



Vanier Catholic Secondary

16 Duke Road, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 4M2

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

www.vcss.ca

Ryan Sikkes, *Principal* Katrina Brogdon & Jeanette Gallant, *Vice-Principals*

September 2017

Principal's Message

Welcome back to school! We have had a very smooth start to the year and are hoping that this continues!

Please note the following staffing changes:

- Katrina Brogdon has been appointed as an additional vice-principal for the next two years in addition to her position as counsellor.
- Mike Gallant, Tamara Schaefer, Sylvie Hamel, Julia Boye and Jud Deuling have returned from their time away from Vanier—welcome back!
- JD Caudle and Stefans Jackson are on parental leave for the first semester—congratulations!
- Tonya Paul and Susie Firth have joined Vanier and Riverfront school, respectively, as Educational Assistants.
- Trevor Mead Robins has joined our staff as a part-time learning assistance teacher focused on assistive technology
- Tanner Cassidy, one of our alumni, will be joining us shortly as a student teacher from Vancouver Island University
- Fr. Slawomir Szwagrzyk remains our school chaplain this year. Fr. 'Swavek' is the rector of the Cathedral.

- L.J. London is our Office Administrator until August 2018, replacing Alex Sullivan who is on her parental leave.

There were lots of exciting events over the summer—Burton Suley (Alex's child) was born on July 4, Fern Susin was born on August 11, and Blaise Caudle was born on September 7! Also,

Mr. and Mrs. Erik and Maria Gray were married on August 18. Congratulations to all on these happy occasions!

We have modified our homeroom program this year. Homerooms are multi-grade groups of either Gr. 8-10 or Gr. 11 & 12 students who will work on common activities and lessons throughout the year. Gr. 8 through 10 students will spend this time working on the "Core Competencies" (see the school handbook for details and we will highlight these in subsequent newsletters). Senior students will obtain their Graduation Transitions Credits by participating in these sessions.

We always hope to start off the year with the philosophy of "taking care of the little things before they become big things" and invite students and parents to bring any problems and concerns to our attention right away so we can work together to address them.

As always, I am grateful for the support and prayers for our school community.

Sincerely,
Ryan Sikkes, principal



A Student's Prayer for a New School Year

Lord Jesus, I ask for Your help as I begin this new school year.

Allow me to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before me.

Open my eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.

Open my heart and mind to new friends and new teachers.

Give me a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with my studies and courage to accept new opportunities.

Help me to be attentive to my teachers and let me experience Your presence in my new friends.

Jesus, inspire me to do my best this year!

Amen

Dates to note— September-December

The official 2017-2018 School Calendar can be accessed online at the Yukon Education website.



- Friday, September 22 – School photos
- Friday, September 29 – Catholic Schools’ Retreat—No school
- Wednesday, October 4 – Thanksgiving Liturgy & Food Drive
- Thursday, October 5—Interim Reports Due
- Friday, October 6—Curriculum Day – No School
- Monday, October 9—Thanksgiving Day Stat –No school
- Thursday, October 19—Grad Retreat
- Monday, October 30 to Friday, November 3—Review Week
- Wednesday, November 1—Volunteer, Career, and Post-Secondary Fair @ KDCC
- Friday, November 3—Last day of Term 1
- Monday, November 6—First day of Term 2
- Wednesday, November 8—Remembrance Day Ceremony
- Friday, November 10—Curriculum Day—No School
- Monday, November 13—Remembrance Day Stat—No School
- Thursday, November 23—Student Led Conferences (Evening)
- Wednesday, November 29— Advent Liturgy & *Share the Spirit* starts
- Wednesday, December 6— Violence against Women Ceremony
- Thursday, December 7 – Pancake Breakfast
- Sunday, December 10—Catholic Schools’ Advent Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral
- Tuesday, December 19—Alumni Day & Locker Clean Out
- Wednesday, December 20—Christmas Celebration and early dismissal
- Thursday, December 21—Tuesday, January 2—Christmas Break
- Wednesday, January 3rd—First day of School

School Council Corner

The members of our current council are (left to right in the photo below):

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



The Annual General Meeting for the three school councils and the Catholic Education Association of Yukon (CEAY) will be on Thursday, September 21 at 7 pm in the Vanier Learning Commons.

The first regular council meeting of the year (where the chair of the council will be designated) will be on Tuesday, October 17 at 7 pm in the Learning Commons (Library).

Updated contact information for all council members will be uploaded to the vcss.ca website before the end of September.

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

WWW.VCSS.CA

School Photo Day is Friday, September 22!

A few notes from our photographer, Wilson Studios:

1. Several different individual packages are offered @ \$36.50.
2. 8" x 12" Grade group photos will be taken at a later date but are purchased as part of this process—\$14.50 each.
3. The Studio will take individual photos of all students (whether purchasing or not) for the Student Information System.
4. Delivery time is approximately 4 weeks.
5. School portraits are also available in our studio by appointment.
6. For your information we provide digital enhancement on images for all students ordering a package – this includes minimizing blemishes, improving misplaced hair, removing food stains from mouth and clothing, etc – this is a lot of work and delays delivery, however it provides for the best possible product and we have received numerous positive comments from parents.
7. GST is included in all prices



VANIER LEARNING COMMONS NEWS

Attention! Attention! The heart of Vanier School is no longer the Vanier School Library...it is now the **Vanier Learning Commons**. This move has transformed us from being a place where you find books to being a centre of learning within the school. We are committed to moving students and staff from being consumers of information to being creators who use this information to turn their knowledge into action!

Students, staff and parents are welcome to use the library each day from 8:15 am to 4:30 pm. You can use the space to collaborate with a classmate on a class project, do your homework, choose books from our amazing collection, use a computer to access our great research databases, play board games or just spend time with your friends. The teacher-librarian, Ms. Clarke (see right) is looking forward to meeting you!

VANIER BOOKS ARE NOT FOR KEEPS!!

Ms. Clarke's recipe for a great school year:

1. Get enough sleep
2. floss daily
3. **RETURN YOUR OVERDUE TEXTBOOKS.**

These textbooks are needed for courses being taught this year. Don't deny other students the chance to learn all the fantastic things that you did.

Remember: overdue books will remain on your record until the book is returned or payment is made.



VANIER SOCIAL JUSTICE CLUB

How can I be a part of it??

The Vanier Social Justice Club is an active and enthusiastic school group for students from all grades. It is a great way to meet new people, have fun and do rewarding work for our community and our world!

We meet **every Tuesday at 12h15 in rm. 14 (Mme. Hamel's Room)**. Bring your lunch, bring a friend and help decide which activities the group will take on. In the past, we have written letters for Amnesty International, helped



at the Soup Kitchen, raised money for **Little Footprints, Big Steps** to help children in Haiti, bought school supplies for students who are living at Kaushee's Place and raised awareness at Vanier about a variety of issues such as AIDS, child soldiers, and the access to education for girls in developing countries. There is no end to the difference that we can make!

Come and see Mme. Hamel (rm. 14) or Ms. Clarke (Learning Commons) for more details.

See you next Tuesday...

be the change that you want to see in the world!



iPad mini

Submit school paperwork and fees by September 22 and be eligible to win an iPad mini!

