

Vanier Catholic Secondary

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www.vcss.ca

Ryan Sikkes, Principal Jeanette Gallant, Vice-Principal

April 2015

Principal's Message

We are firmly into the "home stretch" of the school year—the next eight weeks will be filled with school activities, events and presentations—and that's on top of finishing all the content in each class!

One of our core beliefs in how we assess and grade students is that we should use the most recent evidence. This means that if a student is now able to demonstrate a learning outcome that was not met earlier in the year, the earlier low marks should disappear. I encourage students who recognize that they have now mastered knowledge or skills they struggled with earlier in the year to have a conversation with their teachers to ensure their grades reflect this.

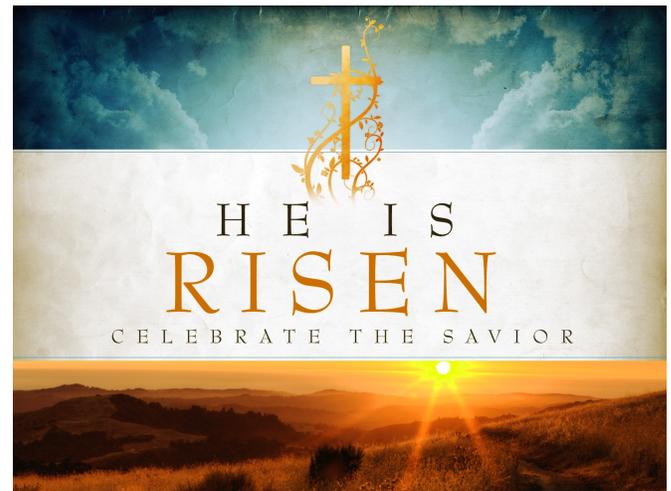
Along that same line, we are certainly open to discussions about accepting late work, but it is left to the discretion of each teacher to make that determination. Again, the key to making this work is communicating with the teachers as early as possible!

We will also be celebrating the graduation of our Class of 2015 in May. This is always an exciting and inspiring time to consider the potential of our graduates to contribute to our community, our country and our world. We invite our whole school community to the graduation mass on Friday, May 22 at 7 pm in the Small Gym and the cap & gown ceremony on Saturday, May 23 at 10 a.m. at the Yukon College Gym.

Our exam schedule will be released shortly—it will be posted to vcss.ca and mailed home with the May newsletter. A reminder to all families with students who are writing BC Provincial Exams that the exam period is June 18-24, which is outside our school year.

Finally, I'd like to thank all the students and staff who participated in our largest ThinkFAST ever—what a great opportunity to build community, an awareness of justice and to celebrate our faith together!

Sincerely,
Ryan Sikkes



Good and gracious God, our most glorious Creator:

As we greet the signs in nature around us of Spring once again regaling us in bloom, in the songs of returning birds and fields soon to be planted, we give you praise for an even greater sign of new life: the resurrection of your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, that we especially celebrate at this time.

The sadness and despair of his death has given way to the bright promise of immortality, for the Resurrection is our guarantee that justice will triumph over treason, light will overcome darkness, and love will conquer death.

As we celebrate we also dare to ask for your grace that we may live the promise given to us, by imitating the life of Jesus in reaching out to the poor, the marginalized, the least among us, as we strive to be neighbor to all those we meet.

Make our nation a beacon of hope and justice in a world hungry for peace and so in need of your love.

We praise you in this Easter season. Change our lives, change our hearts to be messengers of Easter joy and hope.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord forever.

Amen.

Dates to note for Term III (April-June)

The official 2014-2015 School Calendar can be accessed online at the Yukon Education



Thursday, April 23—PARTY Program for homeroom 902
 Friday, May 1—Vanier Day!
 Wednesday, May 6—Grad retreat
 Thursday, May 7—Grade 9 retreat
 Friday, May 8—Catholic PD day—NO SCHOOL!
 Monday, May 18—Victoria Day—NO SCHOOL!
 Wednesday, May 20—Grade 10 retreat
 Friday/Saturday, May 21-22—Grad weekend

NOTE: The 2015-2016 School Calendar is available at education.gov.yk.ca

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

www.vcss.ca



School Council Corner

The next regular council meetings will be May 12 and 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 and click on the "School Council" tab.

School Growth Plan Update

Our Inquiry: How will an all-school focus on improved writing instruction influence student performance?



What are we learning?

- Teachers are appreciative of this time to learn and share instructional strategies that support our vulnerable learners. What works for these learners generally helps all learners.

