

Vanier Catholic Secondary

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Ryan Sikkes, principal Kyle Janzen, vice-principal

April 2014

Principal's Message

Alleluia! He has risen!

Our Lenten journey is over and we now joyfully celebrate the resurrection of Christ. Our journey of fasting, prayer and alms giving was marked by a number of events at Vanier Catholic Secondary. In particular, students were treated to two moving celebrations—one on Ash Wednesday and one on Holy Thursday—that helped connect the story of Christ's death and resurrection to our own lives.

Celebrations are one of the aspects of school life that set us apart from other schools. They are an opportunity for our students and staff to worship and reflect together on Jesus' teachings and the good news of the gospel. They are an attempt to engage all our students collectively in self-reflection and self-examination of their beliefs and values.

Our Holy Thursday celebration was particularly significant as our recently-returned group of students from the Dominican Republic were able to share images from their journey that connected to each of the 14 Stations of the Cross. Our students were able to connect the suffering and death of Jesus to the injustices that still take place in the world so that we might enjoy low prices on food and other commodities. I was proud of the students who presented during the celebration. I was equally proud of the reflective conversations that I heard the audience members engaging in after the celebration.

Our next celebration, which will occur just before this newsletter arrives in your mailboxes will be one to celebrate the canonization of Blessed John Paul II and Blessed John XXIII, two popes who had a dramatic effect on the role the church plays in the world. We have included some information with this newsletter to help you understand more about their lives.



One of the reasons I felt it important to celebrate this event is the unique role the Communion of Saints plays in the Catholic tradition. One of the points I hope that all students will come to understand and appreciate is that we are all called to be saints – not just those like John Paul II and John XXIII who heeded the call to the priesthood. The community of saints is filled with ordinary people who did extraordinary things in an effort to live out the gospel and touch the lives of those around them in significant ways.

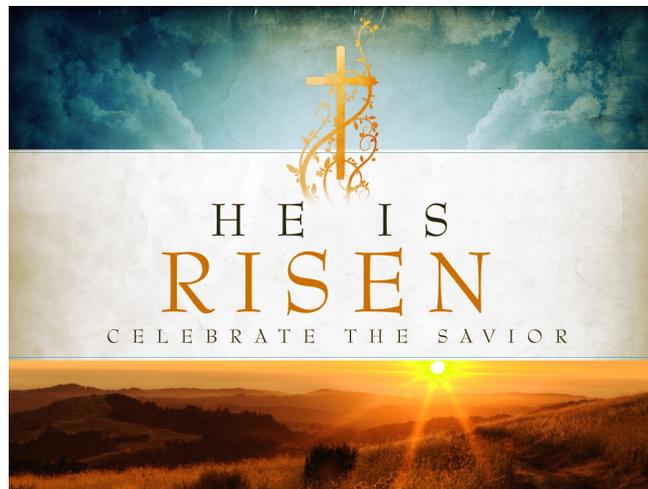
We hope that our school's mission of charity and justice will help all our students to think beyond themselves and work to creating a more just society.

As I sit here typing this message with only weeks until the end of classes, I can't help but be amazed at how quickly this year has passed. I have been so grateful for the support and assistance of so many individuals this year and pray

that that support and assistance will continue as I begin my second year as principal in September.

I wish you all the best as we head into spring! Alleluia!

Sincerely,
Ryan Sikkes



Dates to note for Term IV (May-June)



- Thursday, May 1—LPI Exam (Gr. 12 English)
- Friday, May 2 - PD Day (no school)
- Monday, May 5—School Council Elections
- Wednesday, May 14—Clara Hughes /Bell “Let’s Talk” event
- Thursday, May 15 – Grad Retreat
- Monday, May 19—Victoria Day (no school)
- Friday, May 23—First Nations’ Grad
- Friday, May 23—Vanier Ridge Run
- Wednesday, May 28—Gr. 10 Retreat
- Friday, May 30th—Grad Mass
- Saturday, May 31—Cap and Gown, Reception/Prom
- Wednesday, June 4—Arts Evening
- Monday, June 9—Athletic Banquet
- Wednesday, June 11—Awards 1 Celebration—7 p.m.
- Friday, June 13—Locker Cleanout, Final Celebration 10 am
- Monday, June 16-23—Exams, 23rd Last Day of School

Leader of the Pack

Nominee for the 1985 TONY AWARD for best musical, this hit Broadway musical retrospective celebrates the life and times of Ellie Greenwich, whose doo wop sounds skyrocketed to the top of the sixties charts.

Yukoners of all ages will enjoy listening to the familiar songs of yesteryear sung by the talented cast and accompanied by a live student band.

The story of Ellie's rise to fame and fortune is punctuated with the virtual Hit Parade of her music: "Chapel of Love," "Da Do Ron Ron," "Be My Baby," "Hanky Panky," "Do Wah Diddy," "And Then He Kissed Me" and, of course, the title song – “The Leader of the Pack”.

