



Alzheimer Society Walk for Memories 2013

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Intercom is published regularly and serves to inform Vanier staff and teachers of notices and special events. It is posted on the [Vanier College Website](http://www.vaniercollege.gc.ca) and distributed electronically. Submissions should be sent to intercom@vaniercollege.gc.ca. Submissions should be in **WORD**, and sent as an **attachment**. No formatting or bullets. **Deadline: 4:00 p.m. on the Wednesday preceding publication.**

Special Care Counselling staff and students attend Alzheimer Society Walk for Memories

On Sunday May 25, 2013, more than 30 current SCC students and faculty along with countless alumni from the Special Care Counselling department braved the rain and cold in the Old Port of Montreal to volunteer, raise money or both for the Alzheimer Society Walk for Memories.

Our students could be seen along the walk route directing walkers, handing out lunches, T-shirts, balloons, giving out memory cards and giving a helping hand in any way needed to support the organization.

One of our current students, Sabrina Sicondolfo even led the entire group of 1000+ walkers in the warm up exercise.

How proud we were to see our students involved to such a capacity! Many students also proudly carried the Vanier banner and showed off their VCSA t-shirts. Despite the weather, the SCC spirit shone brightly and there was no doubt the positive effect our students contributed to this community event.

Dayna Morrow, Special Care Counselling

Voices - 13th Annual Social Science Festival at Vanier College – October 21 – 25

As social scientists and others who are interested in humans and their world, we sometimes tend to listen to each other talk about “others”. This year’s Social Science Festival line-up will focus on listening to the voices of those “others” – marginal voices, voices from the past, voices from around the world. We will ask questions about authority: Who gets to speak for who? Who deserves to be taken seriously? What can we learn from each other by listening to each other’s truths? How can the voices of

the people contribute to creating a more open and just society where all individuals have access to well-being and human dignity?

In line with this theme, many of our speakers will be individuals who are researchers or activists on behalf of communities of which they are apart or with which they are closely affiliated. Some confirmed speakers from outside the Vanier community include:

Dr. Cindy Blackstock, member of the Gitksan First Nation and Executive Director of First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada;

Michelle Dawson, an autism researcher based in Montreal who is autistic;

Robyn Maynard, a sex worker and researcher on the impact of criminalization on the lives of sex workers;

David Shantz, a chaplain who has worked in the field of restorative justice;

Peter Nikolantonakis, a former Vanier student who lost his eyesight;

Janik Bastien, an intersex advocate from Montreal.

As is our tradition, we also have many speakers from within the Vanier community who will address a host of relevant issues: Maria Chiras on inclusive education, Miles DeNora on the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Sevak Manjikian on Islamic Art, Martha Bernstein on youth movements during WWII, Joseph O’Shea on HIV, and Nirmala Bains on structural racism.

More speakers will be confirmed over the next few weeks! Other activities will include student poster presentations and a student essay competition.

All members of the Vanier community and the general public are welcome to all of our events.

For more information, contact Jacky Vallée:
valleej@vaniercollege.qc.ca

Jacky Vallée, Anthropology

VCSA Events during the Autumn semester

Throughout the semester VCSA (Vanier College Student Association) creates and holds many events that the entire student body is more than welcome to attend. Many of these events include receiving prizes and promotional items as well as creating memories for a lifetime. They are geared to encourage students to get involved with the college and make your time here more enjoyable. Below are a few of our main events we will be holding in the Fall Semester 2013.

September 4- Welcome BBQ (outside between D and N block)
Inflatables, a free BBQ, Cotton Candy, Crushed ice, Music and more!

September 18- Clubs day (inside Jakes mall)
Every club within the school, on this day, will have a booth in which students are free to wander around, sign up, or even just meet some new faces. It is a time to get involved.

September 20- So You Think You Can Vanier
From 4-6:30pm will be the first round of the dance competition. For those who want to sign up, visit us at the VCSA office (c-214) or more information by September 6th at the latest.

September 25- Comedian
Andrew Searles is very well known in the comedy scene of Montreal. Accompanied by another act, Andrew will be performing for you up in the N5 lounge during UB. Pass by, release your stress and have a laugh with the rest of us.

October 4- So You Think You Can Vanier
4-6:30pm ROUND 2

October 16- Hypnotist
Tony Lee has been to Vanier College every year over the past few years and his shows fill the auditorium every year. Join us in the auditorium at UB to see a show that will be remembered for the rest of your life, guaranteed!

October 18- So You Think You Can Vanier
4-6:30pm FINAL ROUND

October 21-25- Theme Week
Each day of the week will be a different theme (These will be posted closer to the time). The best dressed according to this theme will receive a prize.

