

Vanier Catholic Secondary

16 Duke Road, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 4M2

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

www.vcss.ca

Ryan Sikkes, principal Kyle Janzen, vice-principal

February 2014

Principal's Message

I'd like to congratulate and thank our students for a very successful and pleasant first semester. This year seems like it is flying by and the second semester usually feels faster than the first!

Course Selection

My own children often talk about "what they want to be when they grow up". It's always fun to participate in or simply listen to these conversations and to hear their dreams and aspirations. In secondary school, it is still important for students to engage in similar conversations and crucial that parents and guardians are participating too.

The reason I mention this is that, over the next month, we will begin the process of course selection for the 2014-2015 school year. Counsellors and administration will be visiting classes to distribute course selection information sheets. Grade 9 students going into grade 10 will also be invited to an information meeting on March 12 to discuss the graduation program.

Some students find the process of selecting courses for next year easy and others find it very difficult. We acknowledge that it can be difficult to select courses when one is not really sure what they want to do after secondary school. This is where those "what do you want to be when you grow up" conversations become particularly helpful. We also have resource people within the school and at Yukon College that can assist with these conversations as well. Please contact the school if you have any questions or concerns while going through this process.

Staffing Changes

I'm pleased to welcome back Mr. JD Caudle from his semester on parental leave to resume his course load of Math and Science 8, Physics 11 and Foundations of Math 12.

Ms. Richard, our counsellor, will be leaving on her maternity leave soon and we are fortunate

to have two individuals, Ms. Lucie Desaulniers and Ms. Andrea Fougere-Chou joining our staff for the remainder of the school year to provide counselling services to students.

Welcome to Ms. Emily Payne who has joined our staff to cover for Mme. Ouimet while she is on a short leave.

Finally, I've been remiss to not have formally introduced Ms. Alexandria Sullivan, our lead office administrator to you all. Alex joined us back in October and has been a valuable addition to our front office team. Welcome, Alex!

Finally...

A question more important than "what do you want to be when you grow up" is "who is the person you want to become?" At Vanier Catholic Secondary we offer more than just the academic skills that will allow students to pursue their dreams. We are also committed to moving students along in their journeys of faith in an effort to help them meet the primary command of Jesus: *To love God with all your heart, all your mind and all your soul and to love your neighbour as yourself.*

I'm continually impressed at our students' receptiveness to this command as I observe their developing commitments to pursuing their faith and to building a just society. Every day I'm fortunate to witness various students reflecting authentically about what they believe and demonstrating empathy and concern for others. I consider it a gift to share this journey with your children.

Sincerely,

Ryan Sikkes



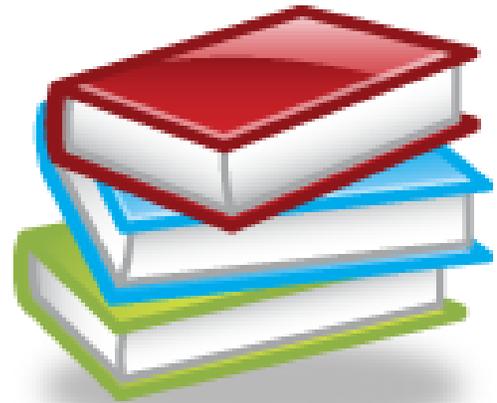
HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.

Dates to note for Term III (January-April)

The official 2013-
2014 School
Calendar can be
accessed online at



Monday, February 6—Report Cards and Newsletter Mailed
Monday, February 3 to Friday, February 7—Grad Portraits
Friday, February 21—Rendezvous Stat Holiday (No School)
Tuesday, March 4—Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast
Wednesday, March 5—Ash Wednesday Celebration
Thursday, March 6 - Interims and Newsletter Mailed
Thursday, March 13—Parent teacher interviews
Friday, March 14—Last Day of School Before Spring Break
Monday, March 31—Return to School from Spring Break
Friday, April 11—Last Day of Semester II / Term III
Monday, April 14—First Day of Semester II / Term IV
Thursday, April 17—Stations of the Cross
Friday, April 18—Good Friday (no school)
Monday, April 21—Easter Monday (no school)
Thursday, April 24, Report Cards and Newsletter Mailed
Friday, May 2 - PD Day (no school)
Friday, May 30th—Grad Mass
Saturday, May 31—Cap and Gown, Reception/Prom
Monday, June 9—Athletic Banquet
Friday, June 13—Locker Cleanout, Final Celebrations
Monday, June 16-23—Exams, 23rd Last Day of School



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*

Vanier Library News



Get hooked...

