

# Vanier Catholic Secondary

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www.vcss.ca

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

**August 2018**

## ***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 is continuing with her appointment as an additional vice-principal for this school year in addition to her position as counsellor.
- We have three new teachers this year: Ms. Paula Stoker (Home Economics), Ms. Monica Sharma (Social Studies, Civics, and Law); and Mr. Tanner Cassidy (Mathematics, Science, and French).
- Naomi Mitcham and Deborah Vonk have joined Vanier as Educational Assistants.
- Veronica Huggard, one of our alumna (Class of 2011), will be joining us this fall as a student teacher
- Fr. Slawomir Szwagrzyk remains our school chaplain this year. Fr. "Swavek" is the rector of the Cathedral.
- Alex Sullivan has returned from her parental leave to her position as office administrator.

The start of this year marks the "beginning of the end" for our Class of 2019, a lovely group of students whom we have much faith an optimism in their abilities to contribute positively to our community after secondary school. It is also the beginning of the secondary school journey for our Class of 2023, another lovely group of students whom we are looking forward to getting to know.

Our Grade 8 through 10 students are all in classes using the revised British Columbia curricula—an exciting development that will make their learning experiences more meaningful and relevant. Teachers of these classes will be selected content and developing particular skills in order to help improve what have been determined to be the "Core Competencies" that should be highly developed in all students upon their graduation:

Communication, Creative Thinking, Critical Thinking, Positive

Personal and Cultural Identity, Personal Awareness and Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. We will work to make the connections between what is being taught in class and these competencies abundantly clear this year!

We have some exciting new technology developments in the school this year. We had all new hardware delivered to the school this month—over 250 iPads and laptop computers! In addition students all have logins to a "portal" where they will have access (at school and home) to software and file storage.

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

*God of wisdom and might,  
we praise you for the wonder of our  
being, for mind, body and spirit.*

*Be with us all as we begin  
a new school year.*

*Bless the teachers and staff.*

*Give our students strength and grace as  
their bodies grow;  
wisdom and knowledge to their minds as  
they search for understanding;  
and peace and zeal to their hearts.*

*We ask this through  
Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

## Dates to note— September — January

The official 2018-2019 School Calendar can be accessed online at the Yukon Education website.



- Wednesday, August 29 - Family BBQ and Honour Roll Presentation - 5:30 pm
- Thursday, August 30 - Curriculum Inservice - NO SCHOOL
- Friday, August 31 - Yukon Catholic Schools Staff Retreat - NO SCHOOL
- Monday, September 3 - Labour Day Holiday - NO SCHOOL
- Friday, September 7 - Curriculum Inservice - NO SCHOOL
- September 24-26—First Informal Report period
- Thursday & Friday, September 27 & 28 - YTA Conference - NO SCHOOL
- Wednesday, October 3—Schools Food Drive
- Monday, October 8—Thanksgiving Holiday—NO SCHOOL
- Tuesday, October 23—Student Led Conferences
- Monday, November 12—Remembrance Day Stat—NO SCHOOL
- December 3-14—*Share the Spirit*
- Thursday, December 6—Administration Pancake Breakfast
- December 10-14—Second Informal Report Period
- Wednesday, December 19—Alumni Day and Talent Show
- December 21—January 4 - Christmas Break—NO SCHOOL
- Monday, January 7—First Day Back from Christmas
- January 7-11—Review Week
- January 14-17—Final Exam/Assessment Period—NO CLASSES
- Friday, January 18— Professional Development—NO SCHOOL
- Monday, January 21—Start of Semester 2

### ***School Council Corner***

Congratulations to the following who were elected to the Vanier Catholic Secondary School Council in May (and whose term commenced on Tuesday, August 21):

- Philip Gibson
- Truska Gorrell
- Shehnaz Ali
- Wanda Robbins
- Cynthia Lyslo

We wish to thank our outgoing members for their service and dedication to our school community:

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

The incoming school council have not decided on a schedule for their regular meetings for this academic year. Once they do, their contact information and a meeting schedule will be posted on the school's website. Meeting agendas and minutes are all available at [www.vcss.ca](http://www.vcss.ca) under the School Council tabs.

