

Vanier Catholic Secondary

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www.vcss.ca

Ryan Sikkes, Principal Jeanette Gallant & Katrina Brogdon, Vice-Principals

January 2018

A Prayer in Winter

Lord:

In the midst of Winter, when the days are cold and wind can pierce remind us of the warmth of your love.

In the midst of Winter, when days are short, dawn comes late, and dusk arrives early remind us that in the darkness your light still shines.

In the midst of Winter, when the flowers of spring still lie hidden in the earth, when leaves are off the trees, and the world can seem bleak remind us that Easter is but a short time away.

And when in our lives we feel as if we are experiencing a season of winter, reach out to us with the power of your resurrection so that we may feel the warmth of your love and see your light that alone can take away the darkness of our soul.

Amen



Principal's Message

This newsletter marks the halfway point of this school year and comes to you after a very smooth transition from one semester to the next.

Our goal this year with our report card comments is for students (and parents/guardians) to have a good idea of specific areas of strength, where things are going well; and need, where more attention and effort might be paid. If these are not particularly clear in the comment, please feel free to contact the teacher for more information.

We are also entering course-selection season and our planning cycle for the next school year. We have distributed course selection sheets to students and have posted electronic versions of all materials online.

For students going into Grade 11 and 12, we will use the same course selection handbook as last year. We have chosen not to update

the book as most of the information has remained the same and because next year we will be redeveloping the entire book to reflect the necessary changes due to the new "2018 Graduation Program" for students who are entering Grade 10 next year.

The new graduation program looks much the same as the current one in many ways, but there are some significant differences, including the ability to have more choice in the area of English Language Arts courses. In addition, there are a variety of new and exciting course options at the Grade 11 and 12 level. We will evaluate our school's ability to deliver those new courses and ensure that students are well aware of all the new options over the course of the next school year.

Finally, school council elections are coming up this May. If you are interested in serving on our school council, I would encourage you to contact a current school council member to find out more about the position and responsibilities. Visit Elections Yukon for the specific details. A strong, committed, and supportive council is a source of strength for our school community. I hope you'll consider getting involved.

Sincerely,
Ryan Sikkes, principal

Dates to note— February—June

The official 2017-2018 School Calendar can be accessed online at the Yukon Education website.



Monday, January 22—First Day of Semester 2 (Term 3)
Tuesday, February 6—Class Photos
Tuesday, February 13—Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast
Wednesday, February 14—Ash Wednesday
Friday, February 23—Heritage Day—NO SCHOOL
Monday, February 26—Curriculum In-service Day—NO SCHOOL
Friday, March 16—Last Day of Term 3
Monday, March 19—Thursday, March 29—Spring Break
Friday, March 30—Good Friday—NO SCHOOL
Monday, April 2—Easter Monday—NO SCHOOL
Tuesday, April 3—First Day of Term 4
Friday, April 6—ThinkFAST
Thursday, April 26—Student Led Conferences
Friday, April 27—Curriculum In-service—NO SCHOOL
May 11 & 12—Class of 2018 Weekend
Monday, May 21—Victoria Day—NO SCHOOL
Monday, May 28—Athletics Banquet
Thursday, May 31—Awards 1 and Fine Arts/Applied Skills Evening
Monday, June 4—Last day of classes and Awards 2
Tuesday, June 5—Friday, June 8—Exams
Monday, June 25—English 12 BCPE
Wednesday, June 27—Communications 12 BCPE

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 Tuesday, February 20 at 7:00 pm. All parents/guardians/public are welcome.

Update on Yukon Catholic Schools Strategic Plan

The Catholic Education Association held a strategic planning workshop on Jan. 27. A group of parents, school council members, school administrators and teachers, clergy and parish members came together to discuss opportunities and challenges and what can be achieved for the Catholic schools over the next 5 years.

With the number and complexity of the themes coming out of the survey which was available in Nov. to all school partners, the workshop had a fruitful beginning but the process will continue over the next few months. For parents who were not able to attend the workshop, you are invited to participate in evening sessions on **Feb. 8, March 1, March 15, April 5 and April 19**. The sessions begin at 7:00 p.m. at Vanier Secondary School. For more information, contact ceayukon@gmail.com, or see our website at ceayukon.ca.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast!

