

VCSA THE INSIDER

Making outsiders, Insiders | March 1st, 2017



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The March 1st deadline has finally arrived. Are you excited about the next step?

Well, we've put together quite the issue to help take your mind off the stress of applications. Dr. Suess sure is right - the waiting place isn't much fun... hopefully this collection of reporting and creative writing will make your day a tad bit brighter and more interesting, while providing an entertaining distraction.

Speaking of interesting and entertaining... there's some pretty awesome stuff happening on campus this month!: Water Week, *La Semaine de la francophonie*, Women's Week, an inter-collegiate gaming competition (yes, that *is* a thing!)... and so much more. Touch base on our website (www.vinsider.ca) to stay up-to-date between issues, especially since our next print will be in three weeks instead of two, due to Reading Week (A.K.A. Spring Break).

Hang in there, mid-terms will pass - only a week a half until spring break; you can do it.

Congratulations to those who've already been accepted into their program of choice!

Until next time,

Katherine Willcocks
Editor-in-Chief

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Feb. 27 - March 3: Semaine de la francophonie - Schedule: Page 6

March 6 - 10: Women's Week - Page 5

March 8: Career Workshop - Page 5

March 13 - 17: Spring Break!

March 25: Intercollegiate Game Smash
(Sign up in Student Services by March 11, 2017)



NEWS

Vanier Hosts CRC Robotics Competition

Mohammed Choudhury
Photography: Ben Stix

The CRC is an annual event that where students from their respective schools ranging from high school to college can compete to show off their ingenuity, creativity and technical skills. Every team must have a robot made specifically for the challenge designed for that year, an informative website and a promotional video featuring their team and their school.

This year's event was held at Vanier College, where teams faced each



other off in a 2 vs 2 setting in the G-complex's mirror room where an arena was set up along with benches for spectators. These matches lasted for five minutes and the goal was to be able to launch playing pieces onto the

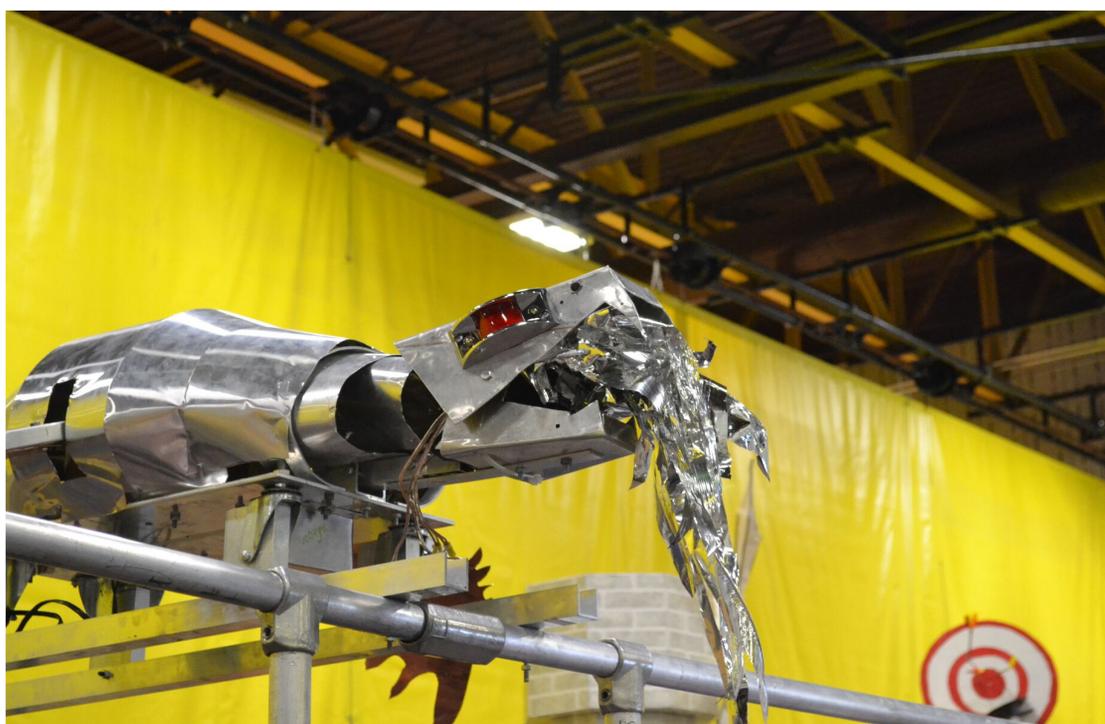
opposing team's side to score points. The more difficult the area, the more point they earned. Players can also defend incoming pieces by either blocking them, moving them into the gaps or sending them back!

