

Vanier Catholic Secondary

16 Duke Road, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 4M2

Phone: (867) 667-5901 Fax: (867) 393-6370

www.vcss.ca

October 2011

Principal's Message

It may seem like such a trivial thing, but having 1/10 of the school year slip by already is kind of scary. The start of the new school year has been, on the whole, a very smooth process. The staff has been working long hours in their efforts to refocus on the task of teaching, (curriculum, planning, instruction, assessment, evaluation, and reporting). We are shifting our focus away from averaging grades on a series of assignments, quizzes and tests to more proactively looking at the most critical Learning Outcomes and getting the students to see what they have learned versus what they have yet to master in any given subject. The emphasis then is to work on what they have yet to learn. There is a whole array of terms and vocabulary to describe how this change is articulated – things like rubrics, assessment for learning, assessment of learning, differentiated

instruction and lessons, etc. Please look over the detailed summary of these changes in a separate insert into this News Letter.

One thing that is very gratifying, is that regardless of the changes we work through, no matter how hard we are working, and no matter how much time we devote to making school life interesting, rewarding, and memorable, we must still be ready to acknowledge the many gifts and blessings we receive daily from our God. We will be celebrating Thanksgiving in a few days. This is a great time to just take 5 minutes and answer the question, "What in the world should I be thankful for?". I really believe that in 5 minutes, we can all generate a substantial list. We live in a great community, we have a great school, our country is truly world class, and opportunities abound. After recognizing our blessings, it always helps keep perspective by remembering those who have considerably less than we do. Please pray for them.

Have a great long-weekend and a wonderful Fall. God Bless!

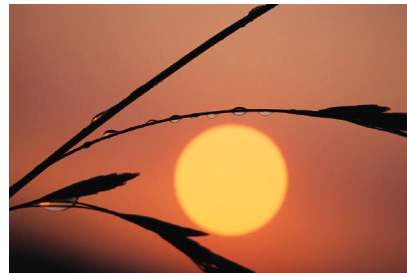
On September 28th, our students walked, ran, unicycled, and skateboarded to support cancer research in the 31st annual Terry Fox run!

Way to go!



Wake each morning with a sense of hope. God has amazing things in store for you. And he

does all things well.



Ellyn Sanna

Dates to note for Semester I (Oct.-Jan.)

We've enclosed an October / November 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.

For more information on booking Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews using our on-line system (which will be available starting holiday Monday, October 10), please see page 6 of this newsletter.

- October 12—Gr. 10 Retreat
- October 13, 4-8 pm—Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews
- October 14, 8:30 am-12pm -Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews
- October 17—Gr. 8 Retreat
- October 24—Gr. 9 Retreat
- October 28—Catholic Schools PD (No classes)
- Friday, November 4—Term I Ends
- Monday, November 7—Term II Begins
- Friday, November 11—Remembrance Day (No School)
- Monday, November 14—School Closed Day
- Tuesday, November 15—Report Cards Mailed
- Sunday, November 27—Advent Begins
- Wednesday, December 7—December Newsletter (with midterm reports) mailed.
- Friday, December 16—Christmas Celebration and Last Day of School Before Christmas Break
- Tuesday, January 3—Return to School from Christmas Break
- Friday, January 20—Last Day of Semester I / Term II
- Monday, January 23—Friday, January 29—Exams Begin
- Monday, January 30—First Day of Semester II / Term III

School Council Corner

The next School Council meeting will be on Wednesday, October 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the Vanier Catholic Secondary Library.

On September 14th, School council met with an official from Yukon College to discuss the introduction of new dual credit programs (High School and Yukon College credits) to be available to interested and eligible grade 12 students after Christmas. The College will be meeting with the students and Administrators later this Fall to discuss the program.

On September 20th, the Catholic Schools of Whitehorse and the Catholic Education Association of the Yukon held a joint AGM to review the successes of the past year.

This year the group has agreed to begin a review of the vision of Catholic Education in the Yukon.



We need your participation and input.

Please join us at our

Forum, on Saturday, November 26 at 9:00am, Vanier Catholic Secondary School to have your voice heard!

