

Vanier Catholic Secondary

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www.vcss.ca

January 2012

Principal's Message

Happy New Year!! We truly hope everyone had a great holiday. Now that we are back in session we will undoubtedly be comparing our personal lists of resolutions for this new year. I hope that all of our students have committed to a renewed focus on their studies, especially as the semester draws to a close. The end of January will come quickly and with it the time of exams. For our Grade 10 to 12 students, this means final exams. I would encourage parents and students to discuss how school is going and try to make sure that all assignments are done and handed in. It is never fun to have surprises at the end of a course. If you have questions about your child, please contact their teachers, a simple conversation can clear up most issues to avoid any possible negative impact. The best of luck to all students in their exams.

You will find further explanation of Vanier's grading system later in this newsletter. Please note that we use the standards outlined by the Department of Education and strive to provide students and parents with the clearest snapshot of how well each person is doing in their studies. You will notice that Junior students (Grade 8 and 9) will have letter grades this reporting period. This will be repeated again in their last report card in June. As always, with faith and study, we cannot fail.

Edward Frison

Prayer for the New Year

Lord,

We pray that this new year will bring us closer to You. May we take the time to get to know You. Help us to truly celebrate the gifts You have graciously given us and use them to serve You and spread Your word. May we also see and love you in all the people we meet, so that in turn, they can see You in us. We know that all human relations take time if they are to grow and deepen. This is also true of our relations with You, the Father and the Holy Spirit, which must grow over the course of our lives. In this new year, let us realize that every action of ours, no matter how great or small, enables us to be in touch with You. Let us accept You in our lives, in the way it pleases You,

as Truth, to be spoken,

as Life, to be lived,

as Light, to be lighted,

as Love, to be followed,

as Joy, to be given,

as Peace, to be spread about,

as Sacrifice, to be offered among our relatives, friends, neighbours and all people.

Amen



Dates to note for 2012

We've enclosed a January 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, January 3—Return to School from Christmas Break

Friday, January 20—Last Day of Semester I / Term II

Monday, January 23—Thursday, January 26—Exams

Friday, January 27—No classes

Monday, January 30—First Day of Semester II / Term III

Wednesday, February 22—Ash Wednesday

Friday, February 24—Heritage Day—No School

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

Monday, May 21—Victoria Day—No School

Friday, May 25-26—Grad Weekend

Thursday, June 7—Awards I—7 p.m.

Friday, June 15—Last day of classes/Awards II

Monday, June 18—Exams begin

Tuesday, June 26—BCPEs finish

School Council News

Happy New Year to all from School Council. In early December, School Council representatives, along with Administrative staff, met with senior Department of Education officials to discuss concerns with the physical facilities of the school. It was a productive meeting and commitments have been made to address a number of issues in early 2012. Secondly, we have made a recommendation to the Minister to have our vacant Council position filled and hope to finalize this in January. Finally, work continues on the Catholic Education Strategic Plan review with the next meeting planned for January 10th.

Sincerely,

Paul Flaherty

Chair, Vanier Catholic School Council

Booster Cards!

Booster Cards are out! If you haven't purchased yours, contact the school office—they're only \$20 for discounts all over town! All proceeds go to support student activities throughout the year.

Alpine Bakery

Pickapeppa Restaurant

Baked Cafe

Pizza Hut

Yukon Meat and Sausage

Plantation Flowers & Gifts

Intersport

Qualita Cleaners

The Kebabery

Quiznos Sub

Kilrich Industries

Riverside Grocery

Mad Trapper Alleys

Terra Firma Art Co.

Midnight Sun Coffee

Whitehorse Subaru

Paradise Alley

Yukon Gallery

SOCIAL JUSTICE CLUB NEWS

The Social Justice Club is open to all grades - all you need is enthusiasm and the desire to work for change. We meet on Tuesdays at 12:15 pm in room 14. Bring your lunch, bring a friend and any ideas you have to make the world a better place!

A big thank you to everyone who helped out in making SJ Art Cards and who volunteered to sell at the Global Village Craft Fair. Of course, a big thank you also goes out to all of you who bought our cards and supported local and global groups. With your help, we raised close to \$400. Half of the money will be sent to Creation of Hope, an organization in Kenya helping kids stay healthy, stay in school and helping develop economic development in their villages. Thank you to Emily Ross for letting us know about this organization. The other half will be donated to a local organization to be determined by club members in the next few weeks.

