

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

November 2013

Principal's Message

It's hard to believe that the first term has come and gone already! I was proud to see so many students sharply focused on preparing for end-of-term assessments over the past few weeks and much of the work produced is of very high quality.

Speaking of feeling proud of our students, our school hosted a dignified and moving ceremony on Friday, November 8 to mark Remembrance Day. One might think it unlikely that over 350 teenagers would be able to maintain respectful silence and engage in thoughtful reflection for over an hour, but our students did just that. Our guests were certainly impressed at how our student body conducted themselves during the ceremony. Well done!

We are heading towards advent, the season where we prepare to mark the celebration of Christ's birth. This is a season of joyful anticipation where we reflect on the gift of God's presence on earth. Our school community also spends this season working to help others in need have a joyful Christmas season by providing food and gifts for children. Our "Share the Spirit" campaign will kick off on Tuesday, December 2 and will feature two solid weeks of contests, food sales and other fun initiatives to raise money for needy families in Yukon.

I'd like to congratulate several of our staff who received long service awards from Government of Yukon this year: Janet Clarke (20 years), Kyle Janzen (15), Richard Johnson (15), Carrie Spence (15), Dave Thomson (10) are all to be commended for their commitment to Catholic education in the Catholic Schools of Whitehorse.

Finally, shortly before this newsletter went to print, Typhoon Haiyan devastated portions of the Philippines—an area of the world that many of our students are intimately connected to. Our school will be raising funds to provide assistance as early as next Thursday, November 21 when we will host a screening of *Cold Paradise*, a documentary film that follows the lives of several Filipino families who have migrated to Yukon. The film starts at 7:30 p.m.—admission by donation.

Sincerely,
Ryan Sikkes



Please keep the people of the Philippines and their family and friends in Yukon in your thoughts and prayers as they deal with the

aftermath of the devastating Typhoon Haiyan—VCSS will be hosting fundraisers over the next month to provide assistance.

Next time you are in the front of the school, please take time to check out our new welcome banner, created by Ms. Ada Rienks. It is a quilted masterpiece that shows how our school is a point of unity for our diverse student population—thank you Ms. Ada!



Dates to note for Term II (Nov.-Jan.)



- Thursday, November 21—*Cold Paradise* Screening
- Friday, November 22—Sea of Pink Day
- Monday, November 25—School Science Fair (Gr. 8 & 9)
- Wednesday, November 27—Grade 12 Retreat
- Thursday, November 28—Class Photo Day
- Friday, November 29—Young Women in Trades Workshop
- Sunday, December 1—Advent Begins
- Monday, December 2—Advent Celebration and Share the Spirit
- Tuesday, December 3—Grad Society Meeting
- Sunday, December 8—Youth Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral
- Sunday, December 8— Christmas Music and Arts Festival @ Yukon Arts Centre— doors open at 6:45
- Tuesday, December 10—Pancake Breakfast.
- Friday, December 20—Christmas Celebration and Last Day of School Before Christmas Break
- Monday, January 6—Return to School from Christmas Break
- Tuesday, January 21—Last Day of Semester I / Term II
- Wednesday, January 22—Friday, January 24—Exams Begin

School Council Corner

The next meeting of the Vanier Catholic Secondary School Council will take place on Tuesday, November 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the Vanier Catholic Secondary Cafeteria.

The members of our council are:

Paul Flaherty; Chair
pflaherty@northwestel.net, 668-7877

John Berg; Vice Chair
jbandtme@northwestel.net, 667-4767

Dianne Tait
taits@northwestel.net, 633-4067

James Mooney
james@ecofo.ca, 668-6666

Terry Prenoslo
atpren@telus.net, 668-3323

School Calendar Consultation

Yukon Education is initiating a 2014- 2017 School Calendar Consultation process and are seeking input and advice from School Councils and their school communities on the proposed school calendar including the following issues:

1. A three year school calendar
2. School start dates
3. Length of the Spring Break

Information on the school calendar consultation including an online survey is available on Yukon Education's website.
<http://www.education.gov.yk.ca/>

VCSS School Growth Plan

School Growth Plans are documents that help schools grow and develop in ways that improve student learning. Vanier Catholic Secondary is working on formulating a revised growth plan that will select goals and define objectives, measures and targets. In addition to school council members, two additional parent representatives are being sought to serve on the "Growth Plan Steering Committee".

We are looking for parents who are able to provide broad input on issues that will directly impact student learning. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please email your expression of interest that details how you feel you would be able to best represent all parents' interests in this capacity to ryan.sikkes@gov.yk.ca. For more information, please email or call Mr. Sikkes at 667-5901

Share the Spirit!

Share the Spirit began in 1995 as a community program. At that time it was known as Adopt-A-Family. The mandate of **Share the Spirit** is to provide support to families in the community who struggle to make ends meet, particularly during the holiday season. The Yukon has the second highest per capita income in Canada, yet we have many families who do not have the resources to provide a traditional Christmas to their loved ones.