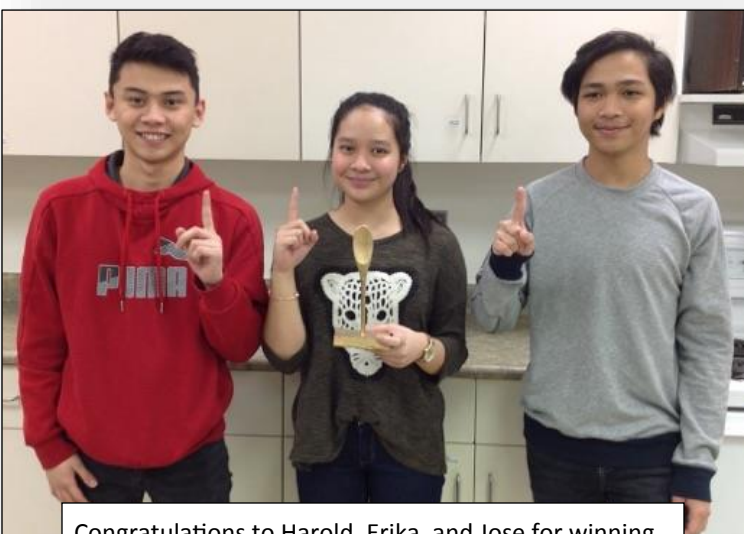


Tuesday, February 13

is Shrove Tuesday and VCS will be offering our usual **pancake breakfast** that day. Come start the last day before Lent with a delicious

breakfast and great company! The suggested donation is **\$5/plate** for pancakes, sausages, and a hot beverage with a portion of the process going to Development and Peace.

Doors will open at 7:30 am.



Congratulations to Harold, Erika, and Jose for winning the Semester 1 Senior Foods Iron Chef competition! The secret ingredient was tortillas with the winners making dessert chimichangas filled with cream cheese and topped with berries. Delicious!

Vanier Tutoring Program

is running from now to June 1, 2018

All Vanier students can receive free tutoring

for assistance in course work, assignments, organizational skills or test preparation.

Students will be matched one on one.

To receive tutoring the student needs to *fill in an application* in the Skills Room (Room 3) and return to Ms. Bergsma or Ms. Cann.



Report Card “Quirks”

Grade 8 & 9 Science

In order to track Mathematics and Science assignments, teachers have a course called “SCIENCE 8 (or SCIENCE 9) MARKS ONLY” which, unfortunately, we couldn’t hide on the report cards. There is no mark or comment for this course.

Homeroom Comments

Due to problems with our scheduling software, Homeroom classes and comments did not appear on most Report Cards for Grade 10 students. Here is the comments for homeroom this term. Please contact the school if you would like to check on the attendance.

Grade 10 Homeroom Comment

This term, the students in grade 8, 9 and 10 homerooms have continued to learn about the core competencies. Through various activities, students considered how to improve their communication skills, as well as explored concepts around critical thinking. It is hoped that taking time for reflection on these types of skills will enable students to develop more ownership and control of their learning across subject areas.

From the Learning Commons...

Find a Fantastic First Line in February...

Sometimes all it takes is a stellar opening line or paragraph to get you hooked on a book. Here are some great ones from fantastic books that you can get right here at the Vanier Learning Commons....just ask!

"Why are you being so quiet?" Friends, teachers, acquaintances, even people I barely know have asked me this question. Most mean well. They want to know if I'm all right or if there's a reason that I'm keeping to myself. Some ask in a way that suggest they think it's a little weird that I haven't spoken up in a while.

Quiet Power: the secret strengths of introverts by Susan Cain, 155.418 CAI

Chaol Westfall, former Captain of the Royal Guard and now Hand to the newly crowned King of Adarlan, had discovered that he hated one sound above all others. Wheels.

Specifically, their clattering along the planks of the ship on which he'd spent the past three weeks sailing through storm – tossed waters.