There are some key instructional strategies that can be used in all subject areas that will improve student writing and general achievement.

How's it going?

We are building our experience and confidence in applying instructional strategies that support writing across the curriculum, as well as ways to support our English language learners.

What's next?

- The spring school-wide write will take place on April 20-21.

The School Growth Plan Committee has met to discuss our focus for the 2015-16 school year. The committee has chosen to maintain our current goal and is waiting to see the results of the spring school-wide write. By comparing results to our fall school-wide write, we can focus our strategies to ensure we are doing our best for the students of VCSS.

CEAY

Catholic Education Association of Yukon

The Catholic Education Association of Yukon is pleased to announce that the CEAY is now a member of the Alberta Catholic School Trustees Association (ACSTA) which serves Catholic schools in Alberta, the Northwest Territories (Yellowknife), and now, Yukon.

Membership in the ACSTA will allow CEAY members to gain access to valuable resources, ideas, and support. This in turn will assist school staff and council members in the delivery of quality Catholic education for all our students, and in on-going fulfilment of our Mission, Values & Beliefs, and Mandate. By association, CEAY will also be part of the CCSTA (Canadian Catholic School Trustees Association) with members across Canada.

If you have any questions, please contact the CEAY Chair, Dianne Tait, at ceayukon@gmail.com. (www.ceay.ca)



Students & staff from

*Christ the King Elementary
Holy Family Elementary &
Vanier Catholic Secondary Schools*

*invite you to celebrate
World Catholic Education Week,
May 3rd to 8th,
by joining them in a*

Youth Mass

*Sunday, May 3rd
11:30am
Sacred Heart Cathedral
in Whitehorse*

*Enjoy refreshments
after mass provided
by the Catholic
Education Association
of Yukon (CEAY)*

PICK UP THE JAZZ MUSICAL



Come along as we follow several students as they complete research for a Jazz History Paper, while simultaneously learning their lines for their upcoming musical. Watch them research Jazz through the ages: from call and response songs through gospel, ragtime, blues, swing, bebop, and more, ending in funk. There will be dancing, skits, slide show, audience participation, and of course, great music.

Public Shows are May 7th and 8th, 7:30pm at the Vanier Catholic Secondary Small Gym. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

Vanier Jazz Combo will be representing Vanier at the Juneau Jazz and Classics Festival from May 12-16.

Rock Fest May 21st

Come on out Thursday, May 21st 7:00pm to the Old Firehall to see Speed Control in action adjudicating three Vanier Rock ensembles. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

From the Office of Religious Education

Our annual THINKFast was a smashing success! A total of 85 students from across all grades participated in a 24-hour fast from Friday, April 10- Saturday April 11. Students stopped eating after lunch on Friday and did not eat again until we gathered for a meal on Saturday; they also spent the night at the school. This experience gave students an opportunity to learn about food security, food sovereignty, and food distribution around the globe, as well as to experience hunger and struggle in solidarity with the 1 billion people in the world who do not have enough to eat. The students and staff had a wonderful time participating in educational sessions; participating in community outreach with Little Footprints Big Steps; and in general, being together as a school family. Also, we surpassed (almost tripled!) our fundraising goal! We raised over \$2500.00 for Development and Peace's "Sow Much Love to Give" campaign, which works to support local, small-scale farmers internationally. Thank you to everyone who participated in this experience. Until next year :)



Please note our Spring retreat dates:

Wed. April 15, Grade 8 (all students)

Wed. May 6, Grade 12 (all students)

Thurs. May 7, Grade 9 (all students)

Wed. May 20, Grade 10 (just those students taking Religion 10 this term)

There is also a Catholic School of Whitehorse **Youth Mass at 11:30am on Sunday May 3**. Please join us! We will be seeking VCSS students to help with music ministry. See Ms. Trainor if you're interested!

Chemical Reactions are the order of the day in Mr. Gallant's Scimatics class....But wait....that's Mr. Gallant's class, but that isn't Mr. Gallant! Well, that's Mr. Doerkson, a teacher candidate from University of Victoria's Teacher Education Program. Mr. Doerkson asked to come to Whitehorse for his placement, something a bit out of the ordinary for UVIC students. When asked about his first week in the city, Mr. Doerkson expressed he is "excited about his placement in Whitehorse....the students, the city, and Vanier seem like a good fit so far!" Talk about ready to go! Mr. Doerkson already climbed up Grey Mountain in his first 24 hours in the city! Welcome Mr. Doerkson!