At Vanier, sponsor classes are provided with information from the Christmas Wish List that has been completed by the family. These classes then go shopping and purchase

the items on the "Christmas Wish Lists" of their assigned family.

Starting December 2, our school becomes alive with numerous fundraising efforts. In the coming weeks check the school website for a calendar of events supporting Share the Spirit.

If you wish to contribute to our Share the Spirit Campaign, cash donations as well as Canadian Tire money can be sent to the office.

Thank you for your continued support!

DO NOT MAKE BREAKFAST!

(on Tuesday, December 10.) Why not?! It's the day of our annual VCSS



Administration Pancake Breakfast to raise funds for Share the Spirit! The doors open at 7:30 a.m. to get hot pancakes, sausages, coffee and juice! See you there!

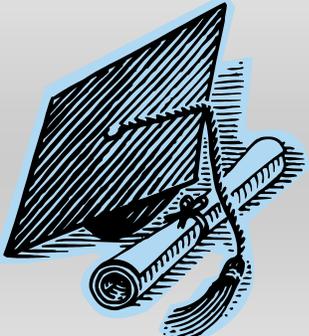


Canadian Tire generously provides discounts to the Share the Spirit program. Please help our funds go even further by donating any Canadian Tire money to use to use for purchasing items. Donations can be made to the office.



Our school science fair will be on Monday, November 25 from 8:30 to 12 noon for all Grade 8 and 9 students. We are looking for parents and community members to help judge projects and select those who will represent our school at the regional science fair. If you are interested in helping judge on the morning of the 25th, please contact Janet Clarke at 667-5901

The next VCSS Graduation Society meeting will be on Tuesday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the library.



VANIER SOCIAL JUSTICE CLUB - November 2013

The Social Justice Club meets every Tuesday at 12:15 in Room 14 (Ms. Hamel's room). **Everyone** is welcome. Come and check it out!

Excellent events that the Social Justice Club has been involved in...

Whitehorse Connects

Seven members of the Club went to the Old Fire Hall on October 22 to help the Anti-Poverty Coalition with Whitehorse Connects Day. This day provides an opportunity for those in Whitehorse who are homeless, living in poverty or among the working poor to come together for a range of health and human services they may not otherwise access. Students helped prepare and serve food and organize donated clothes. The Club has been helping out with this activity for several years and we never have any shortage of students keen to participate in this rewarding and powerful experience.

Chew on This

During Poverty and Homelessness Awareness Week, members of the SJ Club helped out on Main Street distributing apples to everyone to raise awareness of the hunger and homelessness in our city.

Fixin' Sandwiches!

The Whitehorse Outreach Van makes its rounds throughout the city each night and hands out sandwiches and soup to Whitehorse citizens in need. The Social Justice Club makes sandwiches once a month to help the Van with this great work that they are doing.

Wear a hat...warm a heart - Vanier celebrates Hat Day

On Nov. 7th, Vanier students paid \$2.00 to have hat immunity to wear hats around school all day - a fashion item normally not allowed in school. We saw sombreros, ball caps, berets and fuzzy toques. The money that we raise goes to buy warm socks and hats for the Outreach Van to distribute to people in need. We raised well over \$50 and collected many warm winter items!



UNICEF boxes take over Whitehorse at Halloween!

On October 31st, a group of Social Justice Club members donned big UNICEF boxes and took to the streets of Whitehorse to gather donations. Their efforts paid off in over \$300.00 that will now be sent on to UNICEF to allow them to purchase bed nets, educational supplies for schools, vaccinations and therapeutic milk.

WINTER GEAR WANTED: If you have clean socks, hats and any winter clothing in good condition, please bring them to a SJ member and we will pass them on to the Outreach Van.

MENTION US AT RAVEN

RECYCLING: the Social Justice Club now has a Raven account. When you take back your recyclables, please consider donating the proceeds to the **Vanier Social Justice Club**. We will direct this money to very worthwhile projects in our community and around the world. **THANK YOU!**



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, November 16 - Global Village Craft Fair



This craft fair takes place from 11 am to 3 pm at the Old Fire Hall to offer Christmas shoppers fair trade items for everyone on their shopping list. This year, the Social Justice Club will be selling Cookie Mixes in a Jar, paper bead necklaces and our

very popular art cards. Come on down to do your Christmas shopping at the Fair and purchase the wonderful wares that support fair trade practices worldwide.

Wednesday, November 20 - Sea of Pink Day

Vanier will be awash in PINK as we show our determination to push out bullying from our school. Get ready, Get set, Get PINK!

Sunday, December 1st - World Aids Day

Tuesday, December 10th - Human Rights Day - come by the Vanier Library and write an Amnesty International letter. Help us surpass our last year's record of 240 letters written.

