



Vanier Catholic Secondary

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Ryan Sikkes, principal Kyle Janzen, vice-principal

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Principal's Message

This newsletter should reach you just as we are entering the first few days of the Lenten season. Traditionally, this season encourages us all to pray, fast and give alms as we reflect on our baptism.

At Vanier, we pray often – every day, in fact, starts with prayer in our first class. This is a great time for students to take a few minutes to centre themselves, connect with God and to hear the prayers and petitions of classmates. Prayer can take all sorts of different forms and we encourage all students to take as many opportunities to pray.

Fasting is one of the most ancient rituals that is linked to Lent. It is often said that it is an aid to prayer as the “pangs of hunger for food remind us of our hunger for God”. More practically, fasting also reminds us of those who fast not by choice, but due to necessity. Many in the world are forced to fast due to poverty, lack of resources or other economic or political situations. Our fasting helps us live in solidarity with those in our own community and around the world who have less.

Almsgiving is the practice of doing works of charity and justice. It is how we show that we care for those in need and express our thanks for all the gifts that are given to us by God. Charity and the promotion of justice are essential elements of the Christian life that we entered through our baptism.

I would like to take an opportunity to share some gratitude to the many staff who contribute to making our students lives better both inside about outside the classrooms:

The Social Inclusion Committee worked with the First Nations' Partnerships and Programs Unit of Yukon Education to organize a fantastic Yukon First Nations' Culture Week. The theme of the week was “Celebrating our Stories; Connecting our Future” and featured over 50 workshops for classes, a school feast and many opportunities to observe and appreciate Yukon First Nations' culture and traditions.

It was a great success – one indicator of the level of engagement was that some of our Gr. 12 students on spare were asking to participate in some of the workshops rather

than taking their spares! More gratifying, however, was hearing stories of students who had not shared their First Nations' heritage feeling an increased sense of pride throughout the week.

This week also marks the end of basketball season and I'd like to thank all our staff and community members who have coached our teams. I'd also like to thank the many parents who have been so supportive during our athletic seasons.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate Mr. Connell and Ms. Sullivan on the birth of their newest addition: Clare Anna-Grace Sullivan Connell who was born on February 8th and was baptized by Pere Claude Gosselin on February 23rd. This was Pere Claude's last mass in Whitehorse before he heads back to Quebec – we have been so fortunate to have Claude in our school over the last 12 years and we will miss his presence greatly.

I wish you all the best during this Lenten Season and a refreshing and relaxing spring break.

Sincerely,

Ryan Sikkes

Almighty and Everlasting God,
You have given the human race Jesus Christ our Savior
as a model of humility.

He fulfilled Your Will by
becoming Man and
giving His life on the
Cross.

Help us to bear witness
to You by following His
example of suffering

and make us worthy to share in His resurrection.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son.

Amen.



Dates to note for Term III (January-April)



Thursday, March 6 - Interims and Newsletter Mailed
Thursday, March 13—Parent teacher interviews
Friday, March 14—Last Day of School Before Spring Break
Monday, March 31—Return to School from Spring Break
Friday, April 11—Last Day of Semester II / Term III
Monday, April 14—First Day of Semester II / Term IV
Thursday, April 17—Stations of the Cross
Friday, April 18—Good Friday (no school)
Monday, April 21—Easter Monday (no school)
Thursday, April 24, Report Cards and Newsletter Mailed
Friday, May 2 - PD Day (no school)
Friday, May 30th—Grad Mass
Saturday, May 31—Cap and Gown, Reception/Prom
Monday, June 9—Athletic Banquet
Friday, June 13—Locker Cleanout, Final Celebrations
Monday, June 16-23—Exams, 23rd Last Day of School



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*

The City of Whitehorse is seeking Whitehorse Youth Ambassadors to participate in the out-bound Sister City Exchange Program with Ushiku, Japan, July 11- 21, 2014.

In **2014**, 10 to 13 Youth Ambassadors (ages 13-17) plus Chaperones will be chosen to represent the City of Whitehorse in a **10 day exchange** with Ushiku, Japan. While visiting the country, the enthusiastic, dedicated, and positive Youth Ambassadors partake in a **once-in-a lifetime** journey. The City of Ushiku provides an active itinerary for Youth Ambassadors to **experience Japanese culture and create incredible memories and lifelong friendships**. Their experience includes living with a Japanese family, a visit to a local high school and a variety of traditional and modern Japanese cultural activities.

2014 PROGRAM - HOW TO APPLY

Complete an application form ([online](#).) and submit it by **April 4, 2014** at 4:30pm.

More information @ www.whitehorse.ca/Ushiku

VANIER SOCIAL JUSTICE CLUB NEWS

Did you know that...