forgot - you're Vault tech themed kiosk was cool too.) Props to all the participants from all school's for their talent and sportsmanship.

Vanier's team didn't have quite the success it did last year, but still claimed third prize in Sportsmanship, and second in the college division for Programming. Cégep Montmorency scored highest overall, winning the champion title for 2017. To see the list of winners for each category visit the CRC robotics website at: <http://www.robo-crc.ca/>

All schools had their own beautifully decorated, unique and well thought-out kiosk located in Gym B. The teams spent months working to perfect them, and the effort was clearly noticeable. Favorite kiosks included the Naruto themed kiosk, the Alien themed one (from the movie) and the Adventure Time kiosks.

(Sorry Vanier, almost



CAMPUS

The Result of the Rap Battle

Katherine Willcocks

Photography: Yamari Arévalo-Rojas & Umutoni Elisabeth



Jake's mall. Universal Break. February 22nd. Black History Month. Vanier College Free Style Rap Battle 2017... like a moment from a movie.

It's not every day that the student mall is jam-packed with college-goers surrounding a mini stage and lightly dancing/moving to reggae and rap beats, full of inhibitions - at first. The 'show' began roughly 20 minutes late, but once the volume was turned up, shyness broke down - a little. By the time the student participants rocked the mic, the atmosphere was almost club-like, in a strange, school-kind of way (if that's possible).

The event drew a large crowd away from the temptation of Netflix, and into the rhythm of

a genre with deep roots in African-American culture and history. Originally from Jamaica, widely renowned DJ (MC for the hour) Sampaloo kicked off the rap battle with a few of his own creative spews, while students arrived to compete for a set of quality headphones. Bouncing between reggae, rap, and dance, Sampaloo reminded the spectators of the importance of celebrating different cultures (and unity), reminding people of February's title as Black History Month.

Five students battled it out on stage while attempting to follow a tricky rule for a contest of this sort - no curse words were permitted. This created some humorous moments as rappers stopped themselves from swearing, often last-minute, thus

breaking their momentum slightly and putting them on the spot to come up with a substitute word. In these scenarios, however, improvisation and quick-thinking is key to adapting to an audience and to a competitor. The winner, rapper Oliver, had great success in this department - though his preparation for the competition was evident, creating a victorious blend of spontaneity and planning.

Overall, the Free Style Rap Battle proved to be an entertaining distraction from the everyday life of a college student, while simultaneously enriching the events of Black History Month at Vanier, and providing a welcoming environment for students to showcase their creativity.





