



# Vanier Catholic Secondary

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www.vcss.ca

Ryan Sikkes, Principal Jeanette Gallant, Vice-Principal

**June 2015**

## Principal's Message

I know it seems cliché to say, "Wow, another year finished already!" but that's exactly how I'm feeling as I write this message. Where did this year go? As I am creating next year's calendar of events, I'm reviewing the past year and am amazed at all the events, celebrations, field trips, and other activities we packed into this year!

Most of these activities are in addition to what is done in the regular school day and I must recognize all the effort our staff puts in to go far "above and beyond" what they are expected to do. I am proud of their commitment to ensuring our students have access to a variety of engaging activities and experiences. I feel blessed each day to work alongside our amazing staff.

Some of our staff are moving on to other opportunities:

- Ms. Sullivan is transferring to the Individual Learning Centre;
- Ms. Fougere-Chou is transferring to the Teen Parent Centre;
- Ms. Payne will be working at CKES next year as Mme. Ouimet returns to VCSS;
- Ms. Ada Rienks is retiring and will be spending way more time with her grandchildren as she moves to Red Deer, AB;
- Ms. LaLonde is off for a one-year Educational Leave to pursue her Masters degree;
- Ms. Trainor is on a one-year leave to experience life as Chaplain/teacher in Chestermere, AB; and
- Ms. Silvia Petrovic, our office administrator, is moving to Alberta.

We will also have several staff on single-semester leaves next year for various reasons (including some parental leaves!).

I'm pleased to announce that Ms. Katrina Brogdon will

be rejoining our staff, returning to her role as counsellor – welcome back, Katrina! Mr. Bruce Gillard will be joining us as Religious Education Coordinator for next year. We still have some staffing to do in the fall for second semester positions, which is why some students have no teacher specified for some courses in their timetables.

I wish to offer congratulations to our graduates, the Class of 2015, who are heading off on a variety of adventures – some to university or college, some to travel, some to work. In all cases, we hope that we have helped prepare each of them with the skills, knowledge and attitudes to find success and live their lives fully. We hope, as a Catholic school, that they will use the skills we helped them develop to inform their

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**God,  
This summer will be  
full of new experiences  
for me and my friends:  
new jobs, exciting mission trips,  
and vacations to places  
we've never been before.  
Grow us, stretch us  
through whatever we do,  
and through wherever we go,  
so that we'll end the summer  
just a little more like you.  
Amen.**

## Upcoming dates to note for 2015-2016.

The official 2015-2016 School Calendar can be accessed online at the Yukon Education



July 2-July 31— Summer School  
 August 28 + 31—Counsellors available for schedule changes  
 Monday, August 31—Gr. 8 Orientation Day  
 Tuesday, September 1—First Day of School  
 Thursday, September 3—Family BBQ & Honour Roll @ 6pm  
 School Council @ 8pm  
 Monday, September 7—Labour Day—NO CLASSES  
 Friday, September 11—PD Day—NO CLASSES  
 Friday, September 18—Crusaders Day & Terry Fox run @ 11am  
 September 24 + 25—PD Days—NO CLASSES  
 Tuesday, September 29—School Council @ 7pm  
 Thursday, October 1—Interims Mailed  
 Thursday, October 8—Thanksgiving Celebration/Spirit Rally @ 11am  
 Student Led Conferences @ 4pm  
 Friday, October 9—Student Led Conferences @ 9am  
 October 9 + 12—Thanksgiving Weekend—NO CLASSES  
 Tuesday, October 27—School Council @ 7pm  
 Friday, October 30—Last day of Term 1

**NOTE: The 2015-2016 School Calendar is available at [education.gov.yk.ca](http://education.gov.yk.ca)**

## School Council Corner

The next regular council meetings will be June 2 at 7:00pm in the VCSS Library.

The members of our current council are:

Edith Elder; Chair  
 Michael Lauer, Vice-Chair  
 Dianne Tait  
 Maureen Long  
 Shanon Cooper

For more information on Vanier's School Council, including current contact information, visit [www.vcss.ca](http://www.vcss.ca) and click on the "School Council" tab.