Tower of Dawn by Sarah J. Maas – F MAA

Love's notes. No, Not love notes. Love in the possessive. Ie. Notes from me. I am Love. Your trusty narrator. Frequently referenced, usually misunderstood. Often imitated, never duplicated – that kind of thing.

The Romantics by Leah Konen F KON

We sat at the edge of the ocean – my sister, Henri, and I – inches apart but not touching at all. The blue horizon was only beginning to swallow the sun and I was already shivering.



We'd been so sure someone would find us by now.

A Map for Wrecked Girls by Jessica Taylor F TAY

This is not your old school library....

Faithful readers of the Vanier Catholic Secondary School newsletter are well aware many exciting activities that take place in and around our learning commons on a weekly basis. One such group is our Coding Club! Students from all grades are welcome to meet with us on Thursdays at lunch to try out our Spheros, Ozobots or even, the 3D printer. You do not need to have any coding experience...our members love to share their expertise and experience and we look forward to learning from you! See Ms. Clarke for more details.



Simon and Josh Lauer have coded their Spheros to travel an obstacle course to save famous American librarian, Nancy Pearl.

Learning Commons Cell Phone Policy

In the VCSS Learning Commons, we strive to create an intentional space for learning where students are able to work on their courses with maximum focus and minimal distractions.

As of Monday, January 22, 2018, the VCSS Learning Commons will be going cellphone-free. This decision was prompted by a concerning trend being observed in the Learning Commons of students from all grade levels being continually distracted from their tasks, their teachers, and their peers by their cellphones. Furthermore, there have been a number of studies and articles recently released illustrating the addictive properties of cellphones and social media and the adverse effects that both can have on a person's physical and mental health.

Please remind your child that cell phones are best left in lockers during class time.

Explore Applications are Due February 15!

WHAT IS EXPLORE?

Explore is a five-week intensive French-immersion bursary program that is offered during the spring or summer for people with any skill level in French. Explore participants are awarded a \$2,200 bursary (taxable income) that covers tuition fees for the course, instructional materials, meals, and accommodation. You will discover another region of Canada while learning French in classes adapted to your language level. Through classroom instructions, workshops, sociocultural activities, and field trips, you will not only improve your language skills, but discover the culture of a new region as well, all while exploring, meeting new people from across the country, and exchanging ideas in a stimulating environment perfect for learning the French language. Experience something new and discover your country and your strengths through Explore!



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

In order to qualify for the Explore bursary, you must:

- be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident (those studying in Canada on a student visa are not eligible); and
- be at least in Grade 11 (Secondary V in Quebec) during the preceding school year or be at the postsecondary level by the time your Explore course begins; and
- have been a full-time student for at least one term during the current school year.

There are no grade or language-skill requirements for the Explore bursary; however, you must have met all of the above criteria for the entire duration of the program. There are no exemptions from any of the eligibility criteria. Anyone who meets these criteria and submits their supporting documents before the deadline will be entered into the bursary draw.

Note: You must be at least 16 years old on the first day of the course. While there is no maximum age limit for the Explore program overall, individual institutions do have age requirements for their respective programs, and you must be within the eligible age group for the entire duration of a given program (i.e., programs for 16- to 17-years-olds).

<http://www.myexplore.ca/en/>

Vanier Athletics

Volleyball The volleyball teams were coached by:

Gr. 8 Boys - Ben Craigen, Erin McBryan

Gr. 8 Girls - Lindy Dunlop, Joe Stewart

Gr. 9/10 Girls - Jane Londero, Janet Clarke

Gr. 9/10 Boys - Dwayne Stoker, Erik Gray

Sr. Boys - Caroline Holway, Nail Sultanau

Sr. Girls - Bruce Gillard

Thank you to all the coaches for your time and effort with our students!

Spook & Spike

This year's Gr. 8 teams were among the top teams for this volleyball season.

The "Spook & Spike" is a Gr. 8 tournament in the place of the Dawson Invitational. It was held Oct. 20-21st. We had two boys and two girls teams entered and one of our boys teams lost in the final, while one of our girls teams won the tournament. Congratulations to all the players as they shift their focus to the Championships.