All of our events (including what has been listed above) will be posted on our Facebook page (VCSA). Keep your eyes open for any updates.

Enjoy your semester!!

Shannon Wilson, VCSA

Teaching Tip: Setting the Tone from Day One

Setting the tone in the very first class of the semester is extremely important and will show students what to expect in subsequent classes. While the full rhythm of the course will be set in subsequent classes, use the first class to establish your ground rules, your group dynamic, and your expectations.



Image courtesy of
Rawich/Freedigitalphotos.net

1. **Diagnostics: Get a feel for the group before you start**

Use the first class, by using [ice breakers](#) and activities, to glean information about your students. Some teachers have students write a paragraph (to get writing samples from each student), do pair or group work, or complete a short quiz.

2. **Use your Course Outline**

Sometime during the first class, often after an Ice Breaking Activity, review your Course Outline. Go through the outline slowly, by sections, and use each section to explain a little more about the course and your expectations. Ask for questions as you go along.

3. **"Hell, there are no rules here - we're trying to accomplish something." ~ Thomas Edison**

Some teachers have very clear classroom rules, and include them on the Course Outline. Other teachers ask their students to collectively help write a specific set of class rules. Either way, make certain that students know the class rules for your course.

4. **Pique their curiosity**

Do an activity related to your topic that will awaken their curiosity and/or break the ice in the group (students who feel they know each other a bit are more likely to participate in later classes).

5. **Remember that your students are nervous, too**

Especially for our first-year students, Day One can be pretty intimidating. Here they are on a huge, unfamiliar campus, trying to find N-221 (what do you mean, there's another building?), and just hoping that you aren't going to call on them on the very first day of class. Use this first class to develop a comfortable atmosphere.

6. **Start Teaching!**

If your course will be lecture-based, do a little lecturing. If you'll be doing lots of in-class exercises throughout the semester, do one the first day. Make the material interesting and non-intimidating, and if you're going to be including it in a future test or assessment, go over it again in a later class (because they may not remember much from this one!). Give students a sample of what to expect.

7. Make the most of Day One

Be prepared to teach for the entire period – yes, they will be a little overwhelmed the first day, and so will you. If you want the students to take the class time seriously throughout the semester, however, you have to set the example. Go easy on them, and on yourself – do “light” stuff, and be prepared to review that material later in the semester.

This Teaching Tip was originally posted on August 22, 2011.

See this and other Teaching Tips on [the PDO web page](#)

Jen Mitchell, Pedagogical Development Office

Spring trip to Italy



On the behalf of all 7 students and myself, I'd like to thank Judy MacDonald, Sonia Husseinjidian and Jennifer Joseph as well as Faculty Dean Odette Côté, for making the trip to Italy possible this past May and June. The students had a tremendous trip and without the expertise and assistance from the International Education Office, it would not have been possible.

Thank you.

Giovanna Picciano, Modern Languages-Italian.

Mathematics and Science Centre

The Mathematics & Science Centre (MSC) offers a variety of resources, tutoring programs and activities to promote student success and engagement in Mathematics and Science. It is a large study space located on the top floor of the library (F-540), where students have easy access to tutoring help, computer stations, reference textbooks and information on math and science activities.

Tutoring Services

Free drop-in peer tutoring (starts September 3rd)
Monday-Thursday, 10am – 4pm and Friday, 10am-3pm. *Extended hours start on September 16th*

Private tutoring

One-on-one tutoring help at a cost of \$2 an hour

Teacher hours (starts September 16th)

If you would like to volunteer up to 1.5 hours per week in the Math and Science Centre to assist students, please send a message to msc@vaniercollege.qc.ca

Math tutoring services and workshops are also offered for students across the college studying in: Nursing, Commerce, Social Science and Exploration programs; as well as Athletes. For more information, please send a message to msc@vaniercollege.qc.ca

Review sessions for Math, Physics, Chemistry and Biology will take place almost every universal break.

