

Vanier Catholic Secondary

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November 2012

Principal's Message

It seems we are forever commenting on mundane things like the weather, our health, or how time passes. Deeper conversations are perhaps seen as dangerous and too revealing. Yet even the mundane can reveal wonderful gifts. Look at how great our weather has been – such mild temperatures for this time of year and so little snow. Is it really possible that it is already November? What happened to September and October?

Thank you to all those parents and students that turned out for our Fall Parent/Teacher/Student conferences. I hope that many deep conversations took place and that insight was gained by all. We have had a great start to the year. Our new staff has meshed quite well with the veterans and everyone is working to provide the best experiences for all our students. We really are truly blessed.

For those that have not yet realized it, Fr. Claude is not serving as our chaplain this year. I want to take this opportunity to thank him for his many years of service to our staff and students. Pere Claude always brought a sense of peace into the staffroom and classroom. Thank you Fr. Claude!

We would also like to welcome Fr Kieran as our new chaplain. We are excited to learn the new ways he will provide pastoral leadership and support for our school. Many of you may know him from his work at Madonna House. Once again, welcome Fr. Kieran.

Thanks also to Bishop Gordon for spending time with us at the school. It has been great to have him chat with staff at staff meetings and also visit and get to know students as he wanders the hallways during morning break. His appearance at a staff vs. student volleyball game was also a hit. We look forward to his continuing visits.

We are coming up to report card time in the next couple of weeks. Please encourage your child(ren) to review and study for any mid-term evaluations they may have. It is always good to see what they have been working on in class and check their understanding. It is never too late to have a conversation with any of their teachers to see how to make this report reflect their hard work. In this report card, you may see a stamp at the bottom of your child's report card saying "Principal's List", "Honor Roll", or "Special Merit". These are indicators of our revised awards system. They help us acknowledge academic achievement and hard work for more students. These same awards will be finalized with special certificates at the end of the school year. Please check this newsletter for details of these awards. This description will also be posted on our school web-site. If you haven't checked our web-site for a while, give it a look as there are many new documents and links for perusal.

Congratulations to our sports teams for their fine play in volleyball at league games as well as tournaments. Thank you to all the coaches that make it all possible.

God is Good!

Edward Frison

Hey Grade 11s!

New Program: GLOBE 11

Mr. Stefans Jackson is heading up a new science program for the second semester! Globe 11 includes Bio 11, Chem 11, Environmental Science 11, Geography 12, and Fine Arts/Applied Skills 11. That's 20 credits in the time it usually takes to get 16!

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

TUESDAY, NOV. 6—GRADE 8 RETREAT

THURSDAY, NOV. 8— TERM 1 ENDS!

THURSDAY, NOV. 8—REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY AT 10:30

FRIDAY, NOV. 9—PD DAY: NO CLASSES FOR STUDENTS

MONDAY, NOV. 12—REMEMBRANCE DAY STATUTORY HOLIDAY: NO CLASSES FOR STUDENTS

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 28 AT 7:30—SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING IN LIBRARY

NOVEMBER IS REPORT CARD MONTH!

Report cards for Term 1 should be arriving through Canada Post by Mid-November.



Vanier Library News – November 2012

***Drop Everything and Read* and celebrate National School Library Month**

Vanier staff and students know that the more you read, the better you get at it. Reading improves vocabulary, increases your general knowledge about the world, improves your writing and is a GREAT way to relax.

With all these benefits in mind, the entire student and staff population of Vanier took up the challenge and dropped everything they were doing to read on October 22nd. The sight of everyone with a book in hand made this teacher-librarian very happy!

OVERDUE BOOKS

If you love a book, set it free...

If it comes back, it's yours...

If it is from the Vanier School Library,

it was never yours so BRING IT BACK!!

You can't enjoy these new books and so many more that are in the library if you have not returned your overdue textbooks....rid yourself of that extra weight and clear up your library record!!

School Council Corner

Following the election in October, the new School Council was sworn in and held it's first meeting. The members of School Council are Dianne Tait, Terry Prenoslo, John Berg, James Mooney and Paul Flaherty. Yolande Cherepak has agreed to become our new Secretary Treasurer replacing Tracey Johnson who is stepping down after four years in the role.

Contact information for the Council members can be found on the school website if you have any opportunities or concerns that you would like to make School Council aware of. Council meetings between now and year end will be on Wednesday November 28th and Wednesday December 12th with both starting at 7:30 pm in the school library.

We would like to welcome Father Kieran Kilcommons as the new Chaplain for the school and thank Father Claude Gosselin for all his work with the staff and students of Vanier over the years.

Paul Flaherty

Chair Vanier School Council

Student Council 2012-13.

Student Council's Grade 8 Halloween Dance was a rousing success that raised just over \$700.00.

This was a joint venture of Student Council, Leadership 9, and the Grade 12 Grads (DJs Luke Londero & James McGrath are donating their "pay" to Grad).

The money is being split between...