...Canada produces more garbage per capita than any other country on earth. Each citizen produces on average **777 kilograms** of garbage while across all 17 countries studied, the average was only **578 kilograms**. Even more alarming is that Yukon tops the national list with **880 kilograms** of garbage per capita.

Armed with these appalling statistics, four members of the Social Justice Club: Emily Knickle, Clara Reid Montong Javannatum and Rene Grewal, along with teachers Ms. Hamel and Ms. Clarke donned garbage outfits to educate shoppers at the **Raven Recycling's** Giant Indoor Garage Sale held on Saturday, February 15, 2014. We caught people's eye with our fashion sense and then encouraged them to reflect on their shopping habits with our **Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** words of advice to cut down on consumption.

Don't forget when recycling at Raven...donate your recyclables to the **Vanier SJ Club** account.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission

During last week's First Nation Culture Week, the SJ Club had the good fortune of having storyteller Sharon Shorty attend our Tuesday lunch meeting. In late March, Ms. Shorty is travelling to Edmonton to attend the 7th and final National event of the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*. A tradition on the last day of the Commission is to celebrate the birthday of all Residential School survivors whose special day was forgotten when they were at these schools. Survivors receive a cupcake and birthday card. Ms. Shorty asked if our SJ group would consider preparing some of the cards for this birthday celebration. We eagerly accepted this request and will be sending our SJ art cards with the message "Happy Birthday Survivor!" Thank you Sharon for helping to get us involved with this important celebration.

We are Love

This Valentines Day the SJ Club sold We Are Love candy

grams. Lucky recipients received a small bag of candy and special button and card from **Free the Children**. There were eight different button designs that support, inspire and celebrate the power of love to break the cycle of poverty. We raised \$208.00 that will be sent to Free the Children to support their sustainable development projects.



Love is...

LEARNING for the 57 million children who are still out of school.

PURE for the 783 million people who lack access to improved sources of drinking water.

A CURE for the 40 million children who don't have access to even the most basic health care.

FREEDOM for the 2.4 billion people living on

less than \$2 a day.

GROWING for the 870 million people in the world who don't have enough to eat.

Sandwich Making

Once per month, the SJ Club makes 50 sandwiches for the Outreach Van to distribute during their nightly rounds of the city. Our next sandwich making session will take place on Tuesday, April 15, 2014. We happily accept cash donations to help us purchase the supplies for these sandwiches.

Don't forget...

March 8 - International Women's Day - check out the **Girl Effect** (<http://www.girleffect.org>) and learn more about how girls can play a crucial role in solving the most persistent development problems we face in the world today.

March 21 - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

April 22 - Earth Day...think of ways that you can help protect it!

"There are no passengers on Spaceship Earth. We are all crew." *Marshall McLuhan, 1964*

Library News

There are perhaps no days of our childhood we lived so fully as those we spent with a favorite book. –Marcel Proust

Looking for a new favourite book? You do not need to look any further than our school library to start on your fantastic, thrilling, challenging, satisfying adventure!

Yukon Young Authors Conference – April 24 and 25th, 2014

If there is a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, you must be the one to write it.

–Toni Morrison

Each year, the Young Authors Conference takes place at FH Collins School and is open to



all students in grades 8 – 12. If you enjoy writing stories, poetry, or plays, this is the perfect opportunity for you to learn more about your craft. Four published authors (names have not yet been confirmed) will be there to share their writing and give you feedback on yours.

Please see Ms. Clarke before March 14 if you are interested in attending the conference. All participants need to submit a manuscript **prior to April 2, 2014** in order to attend the

conference. Manuscripts must be seven pages or less; poetry submissions should be a minimum of 25 lines and may consist of more than one poem.

Editing help is available in the library. Please see Ms. Clarke or Mr. McCarron if you have any questions. The conference is FREE and lunch on both days is included.



From VCS Student Council...

Our Grades 8/9 “Ball-entine” Dance was a rousing success. We’d like to extend our appreciation to all of the VCS staff who helped chaperone. Many non-perishables were collected and a monetary donation of \$300 was raised for the Whitehorse Food Bank. Special thanks to our awesome DJs Sadie and Montong, and also to the local businesses that donated prizes: Mac’s Fireweed, Baked Café, Midnight Sun, Starbucks, and McDonald’s.

Thanks to all students and staff who sent Valentine Candy Grams—we helped the Social Justice Club sell all of their awareness pins and fundraised for the Free the Children Organization.

Thanks also to everyone who purchased a Matchomatics Matchmaker form. All funds raised help support student activities.

Finally, we’d like to offer more applause for our amazing staff for helping to facilitate our annual Vandezvous afternoon. Everybody had a fun time!