Dawson Invitational

What can one say about the Dawson volleyball tournament that took place from the 26th-29th of October? It is still considered to be the "best tournament" that anyone in the Yukon can be in!

Forty eight athletes and seven support staff headed up to Dawson for another year of memories. Exciting matches were had by each team, with loads of cheering and Crusader pride. This year the two Jr. teams came away with the gold, while our Sr. Boys had to settle for an unexpected silver. Our Sr. Girls lost in their semi-final and did not advance.

Supervolley

The Supervolley season has just ended with our Sr. Boys

taking the title in dramatic fashion, coming back from a two games to none in a best of five comeback! Led by the Supervolley MVP Daniel Kim, your Crusaders banded together and came back with some thunderous attacks by Dave Mindanao and Leo Bardubitzki to beat the Porter Creek Rams. Game allstars for the boys include: Arcel Siosan, Leo Bardubitski, and Aidan Stoker.



Our Sr. Girls battled hard in their playoff bid for the Supervolley title, but fell short with a three games to one run with the Rams. What our girls lacked in size, they made up in fighting spirit! The Rams ended up beating the FH Collins Warriors for the win. Game allstars for the girls include: Isabel Magsucang, Erin McBryan, and Aleshia Kremer.

Volleyball Championships

This year the Volleyball Championships were split into two weekends. We had 109 volleyball players that entered into the Championships weekend! First up were the Grade 8's and the 9/10 teams from November 16th to the 19th. The Grade 8's were playing their tournament in front of their home crowd at Vanier. We had four teams entered into the Championships and they all

were very competitive throughout the weekend. Three of our teams took home a medal for their efforts. One of our boys teams fought hard to achieve a silver medal, while our girls took both the silver and the bronze in their division! Mental toughness is always key to any sport and this was shown by your Crusaders as the season came to a close. Congratulations to all our up and coming volleyball players.



The 9/10 division was played up at the Porter Creek school for the weekend. We had two girls and one boys team from Vanier. Tough games and mental breakdowns were evident that weekend. Our Jr. Girls stood their ground to finish with a third place, while the Jr. Boys took, what ended up being, the only Volleyball Championship of the year! Tony Kim was named the MVP.

Tough games and mental breakdowns were evident that weekend with our Sr. teams. Both teams had flashes of

brilliance, but in some cases could not leave with a victory. The girls ended up battling and taking 3rd place, while our boys fought to be in the final. The boys ended the season placing 2nd on a rallying comeback by PC to win the heartbreaking Championship.

BRING ON THE BASKETBALL

The basketball season is well underway with some 3 on 3 earlybird tournaments, a trip to Skagway, league games, and finally a sweep with the opening Superhoops games against Porter Creek. Things are looking good for our teams and their coaches thus far!

The basketball teams are coached by:

Gr. 8 Boys - Dave Thomson

Gr. 8 Girls - Mike Gallant

Gr. 9/10 Girls - Jason McArthur, Joe Stewart

Gr. 9/10 Boys - Erik Gray

Sr. Boys - Zach Giczi, Sean McCarron

Sr. Girls - Jane Londero

Don Hather Memorial Basketball Tournament

On Thursday, January 4th - 6th the Senior Girls and Boys Basketball Teams headed to Skagway for the Annual Don Hather Basketball Tournament.

Both teams played the Hoonah Eagles upon arrival. These were the first games of the season for both teams.

The Boys team, came up against a very strong Hoonah squad. They out shot and out muscled the Vanier team to a score of 43 - 22.

The Girls played next and had a very defensive game against the Hoonah Girls and won the game 19-16.

Next up was against the hometown Skagway Panthers team with the Vanier Boys starting to settle into their defensive

game. They had more offense than the previous game which pleased, Zack Giczi, their coach, but lost 35-27.

The Girls played Skagway and encountered 2-3 players on the Skagway Team who were 3 point specialists. Vanier got more scoring but lost 35-16.



In the Boys Pool it was double knock out with Vanier playing Hoonah 3 times, Skagway twice and Porter Creek twice. The Boys went down to defeat against the Alaska teams but beat Porter Creek twice.