Paul Flaherty

Chair, Vanier Catholic Secondary School Council.

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

www.vcss.ca



VANIER SOCIAL JUSTICE CLUB

Don't just ATTEND high school-
EXPERIENCE high school!

Join the *Vanier Social Justice Club*. You will meet new people, have lots of fun, and participate in amazing projects.

The *Social Justice Club* meets **every Tuesday at 12:15 in Ms Hamel's room, Room 14.**

Bring your lunch, bring a friend, bring your ideas, bring your passion and...

- ⇒ become a Citizen Journalist, reporting on various SJ issues
- ⇒ make sandwiches for the Outreach Van
- ⇒ raise money for Because I'm a Girl
- ⇒ help out with the Food Drive and Food Bank
- ⇒ collect warm clothing for people in need
- ⇒ voice your concerns regarding various Social Justice issues
- ⇒ engage in Poverty and Homelessness Action Week
- ⇒ help make Vanier plastic bottle-free
- ⇒ campaign for Sweatshop Free purchases
- ⇒ organize a Social Justice initiative of your choice
- ⇒ help develop our website
- ⇒ take photos for the club
- ⇒ make a difference

Thank you, Merci to all the students and staff who...

- Sold popsicles and walked in the AIDS Walk.**
- Made sandwiches for the Outreach Van**
- Signed up for the Food Drive**

You ROCK!

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



The Spirit at Work!

Working with CKES and Holy Family, Vanier staff and students participated in another very successful Food Drive on Oct. 5th, 2011. Students from every grade level were represented, demonstrating compassion and commitment to our community.

SJ Club – Upcoming Events

We need your \$\$\$\$\$!

We are looking for monetary donations to help buy supplies to make sandwiches. Every month, three different groups/classes at Vanier are making sandwiches for the Outreach Van. Unfortunately, funds are low at the Outreach Van so we are looking for your support. If you can help, please drop off your money or cheque at the office and mention that it's for the Outreach Van c/o the Vanier Social Justice Club. **THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

Next sandwich-making date for SJ Club: October 18th

POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS ACTION WEEK: October 17th-23rd

- ⇒ Warm clothing drive: bring in new or gently used winter clothing to Rm 14
- ⇒ Help out with our display
- ⇒ Become a Citizen Journalist and report on poverty and homelessness issues in the Yukon
- ⇒ Volunteer at the Food Bank

HALLOWEEN COIN COLLECTION - Monday October 31st

SJ members will be putting on large UNICEF boxes and going downtown to collect donations. We get great responses from the public and it is always refreshing to see someone wearing a giant neon orange box.

Come join us or deliver your coins and cash at the school!

Envirothon—2011 Sackville, N.B.

This article appeared in the *Whitehorse Star* on August 3, 2011.

Students blazed new trail for successors By Gemma Karstens-Smith on August 3, 2011

Summer is supposed to be a time for high school students to sit back and relax.

But for five Grade 11 students from Vanier Catholic Secondary School, this summer has been about studying and preparing to represent the territory in the 2011 Canon Envirothon.

The hard work paid off last week, as Team Yukon — composed of Sabrina Clarke, Danny Guhl, Luke Power, Patrick Soprovich and Zain Syed — put in a valiant effort at the competition in Sackville, N.B.

Now in its 24th year, the Canon Envirothon is an annual competition designed to expose students to diverse environmental issues, ecosystems, and topography. More than 500 students from across Canada and the United States competed in this year's event.

Team Yukon came in 47 out of the competition's 54 teams. Though they didn't crack the top spots, the group was proud of their performance.

"It's not a true reflection of their capabilities," Jenny Darling, a teacher at Vanier and the team's chaperone, said in an interview last Thursday evening.

Being the first-ever Yukon team in the competition meant the group had no idea what to expect.

"It was really hard for us, being the very first Yukon team," said Soprovich, noting they weren't sure what the test would consist of.

"I guess it would have helped if we'd known what we were getting in to," said Clarke.