The Annual General Meeting for the VCSS Council and the Catholic Education Association of Yukon (CEAY) will take place on Thursday, September 24.

Tentative meeting dates for 2015-2016 are: September 3, September 29, October 27, November 24, January 26, February 23, March 29, April 26, and May 31. Please note that School Council Elections will take place in May 2016.

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consciences to make the right decisions for themselves and others as they move through life.

As sad as we are to see them go, we are also excited to welcome our incoming class of Grade 8 students, the Class of 2020, who will be starting this fall. We had some opportunities to meet them as they visited the school this spring. We're confident that they will be a great addition to our school community and will benefit from the rights, privileges and responsibilities afforded to Vanier Catholic Secondary Students.

Finally, I wish to personally thank all staff, students and families for their support during this difficult month as Ms. Gallant was attending to her husband, Jamie, who was involved in a terrible car accident. Please continue to keep Jamie, Jeanette, their children Kaden and Daniel, and their families in your prayers as they continue their difficult journey.

I wish everyone a restful, relaxing and blessed summer break. God Bless you all.

Sincerely,  
 Ryan Sikkes

## Summer School 2015

During July 2015, the Department of Education will be offering summer school courses for secondary students who have not successfully passed a course and who wish to strengthen their skills in one of these core academic subjects:

- English 8
- English 9
- English 10
- English 11
- Mathematics 8
- Mathematics 9
- Foundations of Math and Pre-calculus 10
- Apprenticeship and Workplace Mathematics 10
- Foundations of Math 11
- Pre-Calculus 11
- Apprenticeship and Workplace Mathematics 11
- Pre-Calculus 12



Courses will be offered based on a minimum of 6 students per class.

Class sizes will be limited in order to provide a high degree of individual instruction. Fees for the above courses will be \$180.00. Students unable to pay Summer School enrolment fees, please contact Lynn Williams at 667-5127 to make other arrangements.

Students of Math and English 10 are required to write (or have written) the respective BC Provincial Exam. If students have already written the exam, they are not required to rewrite. However, if they wish to re-write, they may do so at one of the scheduled sittings at their school next year. The teacher will have information regarding these exams.

Exam dates: November 2015

January 2016

April 2016

May 2016

June 2016

**Date: July 2 - July 31, 2015**

**Time: 9:00am -12:00pm**

**Location: FH Collins Secondary**

**School Course Fees: \$180**

### Students Financial Assistance Act

The Department of Education is reviewing and considering updates to the Students Financial Assistance Act, which governs the Yukon Grant. As part of this process, we are asking students, parents and the school community to share their thoughts in a quick survey or by attending an open house.

Survey results will help ensure fairness, flexibility and a level playing field for all Yukon students seeking financial assistance to pursue their post-secondary studies.

Visit [sfaa-survey.com](http://sfaa-survey.com) before June 30, 2015, to have your say. The survey should take about 15 minutes.



# SOCIAL JUSTICE CLUB

The Vanier Social Justice Club wrapped up the 2014-2015 school year with a special delivery, two fundraisers and a group social.

## **LOCAL SHELTER**

In May, club members delivered two DVD players, a handful of kids' games and special treat bags for the clients staying at Kaushee's. Kaushee's Place is Whitehorse's women's shelter and they are frequently collecting household items and women's and kids clothing. Consider giving them a call to find out how you can help and donate.



## **HANDS OF HOPE DONATION**

The SJ Club also presented a cheque for \$250 to Rosemarie and Liesel Briggs from Hands of Hope, a Yukon organization that builds libraries and classrooms in Nepal and more recently has offered relief support to the people devastated by April's earthquake. May's warm weather certainly helped our ice cream and freezie sales so thanks everyone for your support. Stay tuned for information this Fall from Hands of Hope as they are planning their 10th anniversary with various fundraising campaigns.