***Special note: We still have several photo art cards for sale here at the school. Make your card purchases count by buying yours from the Social Justice Club @ the low price of \$3.00 each. It's a steal of a deal. Contact Ms Hamel or the office for details.**

COOKIES , CARDS and SANDWICHES

SJ Club members made special Christmas cookies for the clients of the Outreach Van and with the help of Ms. Peterson's SJ12 class. They also put together 90 decorated and personalized Christmas cards to be distributed during the Christmas season. Thanks everyone!

The SJ club continues to make 50 sandwiches per month for the Outreach Van. Available money for this has been reduced so **we are happy to accept any of your monetary donations to help cover the costs. Donations can be dropped off at the school.**

STILL WINTER

Although Christmas is over, winter is not. The Outreach Van is still happy to receive **socks, mitts, toques and jackets** so feel free to drop those items at Many Rivers or at the school and we'll make sure it gets there.



NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

For 2012, the SJ Club hopes to get involved with the Animal Shelter as well as working on Environmental, Fair Trade and Sweatshop Free initiatives at the school.

The SJ Club continues to meet every Tuesday at lunch in Room 14 and all new members are always welcome.

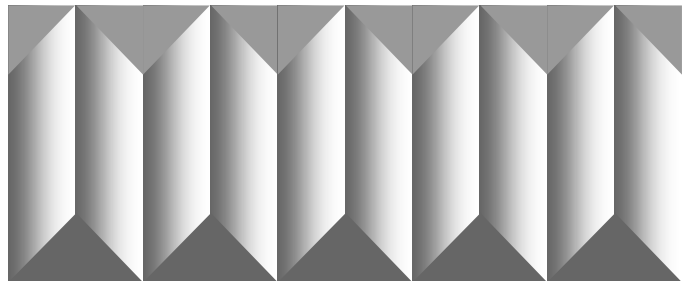
Make this your New Year's Resolution.

Exam time is approaching!

January 23-27 is exam week. There are no classes and all students will be writing exams. Gr. 8 and 9 students will all write midterm exams in English, Social Studies, Math and Science. Gr. 10-12 students will write a mixture of government and teacher-determined exams, depending on their course load.

Students can start preparing for exams by developing a study plan and working on practice exams that can be found at www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams

Ms. Bergsma will also be offering two drop-in exam preparation sessions during the lunch hour. The first, on January 11 is on "How to Study" and the second on January 18 is on "Tips for Writing Exams". She will also be consulting with teachers to help students prepare for exams.

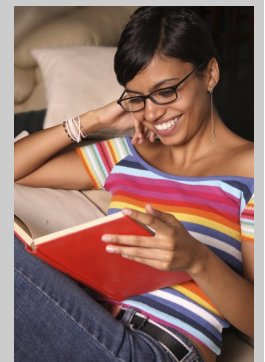


Buy Your Yearbook!

There is still time to buy a yearbook. To date, we have sold 168 yearbooks. We need to sell 82 more yearbooks to cover costs.

You may still buy a yearbook...\$35.

See Mr. Canary for your purchase!





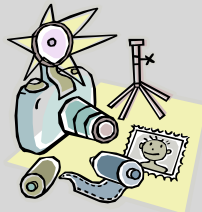
Grade 8 Band Retreat

On Feb. 16th, 2012, all grade 8 band students will be participating in a grade 8 Band retreat. The students will be participating in a fun-filled day of music-making activities, games and learning at the Yukon Arts Centre! Senior music students will be on hand to help the Grade 8's with learning new notes, rhythms, styles, and will perform for our younger band members.

It'll be an awesome day for all!

ATTENTION PHOTOGRAPHY BUFFS!!

If you are interested in film photography and either have, or would like to set up your own darkroom, we have an unbeatable deal for you. We are "Spring Cleaning" early and need to get rid of all old photographic equipment which we no longer use. We have a wide selection of equipment ranging from 35mm SLR cameras and lenses, enlargers, timers, developing materials, and assorted odds and ends. If you would like to have a look and pick up something for yourself or someone you know, please come to the school on January 16, 17, 23, and 24 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Any donation will be accepted.



Grad Weekend Update

Please mark your calendars for May 25th and 26th.

Our grad mass will be the evening of May 25th and the **Cap and Gown** will be the morning of May 26th.

The **Grad Prom** and evening activities will commence around 6:00 pm on Saturday May 26th.

All grade 12's should meet with Ms. Brogdon soon if they have questions about post-secondary applications. The deadlines for early admissions are coming up soon.