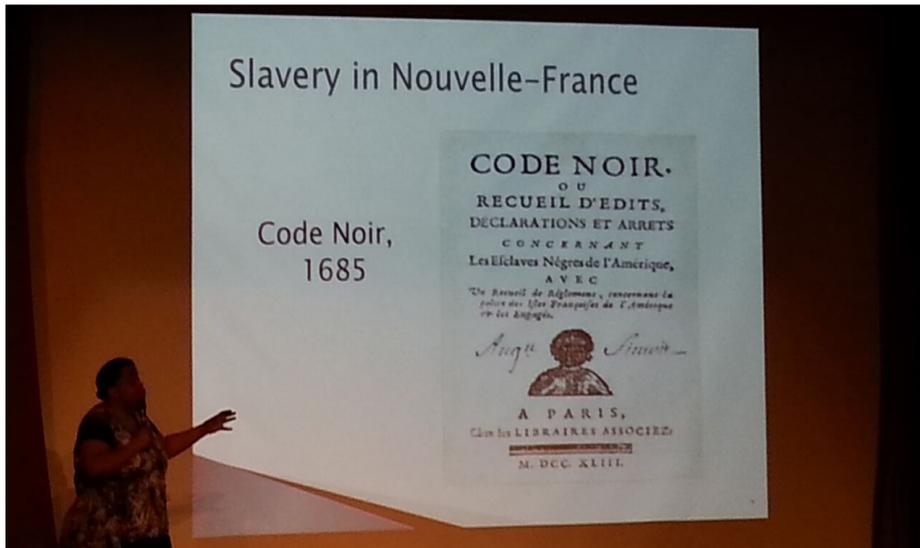
Upcoming Career Workshop

March 8th, UB – D241

careerworkshop@vaniercollege.qc.ca

Montreal was a Slave Center - Black History Month Conference

John Martzouco



Montreal was a slave center. So was Quebec City. And Three-Rivers. Black and Amerindian people were bought and sold as chattel for hundreds of years here in our young country.

Quebec slavery was different from what was going on south of our border, but it was no less onerous. People were torn away from their homelands, their families, their cultures, and involuntarily employed in situations outside of their choosing.

In the mid-1600s, a young black Quebec slave-boy named Olivier Le Jeune made it clear to his Catholic owner that they would never be equals, as was the wish of the older man.

It would be impossible for them to be the same, young Olivier made it clear, unless he "took off his skin". Even though Quebec slave-owners valued skills and education for their living possessions, the social order was not of equals working with peers. 1600 Blacks and 2600 Amerindians were property. Quebec, strong in its Catholic ethics, educated the enslaved workers to help them gain access to the glories of God, but it had no compunctions about using their strengths to leverage privileged living conditions for the rich upper class.

Slaves in Quebec were status symbols. As well as being skilled tradesmen and women, they signalled that their owners had the financial means to farm out their

work and have time for other pursuits. Even after the British beat the French on the Plains Of Abraham, the Articles of Capitulation were written to safeguard slave ownership by the losing party.

On August the 1st, 1834, the British ended slavery in all of their colonies, including North America. Twenty years earlier, black Quebec slaves were running away into the northern United States. Northern states meant freedom for them. This trend turned tide years later and the Underground Railroad saw US slaves running away to freedom in Canada.

Dr Dorothy Williams spoke to us in the auditorium during the afternoon of Tuesday, the 21st of February. It's Black History Month, and this is one of the events our school arranged for us. It was an interesting presentation. It was a little disjointed, perhaps, in that way that post-modern fiction is. Dr Williams presented us with information without framing it in any structure. Before the presentation was over we learned that in the early 1900s, many black men living in Montreal would be working as Pullman Porters on the trains. We also learned that black soldiers were disallowed the privilege of bearing arms in the First World War -they

were relegated to digging latrines and building bridges.

Dr Williams kept personal opinion out of her delivery.

The talk ended as we took a look at Montreal in the 1920s. If you're unaware, this city celebrated high times during that period. Burlesque and Jazz were vibrant and thriving here. The wealthy left Boston and New York to ride up here and amuse themselves while Prohibition clamped down their fun at home. It turns out there were two sets of music clubs in the city. The whites had their regimented evening shows on the Main at nine pm. If I understood correctly, there was no way a black person would've been allowed into the audience there. And then there were the black clubs down in Little Burgundy where the musicians spent the rest of their time here. Music was playing until the sun came up in the little bars down there.

I've been meaning to read a book about slavery in Quebec for a few years now. Perhaps it's time I found a copy of Dr Williams' "The Road to Now: A History of Blacks in Montreal"; it's on the shelf here at the college library.