***The Yukon Catholic School Councils  
and Catholic Education Association  
of Yukon***

***Annual General Meeting***

***will be Thursday, September 20 at***

***7:00 pm at Vanier.***

***All are welcome.***

## School Photo Day is Wednesday, Sept. 26!

A few notes from our photographer, Wilson Studios:

1. Several different individual packages are offered @ \$37.50.
2. 8" x 12" Grade group photos will be taken at a later date but are purchased as part of this process—\$15.00 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

The Vanier Learning Commons is a hub of activity and resources for all students! The Commons is open from **8:00 am to 4:30 pm** every day. You can read books from our amazing collection, get help to complete your assignments, do research using our print or digital resources, use the green screen room, record a podcast, borrow our coding supplies, play a board game or just hang out with friends. Teacher-librarian Ms. Clarke is always available to help you...just ask!

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

1. Eat a good breakfast
2. Floss daily

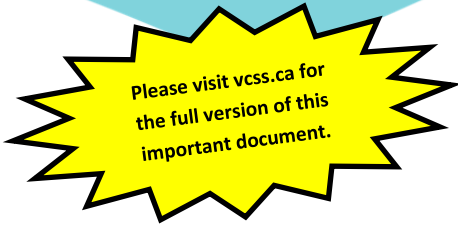
### 3. RETURN YOUR OVERDUE TEXTBOOKS AND LIBRARY BOOKS

These textbooks are needed for courses being taught this year. Don't deny other students the chance to learn all of the fantastic things that you did. Remember: overdue books will remain on your record until the book is brought back or payment is made. Start this year off with a clean slate!



### MAKE YOUR MARK - enter our bookmark contest!

The Vanier Learning Commons is holding a contest to choose a new school bookmark. You have until Wednesday, **September 12th** to doodle, draw or paint your way to fame. The winner will be announced on Friday, **September 14th** and will receive a gift certificate from Mac's Books. October is Canadian Library Month so **BOOK** it down to the Learning Commons and pick up an entry form today!

Please visit [vcss.ca](http://vcss.ca) for the full version of this important document.



Vanier Catholic Secondary

## How we report to parents/guardians will change next year.

This year, Vanier Catholic Secondary will be changing how we communicate students' learning to parents. Instead of four term report cards, students will only receive a formal written report at the end of each course. Throughout a course, parents can expect to receive more frequent informal reports about student progress – usually by email. It is essential that all parents/guardians have a working email account on file at the school.

### Reporting to Parents/Guardians – Schedule for 2018-2019

Type of report	Year-long courses	Semester 1 courses	Semester 2 courses
Informal (email/phone call)	September 24-26	September 24-26	
Student Led Conference	Tuesday, October 23	Tuesday, October 23	
Informal (email/phone call)	December 10-14	December 10-14	
Formal Written Report	Monday, January 28*	Monday, January 28	
Informal (email/phone call)	February 18-21		February 18-21
Student Led Conference	Wednesday, April 3		Wednesday, April 3
Informal (email/phone call)	May 13-17		May 13-17
Formal Written Report	Thursday, June 20		Thursday, June 20

### Some notes about attendance...

- Attendance for all grades is taken in every class of each school day. Parents/guardians may, at any time, request a detailed report of their child's attendance.
- Students who arrive more than 10 minutes late to class are marked as 'absent' as, typically, most instruction is done in the first portion of the class period.
- Parents/guardians must contact the school to excuse absences or lates within 24 hours. Advance notice, when possible, is appreciated. We have voice mail so messages can be left at any time (667-5901) or email the details to [vcss@gov.yk.ca](mailto:vcss@gov.yk.ca).
- Students who are arriving to school late, or leaving school early, are required to check in at the office.
- Morning phone calls are made to parents/guardians if students are marked as unexcused absent in their first block class.
- An automated system calls households at 4 pm each day to report any periods where a student was marked as unexcused absent.
- Parents can opt into have these messages sent as SMS (Text) messages to your cell phone rather than voicemails. Consult the information sheet on the school's website for more details.

# Activities and Events

## Vanier Tutoring Program

Starts September 4, 2017 to June 7, 2018

**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*.

## Tutor Training

Four sessions take place:

Mondays Sept. 10, Sept. 17, Sept. 24 & Oct. 1 during lunch **starting at 12:15**

This training is free of charge.

**Social Justice Club** meets **Tuesdays** at 12:15 pm in Room 14 (Ms. Hamel's room).

All grades are welcome.

Bring your lunch, bring a friend, and bring great ideas!