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

www.vcss.ca



The Story of Bob

Katy Hutchinson is a concerned parent, author and restorative justice advocate with a compelling, real-life story. In her presentation, Katy clearly describes how alcohol and other drug use, peer pressure and misguided choices in an unchaperoned setting caused the tragic death of her husband Bob. Through a powerful and poignant multi-media presentation, Katy shares how this traumatic event impacted her as a wife and as a mother of two young children. Her presentation is personal and interactive and is designed to empower audience members to make healthier choices so that tragedies can be prevented. In addition, Katy explores the power of forgiveness and describes her own grassroots quest for restorative justice.

Katy will be coming to Vanier to talk to students.

An open parent night will be held at FH Collins on Tuesday, February 21, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.



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 at 667-5901 (leave message) or barb.bergsma@yesnet.yk.ca

Vanier Grade 8-12 Assessment Guidelines

Grade	Percentage (%)	Suggested Yukon Guidelines	BC Performance Standard
A	86%-100% Excellent or outstanding performance in relation to learning out-	Mostly exceeding column is highlighted	Exceeding Ex- pectations
B	73%-85% Very good performance in relation to	Mostly fully meeting and exceeding high- lighted	Fully Meeting Expectations
C⁺	67%-72% Good performance in relation to	Mostly fully meeting and some minimally meeting highlighted	
C	60%-66% Satisfactory performance in relation to learning outcomes	Mostly minimally meeting and some fully meeting highlighted	Minimally Meeting Ex- pectations
C-	50%-59% Minimally acceptable performance in relation to learning outcomes	Mostly minimally meeting and some not yet meeting highlighted	
I- In pro- gress (during)	No demonstration of minimally accepta- ble performance in relation to learning outcomes in this reporting period	Mostly not yet meeting and some mini- mally highlighted The student, for a variety of reasons, <u>is not demonstrating</u> minimally ac- ceptable performance.	Not Yet Meeting Ex- pectations
F- Failed (final)	No demonstration of minimally accepta- ble performance in relation to learning outcomes for the course	Mostly not yet meeting highlighted The student, for a variety of reasons, <u>has not demonstrated</u> minimally ac- ceptable performance.	

WORK HABITS

EXCELLENT (E) Responsibility: demonstrates an industrious work ethic, ready to work and learn. Cooperation: a class leader exemplified by a high degree of positive and meaningful participation initiated by the student. Independence: a keen and enthusiastic learner actively seeking out personal growth and learning opportunities.

GOOD (G) Responsibility: all assignments turned in, ready to work and learn. Cooperation: works well with other students and teachers, participates in class in a meaningful way. Independence: a self-directed learner, takes appropriate initiative and responsibility for learning.

SATISFACTORY (S) Responsibility: most assignments turned in, usually ready to work and learn. Cooperation: usually works well with other students and teacher(s). Independence: often requires direction.

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT (N) Responsibility: most assignments missing, frequently not ready to work and learn. Cooperation: does not work well with other students or teacher(s). Independence: needs one-on-one attention most of the time.

Evaluating Student Performance:

Evaluation of student performance is based on Standards. Standards are realistic expectations of what students need to know and are able to do as a result of their education. In Yukon, prescribed learning outcomes (PLO) outline what schools are required to teach and what students are expected to learn.

Based on learning outcomes and expected levels of performance, teachers set specific criteria to evaluate students' learning. These criteria form the basis for evaluating and reporting student progress.

Assessment and Evaluation:

Assessment is the systematic gathering of information about what students know, are able to do and are working toward. Assessment should be continuous, collaborative, consultative and be criterion-based.

Evaluation is a professional judgement about the quality of a response, product or performance, based on established criteria and standards.

Assessing, evaluation and reporting student achievement and growth are integral to learning. They should be positive, supportive experiences for students.

From information collected through assessment activities, teachers evaluate student performance. They use their professional expertise, knowledge about learning and experience with students, along with specific criteria, to provide feedback about student performance in relation to learning outcomes.

Teacher assessment can help students redirect their efforts, improve performance and establish learning goals.

Criterion-Referenced Curriculum:

When criterion-referenced assessment is used, student performance is compared to established criteria rather than to the performance of other students.

Criterion-referenced evaluation involves the following steps:

1. Choose learning outcomes from the curriculum
2. Establish criteria, involving students in the process whenever possible
3. Plan learning activities that will help students acquire the knowledge or skills outlined in the criteria
4. Provide examples of the desired levels of performance
5. Implement the learning activities
6. Use various assessment data with students, provide individualized feedback and evaluate each student's level of performance or quality of work in relation to the criteria
7. Report the results of an evaluation to students and parents