



# Vanier Catholic Secondary

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www.vcss.ca

Ryan Sikkes, Principal Jeanette Gallant, Vice-Principal

## September 2016

### Principal's Message

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

We have some new and returning staff this year whom I'm pleased to welcome (or welcome back) to the school:

- JD Caudle has returned from his parental leave and will be teaching Scimatics 8 & 9, Religion 12 and Physics 11 & 12.
- Marcia LaLonde has returned from her Educational Leave and will be teaching Humanities 8 & 9 and English 10.
- Shannon Donald has returned to teach French during Mme. Hamel's temporary absence this year.
- Natalie Ng is joining us for the first semester to teach Biology 11 & 12 during Mr. Gallant's temporary absence.
- David Schroeder has joined us for this year to teach Scimatics 8 & 9 and mathematics during Ms. Ferris' temporary absence.
- Meagann Meadowcroft is joining us for the first semester as an intern teacher from the YNTEP program and will be working alongside Ms. Giczi.
- Joe Stewart, Adrian Robinson, Rosemarie Veldt are joining us as educational assistants.
- Our custodians were transferred to become Education staff this summer and, while we've always considered them an integral part of our school family, it's nice to have it official!

We are excited about the new initiatives that are being put into place this year. First, the school supply funding has resulted in all students having their essential school supplies provided to

them. We are committed to providing high quality school supplies to each student—"students will have what they need" is our motto. This can be read two different ways—students who require extra or specialized school supplies need only ask for them. On the other hand, we have asked students to consider carefully what they, in fact, need and consider returning what they don't feel they'll use (they can always get them back later if

they need it) and be judicious when taking additional supplies. We want to ensure that every student/family knows extra supplies are available in a variety of locations—classrooms, Learning Commons, Skills Room, and the front office.

Secondly, we have implemented a homeroom block instead of the X blocks this year (and have also changed the timing of PLC/Homeroom to Wednesday afternoons). Homerooms are composed of 13-16 students representing all grades who will work on common activities and lessons throughout the year. Examples of topics include: Brain development and Growth Mindset, Organizational Skills, Money Management, and Suicide/Depression/Psychosis Awareness. 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



Saint Teresa of Calcutta, you allowed the thirsting love of Jesus on the Cross to become a living flame within you, and so became the light of His love to all. Obtain from the Heart of Jesus intersessions for our needs. Teach us to allow Jesus to penetrate and possess our whole being so completely that our lives, too, may radiate His light and love to others. Amen.

## Dates to note— September-December

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



Thursday, September 15 – Duke of Edinburgh’s award presentation  
Friday, September 16—Terry Fox Run / Crusaders Day  
Thursday, September 22 – School photos  
Thursday, September 29 and Friday, September 30—YTA Conference—No school  
Wednesday, October 5 — Food Drive  
Wednesday, October 5—Interim Reports Due  
Friday, October 7—Thanksgiving Celebration  
Monday, October 10—Thanksgiving Day—No school  
Monday, October 31 to Friday, November 4—Review Week  
Friday, November 4—Last day of Term 1  
Monday, November 7—First day of Term 2  
Friday, November 11—Remembrance Day—No School  
Thursday, November 24—Student Led Conferences (Evening)  
Friday, November 25— Student Led Conferences—No School  
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—Stat Holiday—No School  
Tuesday, 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 first regular council meeting of the year (where the chair of the council will be designated) will be on Tuesday, September 20 at 7 pm in the Learning Commons (Library). The Annual General Meeting for the three school councils and the Catholic Education Association of Yukon (CEAY) will be on Thursday, September 22 at 7 pm in the Vanier Learning Commons.

Updated contact information for all council members will be uploaded to the [vcss.ca](http://vcss.ca) website before the end of September.

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

**[WWW.VCSS.CA](http://WWW.VCSS.CA)**

## School Photo Day is Thursday, September 22!

A few notes from our photographer, Wilson Studios:

1. Several different individual packages are offered @ \$36.50.
2. The Studio will take individual photos of all students (whether purchasing or not) for the Student Information System.
3. Delivery time is approximately 4 weeks.
4. School portraits are also available in our studio by appointment.
5. 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.
6. GST is included in all prices



*Wilson Studios* 867-667-6086 or Email:wilsonstudios@northwestel.net

## Don't pack a lunch on Friday, September 16!!

Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at Vanier is **Crusader Day** in which we celebrate Crusaders who have made a difference in our world. The entire school will run the Terry Fox Run during the block before lunch. At lunch time, we will celebrate the Beaulieu Family, crusaders in our own community. The Social Justice Club will sell pizza to raise money for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, a life-threatening childhood disorder. Students will be able to purchase one slice for \$3 or 2 for \$5. At this time, we will show the new documentary film, "Changing Lives with Every Breath" featuring the very inspiring story of the Beaulieus whose youngest son Finn is currently a student at Vanier and whose older boys Dawson and Ross are both Vanier graduates.

## 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.

# 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. 27 (the Foods lab)**. 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!



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Come and see Mr. Susin (rm. 27) or Ms. Clarke (Learning Commons) for more details.

### Upcoming Events:

**Wednesday, September 14 – AIDS FUNDRAISER – come dance to the rhythms from around the world!** This event is a fundraiser for **Blood Ties Four Directions** to help people affected with AIDS. Instead of walking, we will be dancing in the street! The students who participated last year had a fantastic time! Transportation is provided for all students wishing to participate.

### Friday, September 16 – PIZZA Fundraiser for

**DMD.** The Vanier cafeteria doesn't open until September 19<sup>th</sup> so the SJ Club wants to bring lunch to you!! We will be selling pizza to raise money for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, a life-threatening childhood disorder - \$3 per slice or 2 for \$5. During lunch, we will show the new documentary short, "Changing Lives with Every Breath" featuring the very inspiring story of the Beaulieu Family whose son Finn is a student at Vanier.

**See you next Tuesday...**

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

## Office of Religious Ed

Tuesday, Sept 20, grade 11 retreat (just those students enrolled in Religion 11 this term)

Wednesday, Sept 21, grade 10 retreat (just those students enrolled in Religion 10 this term)

Wednesday, October 5th, Whitehorse Schools Annual Food drive :) Keep your eyes and ears open for volunteering opportunities!

Friday, October 7th, Thanksgiving Liturgy

\* A reminder to families that students have received their service learning booklets to complete throughout the year; please encourage meaningful community outreach! If you need ideas for places or people to serve in Whitehorse, see Ms. Trainor or Mr. Gillard OR visit [vcssreligion.com](http://vcssreligion.com)

\* There may be a grade 8 retreat scheduled for this fall-- dates and details will be announced later this month.