At the Canon Envirothon, teams are tested on five stations: wildlife, aquatics, forestry, soils and a special topic. This year's special topic was estuaries.

Teams also make an oral presentation.

"It's quite a rigorous competition," said Darling.

"For me, it's quite an eye-opener that these kind of competitions exist. I had really no idea how intense it would be."

While the team did get some training in with envirothon competitions in Whitehorse, the format of the Canon Envirothon is

"significantly different," Darling said.

Team Yukon also had less training than many of the other teams that have been training for and participating in envirothons for years. They found out they would be participating in the competition in May and working hard to prepare by studying and garnering sponsorships from businesses and government departments.

"I was thinking we'd be dead last because all these kids have been preparing all this time, like years, and we're just trying to get a sense of things," Soprovich said. "And obviously we're not the worst team here." "We did, I'd say, pretty great for being the first Yukon team," Guhl added.

The competition may have been tough, but Team Yukon lived up to the pressure, Syed said.

"I feel the way we pulled through was pretty amazing," he said.

The trip wasn't all hard work, however. Teams also got a chance to let loose at get-togethers (one of which included bouncy castles) and trips to the beach.

While the Envirothon wasn't an easy experience, it was one the team enjoyed and isn't about to forget anytime soon.

"We took away a lot," Clarke said. "It's really great how many people we got to meet here and how much we learned about North America and New Brunswick specifically."

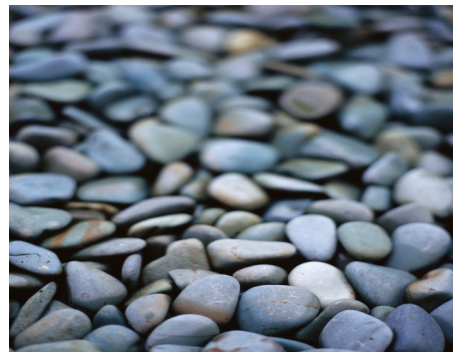
Aside from learning about the environment and sustainability, Power said the competition gave him a "new understanding of how everything's connected," from soil to estuaries.

He believes the competition will help him going forward, with things like scholarships, but also feels like it gave him some life experience.

"It also kind of prepared us for life, just how it was so competitive," Powers said. "I think it really showed us what the real world's like."

Other Team Yukon members felt the Envirothon helped shape future phases of their life.

"I wanted to go into Envirothon so I could explore the environment path of science," said Syed.



News from the Counselling Department

Katrina Brogdon and Nicole Morgan, Counsellors

Welcome Back! We hope your school year is off to a great start. The counselling department would like all parents and students to know that school counsellors are available to meet to discuss career and post-secondary plans, course options and personal issues. We also work in conjunction with Alcohol and Drug Services and one of their counsellors is here one day a week. If you need to speak to a counsellor please feel free to drop by Ms. Morgan's office to set an appointment or see Ms. Brogdon in the main office. Referrals to Alcohol and Drug services are confidential and can be made by a student or at the request of a parent.

GRADE 11 NEWS

Are you interested in applying for the [SHAD Valley Program](#) ? If so, your application is due on December 7th. It is quite an application process, so get started early. Two of our current grade 12 students, Zain Syed and Katie Peters have attended the SHAD Valley program and found it to be an amazing experience. For more information go to : www.shad.ca

GRADE 12 NEWS

Mark your Calendars!

Grad Society AGM is Thursday October 13th at 7:30 pm in the Vanier Cafeteria.

Grade 12's it is October and that means it's the beginning of scholarship season! There will be many scholarship opportunities and you should make sure you look at the grad board every week for new notices. The first big scholarship application process has begun. This is for the Loran Award, which is a national scholarship program. The minimum requirement is that students must have an 85% or above average for grades 10 and 11. The emphasis for this scholarship is on leadership and academic achievement. The website for the Loran award is <http://www.loranaward.ca/> There will be three students selected as the "school sponsored applicants" and any others who qualify may apply as "direct pool" applicants. Students interested in being chosen as a school sponsored applicant must turn in a draft of their completed application to Ms. Brogdon by October 7th, 2011. Please see the special insert for grade 12's on upcoming dates to mark on your calendar.