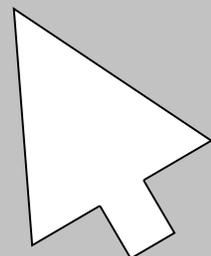


Public shows are Thursday May 8 and Friday May 9 at 7PM Vanier Catholic Secondary School. Tickets are \$5 for students, \$10 for adults and are available in advance from the school and Angelina’s Toy Boutique, or at the door.

Vanier is online at

VCSS.ca

Teacher websites, current news and more!



VANIER SOCIAL JUSTICE CLUB

Spreading birthday wishes

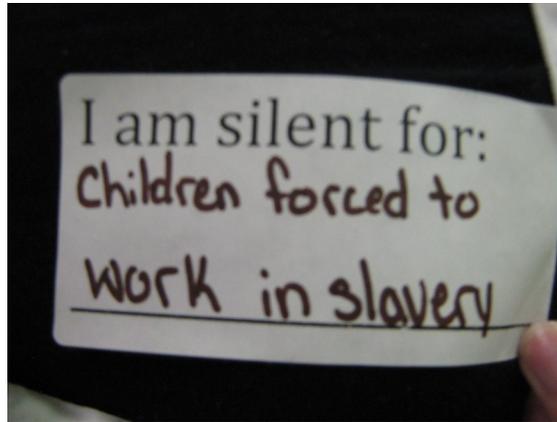
The SJ Club made more than forty birthday cards to send with Sharon Shorty on her trip to the 7th and final National event of the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada**. These birthday cards were given to many of the Residential School survivors in attendance to recognize birthdays that were missed while they were at these schools. The Club used our beautiful art cards and filled them with messages of hope and love.

National “We” Day right here at home

On Wednesday, April 9, the city of Ottawa was filled with thousands of inspired young people ready to change the world. Thousands of miles away, the Vanier Social Justice Club hosted 30 Vanier students in the school library to watch a live streaming of the event. **We Days** were started by tireless youth activists Marc and Craig Kielburger, founders of **Free the Children**, and have been going on since 2007. We enjoyed presentations by Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan who spoke her commitment to social justice over many years and Spencer West, double amputee who climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro. It is impossible to watch him and not feel that there is no limit to what we can do to make a difference in the world.

Taking a Silent Stand

On Tuesday, April 15, many Vanier students took a Vow of Silence to raise awareness about those in our world whose voices are not heard. Students signed petitions and wore stickers indicating for whom they were speaking.



Save the dates...upcoming special events

Social Justice Coffee House

It is time again for the annual Social Justice Coffee House! It is being held on Friday, May 2nd at the CYO

Hall. There will be music, snacks, an open mike session, artwork for sale, and a silent auction. Stay tuned for more information. **Musicians, take note:** if you would perform at this event, please see Ms. Clarke as soon as possible.

Donations: If anyone has items or services to donate to the silent auction, please call 667-5901 or email

janet.clarke@yesnet.yk.ca

Spring Food Drive – stay tuned for more details about the Churches of Whitehorse food drive.



Tuesday, May 27 – Whitehorse Connects – see Ms. Clarke or Ms. Hamel if you would like to be part of this amazing event.

Step Up, Speak Out, Stand up - Yukon Students for Social Justice Conference – Friday, May 29th

This event will gather students from Grades 6-12 from all over the Yukon for a day of

inspiring presentations and workshops. The keynote speaker from **Free the Children** will kick things off and then students will be able to choose from over a dozen workshops including Guerrilla Photography to Music for Change and from an Anti-Oppression workshop to Environmental Stewardship. Space is limited so if you wish attend, please see Ms. Hamel immediately.

Athletics News

This year's Basketball Season was a very busy one with new grade categories and a shorter season. Our Crusaders thundered on to being in three of the four basketball finals in the Yukon Basketball Championships held before Spring Break!

This year we had two outside coaches (Diedre Davidson and Sarah Crane) to help us with our 8/9 girls team. The girls were very enthusiastic about the season and improved their skills everyday. Our girls were in some tough competition with the FH Collins Warriors and the Porter Creek Rams, but Jetta Bilsky still managed to be named to the All-Star list. Despite a "no quit" attitude, our girls didn't make it to the playoffs. Words like, "wait till next year" were spoken from the girls as they build our girls basketball program at Vanier.

For the grade 8/9 boys' category, we had enough players to put together two even teams in the hopes of seeing each other in the final! One team did make it to the final while the rest of our 8/9 boys cheered to see the boys beat the Porter Creek Rams 43-30 in their Championship game where Rosuel Karpina was named to the All-Star list and Lorem Lumanog was named the MVP. Mr. Gallant and Mr. MacArthur were very proud of all the boys and their improvement throughout the season!

As for the Sr. Girls coached by Mr. McCarron, Mr. Jackson and Mr. Gibson, our girls pressed on being in both the Superhoops finals and the Yukon Championship final despite injuries. The girls battled to remove the bigger Porter Creek Secondary school from those second place spots. Huge improvements were made by each of the 12 girls. They were happy with their performances against a talented FH Collins team. Kelly Mahoney and Linsey Eby were named to the Championship All-Star team!