The Girls had 2 pools and played Tok for their third game, beating them 33-31 in the last 8 seconds with a basket from Savana Kremer.

The fourth game was against Haines, who are a 2A team compared to all the other teams being 1A. It was a great match with the girls having more shots defending against the Haines 3 point shooters but lost 56- 42 with the Haines players and coaches complimenting the Vanier Girls' play.

The last game to get into the semi- final was against Tok but the Girls went down to defeat 38-25.

Both Coach Giczi and Londero were very pleased with the play of their teams and how well they represented Vanier on the court and in the stands, supporting each other and cheering on the play of the other squads. Now on to Super Hoops!!

Upon return to Whitehorse Jane Londero was informed that Krysha Rubio and Savana Kremer had been named to the Tournament All - Star Team!!!

Check out the athletic page for time and dates of upcoming basketball events!

Come on out and support your Vanier Teams!

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



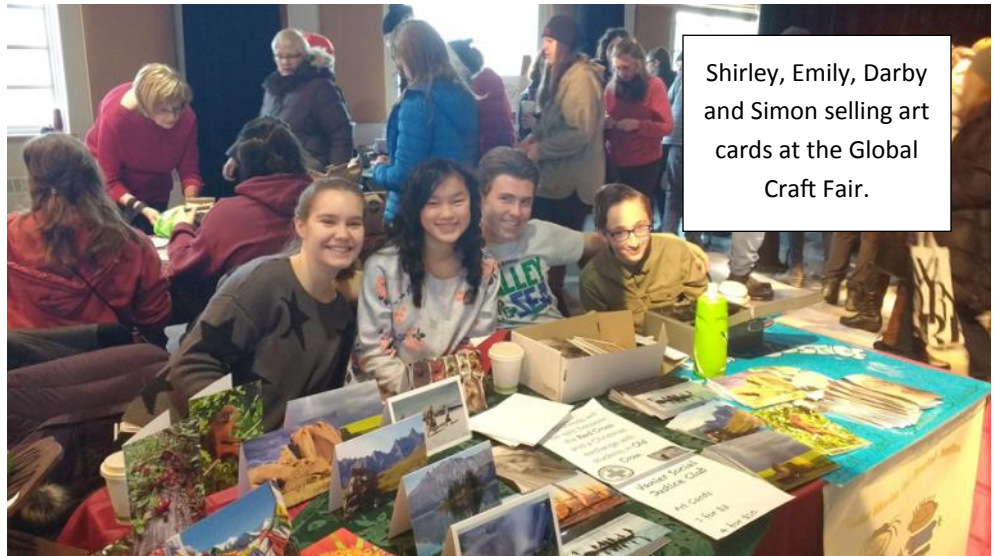
Eat spaghetti and support the 2018 DR Trip!

Save the date: on Saturday, March 3 at CYO Hall, the students participating in the Dominican Republic Exposure trip will be holding a **Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser**. There will be delicious food and silent auction items!

Tickets are \$15 each and are available from the Vanier office, Ms. Clarke, Mr. Craigen or at the door. We look forward to seeing you there!!

Vanier Social Justice Club News - February 2018

The Social Justice Club had another successful time at the Global Craft Fair selling our popular art cards. With the money raised, we sent money to several local and international causes including the Red Cross for Hurricane Relief and the Outreach Van to help them continue their great work in town. As well, we went shopping and bought craft supplies to send to the Chief Zzeh Gittlit School in Old Crow. This is the start of a relationship that we hope to forge with the students in Old Crow to learn more about their lives and interests.



Shirley, Emily, Darby and Simon selling art cards at the Global Craft Fair.

Upcoming Social Justice Days:

- February 20 – World Day of Social Justice
- February 21 - Mother Languages Day

Pass on Your Warmth – donate winter clothing to the Outreach Van

There are many people in Whitehorse who spend much of their time on the street. The Outreach Van travels the city each night and distributes warm food and clothing. If you have gently-worn winter clothing (hoodies, coats, mitts, hats, jackets) or new pairs of socks, drop them off at the Vanier Learning Commons and help warm someone up!



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

www.vcss.ca