Earn university credits while still attending high school with Yukon College Dual credit program!

Yukon Government Education and Yukon College are pleased to offer high school students a course which earns students high school elective credits as well as 3-credits towards most first year university programs.

Dual Credit Courses being offered in the Winter 2014 semester:

Computer Science 128: Object Oriented Programming 1 (3 credits)

Instructor: Dr. Tim Topper
On-line, Monday, February 3 - Friday May 23, 2014
Course Reference Number (CRN): 20125

OR

Monday, January 6 to Friday April 25, 2014
Course Reference Number (CRN): 20124

This course introduces the student to Computer Science and software development with an emphasis on developing programming skills using the Python language. The course consists of thirteen one-week modules. Students must do a minimum of one unit per week but may work faster if they wish and finish the course early.

Prerequisite: Math 11 (any stream)

Hardware/Software: Students need a computer on which to install the Python programming language. Any recent Windows, Macintosh or Linux operating system will work, and installation instructions are provided.

Please note: CPSC Instructor available to meet with students to offer assistance face-to-face by appointment or in the Drop-in classroom, Thursday evenings from 6-9pm.

CPSC 129: Object-Oriented Programming II (3 credits)

Instructor: Dr. Tim Topper
On-line, Monday, Feb 3 to Friday May 23, 2014
Course Reference Number (CRN): 20126

Prerequisite: CPSC 128

This course continues the presentation of Object-Oriented Programming begun in CPSC 128.

ENGL 100: Academic Writing and Critical Thinking

Instructor: Marlon Davis
On-line, Monday, Jan. 6 to Apr. 25, 2014 (includes exam period)
Course Reference Number (CRN) 20199

This course introduces students to critical reading, critical thinking, and academic writing through the study and application of the principles of university-level discourse.

Prerequisite(s): English 12 (min. 80%)

OR

Delivered at Ayamdigut campus Jan. 7 to Apr. 10, 2014 (includes exam period)
Class times: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:00-5:30 pm.
CRN 20167

This course introduces students to critical reading, critical thinking and academic writing through the study and application of the principles of university-level discourse.

Prerequisite: English 12 (min. 80%)

PSYC 101: Introduction to Psychology II (3 credits)

Instructor: Dr. Robert McClelland
On-line, Monday, Jan. 6 to Apr. 25, 2014 (includes exam schedule)
Course Reference Number (CRN): 20203

Continues the survey of all the major content areas of psychology begun in PSYC 100. The course covers development, personality, stress and health, psychopathology, therapy, and social psychology.

Prerequisite: None

OR

Delivered at Ayamdigut campus, Monday, Jan.6 to Wednesday, April 9, 2014
Class times: Monday and Wednesdays, 1-2:30pm
CRN 20196

Math 100: TBA

February start.

Pre-req: Pre-Calculus 12

Eligibility for all courses: Minimum B average, reference letter from school and certain courses may have specific pre-requisite courses

Cost: Department of Education covers the entire tuition fee of \$324. Students are responsible for books, and college access fees of \$35

To Register: Bring/mail application, reference letter from school, and \$35.00 to Yukon College.

More Info at:

<http://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/programs/view/dc>

Contact: Ann Bowen, 456 8587, abowen@yukoncollege.yk.ca



GEOLOGY TRACKS!!!

Jane Londero, Geology Teacher

This term the Geology 12 class has been roaming the region around Whitehorse and surrounding areas to view examples of mineral deposits, glacial landforms and different rock types.

One of these trips included a trip to SIDROCK INDUSTRIES to see the wide range of igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary slabs that are located there to be used as building stone, countertops or hearth facings. The students were amazed at the colours, textures and variety of samples located in the yard as well as the mineral and fossil samples located in the office – samples that reflected discussions that we have had in class. (A big “ Thank You” to Sid McKeon and Aki Johannson for the opportunity to visit your site!!)

Minto Mine Tour

On Thursday, October 17th the class left Whitehorse at 5:15am to travel to the Capstone Minerals mine at Minto. Being late in the season, the class was able to catch the barge across the Yukon river to access the minesite, before it was pulled off the river during freeze up.

We were met on the mine road and guided 27km into the minesite. The students were given a safety talk about the minesite and issued PPE (Personal Protection Equipment – safety boots, vests, hard hats, safety glasses and ear protection).

After the talk we were guided around the site to see the open pit where students saw the blasted material transported out of the pit in the large dump trucks and taken to stock piles and the mill. Students were amazed at the size and capacity of these trucks, especially when they drove by us and the tires were taller than all of the students!!

After hearing about the geology and process of recovering the rock was explained the students were able to scramble over the ore pile to get some samples of bornite and chalcopyrite, which are the copper-bearing minerals.

