



# Vanier Catholic Secondary

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www.vcss.ca

Ryan Sikkes, Principal Jeanette Gallant, Vice-Principal

April 2016

## Principal's Message

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

April can be a tough month for Vanier students and teachers alike. It's a transition season for physical activities – there's not enough snow for the winter activities and it's too soggy for the summer ones. The end of the school year is in sight, but it's still a little too far away to get excited about it just yet. Often, we are also in the middle of Lent, so many are in a period of fasting that can be tough.

This year, we luck out on the last point, as our early triduum means that we are in the joyous season of Easter and we can rejoice in the resurrection of Christ as we plod through this month.

April is also the month that a group of students from our school head to the Dominican Republic for a week's stay. Many people may be familiar with the coastal resorts and beautiful beaches in the Dominican Republic, however we send our students to a small inland town called Consuelo to live with local families and to tour the sugar plantations that are the source of livelihood for many. It's a sobering experience for our students and really forces them to examine the patterns of consumption that they have developed in their own lives. I attended on this trip over a decade ago and I still think about the experience often. I am grateful that Ms. Trainor and Mr. Craigen took a leadership role in planning this trip and to Mr. Connell who started this opportunity for our students.



### An Easter Prayer

*This Easter I am thankful for..  
the gentle hands that nurtured me  
the beloved hands that comfort me  
the Blessed hands that bled for me  
and all the hands that pray for me*

..... Samantha Fernando © 2013

The start of the warmer weather also means that our students are sometimes engaged in social events on the weekends where they may be tempted to make some unwise choices for themselves. We have all Gr. 9 students attend the PARTY (Preventing Alcohol and Risk-related Trauma in Youth) program at the Whitehorse General Hospital and we also host the MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) multimedia presentation as an opportunity to engage in conversations with our students about risky behaviour. I really encourage all parents and guardians to have an honest conversation with their children about making responsible choices. If you need some support or advice, our school counsellors Ms. Brogdon and Ms. Richard are here to help.

Finally, April also means the start of our registration process for new students. I have been visiting Christ the King Elementary and Holy Family Elementary to help start the transition process for the Grade 7 students. I have also been meeting with families of students from a variety of schools who also wish to register at Vanier. I enjoy meeting with families to help them make an

informed decision about which school will best meet their childrens' needs. Our school is a special place and new students are always welcome!

Sincerely,  
Ryan Sikkes, Principal

## Dates to note

### April-June

The official 2015-2016 School Calendar can be accessed online at the Yukon Education



Wednesday April 13—23—Rotary Music Festival  
Friday, April 15—27 Dominican Republic Trip  
Monday, April 18-22—Grade 8 & 9 DART  
Friday, April 22—Earth Day  
Monday, April 25-27—School Wide Write  
Friday, April 29—ThinkFAST  
Monday, May 2-6—Community Service Week  
Friday, May 6—Vanier Day  
Tuesday, May 10—Fair Trade Day  
Wednesday, May 11-15—Vanier Band Trip  
Friday, May 13-23—French Students at Vanier  
Monday, May 23—Victoria Day (No School)  
Friday, May 27-28—Grad 2016  
Tuesday, May 31—Grade 9 Retreat  
Thursday, June 2—Fine Arts/Applied Skills Night  
Monday, June 6—Grade 7 Retreat  
Wednesday, June 8-14 Review Week  
Thursday, June 9— Awards  
Tuesday, June 14—Last day of Classes, Awards 2  
Wednesday, June 15-20 School Exams  
Wednesday, June 22-29—BCPEs

## School Council Corner

The next regular council meeting will be **Tuesday**, April 26 in the VCSS Library.

The members of our current council are:

Edith Elder; Chair  
Michael Lauer, Vice-Chair  
Dianne Tait  
Maureen Long  
Shanon Cooper

Contact information for council members is posted in the front of the school and online at [www.vcss.ca](http://www.vcss.ca)

### SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

School council represents the interests and concerns of parents/guardians and works with the school administration to discuss issues related to school success for all students. We meet on a monthly basis to review: staffing and programming needs, allocation of resources, locally developed courses, school growth plan, timetabling, policies, building requirements, and health and safety matters. In a Catholic school, the expectation is that school council will ensure that students are provided a solid education that is permeated by faith. Catholic principles and values are reflected in policies and practices.

School council elections are scheduled for Monday, May 2 and nomination papers are due by noon on Thursday, April 21. Nomination kits will be available both at Elections Yukon and each school on Monday, April 11, 2016. We encourage all parents/guardians to get involved in school council in order to serve a truly good school such as Vanier. Our students, parents, and staff deserve the best representation possible. Please note: a brochure prepared by CEAY (Catholic Education Association Yukon) will be available at the school. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Elections Yukon @ 667-8683, VCSS @ 667-5901 or any member of school council.

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

**[WWW.VCSS.CA](http://www.vcss.ca)**