Schedule: http://www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/womens-studies/files/2013/07/Programme_Reclaiming-Spaces_fixed.pdf

Semaine de la Francophonie

Katherine Willcocks

Nos actions en disent plus à notre sujet que nos mots – eh oui; un beau cliché pour ouvrir cet article! Pourtant, est-ce vraiment mal? Un cliché prends sa valeur de sa vérité... Bon, en tout cas, prêt, pas prêt-

Actions speak louder than words - because why not open up an article about language with an overused cliché? What is there to say? - A cliché is born from truth. Anyway, ready or not --

ACTION! La Semaine de la francophonie est bien entamée ici au cégep Vanier. Ayant pour thème – ben oui, vous l’avez devinez! – l’action, cet événement annuel se déroule depuis le lundi, 27 février, et prendra fin ce vendredi. Une panoplie d’activités et de conférences auront lieu; prenez bien soin de lire l’horaire pour ne rien manquer!

ACTION! The *Semaine de la francophonie* has begun here at Vanier College. With a theme of - you guessed it! - Action, the symposium-like event opened this Monday, and runs through 'till Friday. A ton of activities and conferences have been organized by the French department; Be sure to read the schedule to your right to make sure you don't miss anything of interest!

Le communiqué de presse décrit l'événement:

The press release describes the week-long event as:

Un momento privilégié pour les étudiants de sortir du cadre traditionnel de la salle de classe et de constater à quel point le français est dynamique, vivant et divertissant, porteur de diversité culturelle- le et de créativité.

[...] an ideal time for students to step outside the classroom and discover how much French can be dynamic, living and entertaining and give rise to cultural diversity and creativity.

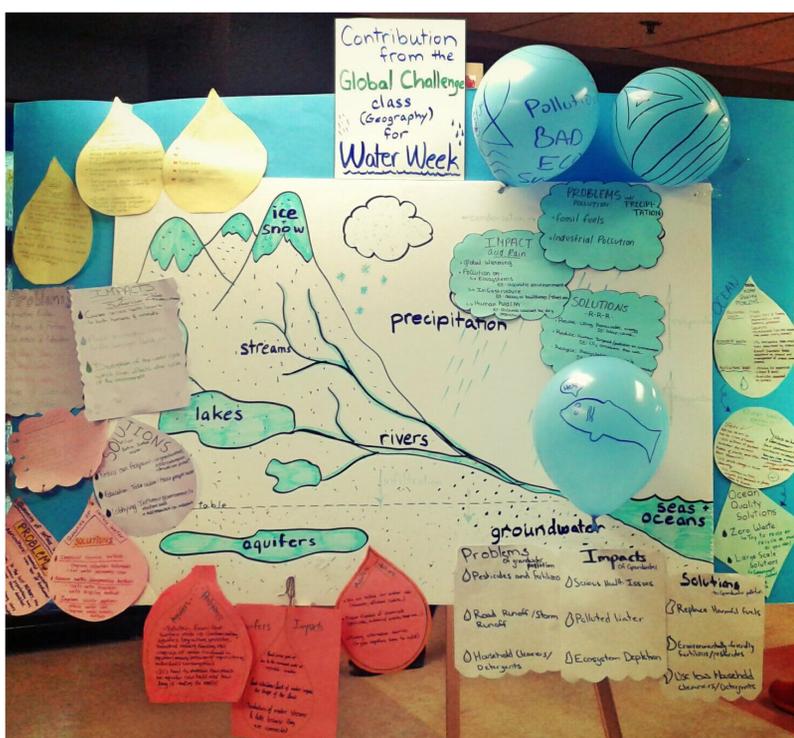
Plus plus d'informations, La page **FRANCO INFOS** du cégep **VANIER** sur Facebook.

For more information, La page **FRANCO INFOS** du cégep **VANIER** on Facebook.

