

Jean Vanier Catholic Intermediate School on Lajoie Street in Vanier is named after the founder of L'Arche, a worldwide movement that provides care and support for people with disabilities. It is, as a result, most fitting indeed that the school's motto is "A Place For Everyone." This phrase is found not only on the school logo and in the school prayer, but also in the daily attitude and actions of the students and staff at the school. It is reflected in the school's support of charitable endeavors such as the Shepherds of Good Hope, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the United Way and the Waupoos Foundation. The school opened in 1988, with an official ceremony held on October 27, 1989.

Jean Vanier is the son of former Canadian Governor-General Georges Vanier. After a brief career in the Royal Canadian Navy, Mr. Vanier embarked on a life journey that led to his founding of L'Arche, a movement which has grown to include communities worldwide, with about 200 homes and related day and work programs in Canada alone. L'Arche communities enable people with disabilities to grow to their full potential and to share life together in a spirit of mutuality. Indeed, the L'Arche movement is sometimes referred to as the "University of the Heart," not only providing support for people with disabilities but also providing a training ground for young students to grow in their compassion for society.

Jean Vanier Catholic Intermediate School offers a full academic and extracurricular program for grades 7 and 8 students. The two-storey facility includes a gymnasium, science lab, technology lab, family studies lab, a cafeteria and a library/computer lab, as well as regular classrooms.

Typical of the cross-curricular, activity-based learning which prevails at

JEAN VANIER

CATHOLIC INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL



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Jean Vanier Catholic Intermediate School was a project in April 1998, involving students who took part in a unit focusing on shopping malls. The grade 7 students became business owners while the grade 8 students were mall owners. The students worked together to learn about marketing, consumerism, budgeting, demographics and design. Then they participated in a behind-the-scenes tour of Place d'Orléans Shopping Centre. The grade 7 students, as business owners, ended up trying to convince the grade 8 mall owners to lease space to them.

Jean Vanier Catholic Intermediate School received international honours in

May 2006, as a result of the school's involvement in the Macoun Marsh biodiversity project in which Jean Vanier students, along with students from their partner, Educarium School, studied the biodiversity of the marsh, which is located in a corner of Beechwood Cemetery. This venture was chosen from among 338 projects in 41 countries to be one of ten finalists in the Volvo Adventure competition, an international environmental program organized by the Volvo Car Corporation of Sweden in partnership with the United Nations Environmental Program. The Volvo Adventure is an education program designed to heighten environmental awareness and encourage environmental activities among students.

Five students, including two from Jean Vanier Catholic School, Alex Zylka and Katie Beauchamp, traveled to Goteborg, Sweden in May 2006 to present their project and action plan to a jury of international experts at the Volvo Adventure International finals. They were accompanied on the all expenses paid trip by a volunteer parent chaperone and two teachers, including Clint Monaghan from Jean Vanier Catholic School. The students were awarded second place in the Volvo Adventure competition and brought home \$6,000 in prize money, which was earmarked for continuing work on the Macoun Marsh biodiversity project.

This project began in 2003 as an ecology-based project for students of Educarium School, located across the street from the Macoun Marsh. Students at Jean Vanier Catholic School, which is within a 25-minute walk to the marsh, got involved with the project in 2005 when Alex Zylka excitedly told her teacher, Mr. Monaghan, about it after attending a Saturday Science program at Educarium. They were promptly invited by Educarium School to join the project. The project aims to research,

enhance and protect the ecology of the marsh. Winter visits involve watching birds, filling bird feeders and taking water samples from holes in the pond ice. The project also involves recording the species in the marsh. More than 870 species of birds, animals, plants and microscopic life forms have been recorded to date.

There are now plans to erect a permanent structure at the marsh to shelter students who are there studying nature. There are also plans to build a boardwalk and to plant aquatic flora and trees. Fundraising is ongoing. The marsh, named after the great Canadian naturalist John Macoun who is buried at Beechwood Cemetery, is considered a unique inner-city wetland.

Present Principal

Martine Mitton with Acting Vice-Principals Bonnie McGilchrist and Justin Doyle

Past Principals

Wayne Moyle with Acting Vice-Principals Dianna Gardner, Lise St. Louis and Brent Halverson

Hazel Lambert with Acting Vice-Principals Lise St. Louis, Gail Taillon, Paul Gautreau and Jo Gifford

Geoff Burrige with Acting Vice-Principals Jo Gifford, Bonnie McGilchrist and Justin Doyle

First Teaching and Support Staff

Wayne Moyle, Principal
 Dianna Gardner, Acting Vice-Principal
 Ken Crosby, Physical Education
 Brent Halverson, Social Studies
 Gail Taillon, French and Music
 Lise St. Louis, Science
 Louise Boucher, French
 Nancy Skipper, Resource
 Mary Saliba, Resource (English)
 Tim Frymire, Chaplain
 Richard Gadivry, Science
 Carl Cameron
 Louise Hayden, Secretary

Other Teachers in the Early Years

Sharon Gilmour, Physical Education
 Paul Gautreau, Social Sciences
 Richard Choquette, French
 Sister Ann O'Leary, Chaplain
 Harry Rovers, English and Mathematics
 Mark Lacroix, Music and French
 Mary McGahey, Mathematics and English
 Malcolm Lawrence, Chaplain

School Colours

Red and black

Logo

A shield with the school motto "A Place For Everyone" at the top and the name of the school along the bottom, with the centre featuring the initials of the school, "JVC," with a torch on one arm of the "V" and with a cross in the background. The logo was designed by two students.

School Prayer

The Jean Vanier Catholic Intermediate School prayer is as follows:

God our loving Father, we thank You for our health, our families, and our friends, and for all the good things You have given us.

Benis-nous et aide-nous a vivre en paix et avec joie.

Donne- nous la force d'être bons, de travailler fort aux études, d'être gentils envers les autres et de prendre soins de l'environnement.

May we each try to make JVC a place for everyone.

We remember those who are sad or sick, poor or hungry, and we ask Your blessing on all people on our planet.

Nous Te demandons cela avec confiance en Jesus, Ton Fils et notre Frère. AMEN.