



Vanier Catholic Secondary

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Ryan Sikkes, Principal Jeanette Gallant, Vice-Principal

November 2016

Principal's Message

I often reflect at this time of year how fortunate I have been to never have lived through war or civil conflict. I've lived a charmed life in a number of ways, but in no way more than in this regard. The arrival of Syrian refugee families in Whitehorse over this past year have helped illustrate to me and to our school community the hardships and heartache that many innocent families experience.

My hope and prayers are that our students will never experience anything except peace and stability. I hope that their experiences at Vanier Catholic Secondary will help reinforce their understanding of God's unconditional love for us all.

In the writings of the prophet Micah, we are called to "Love tenderly, act justly, and walk humbly with our God". This call to love and act justly, in particular, is often ignored and is at the root of so much conflict, from the individual level to the global. So much of the work that we do here at Vanier Catholic Secondary is to help each individual student learn what they can do as individuals to create peace in our community and our world.

Since our last newsletter, we do have two staffing changes to announce. The first is that Ms, Natalie Ng will be leaving in December to start a parental leave. We wish her and Mr. Jackson all the best as they begin their adventure of parenthood! Ms. Angellina Burns will take over Ms. Ng's classes. Ms. Burns earned an honours degree in biology from Queens University before she undertook her teacher training.

Also, Ms. Boye has extended her parental leave from spring break until the end of the year, so Mr. Susin will remain here until the end of June.

It is the time of the year where Yukon Government employees are recognized for their long service—congratulations to Dwayne Stoker and Barbara Bergsma for each hitting the 20 year milestone! Thank you for your continued commitment to serving the needs of Yukon youth!

We are hurtling towards advent and the Christmas season—I hope that all our students and their families will take the opportunity to spend time together and reflect on the joy of the birth of Jesus and His continued blessings on us all.

Sincerely,
Ryan Sikkes, principal

A Remembrance Day Prayer NOVEMBER 11

*Loving God,
have mercy on your people,
and open our hearts to peace and love.
Reward all who have died for their country,
and grant that Canada and all nations
may continue to work for peace and justice.
Bless us in your service,
and help us to follow Jesus Christ,
who is our Saviour and our Lord
for ever and ever.
Amen.*



www.archtoronto.org

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

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

Dates to note—

November—

The official 2016-2017 School Calendar can be accessed online at the Yukon Education website.



School Council Corner

The members of our current council are

Valerie Royle, chair

Edith Elder

Michael Lauer

Stella Martin

Maureen Long

The next Vanier Catholic Secondary School Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, November 15 and will include a presentation on BC's new Grade 10-12 curriculum.

- Monday, November 7—First day of Term 2
- Thursday, November 10—Remembrance Day Ceremony
- Friday, November 11—Remembrance Day—No School
- Thursday, November 24—Student Led Conferences (Evening)
- Friday, November 25— No School
- Monday, November 28—Advent Celebration
- Monday November 28— December 9—*Share the Spirit*
- Thursday, December 6— Violence against Women Ceremony
- Thursday, December 8 – Pancake Breakfast
- Thursday, December 15—Locker Clean Out
- Thursday, December 16—Christmas Celebration
- Monday, December 19—Sunday, January 1—Christmas Break
- Monday, January 2nd—Statutory Holiday—No School
- Tuesday, January 3rd—First day of School
- Wednesday, January 18—Christian Unity Celebration
- Thursday, January 19— Fine Arts/Applied Skills Night
- Friday, January 20—Last day of Term 2
- Monday, January 23-27—Exam Week
- Monday, January 30—First day of Term 3
- Wednesday February 8-15—Ottawa Music Trip
- Friday, February 24—Heritage Day—No School
- Tuesday, February 28 0 Shrove Tuesday
- Wednesday, March 1—Ash Wednesday Celebration

Vanier Talent Show

Students! Keep a look out for more information on how you can participate in this year's Vanier Talent Show on December 16th!

DO NOT MAKE BREAKFAST!

(on Thursday, December 8.) 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!



News from the Music Department

Vanier Communities Tour 2016

This year the Vanier music department is travelling to Teslin and Watson Lake to perform and educate youth. This tour focuses on educating ourselves about the geography and culture of our Yukon communities, while providing performance opportunities to showcase our hard work. With the assistance of

the local schools we host a community open mic night. In Teslin this will be November 15th, 7:30pm in the gym. In Watson Lake this will be at Watson Lake Secondary on Nov. 16th, 7:30pm in the gym.



Jazz Band Retreat

In conjunction with the All City Band Program Vanier is participating in a Jazz Band Retreat on November 19th at Porter Creek Secondary. Our students will have an opportunity to work with professional jazz musicians on their instruments, learn more about improvisation techniques, and play with other jazz musicians in Whitehorse. This is an exciting opportunity for our students.

Vanier Senior Jazz and Choir Are Heading to Ottawa!

Our students have been selected to participate in a YMCA exchange with Notre Dame High School in Ottawa. Along with performance opportunities we will be visiting Parliament, learning more about Canadian history and culture, and maybe catch a hockey game! As this is an exchange, Ottawa students will be participating in Rendezvous with us in February.

YTG Performance

This year our Senior and Junior Jazz Bands, Choir, and Rock Band will be performing at the YTG's Christmas in Song on November 29th from 12-1pm. Bring your lunch and enjoy an hour of great music!

Lunchtime Food Options...

We would like to give parents and students more information about our cafeteria and options for food at Vanier this year. We have a new vendor serving as a restaurant in our cafeteria and their weekly menu is available on our website.

Students CAN NOW USE Debit cards to make purchases.

Students who have a declined card, forgotten their lunch or missed breakfast can ask for coupons available in the office to track a tab on their account. The office will keep a tab for all students' cafeteria purchases and periodically send home invoices.

If parents and students are unable to pay for these costs, they can access a limited fund through the school, which is used to feed youth in order to improve their learning. This is called the Breakfast for Learning Fund. Their mission and vision is below.

MISSION

Breakfast for Learning is a national charity that educates,



and empowers communities to deliver school based nutrition programs, helping children and youth realize their full potential in life.

VISION

To ensure all children and youth in Canada attend school well nourished, improving their ability to learn, giving them the best chance of success in life.

Since the funding is limited, we will utilize it to cover breakfast and lunch costs, excluding drinks and desserts.

Another option is for parents or students is to purchase \$20 punch cards from the office which give you an additional \$2 bonus to purchase goods in the cafeteria. We hope that families that are able to pay for the invoices will pay for them in order to leave the funding available for those in need. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

Social Justice News



Helping Haiti

Social Justice Club member Eva Von Flotow made us all so proud when she recently met Morgan Weinberg and donated over \$600.00 to Morgan's Little Footprints, Big Steps charity. Eva raised this money at her birthday celebration and generously passed it on to assist Morgan with her amazing work in Haiti. Another one of our fabulous Vanier students Remie Cherapak donated her birthday money as well to this wonderful cause. In the same week, the Social Justice Club held a bake sale and raised over \$300.00 for LFBS. We continue



to be WOWed and inspired by the difference that Morgan is making in the world!

Pass on Your Warmth – donate winter clothing to the Outreach Van

Whitehorse has had its first blast of winter 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. If you have gently-worn winter clothing (hoodies, coats, mitts, hats, jackets) or new pairs of socks, drop them off at the Vanier Learning Commons and help warm someone up!

Mural Madness

The Social Justice Club is enlisting the assistance of an artist to paint a mural in the Vanier hallway to promote our social justice message. We are still working on the design and can't wait to get painting!

