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Ryan Sikkes, *Principal*  
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# Vanier Catholic Secondary

June 2018

## Summer Sabbath

*(from Together We Pray, Carmen L. Caltagirone)*

In the Judeo-Christian tradition, the idea of the Sabbath is central. The Jewish traditions in which Jesus grew up taught that Sabbath is a time of rest and reward. The Sabbath is rooted in the seventh day of creation, when God did three things: God rested, blessed, and made time holy. It was on the seventh day that God rested in the wonder of creation. This is a Sabbath time for us. It is a time to stop and savour life in the summer sun. Let us use this sacred summer time to pause and acknowledge the good things in our lives and our lavish, wondrous Creator. In the Sabbath time we care for the seed of eternity planted deep in our souls. We make time holy, letting the fertile ground of our lives lie fallow. Unless we are willing to be still, to withdraw from our busy-ness, to rest in the way the Sabbath teaches us, we will lose our very selves.

*May the quiet moments of summer give us a Sabbath spirit.*

*May this Sabbath strengthen us for the challenges that lie ahead.*

*May God, who calls us to this time of rest, be with us in the resting and in the rejoicing.*

*May the blessings of the Sabbath soothe our souls and remain with us forever.*

*Amen.*

## Principal's Message

It is always cliché to remark in the last newsletter in the year how quickly the year has passed. This year, as I have been away on my Education Leave for many days, I cannot believe how quickly it went! I am grateful to our staff and, in particular, our administration team for their support and encouragement while I've been working on my studies. I wish I could say that I am finished, but I have one more year of work left to do and will continue working half time next year as well. This means that both Ms. Gallant and Ms. Brogdon will continue as vice-principals next year.

I am blessed to work with such a dedicated and enthusiastic staff who absolutely deserve some rest over the summer months. Some will not be back at Vanier in the fall, and we would like to wish the best to:

- Ms. Boye who is anticipating the birth of her second child in the fall;
- Mr. Deuling who will be on a temporary assignment to the Individual Learning Centre for the 2018-19 year;
- Ms. Schroeder who will be at Porter Creek Secondary next year.

We will also welcome some new (or returning) teachers:

- Ms. Meghann Meadowcroft who will be teaching Home Economics and Textiles
- Ms. Monica Sharma who will teach Civics, History and Law; and
- Mr. Tanner Cassidy who will teach Mathematics, Science, Religion, and French.

We will also have some new educational assistants next year, but their hiring has not been confirmed.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Dates to note— September — January

The official 2018  
-2019 School Calendar  
can be accessed online at  
the Yukon Education  
website.



- Monday, August 20 - Grade 8 Orientation 12:30 - 3:00 pm
- Tuesday, August 21, First Day of School for all students
- Wednesday, August 29 - Family BBQ and Honour Roll Presentation - 5:30 pm
- Thursday, August 30 - Curriculum Inservice - NO SCHOOL
- Friday, August 31 - Yukon Catholic Schools Staff Retreat - NO SCHOOL
- Monday, September 3 - Labour Day Holiday - NO SCHOOL
- Friday, September 7 - Curriculum Inservice - NO SCHOOL
- September 24-26—First Informal Report period
- Thursday & Friday, September 27 & 28 - YTA Conference - NO SCHOOL
- Wednesday, October 3—Schools Food Drive
- Monday, October 8—Thanksgiving Holiday—NO SCHOOL
- Tuesday, October 23—Student Led Conferences
- Monday, November 12—Remembrance Day Stat—NO SCHOOL
- December 3-14—*Share the Spirit*
- Thursday, December 6—Administration Pancake Breakfast
- December 10-14—Second Informal Report Period
- Wednesday, December 19—Alumni Day and Talent Show
- December 21—January 4 - Christmas Break—NO SCHOOL
- Monday, January 7—First Day Back from Christmas
- January 7-11—Review Week
- January 14-17—Final Exam/Assessment Period—NO CLASSES
- Friday, January 18— Professional Development—NO SCHOOL
- Monday, January 21—Start of Semester 2

### ***School Council Corner***

Congratulations to the following who were elected to the Vanier Catholic Secondary School Council on Monday, May 7 (and whose term will start on Tuesday, August 21):

- Philip Gibson
- Truska Gorrell
- Shehnaz Ali
- Wanda Robbins
- Cynthia Lyslo

We wish to thank our outgoing members for their service and dedication to our school community:

- Valerie Royle, chair
- Edith Elder
- Michael Lauer
- Stella Martin
- Maureen Long

Contact information, meeting agendas, and minutes are all available at [www.vcss.ca](http://www.vcss.ca) under the School Council tabs.