Sometimes all it takes is a stellar opening line or paragraph to get you hooked on a book. Here are seven great ones from fantastic books that you can get right here at the school library....just ask!

1. “It has been sixty-four years since the president and the consortium identified love as a disease, and forty-three since the scientists perfected a cure.” –

Delirium by Lauren Oliver – F OLI

2. “The way I figure it, everyone gets a miracle.”

Paper Towns by John Green – F GRE

3. “Let me tell you something straight off. This is a love story but not like any you’ve heard. The boy and the girl are far from innocent. Dear lives are lost. And good doesn’t win. In some places, there is something ultimately good about endings. In Neverland, that is not the case.” – **Tiger Lily** by Jodi Lynn Anderson - F AND

4. “I wake up. Immediately I have to figure out who I am. It’s not just the body–opening my eyes and discovering whether the skin on my arm is light or dark, whether my hair is long or short, whether I’m fat or thin, boy or girl, scarred or smooth. The body is the easiest thing to adjust to, if you’re used to waking up in a new one each morning. It’s the life, the context of the body, that can be hard to grasp.” – **Every Day** by David Levithan - F LEV

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:

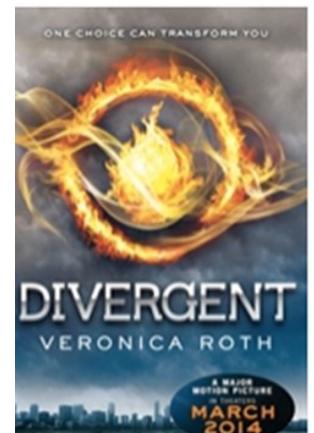
Percent	Letter Grade	GPA Value
86 – 100	A	4
73 – 85	B	3
67 – 72	C+	2.5
60 – 66	C	2
50 – 59	C-	1
0 – 49	I or F	0

5. The day that my parents died, I was out shoplifting with Irene Klauson.

- **The Miseducation of Cameron Post** by Emily M. Danforth – F DAN

6. “Sometimes I think that everyone has a tragedy waiting for them, that the people buying milk in their pajamas or picking their noses at stoplights could be only moments away from disaster.” – **The Beginning of Everything** by Robyn Schneider - F SCH

7. “There is one mirror in my house. It is behind a sliding panel in the hallway upstairs. Our faction allows me to stand in front of it on the second day of every third month, the day my mother cuts my hair.” – **Divergent** by Veronica Roth. F ROT



Five-Week French-Language Bursary Program

— Most expenses are covered!

Are you looking for a spring or summer program to learn French? Do you want to discover another region of Canada and meet new people? Go Explore!

Explore is a five-week intensive language-immersion course. You can take the course in the spring or summer, whichever you prefer. Participants in Explore receive a \$2,200 bursary (taxable income) that covers tuition fees for the courses, instructional materials, meals and accommodations, workshops, and other mandatory activities.

Discover another region of Canada while learning French. Enjoy five weeks of learning and adventure, friendship and discovery!

Participants receive from Yukon Education French Programs \$500.00 to help with travel costs.

Deadline: Feb. 28—See Mme. Hamel for more information!

From the Office

Morning Late Policy

In order to help reduce the number of students who have unexcused lates for the first block, the office will automatically assign lunchtime detentions to those students who are late more than two times in one week to their first block classes. Please call the school to excuse your child if you know they will be late or absent.

Parking

Drivers are reminded that there is a pick-up loop near the student parking lot. Please do not park along the edge of the staff parking lot as this causes much congestion and also blocks the fire lane. Thanks for your cooperation!

Phone Us...Please!!