Social Justice Club News

“We are not called by God to do extraordinary things, but to do ordinary things with extraordinary love.” Jean Vanier

SJ Club Members make an impact at City Council

On Tuesday March 10th, the SJ Club welcomed Mayor Dan Curtis to our lunch meeting to discuss the proposed change to the Millennium Bridge from being designated pedestrian-only to permitting motorized vehicles to travel across it. The Mayor was given no special treatment from our inquiring students as they peppered him with many questions. Mayor Curtis was patient, informative and encouraged students to attend the City Council Meeting in which this matter was to be discussed. Two students, Sandy Ganesan and Eva Von Flotow took up this offer and were two of the eighteen people who spoke in front of Council at their April 7th meeting. They spoke with poise and conviction, and received special congratulations from Council for believing enough in this cause to put their nerves aside and speak in front of a room full of people...and a television audience!

We are very proud of them!

On Monday, April 13, Whitehorse Council Meeting, Council voted to keep the Millennium Bridge Pedestrian-Only – great news!

Hands of Hope – building schools and libraries in India and Nepal

Yukoners Liesel and Rosemarie Briggs attended our April 14 SJ meeting to speak to us about their great work in Nepal to build classrooms and libraries. A current project that they have undertaken is to give financial support to Rohit, a young Indian boy, who is studying to become a medical doctor. The SJ Club is planning a fundraiser in the future to help Rohit realize his dream. The Hands of Hope Website is at <http://hands-of-hope.ca/> - take a look to see more about the work that Liesel and Rosemarie are doing.



Mayor Dan Curtis visits the Social Justice Club

Upcoming Social Justice Events:

April 21 – Aletta Leitch will visit our lunch meeting to tell us about being the Yukon Youth Climate Change Ambassador at the Climate Change Conference in Peru.

April 30

Step up, Speak Out, Stand Up - Yukon

Youth for Social Justice Conference 2015 –

Open to grades 6 to 12, this conference takes place on **Thursday, April 30th** at Yukon College. The keynote speaker is Stephanie Dixon, three-time Olympian. SJ members Brandon Crawford and Kathryn Fortune will be giving a workshop on Fair Trade and Emily Ross will be singing and telling about her social justice journey through music. There will be many fun and active workshops, snacks, live music, t-shirts, and lunch.

All Vanier students can receive free tutoring for assistance in course work, assignments, organizational skills or test preparation. Students will be matched one on one. To receive tutoring the student needs to *fill in an application* in the Skills Room(Room 3).

Students in Grade 10, 11 or 12 can apply to be a tutor.

Tutors can earn community service hours or an hourly wage. Potential tutors need to *come in person* to see Ms. Bergsma and *fill in an application*.



News from the Vanier Learning Commons

What was once known as the Vanier School Library is well on its way from being a traditional school library to a collective, creative, opening learning lab known as the **Vanier Learning Commons**.

Why “Learning?” This reflects a change in our focus from being the “information place” to become the centre of student learning in the school where students will learn how to apply information in productive ways to strengthen understanding. The Learning Commons will be the place for experimenting, playing, making, thinking, collaborating and growing.

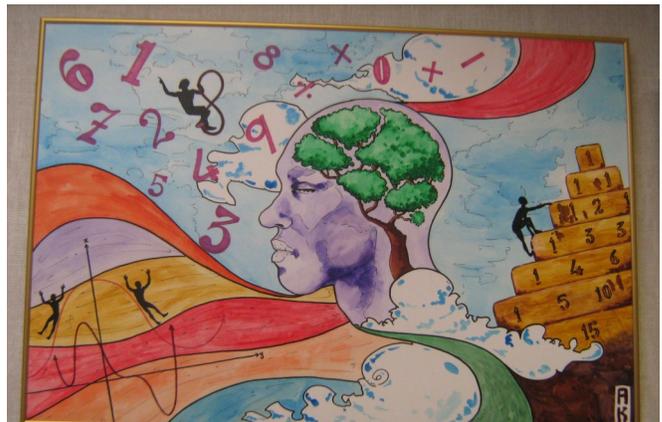
Why Commons? This harkens back to when a commons was the place in the village to graze livestock, meet neighbours or stage a festival. The commons was owned by the community and used by multiple users who were participating in multiple activities. Our learning commons will be a whole school approach to building a participatory learning community.

A key to this transformation to the Learning Commons model is improving upon the flexibility of our physical space. We have been shifting and weeding our collections in the hopes of gaining some valuable floor space. This will allow us to separate areas for a quiet study, student collaboration, and presentations. We also have plans for a Makerspace, an area of new media and experiential tools where students will engage in experiential play...stayed tuned for more information about that exciting space!