The next Vanier Catholic Secondary School Council meeting will be on Tuesday, September 18 at 7 pm in the Learning Commons.

***The Yukon Catholic School Councils  
and Catholic Education Association  
of Yukon***

***Annual General Meeting  
will be on Thursday, September 20  
at 7:00 pm at Vanier.***

***All are welcome.***

(Continued from page 1)

We have spent a great deal of time and energy this year refining our knowledge of an ability to effectively implement Yukon's revised curriculum. This is an exciting development for schools as teachers have more ability to respond the desires and needs of the students in their classes, rather than rigidly adhering to a textbook or unit plan. The end result is to develop students who are more capable communicators, thinkers, and who have a strong sense of their self-identity. Next year, we will be extending the revised curricula to Grade 10 (with Grades 11 and 12 both being implemented the following year). At this point, all our students are following the 2018 Graduation Program guidelines from the BC Ministry of Education.

One of the other changes that will happen next year is how we, as a school, report student learning to parents. More information on this important change is included in the brochure along with this newsletter.

As always, I am grateful to our parents for their enduring support of the school. I wish all our students and families a restful and relaxing summer holiday. See you in August!

Sincerely,  
Ryan Sikkes, principal

## Report Card "Quirks"

### Grade 8 & 9 Science

In order to track Mathematics and Science assignments, teachers have a course called "SCIENCE 8 (or SCIENCE 9) MARKS ONLY" which, unfortunately, we couldn't hide on the report cards. There is no mark or comment for this course.

### Homeroom Comments

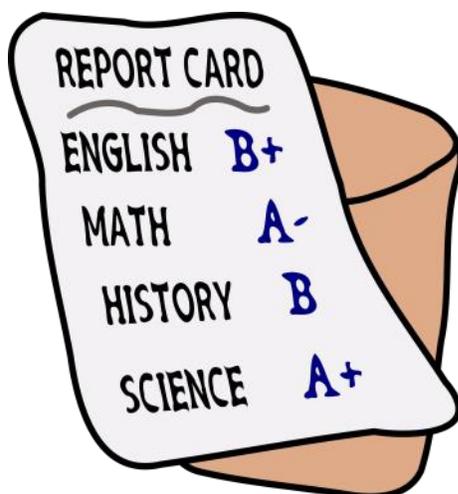
Due to problems with our scheduling software, Homeroom classes and comments did not appear on most Report Cards for Grade 10 students. Here is the comments for homeroom this term. Please contact the school if you would like to check on the attendance.

### Grade 10 Homeroom Comment

The Core Competencies are a set of 6 skills that are needed for successful citizenship. They include: communication, critical thinking, creative thinking, positive personal and cultural identity, personal awareness and responsibility, and social responsibility. It is important that students have a voice in demonstrating how they're doing in these areas of development. Attached to this report, you will find a "Core Competency Self-Assessment," which your student has completed. Completion of the entire document was not necessary; students were asked to choose at least three competencies to describe their strengths and goals. A copy of this document is also kept on file at school, so that students and teachers can look back to see growth over time. We hope this document promotes meaningful conversation at home!

## There are two important enclosures with this newsletter!

- 1) "How we report to parents/guardians will change next year" flyer
- 2) Graduation Numeracy Assessment brochure



***Our bell schedule is changing slightly next year (times only):***

Warning 8:35	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:40 – 9:51 (71 min)	1	1	2	1	2
9:51 – 10:01 (10)					
10:01 – 11:04 (63 min)	3	2	3	4	3
11:04 – 11:09 (5)					
11:09 – 12:12 (63 min)	7	4	X 5	6	4
12:12 – 1:02 (50) Warning 12:57	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:02 – 2:05 (63 min)	5	6	7	8	5
2:05 – 2:10 (5)					
2:10 – 3:13 (63 min)	6	8	5 PLC	7	8



***Visit [Yukon.ca](http://Yukon.ca) to learn about school transportation options and to register for a school bus route for next year.***

*Students will continue to have the option of obtaining a City of Whitehorse bus pass which can be used to go to/from school and also used at other times!*



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

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