Students who are looking into scholarships should also sign up for a scholarship finder websites. We recommend studentawards.com as a reliable and comprehensive source of information.

Graduation Transitions is on many students' minds right now. At our grade 12 retreat in November we will go over all the requirements for completing this part of your graduation requirement.



Information From the Office

Student Absences and Lates

Your child's safety is a shared responsibility with this school. The office relies on parent information regarding their child's attendance and strongly encourages contact with the school when students are late or absent. The office will be phoning parents for unexcused absences at the beginning of each day. Again, this is a safety concern for your child so please call in the morning at 667-5901 if your child is absent or late for school. For students who are sick, a phone call each day they are sick is required.

Midterm Reporting to Parents

To improve parents' knowledge of students' progress, each teacher will be sending home a report at the midpoint of each term that will provide some information about what is happening in that class. This report might take a variety of formats from the traditional printout of grades to a letter describing the activities undertaken in class that month. Whatever the format, these reports will be mailed home with the newsletters in October, December, March and May.

Parking

Drivers are reminded of the pick-up loop near the "student" parking lot (first right off of Duke St when coming from Lewes Blvd.) Please do not park along the edge of the "staff" parking lot (the second right off of Duke St. when coming from Lewes Blvd) as this causes much congestion and also blocks the fire lane. Thanks for your cooperation!

Cell Phones and Music Players

Parents are reminded when cell phones and music players are brought to CLASS they will be taken away by the teacher. These items go to the office and can be collected by the student at the end of the day. Students are given just the one opportunity to collect their item(s) and after this, parents are required to come to the school to obtain the item(s).



Vanier Catholic Secondary School's Parent/Teacher Interview Scheduling

Vanier.schoolappointments.com

Thursday, Oct 13, 4:00—8:00 pm, Friday, Oct. 14, 8:30 am—12:00 pm

Parent Registration

Parents click on the "Register" tab and fill in the registration form to create an account. Once parents have successfully registered, they can login to the system and then must register their students by name.

The school code which is needed for registering is vanier2011

To Book Appointments

Select Teachers

Parents can schedule appointments for any student that they have added to the system by clicking on the "Appointments" button beside the student's name. The parent is then taken to a page where they can select the teachers with whom they wish to meet. Multiple teachers can be selected by using the "Ctrl" key on a PC keyboard or the "Command" key on a Macintosh keyboard.

Teacher Appointment Calendars

Parents are shown the calendars of the selected teachers. It also shows them appointment times that are unavailable for booking. Parents can select appointment times by simply clicking the check boxes or by clicking in the time block beside the check box. Once an appointment time has been selected it will change to green. If no appointments are available, click on the *call back* button at the top of the list.

It is not possible for parents to select more than one appointment at the same time or to select more than one appointment with the same teacher. Javascript enabled browsers are required for validation on the screen.

Appointments Booked Successfully

Once the appointments are booked the screen will display the list of appointments for the student. When the parent clicks on the "Return to Home Page" button, they will return to the home page with their students and their appointments listed. They can book additional appointments, or they can book appointments for another student.

Parents with More Than One Student

If a parent has more than one student at the school, the teacher appointment calendars will have an additional feature displayed when the second (or third, etc.) student bookings are made. If a

sibling has an appointment booked, the student's name will be displayed for a parent, thus making it easier to book adjacent appointments.

Printing Parent Appointment Schedule

From the home page it is possible for you to generate a PDF document with the list of your appointments. By clicking on the "Print Appointments" button a window will pop-up asking the parent what they wish to do with the document. In Internet Explorer, it is recommended that people click the "Save" button, save the file and then click "Open" to view the file. IE sometimes has a problem downloading and opening PDF documents that are generated from web sites.

Click "Open" after the download is complete to view the PDF.

Parent Schedule PDF

The generated PDF will list the appointment times, the student and the teacher with whom the appointment is booked.

If you are having difficulties, there is a "help" button for this program. You are also welcome to contact Vanier office staff, at 667-5901, to book your appointments.