	LUNDI 27-02	MARDI 28-02	MERCREDI 01-03	JEUDI 02-03	VENDREDI 03-03
7:30		DÉJEUNER-CAUSERIE - 7H30-8H15 CAFÉ ET VIENNOISERIES OFFERTS AUX ÉTUDIANTS PRÉSENTS À LA CONFÉRENCE DE 8H30			
8:00					
8:30					
8:30	JÉAN-MARC FOURNIER TOUR D'HORIZON DE LA FRANCOPHONIE CANADIENNE	MIRIAM FAHMY QU'EST-CE QUE L'ENGAGEMENT?	D-TRACK TÉMOIGNAGE D'UN PARCOURS ARTISTIQUE	MARIE-CÉLIE AGNANT ÉCRIRE AVEC LES YEUX OUVERTS	ANDRÉ DUBUC À QUOI S'ATTENDRE DE L'ÉCONOMIE QUÉBÉCOISE EN 2017
9:00					
9:00					
9:30					
9:30					
10:00					
10:00					
10:30	AKOS VERBOCZY HISTOIRES D'IMMIGRATION ET D'INTÉGRATION	ÉLISE DESAULNIERS LA PAROLE DES FEMMES ET LA QUESTION ANIMALE			KAY THELLOT RACINES ET POÉSIE : L'ÉCRITURE EN POST ET EN NÉOCOLONIALISME
10:30					
11:00			WILL PROSPER MILITANTISME ET ENGAGEMENT (AMPHI B-223)		
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Water Week at Vanier

Katherine Willcocks



Water. We are made up of it. We depend on it. Yet -- we waste it. We take it for granted.

Many of us don't think about the way lakes pick up the contaminating chemicals that are present in the air, and on the ground. Pesticide pollution from farming spills into natural sources as rain trickles down and over the earth and the plants, and these harmful substances eventually evaporate, becoming rain - polluted rain.

It isn't enough to discuss the causes and consequences of neglecting to care about the cleanliness of water. We need to know what we can do on an individual level. For one, purchasing organic fruits and vegetables can help. For more, well, you'll have to participate in Water Week to find out.

Water Week is a tradition at Vanier, held alongside many other organisations celebrating World Water Week. Every year, a number of students volunteer to read up on

water pollution, third-world access to water, and viable solutions to reduce waste and contamination - then, they share what they've learned through engaging kiosks (yes, the spin the wheel, answer a question, win a prize format is back).

Keep your eyes open when passing through Jake's Mall; the kiosks are there.

ENTERTAINMENT

Upcoming Movies

Hold on to your popcorn people! The movie awaits...



Logan:

Date: March 3rd
Genre: Action Science-Fiction
Director: James Mangold
Cast: Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart, Dafne Keen

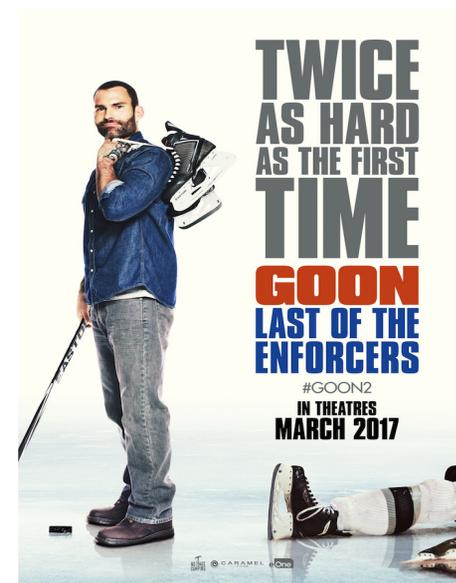
In the near future, a weary Logan cares for an ailing Professor X at a remote outpost on the Mexican border. His plan to hide from the outside world gets upended when he meets a young mutant who is very much like him. Logan must now protect the girl and battle the dark forces that want to capture her.



Kidnap:

Date: March 10th
Genre: Drama/Thriller
Director: Luis Prieto
Cast: Halle Berry, Dana Gourrier, Lew Temple

There is no bond stronger than that of a mother and her child. A mom (Halle Berry) stops at nothing in her chase to save her kidnapped son, causing tragedy and injury on her journey.