Tentative Events & Activities in Fall 2013

SEPTEMBER:

Study Skills Workshop on Time Management, D-508 on Wednesday, September 4th during UB

Volunteer Fair: MSC Kiosk, Student Mall on Wednesday, September 11th during UB

Robotics Club: Icebreaker meeting, D-508 on Wednesday, September 11th during UB

Science Lecture: Model Based Software Design, B-429 on Friday, September 13th from 1 to 2:30pm

Robotics Club: Team Kickoff meeting, D-508 on Wednesday, September 18th during UB

Science Lecture: Aspects of String Theory, B-429 on Friday, September 20th from 1 to 2:30pm

Pre-Med Information Session, D-508 on Friday, September 20th from 3 to 5pm

Chess Competition, MSC on Wednesday, September 25th during UB

OCTOBER:

Science Lecture: Numerical Weather Prediction, B-429 on Friday, October 4th from 1 to 2:30pm

Study Skills Workshop on Time Management, D-508 on Wednesday, October 16th during UB

Engineering Panel, Room TBD on Wednesday, October 16th during UB

Canadian Open Mathematics Competition: Practice, D-506 on Wednesday, October 30th during UB

Halloween Scavenger Hunt, MSC on Wednesday, October 30th during UB

Halloween Costume Contest, MSC on Thursday, October 31st

NOVEMBER:

McGill Visit: Chemistry Labs, McGill University on Friday, November 1st

Canadian Open Mathematics Competition, Room TBD on Wednesday, November 6th from 9 to 11:30am

Bridge Building Competition, Marketplace on Wednesday, November 6th during UB

Science Lecture: Codes, Spheres and Lattices, B-429 on Friday, November 8th from 1 to 2:30pm

Architecture Information Session, D-508 on Wednesday, November 13th during UB

Canadian Senior Mathematics Challenge: Practice, D-506 on Wednesday, November 13th during UB

Science Jeopardy, MSC on Wednesday, November 6th during UB

Canadian Senior Mathematics Challenge, Room TBD on Thursday, November 21st from 9 to 11am

Students who participate in our events are eligible for S.T.A.R. hours.

More information can be found on our website www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/msc or in the MSC office (F540-A). Please pass on the information to your students.

Haritos Kavallos, The Math and Science Centre

Scholarship Information

There are numerous scholarships available throughout the academic year. For more information on which scholarships students may be eligible for or for help putting their applications together, they can see Joshua in B-205F.

Please let interested students know about the upcoming [Point St. Charles Scholarship](#) for students in financial need who currently live or have recently lived in Point St. Charles.

Congratulations are in order for recent Vanier graduates **Matthew Barr** (Nursing) and **Lu Yao** (Music) who are both finalists for a *Forces Avenir* Award. They have both already won \$1000 each and could win more at the *Forces Avenir* Gala in Quebec City on Wednesday, September 4th.

Check out the scholarship website: <http://www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/scholarships/>

Joshua Berman, The Learning Centre

Welcome back to a new green semester!

Vanier has now moved to the "Excellence" level in the Cégep Vert Classification. This news is both good (it recognizes our efforts) and challenging (in that we will need to keep new initiatives moving forward to maintain the status). Environnement JEUneesse granted us this level based on our efforts, not on performance. What we need more than ever are interested staff and faculty to get involved to see how we can collaborate in making Vanier an example of sustainability. At the very least, please keep us informed of your sustainability related initiatives.

This semester we will continue our work in the areas of energy consumption, food, transport, recycling and garbage management, consumerism, and water. Bike week will be held from September 16th to the 21st. Also, a particular effort will go into launching the new college-wide Sustainability Major.

A team of student animators will be put together for brief classroom visits to introduce students to sustainability at Vanier. More extensive class presentations are available on a variety of sustainability-related subjects (disponible aussi en français). Please get in touch if you are interested in getting some sustainability content into your course.

Check the poster board in the hallway near Student Services for information both local and global as well as info about upcoming opportunities to get involved. You can also visit the Vanier Sustainability web page: <http://www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/student-services/sustainability/>. Finally, please drop by for a conversation in our frequent kiosks in the Student Mall.

There are many ways of making Vanier "greener." Most important is leading by example and opening up discussions on the planet's sustainable future in your classes and on campus.

For information contact: Richard Dugas, Sustainability Officer, dugasr@vaniercollege.qc.ca, Extension 7888

Richard Dugas, Student Services

Religious Holy Days

I would like to remind faculty members of the College's policy and procedures regarding religious holy days. The only holidays formally recognized by Vanier's Academic Calendar are those set by law or by the collective agreements and which impact on faculty, staff and students. These are Labour Day, Thanksgiving, the Christmas break, Good Friday, Easter Monday and Victoria Day.

Other religious holy days, such as Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Passover (Jewish) and Id al-Fitr (Islamic) amongst others, are not recognized in the Academic Calendar. On such days the College functions normally and classes take place as usual. The students who are absent for religious reasons should not suffer a penalty related only to their absence. They are responsible for the material covered in the classes and labs which they miss, just as with other absences. Faculty, however, should avoid giving examinations on these days, or should provide a suitable alternative to the students who will be fulfilling their religious obligations.

Faculty should realize that Jewish Holidays begin at sundown on the evening before the holiday. Late afternoon exams should be avoided on these days, if possible, in order to permit students to be at home by sundown.