## **CLARE'S KIDS PACKS AND THE WHITEHORSE FOOD BANK**

We also wrapped up our Clare's Kids Packs campaign, raising \$200 for the Whitehorse Food Bank and its school lunch packs. Thanks to all of those who supported this effort as well and please remember that the Whitehorse Food Bank is in great need of help, especially during the summer months when many volunteers leave for vacation and food drives are more limited. Please consider volunteering this summer or donating some of your tasty garden treat.



## **END OF YEAR SOCIAL**

Finally, to bid farewell to our Grade 12 members and celebrate our achievements and efforts throughout the year, the club had its annual social, this year with sushi and pizza!

Thank you to all of our dedicated, hardworking, fun members who do so much to raise awareness and raise money for various groups and causes here in the Yukon and beyond. Have a safe summer and you in September! Good luck to our Grade 12s who are leaving for studies, adventures and more. Be safe, have fun and keep in touch!





*To students, staff & parents at Vanier*

*Thank you to all of you who . . .*

- ☛ traveled from near and far during the summer holidays to attend Clare's service*
- ☛ helped plan, set up, or provide music for the service and reception at the school*
- ☛ raised food bank donations in Clare's name through many means*
- ☛ left notes, pictures, cards, and flowers at the reception or accident scene*
- ☛ continue to keep us in their thoughts and prayers*
- ☛ help keep our daughter's memory alive by sharing a story of Clare with us*

*You are now all part of Clare's narrative and we will not forget your kindness*

*From Yolande, Rich and Rémie*



VCSS celebrated (a bit early, mind you) Philippines Independence Day on June 1. Students learned more about the history and culture of the Philippines, sang both the Canadian and Philippines national anthems and enjoyed a delicious meal over the lunch hour. We were proud to share in this most important celebration for so many of our students and their families.

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

**[www.vcss.ca](http://www.vcss.ca)**



# Learning Commons News

We were pleased to recognize some outstanding bookworms at our recent Vanier Awards ceremony. Josh Romero, Jude Slater and Naomi Duru all showed incredible reading power this year by borrowing almost three hundred books between the three of them...bravo! We look forward to feeding your addictions next year!

Just because school is out doesn't mean you are cut off from Vanier's great book collection. We have an eBook collection with over five hundred titles to choose from. You can download and read the book on any home computer, iPad, phone or tablet. Even if you are spending your summer in Timbuktu, as long as you have access to the Internet, you can keep yourself in books.

Here are some eBook titles to check out:

Tim Duncan Slam Duncan – practice your rebounds with this San Antonio Spurs superstar's biography.

The Julian Chapter. The companion volume to the hugely popular book Wonder.

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian. This book has been banned and challenged in school libraries more often than any other young adult book. I have often had students say that it is the best book they had ever read. Don't you want to read a book that can provoke such a range of reactions?!?!?

To access the Vanier eBook collection, go to the school website @ [www.vcss.ca](http://www.vcss.ca) and click on the Library tab. Go to the Vanier Learning Commons' website and scroll down to find the eBook download instructions. Email me at [janet.clarke@yesnet.yk.ca](mailto:janet.clarke@yesnet.yk.ca) if you have problems.

## Fear the Teacher – Librarian!

The school year is done but perhaps you still have that Socials 11 textbook on your bedside table....or under your bed...or in the back of your closet. You will not be able to borrow any more textbooks in September while you still have this on your record. The school office will be open until June 30 so start your summer break off right and return those books!



## Lights, Camera....Action!!

The Vanier Learning Commons has taken small steps towards building a participatory learning community that will respond to the needs of all Vanier students. We just received funding to make some giant leaps in creating a centre of innovation in the form of a multimedia lab. The *Communicreation Lab* will provide a setting for Vanier students to demonstrate their learning in a variety of multimedia formats such as sound, film, and animation. Having a green screen, recording equipment, and special lighting in a soundproof room will allow students to make movies, record podcasts, and use animation. All you budding filmmakers...be ready in September to release your inner Wes Anderson!

Have a great summer....happy reading!!