The students were then shown an old open pit that gave a great view of the entire mine site. The geologists explained and

pointed out the remediation sites on the waste rock and showed where the water for the crushing process was being recycled back into the mill.

After a hearty lunch in the cafeteria, enjoyed by all the students, we went for a tour of the mill where the students saw how the rock was crushed, floated and the copper and gold were recovered and turned into concentrate. The students were able to see how a variety of chemistry processes were used in the process.

A tour of the control room of the mill really surprised the students as they saw how computers were monitoring the process. The operator explained his job and how he ended up overseeing the whole mill.



Our last presentation was about job opportunities in the mining industry with Capstone or with other companies.

We were guided back to the barge and started the trip back to Whitehorse.

I would like to thank the students for their attention, manners and

positive attitude they showed during the day despite the early “wake up”!! – they were all great ambassadors for our school!!

I would also like to thank the staff at Capstone Minerals at the Minto Mine for their enthusiastic and informative presentations to the students during the tour. It really gave students an insight, not only into the geology of the region, but also the range of careers available in the industry!!

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

www.vcss.ca



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.



LIBRARY NEWS

New Books! New Books! Get Your New Books Here!!

We have received several boxes of fantastic, new fiction and non-fiction titles, so visit the library as soon as you can. You will not leave disappointed! Just-released titles from Pittacus Lore, Rick Riordon, Rick Yancey, John Grisham, Cassandra Clare, Sarah Dessen and John Green await you!

Overdue books

Many students still have overdue books from last year. When books are under someone's bed, in the back of someone's closet, or in a bookshelf at home, no one else can read them. So, stop begin a book hog and bring them back! Included with your child's report card is a bill for any book that is still outstanding on his/her record. Please return the book or pay the amount owing so that we can replace all missing books and maintain our great collection!



Need to do a research project?

Check out this new information resource for use at school AND at home...



Expert Space is now available for all Yukon teachers and students.

Today's students have access to a wealth of information, yet many struggle to navigate, evaluate, organize, or even comprehend this information appropriately and effectively.

Expert Space is an interactive, personalized learning tool with leveled, content-area information. It allows students to conduct and save research, draft an outline, prepare note cards, and compile a bibliography for any research project. All materials for assignments that a student is working on can be saved and stored in this one place to be accessed at home or at school.

Check this resource out with your Vanier student. You will find many, many useful features!

Note: The first time anyone logs into Expert Space, it must be from a school computer in order for Expert Space to recognize you as a valid user. See Ms. Clarke or Ms. Schaefer in the library to sign up for Expert Space.

O Come, All Ye Faithful...

... to celebrate the Christmas Season with a wonderful musical showcase by Vanier music students on Sunday, December 8! In addition to the sounds of Christmas Cheer, a Battle of the Bands and (of course) carols, there will be a display of artistic talents in the lobby of the Yukon Arts Centre.



There will be delicious baked goods for sale by Foods & Nutrition students, Art Cards from which proceeds will go to Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Research, and donations will be collected for Typhoon Haiyan relief.

Buy your tickets now, so as not to be disappointed- only \$7 at the Yukon Arts Centre Box Office (online or in person). See you at the "Celebration of the Christmas Season"! Doors open at 6:45, the concert starts at 7:15.



Child Day, November 20th

In celebration of Children's Rights Awareness Week, the Yukon Child & Youth Advocate Office will be hosting an **Open House** on November 20th, 2013 from 2:30 - 4:30 pm at 2070 - 2nd Ave., Unit 19, Call 456-5575 for more information. **Coffee, tea and snacks served.**

Everyone welcome! Children and youth enter a draw for an iPod Nano.

TAFFY PULLING ACTIVITY



Join us **November 22th** at the **Centre de la Francophonie - AFY**
302 Strickland St.

CAFÉ-RENCONTRE 5 pm
MEAL: ADULT \$10 CHILDREN \$3.50

TAFFY PULLING 6 pm
FREE

ALL STUDENTS AND PARENTS ARE WELCOME!

Made from a mixture of molasses, butter and brown sugar, taffy will be "stretched" to turn into a moist treat. Due to the beautiful gold nugget color obtained in the candy, it was sold under the brand Klondike at the end of the twentieth century. The legend says that Marguerite Bourgeoys, founder of the first school in Canada, would have concocted this sweetie.



CPF Canadian Parents for Peace
Centre de la Francophonie



Booster Cards!

Booster Cards are out soon! If you haven't purchased yours, contact the school office—they're only \$20 for discounts all over town! All proceeds go to support student activities throughout the year.

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| Quizno's | Riverside Grocery |
| Kilrich/Truss Plant | Riverstone Dental Clinic |
| Subaru | Midnight Sun |
| Yukon Meat and Sausage | Pizza Hut |
| Territorial Auto Parts | Mad Trapper Alley |
| Plantation Flowers | Color Bar Hair Resort |
| Sandor's Clothing | |