I would like to suggest that faculty request that their students inform them in writing within the first week of classes of the particular date(s), time(s) and name(s) of the religious holy day(s)

on which they will be absent. Alternative arrangements convenient to both students and faculty can then be made.

In order to provide the full class time for the students, faculty who are absent for religious holy days should make every effort to see that their classes meet as usual. There are two ways to provide substitute teachers for your classes:

1. Find a teacher qualified to teach in your discipline who would be willing to "swap" classes with you, at no cost to the College, and inform the Faculty Dean in writing prior to the absence. This notification must include the name of the religious holy day(s) and the date(s) of absence, the scheduled classes for these days and the name of the substitute teacher(s).
2. Notify the College as per the normal absence reporting procedures. Since you are officially absent, the College will apply the Substitute Teachers Policy.

Absences on religious holy days should be reported by clicking on *Teachers* on the College's home page:

<http://www.vaniercollege.qc.ca> then on *Omnivox*; log in on *Omnivox* and then click on *Teachers Absences*. You can also call the Class Cancellation number, 744-7500, ext. 7940, a few days in advance of the absence.

Martine Gauthier, Academic Dean

Maintenance and special set-up requests

All employees are encouraged to submit maintenance related or special set-up requests through the online work order system, PlanOn Direct. Please note that any requests which involve a cost (such as a new desk or chair, building with new materials, etc.), need to be approved by your department coordinator or manager.

To access the online work order system, go to the Vanier web page, click on either [STAFF](#) or [TEACHERS](#), click on FORMS on the left hand side. Select [ONLINE WORK ORDERS](#).

If you previously created an account you may login, otherwise:

- Go to CREATE AN ACCOUNT (Obtenir un compte) in the upper right hand corner.
- Complete the mandatory (asterix) information. We also request you add your telephone local and building/office information.
- Click on "Accept"
- After your request is processed, an email will be sent to your Vanier account to confirm your access to the online work order system. Note this is not automatic and may take some time.

Once you have received the go ahead email, you may use this system to create Work Orders for the Service Department.

For all emergencies (such as a fire, flooding, vandalism, etc.), contact Security at ext. 7575.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Service Dept. local 7977.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Brendan Flynn, Service Dept.

Access for Students with Disabilities

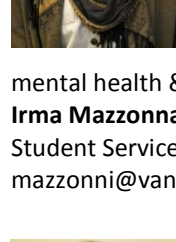
Access for Students with Disabilities provides accommodations, support and advocacy for students with all types of disabilities including learning, physical, sensory, mental, and health-related conditions.

If you have a student registered with us or a student whom you suspect may have a disability, please do not hesitate to contact us for more information.



Advisor for students with learning disabilities and ADHD:

Shana Stafiej – Learning Disabilities Specialist
The Learning Centre, Room B205-B, ext. 7071
stafiejs@vaniercollege.qc.ca



Advisor for students with physical disabilities, mental health & health-related conditions:

Irma Mazzonna – Psychologist
Student Services, Room C203, ext. 7943
mazzonni@vaniercollege.qc.ca



Students with suspected learning disabilities:

Martine Roy – Learning Disabilities Strategist (orthopédagogue)

Student Services, Room C203, ext. 8234
roym@vaniercollege.qc.ca

Martine helps with screening for learning disabilities and targeted learning/study strategies

General inquiries and exam accommodations questions should be directed to:

Ourania Zafiri – Exam Accommodation Coordinator

The Learning Centre, Room B205, ext. 8211
zafirio@vaniercollege.qc.ca



Please note that Marya Grant is on maternity leave

For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/access/>

Irma Mazzonna, Student Services

**New Universal Complementary Course:
*Le Nord : territoires et imaginaires***

A new Universal Complementary Course entitled *Le Nord: territoires et imaginaires*, will be offered in Winter 2014. Since it will include a 10-day road trip along the north shore of the St-Lawrence River, in this region called "Côte-Nord", we invite students to attend the info session and learn more about what this special multidisciplinary course implies.

Note that it will be taught in French by two teachers (Catherine Duranleau, French, and Myriam Mansour, Geography) but students will be able to submit their work in English. Under the main theme of "Nordicity" such sub-themes as indigenous

cultures, northern lifestyles, nature-based economies, ecosystem fragility and local literature will be explored.

Information session

**Wednesday, September 4, 2013
12:30-13:30, A-310**

Registration deadline

October 4, 2013

Please invite students to contact Myriam Mansour (x7329) or Catherine Duranleau (x7436)

Myriam Mansour, Geography Department
