support the programs she has helped establish in Haiti over the last two years. More information regarding this organization can be found online.

Youth of Today Society/Angel's Nest : SJ members also wanted to help support local youth and we have therefore donated \$500 to Angel's Nest, a local youth shelter. We are hoping to partner with this organization in the coming months to help with food and meal preparation and we do hope to drop by and visit the centre in person before the end of the month.

Upcoming events

"Whitehorse Connects" takes place on Wednesday, February 22nd. This is an event put on by the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition and involves offering services, such as haircuts, massage and manicures to give low-income people a bit of TLC. The SJ Club will be sending five volunteers on Wednesday morning to help out with set-up, food preparation and any and all ways we can be of assistance. Do contact the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition for more information on how you can help.

« Sandwiches, Sandwiches, Sandwiches »

Every 3rd Tuesday of the month, the SJ Club makes sandwiches for the Outreach Van. This month, it's February 21st. We are always happy to accept donations to help with the purchase of sandwich-making supplies.

THANKS MERCI

To all of our club members who give so much of their time and energy to help others. You ROCK!

Interested in being part of the Social Justice Club?

Drop by Ms. Hamel's room, Room 14 on Tuesday at 1st lunch and check it out!

It's NEVER too late to Make A Difference!



Five-Week French-Language Bursary Program —

Most expenses are covered!

Discover another region of Canada while learning French. Enjoy five weeks of learning and adventure, friendship and discovery!

Deadline for applications:

February 28, 2012

Tutoring Program

Do you need tutoring?

All Vanier students can receive free tutoring from other students for assistance in course work, assignments or organizational skills. Students will be matched one on one.

To receive tutoring the student needs to complete an application in the Skills Room (Room 3).

Do you want to be a tutor?

Students in Grade 10, 11 or 12 can apply to be a tutor.

Tutors can earn community service hours or an hourly wage. Potential tutors need to come in person to the Skills room and complete an application. Wages range from \$12.50 to \$17.50 per hour depending on grade level.

For more information, please contact Barb Bergsma.



Crusader Athletics– Volleyball

Well, another volleyball season has come and gone and our Crusaders had a “banner” year. All of your Crusaders represented Vanier very well both on and off the court during this year’s Yukon Volleyball Championships. Vanier Crusaders won 5 of 6 Championships and a bronze from our Gr. 8 Boys!

In our Senior division, both our boys and girls went undefeated during their quest for the “triple crown.” Both Mr. Tait and Mr. Bukowski were glad to have their seasons come to a very successful end, as it was a busy year for the coaches.

Tournament All-Stars: Robyn Fortune, Erika New, Lowell Tait, Justin Dragoman

Tournament MVP Kelsey Smeeton, Mason Grey



As for our 9/10 Division, Vanier had two boys and two girls teams competing in the Yukon Championships this year. Like last year, all four teams had great moments of volleyball action, whether it was our developmental teams causing problems for the FH Warriors and Porter Creek Rams, or the fact that the 9/10 Girls were able to bounce back from their heartbreaking loss in Dawson to win the championships! Coaches Ms. Sullivan, Mr. McArthur, Jeremy Staveley, and Mr. Stoker were very pleased and proud of their teams and how they performed on championship weekend.

Tournament MVP Chanel Newell, Louie Kedziora



And finally, in our Gr. 8 Division, Ms. Morgan, Ms. Greve and Patty Wallingham, lead their girls into Yukon Championships. Even battling with some late injuries and juggling of lines, our girls managed to beat FH and win the championships. Great serving and consistently keeping the ball in play, landed our girls on the podium. As for our boys, Mr. Deuling and Mr. Heal were also very pleased about how the teams performed over the weekend. Our boys played hard, but came up short in the semifinal, only to regroup and win the bronze.

Basketball Update

Another successful season of high school athletics has come to an end. This past week, all levels of basketball played their final games in the Yukon Territorial Finals. It goes without saying that the Vanier Crusaders were well represented again this year.