Goon: Last of the Enforcers:

Date: March 17th
Genre: Comedy
Director: Jay Baruchel
Cast: Elisha Cuthbert, Kim Coates, T.J. Miller

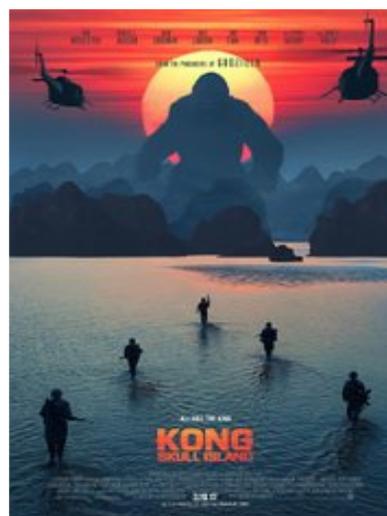
A hockey player plagued by injuries is confronted with the possibility of retirement when a tough new player challenges his status as the league's top enforcer.

Canadian-American film.

Kong: Skull Island:

Date: March 10th
Genre: Action
Director: Jordan Vogt-Roberts
Cast: Brie Larson, Tian Jing, Tom Hiddleston

A team of explorers and soldiers travel to an uncharted island in the Pacific, unaware that they are crossing into the domain of monsters, including the mythic Kong.



Beauty and the Beast:

Date: March 17th
Genre: Family
Director: Bill Condon
Cast: Emma Watson, Dan Stevens, Luke Evans

An adaptation of the Disney fairy tale about a monstrous-looking prince and a young woman who fall in love



Disney's *Moana*: A Review

June Rossaert



Disney's *Moana* is the final product of a group of extremely talented individuals working within the constraints of a restrictive and heavily outdated film structure. The film follows the story of young Moana, the daughter of her native island's ruler, and destined to take over the role in her adult life. Her strong desire for adventure and exploration clashes heavily with her father's insistence that she must remain within the confines of the island for her own safety. She obviously rebels and the basic storyline unfolds much as one would expect.

Every cliché is present. From the silent but presumably loving mother, to the eccentric but wise grandmother figure,

the wacky comic-relief animal sidekick who is most definitely the very worst part of the film, to the conflicted anti-hero who abandons the protagonist only to redeem himself in the finale, the very bones of the story are impossibly familiar. Everything else, however, is a brilliant, creative, wonderful effort at distracting the audience from the tired structure.

The integration of Pacific islander lore and mythology, for one, was interesting, refreshing, and appeared to be very respectful of the culture - unlike some past not-so-brilliant attempts by the company, namely, of course, the ghastly implications of their depiction of historical figure, Pocahontas. *Moana*, from the perspective of someone whose only knowledge of Pacific islander cul-

ture came from research pertaining to the writing of this review, feels like a genuine attempt to embrace the mythology. The imagery in the film is also creative, colourful, rich and complex. The landscapes are breathtaking, the movement is tangible and fluent, and the finale holds some of the most impressive Disney animation visuals to date. It is worth mentioning, too, that the hand-drawn segments of animation in *Moana* were both a surprise and a true delight.

In addition, the soundtrack, by Grammy Award-winning composer Lin-Manuel Miranda, is catchy, creative, upbeat, and an all-around wonderful experience which combines several instruments and musical styles to create what is sure to become a

classic soundtrack. Not to mention the brilliant talent in both voice acting and singing that was Auli'i Carvalho in her very first role.

It is difficult, in a final note, to make an objective judgement on the film. The script is at best weak, and the story is overall extremely predictable and filled with tired tropes which aren't touched upon in a very new way. However, watching the immense work of talented animators, voice actors, and musicians build something truly artistic within these frustrating constraints is a definite joy to watch.