1) Student Council (to fund future student activities)

2) Leadership 9's fundraiser (Wanjoki Connection--Women of Kenya developing craft creations and fair trade for impoverished grandmothers/single parents in Kenya)

From the Office

NEW BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY

When the weather outside is frightful, stay warm inside and curl up with a new book from the school library. We have just received a shipment of enticing new titles that are sure to please.

Drummer Girl / Karen Bass. F BAS

Sid loves to play drums in her school's band..but are her bandmates demanding too much from her?

Footnotes in Gaza / Joe Sacco 956.04 SAC

Written and illustrated by a great cartoonist/reporter, Joe Sacco, who is widely thought of as the creator of war-reportage comics.

The Hidden / Jessica Verday. F VER

The third book in this trilogy about Abbey who is dealing with the challenges of being in love with a ghost.

100 Ideas that Changed the World / Jheni Osman 303.483 ONE

Selected by some of the world's greatest minds, these are the most important discoveries that have changed our world.

Tiger's Curse, Tiger's Quest, Tiger's Voyage / Colleen Houck. F HOU

Kelsey Hayes is having a crazy summer...she battles immortal sea monkeys, treks the jungles of India and then falls in love with a 300-year old prince. What could happen next?

FROM BISHOP GARY GORDON:

All Saints Day Nov. 1, 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians, Staff and Students

The beginning of the school year has coincided with our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI, declaring a "Year of Faith" for the whole Church. A theme The Holy Father insights the Church to consider is "The Door of Faith"



The Catholic schools of the Diocese of Whitehorse have been that door of faith for many generations in the Yukon, ever since the doors opened at St Mary's school in Dawson City, in 1900.

The mission statement of our Catholic schools continues to inspire a holistic Catholic faith centered education that engages the whole child to be the best version of themselves in mind body and spirit.

By developing their God given gifts and working hard children are a wonderful inspiration to all of us of perseverance if not always patience in pursuing the dreams and God given desire for truth, knowledge and love.

The staff of our Catholic schools in their vocation and commitment to Catholic education share dynamically in the mission of Christ and his Church. The commitment of our staff is often experienced by students and families as a real encounter with the person of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd as revealed in the Gospel of John chapter 10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." In so many ways, at school and away from school our staff is a "door of faith."

May the "Year of Faith" be a graced time for our schools and families, creating those moments of personal encounter with our savior, Jesus Christ, leading us always forward in pursuing Charity in Truth, Faith in Action, and Justice in Love.

Bishop Gary M. Gordon

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

In addition to Christmas being a wonderful time of fellowship, charity, and celebration of our Saviour's birth, Christmas is also a time for gift giving. Why not check out the Global Village Craft Fair?

Global Village Craft Fair

- Maiwa
- Fair Trade Teas, Coffee, Baking Supplies
- 10,000 Villages
- Uganda Schools Fundraiser
- Amnesty International
- Trinity Lutheran Church
- Gone Rural Swaziland
- New Internationalist and more!

COME SEE HOW YUKONERS
ARE HELPING TO SUPPORT
OUR GLOBAL VILLAGES!

- Yukon African-Caribbean Association
- Colombian Orphanage
- Little Footprints, Big Steps
- Vanier Social Justice Club
- Thirteen Threads Guatemala

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 17TH

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

OLD FIREHALL, 1ST & MAIN



ydecsecretary@gmail.com

VANIER SOCIAL JUSTICE CLUB

The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who, in times of great moral crisis, maintain their neutrality. - Dante



The Social Justice Club meets every Tuesday at lunch in room 14. All grades are welcome! Join us in raising awareness at Vanier of global issues, fundraising for important causes, volunteering at events around Whitehorse and having lots of fun!

NOvember

This month, the SJ Club is saying **NO!**

NO to children living in need...YES to supporting UNICEF

SJ members Hollie Shantz and Clare Cherepak along with teachers Ms. Clarke and Ms. Doetsch donned large orange boxes and faced a fierce wind to walk up and down Main Street collecting change for UNICEF. Our efforts resulted in \$144.00 to send to children in need.



NO to cancer...YES to MOVember and everyone in their efforts to grow great moustaches and raise money for prostate cancer research.

NO to cold feet and hands in Whitehorse...YES to our WEAR A HAT...WARM A HEART campaign, November 8th.

On **Thursday, November 8**, Vanier students can pay \$2.00 to have hat immunity and wear a hat around school all day – a fashion item normally not permitted. We would love to see sombreros, ball caps, cowboy hats, and fuzzy fur hats. The money will go to buy warm socks and hats for the Outreach Van to distribute.

NO to bullying...YES to Anti-Bullying Awareness Week, Nov 12 to 17th

NO to ignoring the rights of children...YES to Universal Children's Day on Tuesday, November 20th.

NO to expensive Christmas gifts...YES to gifts that give twice.

Stuck for a gift for the person who has everything? The SJ Club is promoting global Christmas gift ideas that can't be found on any store shelves, but are guaranteed to change lives. Buy a goat or pig for a family living in poverty, a library in a box for Haiti or help stock a pharmacy in the 3rd world. Stay tuned for more details.