At the Grade 8 Level, teams from all over Yukon played for gold. With the advantage of introducing new offensive strategies and skills, Our Boys team won Gold and the Girls team came away with a Bronze medallion. Mr. Gallant and Mr. Connell were the coaches.

At the Junior Level (Grade 9 and 10), again teams from all over Yukon competed. Due to the great interest, we were able to field 2 teams in both Boys and Girls. Thanks to the coaching skills of Ms. Londero, Ms. Chisholm and Mr. McCarron, our Boys teams finished with a 4th place and a Silver medallion while the girls brought home a Bronze and Silver.

The last games of the season were played by our Senior Teams. The Senior Girls had a tough and very physical game against the Porter Creek Rams but came through victorious in the semi-finals. They went on to play the Gold-medal match against the FH Collins Warriors. The girls dug deep and played a hard-fought game, but came up short and finished the season with a Silver medallion. They were coached by Mr. Frison with the help of manager Anna Rivard. The Senior Boys team went undefeated throughout the season and so had a bye into the final game. They performed true to course, and under the guidance of their coach Mr. Thomson, finished the season with a sound victory over the FH Collins Warriors bringing home the Gold.

Thank you to the coaches for the commitment of their time and talents to bring out the best in our students.





Congratulations to all of the teams and their coaches and support staff on two great seasons. Also, special thanks goes out to all the parents that continue to support their children during the athletic season.

Come on out and support your Vanier Teams!

If you have any questions or concerns, you can go to our Vanier Athletics web site <http://www.yesnet.yk.ca/schools/vanier/athletics/>, or contact Mr. Stoker at 667-5901.

Credits? What are credits?

Many parents have questions about credits and what it means in the Yukon/BC graduation program. At Vanier, we also have Religious Education credit requirements. Basically when we talk about credits, we are referring to a numerical value placed on successful completion of courses from grade 10-12. To graduate in our program, a student must earn a minimum of 80 credits. Most courses students complete at Vanier are valued at 4 credits each. Included in the 80 credits are many courses that are mandatory. A common question we receive from parents is "Doesn't my child need a second language to graduate?" The answer is no, a second language is not required to graduate. Second language instruction is mandatory through grade 8. A few universities still require a second language for some programs, but most universities across Canada have dropped this requirement.

External Credits

Did you know that Yukon students can earn credits for accomplishments outside of school? These are called external credits and are anywhere from 2-4 credits in the Yukon/BC graduation program. Examples of external credits that students commonly earn at Vanier are for RCM music exams (grades 6-10 plus at least grade 2 theory), lifeguard courses, driver's education courses, cadets, and athletics. If students compete for a Sport Yukon team and compete at certain competitions outside of Yukon, they may receive credit. Examples of these competitions are Western Canada Games and Canada Summer or Winter games. There is a form to fill out that can be picked up in the office. Return the signed form to the office and at the end of the year, your credits will be added to your transcript. If you have a question about an activity your child participates in and whether he or she might earn external credits, please contact Ms. Brogdon. Her email is katrina.brogdon@gov.yk.ca

Summer School

It seems a bit early to think about summer school, but every year at this time, we start getting questions from parents. Summer school allows a student who has previously taken a course to upgrade their knowledge and improve their mark by repeating a portion of that course. Students cannot take summer school courses to "get ahead" in courses. They must have attempted the course in school. Students can only take one course, and there are only two courses to choose from: math or English. If a student fails a course needed for graduation credits and they are not able to repeat the course in that school year, they must plan on taking the course either in summer school, if available, or in the Fall semester of the next school year. If you are unsure whether a course is part of the graduation program or not, please call the school and ask to speak to Ms. Morgan or Ms. Brogdon.



Workshops for Parents/Guardians, Adults

A series of City of Whitehorse/Health Promotion workshops for adults to improve their skills in talking to youth on various difficult subjects. Registration is through City of Whitehorse, 667-8325.

The Whole Child Program/Health Promotion workshop for parents/guardians and other interested adults on talking to younger children about relationships, body changes and sexual health. Registration is through Health Promotion, 667-8394.