Our Sr. Boy's basketball team was looking to repeat last year's sweet victory and be Yukon Champions again this year! This was the first year where Vanier was able to have two teams enter into the Championships. In fact, if we could swing it, we may very well have been able to have 3 teams!



The team, coached by Vanier alumni student athletes Cody Hougen, Travis McKenzie and support staff Ms. Tait, were undefeated all year to win the Superhoops and Yukon Championships. The boys had a great time and responded well with our outside coaches. The second boy's team, coached by Mr. Thomson, were trying to play spoiler's and meet our other Vanier team in the Championship

final. Despite coming up short, Zack Giczi was named to the Championship All-Star team as well as RJ Siosan and Noah Kitchen. Chris Carino was named tournament MVP.

Congratulations again to all of the teams and their coaches and support staff!

Extracurricular Activities

Mondays & Wednesdays Open Badminton 3:30 - 5:00
(Championships are at the beginning of May)

Tuesdays Open Volleyball 3:30 - 5:00

Thursdays Open Basketball 3:30 - 5:00

The Vanier fitness room will also be open Monday – Thursday 3:30 – 5:00 for all!

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.

News from the Dominican Republic Exposure Program

'What an amazing experience!' 'What an incredible group of young people'

Between April 3rd and April 12th a group from Vanier participated in the Dominican Republic Exposure experience. This is the tenth year our school has offered this program. Based on the social teaching of the church, this program provides an opportunity for our students to build relationships with the marginalized of our world.

During our trip we visited multiple sugar cane plantations where students witnessed the slave like conditions the Haitian labourers live in. We also visited a Fair Trade Cocoa Coop where profits are equitably distributed among the farmers, resulting in a higher standard of living. Students were overwhelmed visiting a community that has been built in the town garbage dump, where children scavenge for food, building materials and clothing. They were also inspired by the many people working for justice in the communities we visited.

Considering the impact of our trip, some students have written:

- *Visiting the Dominican Republic opened my eyes and shattered my former perspective on the world. Now, as I begin to try to rebuild it, I will focus on the poor and marginalized in my world, and I will consider what is needed to be truly happy."*
- *The DR trip changed my perspective of life and the global*

economy. It is definitely an amazing unforgettable experience for me.

- *I am grateful for the eye opening experience this has given me. I am now more aware of the problems facing the DR and of ways I can help without the traditional first world view of "I can fix this"*
- *It was amazing how open, kind, and generous the people were despite the impoverished conditions they lived in.*
- *It is not about what you have it is about who you have. The sense of family and community in the Dominican Republic was deeply inspiring.~*
- *It was amazing to see how the work of a few nuns over time with the support of their church can have such a big impact on the living conditions of the peoples living in one small area of a country. So much so that it will even influence a government to make positive change to assist people.*

- *Be happy and grateful for all you have in your life because there are people who will never have what you have now.*

Also a special thank you to all the individuals and organization that supported our trip: CEAY, Sacred Heart Parish Council, Diocese of Whitehorse, Vanier Catholic School Council, Holy Family School Council, Yukon Education, Rotary Club, Catholic Women's League, Damien Burns, everyone that bought a booster card and/or a Spaghetti Dinner ticket.



From the band room...Northern Communities Tour a wonderful success!

Our Jazz combo, Rock band and wind quintet performed in Carmacks and Dawson City from April 14-17th. Vanier students ran composition workshops for the grade 5/6 students at Robert Service, they performed for the Robert Service and Tantalus Schools, and ran an open Yukon Jam at the Danoja Zho Cultural Centre. We were given the opportunity to check out the acoustics on the Palace Grande stage and attended an electronic Music workshop. Everyone had a great time sharing our knowledge and love of music. Thanks to Mr. Janzen for coming along as our chaperone and roadie!



The Apprenticeship and Workplace Math 12 class created two quilts to be donated to the Teen Parent Centre as a hands-on, applied mathematics project. Special thanks to Ms. Ada for her assistance with the sewing!



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).

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 see Ms. Bergsma and *fill in an application*.

Academic Recognition—Some students will find their reports stamped at the bottom to signify an academic achievement. The names of the students who achieved these distinctions will also be posted on the “Oak Wall” near the office. Congratulations to all students who achieved one or more of the following:

Principal’s List – Grade point average (GPA) of 3.6 or better with no “F” or “I” achievement indicators and no “N” work habits indicator.

Honour Roll – Grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or better with no “F” or “I” achievement indicators and no more than 1 “N” work habits indicator.

Special Merit Award – This award gives recognition to the students who have worked to the best of their abilities as indicated by achieving a “G” or “E” work habits indicator in all courses.

Students are recognized at each reporting period with a stamp in their report card and a posted list in the school. If a student is able to achieve any of the above for at least 3 out of 4 reporting periods, they will receive a certificate proclaiming their achievement at the end of the year.

GPA is calculated via the following table:

Percent	Letter Grade	GPA Value
86 – 100	A	4
73 – 85	B	3
67 – 72	C+	2.5
60 – 66	C	2
50 – 59	C-	1
0 – 49	I or F	0