Upcoming Events

Global Craft Fair – Saturday, November 17th, 11 am to 3 pm.

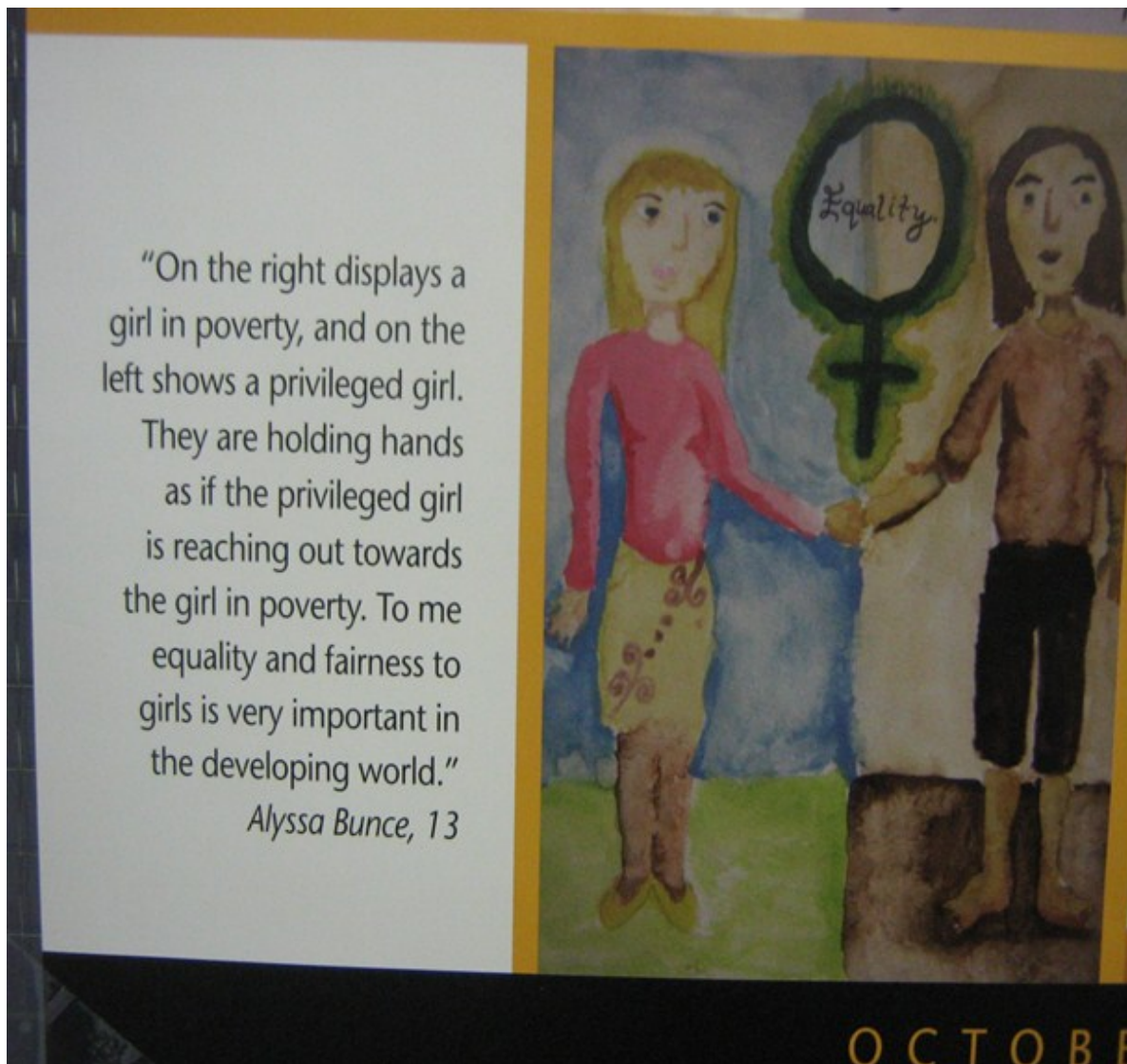
The Global Craft Fair is a great chance to find fair trade items for everyone on your shopping list. The SJ Club is selling exquisite and colourful paper bead necklaces made by a women's cooperative in Uganda. Please drop by, check out our table and feel great about supporting fair trade practices worldwide.

Sandwich Making – Tuesday, November 20th

We are making sandwiches for the Outreach Van on Tues., Nov. 20th. Come out and join our assembly line!

The SJ Club congratulates...

Members of **Vanier's Social Justice Class** who raised \$780.00 to donate to **Little Footprints, Big Steps** to help street kids in Haiti. Great work! This charity was founded by Morgan Wienberg, a FH Grad. Check out the website to learn about the great work Morgan is doing in Haiti: <http://littlefootprintsbigsteps.com>



Alyssa Bunce whose artwork was chosen to be on the Women's Directorate poster celebrating the first annual **UN International Day of the Girl**, October 11, 2012. We are proud of you Alyssa!