Vanier Learning Commons celebrates student effort!

Within our learning commons, we will prominently display and promote students' efforts. We have recently started this celebration with our Student Art Gallery. At this point, it is small but we have plans to add to pieces each year to the collection.

Parents are invited to drop by the Vanier Learning Commons to ask questions about our transformation, use our resources and or just to enjoy the art in the student gallery. The Learning Commons is open **Monday to Thursday from 8:15 to 4:15 pm and on Friday from 8:15 to 3:30 pm.**



Vanier Alumni Ali Khoda's art on display in the Vanier Learning Commons



What's cooking in the cafeteria these days?

Check out vcss.ca for this, news and school information!

\$22-valued punch cards can be purchased for only \$20!!

Debit/Credit now accepted

TEEN PARENT CENTER QUILTS

During Term 3 the Math 12 Foundations and Apprenticeship and Workplace Math 11 classes have been working on a Math project that involved the assembling of quilt blocks with specific math patterns.



The class spent a week learning to take their designs from paper to fabric to construct two quilts per class to give to the Teen Parent Center to be used by the infants and toddlers there.

Ms. Ada Reinks, renowned for her quilt making for the Grad Quilts and a number of other samples located around the school, instructed the students in how to produce the quilt patches in Ms. Londero's classes.

Ms. Ada then took the patches and sewed them into the four quilts. All of the students were surprised at how nice their blocks looked in the quilts.

On April 14th the AWP 11 class delivered the quilts to Kathy Heinbigner, director of the Teen Parent Center, and received a tour and saw the infant and toddler play rooms along with the Moodle Computer Lab used by the young parents to complete their schooling.

Thank you once again to Ms. Ada and all her time and encouragement of the students in showing them the finer points of quilting!!

VANIER ATHLETICS

This year's Basketball Season was very busy! The grade categories returned and in what always seems like a short season, our Crusaders thundered on to being in four of the six basketball finals in the Yukon Basketball Championships held before Spring Break!

This year we had a former Crusader, Courtney Wheelton, help coach our Gr.8 girls along with Mr. McArthur. Despite low numbers in the beginning and the lack of a Gr.8 girl's team from Porter Creek Secondary School, our girls improved their skills and were very competitive in the final against the FH Collins Warriors. McKenna Lyslo and Krysha Rubio were named to the All-Star list for their efforts.

For the grade 8 boys' category, we had enough players for a small army but we unfortunately lost out in the semi-final against Porter Creek. The boys improved every practice and every game, making our future in boys' basketball at Vanier looking very good. Mr. Gallant was very proud of all the boys and their improvement throughout the season! Andrew Smyth and Maguel Mangahas were named to the All-Star list.

As for the Jr. Girls coached by Diedre Davidson and Sarah Crane, our girls pressed on, being competitive all the way to the Yukon Championship. Huge improvements were made by each of the girls throughout the season. They were happy with their performances against a talented Porter Creek team. Katelyn Holway was named to the Championship All-Star team!

Mr. Thomson had the Jr. Boys team this year, until he decided to "fake" an ankle injury and would have to back down from the coaching for a "fake" surgery to repair the leg. All kidding aside, Mr. Thomson had his crew of boys working hard to becoming better players and people to represent our school. While Mr. Thomson's recovered, Mr. Gallant, Mr. McArthur, Mr. McCarron and Ms. Chisholm all had a hand in keeping the Jr. Boys season alive. Through all of the growing pains of any family, Mr. Gallant and Mr. McArthur led the boys to the Championships as Crusaders. We were able to enter two teams into the Yukon Championships and had both of them make it to the playoffs! One of the teams lost a close battle in a semi-final, while the other made it to the final and later won the Championship. Jowe Pagabo and Lorem Lumanog were named to the All-Star team, while Dave Mindanao was named MVP.



Extracurricular Activities

Mondays & Wednesdays

3:30 - 5:00

Tuesdays & Thursdays

3:30 - 5:00

Starting TBA

Open Basketball

Open Volleyball

The Vanier fitness room will also be open Monday & Wednesday

3:30 – 5:00 for all!

Athletic Banquet

Right now we are looking at having our annual Athletic Banquet on June 8th. The banquet is free for those athletes that have paid their athletic fees for their sport. More information will be given at a later date.

If you have any questions, concerns, or if you want to help out, you can go to our Vanier Athletic web site <http://www.yesnet.yk.ca/schools/vanier/athletics/>, or contact Mr. Stoker at 667-5901.