The office will be telephoning the parents of each student who has an unexcused absence for the first block each morning. Parents are reminded that to keep proper attendance records for students, absences must be phoned in or they may be recorded as unexcused. Please call the school in the morning at 667-5901 if your child will be absent or late for school. For students who are sick, we would appreciate a phone call each day they are sick.

Cell Phones and Music Players

Parents are also reminded of our policies on cell phones and music players—they are not to be used during class time. These items, when collected by teachers, are sent to the office. After the first offence, parents are required to come and claim the items.



Do you have some fancy dance moves to show off for your sweetie? On Thursday, February 13th the VCS Student Council will be hosting a “Ball-entine Dance” in the cafeteria from 7 to 10 PM. The dance is open to students in grades 8 & 9 as a “welcome” event for the Basketball Tournament. Admission is \$7 at the door or \$5 with a non-perishable donation for the Food Bank.



ATHLETICS NEWS



It's Here!!!!

The Vanier fitness room is open for business! Located in the mezzanine above the large gym, our long-awaited workout room is now available for all Vanier students and staff to use. Membership is free so come on up and workout. Your body will love you for it!

The hours of operation are:

Mondays & Wednesdays – open to Vanier females from 3:15 – 5:00pm

Tuesdays & Thursdays – open to Vanier males from 3:15 – 5:00pm

Fridays are open for all from 3:15 – 5:00pm

For you morning folks, we are open Wednesdays @7am

Vanier would like to give a big thank you to RPAY for giving us grant money to purchase some of the equipment and to Better Bodies for their wonderful donation of 5 machines for our fitness room. We are very grateful for your support !



Basketball Schedule

February

- 5th Gr. 8/9 Bball League Games (3:30-6:00)
Girls @ FHC ; Boys @ Vanier
- 7th Super Hoops Vanier @ FH (G-6:00, B-7:45)
- 12th Gr. 8/9 Bball League Games (3:30-6:00)
Girls @ Vanier ; Boys @ PC
- 13th – 14th 8/9 Bball Invitational Tournament @ Vanier
- 19th Gr. 8/9 Bball League Games (3:30-6:00)
Girls @ PC ; Boys @ FHC
- 26th Gr. 8/9 Bball League Games (3:30-6:00)
Girls @ FHC ; Boys @ Vanier
- 27th Super Hoops Semi-Finals @ FHC?(G-6:00, B-7:45)
- 28th Super Hoops Finals @ FHC? (G-6:00, B-7:45)

March

- 3rd – 5th Sr. Basketball Championships
- 6th – 8th 8/9 Basketball Championships

Come on out and support your Vanier Teams!

If you have any questions, concerns, or if you want to volunteer, you can go to our Vanier Athletic web site <http://www.yesnet.yk.ca/schools/vanier/athletics/>, or contact Mr. Stoker at 667-5901.

LEO's CAFÉ

Hot chocolate, Mochas, coffee or smoothies daily at morning break for just a dollar.

Also... Only \$1 for Finn's Fabulous Granola Bars!



VANIER SOCIAL JUSTICE CLUB NEWS

Members of the Social Justice Club headed downtown to the Old Firehall on the morning of Tuesday, January 28, 2014 to help out with the amazing services at **Whitehorse Connects**. Three times per year, this valuable programme assists low-income people in Whitehorse by providing free vaccinations, hygiene care, clothing, and a warm meal and coffee. Vanier has been helping out with this community initiative for the past three years and SJ members find it an amazing and rewarding experience.

Take Note of these Special Days

The SJ Club has been busy planning celebrations to mark some very special days. Stay tuned for more information.

February is *Black History Month*

February 14: *We Are Love*

March 8: *International Women's Day 2014*



Got Recyclables?...we'll take `em!

Next time that you go to Raven Recycling with your recyclables, why not donate your refund to the Vanier Social Justice Club?

Pass on Your Warmth

Do you have clean mitts, hats and socks that you are no longer using? Despite our recent Maui-like temperatures, Whitehorse still has a few months of winter left and there are many people in our city who spend much of their time on the street. The Outreach Van travels the city each night and distributes warm food and clothing. They can always use more donations. Drop items off at the Vanier Library and help warm someone up!



Vanier is online at

VCSS.ca

Teacher websites, current news and more!