Vanier Mountain Bikers Rock Grey Mountain Trails

Submitted by Mr. Willoughby

Another season of Whitehorse high school mountain biking has come to an end, just before the snow flies!

For many years, all the Whitehorse high schools got together to race mountain bikes. However, last year the teacher-coaches decided to try a new format and it seems to be attracting lots of keen mountain bikers. Now, students and teachers get together each September for a couple of guided recreational rides on the epic Grey Mountain biking trails. This year it was the classic Bugaloo ride on the first outing of the season and on our second ride it was Vanier's own Mr. Thomson who guided us on a sweet ride down the newly built Southpaw Trail.

We hope that all the Vanier students who came out, learned some new techniques and had fun riding some of Yukon's best trails with students and teachers from all over the city. We are already planning next year's season and we'd love to increase the number of rides for Fall 2012!

Thanks to Vanier teachers Ms. Chisholm and Mr. Thomson for helping out and gettin' rad on the trails with us this season and thanks to Vanier students Josh Tarr and Pierre Kochel for their perfect attendance during the 2011 season!

Vanier Students and Staff Walk and Run For Cancer Research

Submitted by Mr. Willoughby

In 1981, Terry Fox hoped that every Canadian would give one dollar to his **Marathon of Hope** campaign for cancer research. Terry ran two thirds of the way across Canada with an artificial leg before the cancer returned and prevented him from finishing.

But before he passed away in 1981, 24 million dollars had been raised for his - that was one dollar for every Canadian. Imagine how happy Terry would be to know that more than 550 million dollars have been raised for cancer research since then!

That legacy continued at Vanier on Wednesday, September 28, when all Vanier students and staff walked and ran in support of Terry's amazing legacy of cancer research. We raised hundreds of dollars during the 31st annual Terry Fox Run and all this money will go directly to the Terry Fox Foundation and be used to push cancer research forward.

Special thanks to Ms. Chisholm's Leadership 9 class for all their help preparing the post-run refreshments and to Mr. Kelly, Principal of Porter Creek Secondary, for his inspiring story of meeting Terry in Newfoundland during the **Marathon of Hope**.

VANIER LIBRARY NEWS

New Books!

The library received a large shipment of brand new books at the start of the school year, and they are all now ready to read.

What are Vanier students reading?

This month's top 5 books:

- *The Bishop's Man* by: Linden MacIntyre
- *The Kite Runner* Khaled Hosseini
- *Catching Fire* Suzanne Collins
- *The Crazy Man* Pamela Page Porter
- *The Lightning Thief* Rick Riordan

Overdue Textbooks

All textbooks used in a course taken during the previous school year must be returned to the Vanier library **immediately**. These texts are needed for courses being taught this year. The textbooks will remain in a student's library file until the book or the replacement cost is paid. Please call Mrs. Schaefer at the library (667-5901) if you have any questions.

World Book – free to Vanier students

The online version of the **World Book Encyclopedia** is available to all Yukon students to use at school or at home. Go to the Vanier website <http://www.vcss.ca/>, pull down the menu under "student information" and click on Library. You will find the link to the World Book on the right hand side. You may need to enter the following: username: **yukonhome**: password: **student**.

You will have access to the entire **World Book Encyclopedia** set, as well **L'Encyclopédie Découverte** and **Enciclopedia Estudiantil Hallazgos** for beginning French and Spanish students.

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!!**





Vanier Catholic Secondary

Bell & Class Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:35 – 9:43 (68 Min)	1	1	2	1	2
9:43 – 9:56 (13 Min)					
9:56 – 10:58 (62 Min)	3	2	3	4	3
10:58 – 11:03 (5 Min)					
11:03 – 12:06 (63 Min)	7	4	6	5	4
12:06 – 1:02 (56 min)	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:02 – 2:04 (62 Min)	5	5	8	7	6
2:04 – 2:10 (6 Min)					
2:10 – 3:12 (62 Min)	6	8	7	X•PLC	8

MAY 2010

School Song?



What, we don't have one yet?

Start thinking about creating one!

Contest details coming soon!