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



***If you put a million monkeys at a million keyboards, one of them will eventually write a Java program!***



**Spheros**  
**Ozybots**  
**3D Printing**  
**Swift Playgrounds**  
**Coding!**



**Art Club – Wednesdays @ Lunch – Bring food and create! Room 13!**

**Workout Room – Open after school from 3:30pm–4:30pm, Tuesdays & Thursdays**



**We need you @ Coding Club!!**

Thursdays @ lunch in room 17 (Mr. Craigen's Room)

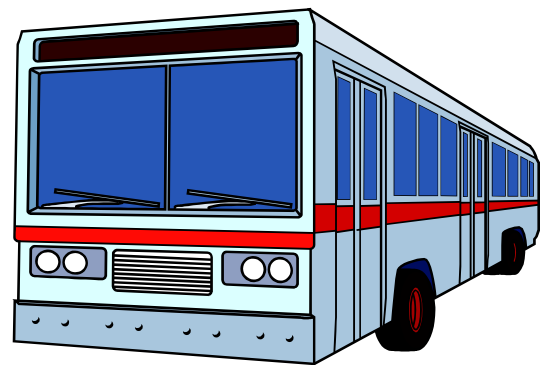
**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

***Our bell schedule is changing slightly this year (times only):***

Warning 8:35	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:40 – 9:51 (71 min)	1	1	2	1	2
9:51 – 10:01 (10)					
10:01 – 11:04 (63 min)	3	2	3	4	3
11:04 – 11:09 (5)					
11:09 – 12:12 (63 min)	7	4	X 5	6	4
12:12 – 1:02 (50) Warning 12:57	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:02 – 2:05 (63 min)	5	6	7	8	5
2:05 – 2:10 (5)					
2:10 – 3:13 (63 min)	6	8	5 PLC	7	8



***Visit [Yukon.ca](http://Yukon.ca) to learn about school transportation options and to register for a school bus route for next year.***



*Students will continue to have the option of obtaining a City of Whitehorse bus pass which can be used to go to/from school and also used at other times!*

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

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

## BOOSTER CARDS

Vanier Catholic Secondary only requires all students to participate in one fundraiser for the school each year—Booster Cards. These cards provide purchasers with discounts at a number of businesses in town and are a great deal!

Funds collected through the sale of the cards help:

- Subsidize fees, costs, and supplies for students who's families are unable to pay
- Provide all students with additional activities such as the free pizza lunch on the last day of school before Christmas
- Provide additional comforts for students within the school (benches, picnic tables, bike racks, couches, etc.)

***We are in the process of updating the cards for this year—any Vanier families who have business connections that would be interested in being listed on the card—give the front office a call!***

## SCHOOL FEE INFORMATION

**Student Fees:** The School Fee is used to cover the cost of student agendas, special assemblies, guest performance fees, special school activities, projects and project materials.

### *Student Fees*

Individual \$25.00

Family \$50.00 (The family rate for student fees applies when there are more than two children from the same family attending Vanier Catholic Secondary School.)

### **Religious Education Fees:**

Every family registering in our school community contributes to the cost of Religious Education materials, resources, activities, and professional development.

### *Religious Education Fees*

Individual \$25.00

Family \$45.00 (The family rate for religious education fees applies when there are two or more children from the same family attending any of the Catholic schools of Whitehorse.) All students attending Yukon's Catholic schools must pay these fees.

**Athletic Fees:** Various sports teams require a fee to pay for uniforms, tournament fees, sport governing body fees, referee payments, local busing, and school athletic banquet. Travel costs to certain tournaments outside of Whitehorse will be additional. Coaches will send home documentation for all fees and travel costs.

***If paying any or all of these fees presents an undue hardship on your family, please contact the school's administration.***

### **Fees can be paid by:**

- Cash (please bring in person and wait for a receipt to be issued)
- Cheque (please make sure the cheque is payable to the proper entity – see below)
- Email money transfer to [vcss@gov.yk.ca](mailto:vcss@gov.yk.ca)
- Using our online payment system for credit cards (linked from school website; requires parents/guardians to pay an additional processing fee)



Each Vanier student has a login to our student portal which provides access to file storage and software (Microsoft Office Suite) at home! Login to the portal at:

**<https://portal.yesnet.yk.ca>**

# 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!**



Submit school paperwork and fees by September 22 and be eligible to win a \$250 Visa giftcard!!

Vanier is on Instagram!



Follow us at **vcssyukon**