Overall Rating: 7/10

Let's Play *Ender's Game*! - Book Review

Charlie Tang

Ender's Game is a science fiction novel written by Orson Scott Card that takes place in a near future. Andrew "Ender" Wiggin, the main character, is a genius at the age of 6 years old and is approached by the International Fleet (I.F.), essentially an army in space fully equipped with laser guns and spaceships, to become a soldier. In fact, the I.F. has been watching Ender since he was born: they believe he has what it takes to become the next Starfleet commander for the next war against bug-

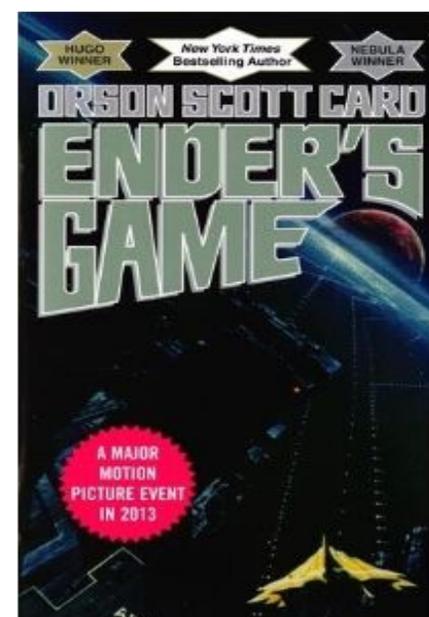
gers, an alien insect species. The last war was 80 years ago, but the humans barely made it out alive thanks to a miracle. Training takes place at Battle School, which is like a spaceship. Day in and day out, the children there devote their time to the Battle Room.

It is a null gravity room in which armies of students have skirmishes with fake guns. The scores are recorded and those who do well graduate. Ender accepts and his life is no longer the same anymore.

Early on, Ender is isolated and put under enormous amounts of pres-

sure to succeed due to the hopes of his being a commander to save mankind. He must sometimes defend himself against jealous students, leading to violence. However, it is the exact opposite of what Ender wants to do; he is compassionate and refuses to be like his nefarious brother Peter. Ender eventually cracks under the pressure, refusing to participate in the stupid games and thus putting mankind at stake. Will he succeed?

As a whole, I found the book extremely enjoyable to read as it led



me into a world of war, emotion and fiction.

The immersive world created by Card is well thought out in that he describes the Battle School in a straightforward way, notably the null gravity chambers. The author is creative in imagining future technologies, which just makes me want to discover more of it. Furthermore, Card touches on a variety of topics which are relevant to mainstream society, even more so with the advent of newer technologies: blending the line between reality and fiction, isolation, love, family, and humanity vs humanness.

Card understands human nature and transmits this passion through the action of the characters in the novel. I also quite liked the puns of certain characters' names. All this while managing to keep my attention

throughout the story thanks to intense battles or conflicts against which Ender is pitted! Describing action is no doubt Card's strong point.

The story is easy to read and well written; enema is probably the only word I looked up. Also, the tidbits of information which are revealed in dialogues at the beginning of each chapter between high officials are satisfying because they give a taste of the chapter and the development of the plot.

Before reading this book, I believed that sentences one page long were the type of books to enthrall you, yet I discovered that a book does not have to use long words like "notwithstanding" or "insofar" to captivate someone. When I finished this book, I discovered

the pure joy of reading once again. I was absorbed in the book from cover to cover because of Card's ability to keep the action flowing; there is not a dull moment in the book that does not add to the plot or the overall tension of the book, which encourages readers to move forward.

However, do not expect to be blown back by the significance of burning books or metaphors as deep as the snow banks this winter. Ender's psychological conflict with himself is an up and down cycle that is repeated three or four times within the book. He is doing well; he becomes sad; he is encouraged by someone that is important to him; he defeats the opposition. Just as Card's descriptions are direct, as are Ender's underlying desires. The author makes an attempt to show this through a

video game Ender plays, called the Giant's Drink. No one has ever beaten the game before except for Ender. When it is beaten, Ender roams freely in "Fairylend", and comes across a mirror reflecting his innermost abhorrence. Other than that, the book's depth does not go down any further.

The aforementioned shortcomings do not greatly affect the overall enjoyment of the book. Winning the Hugo Award and the Nebula Award, as well as being adopted into a movie, Ender's Game as a whole will surely appeal to people of all ages who want to relax and be transported by a shallow mellow river into a fictional world that I won't soon forget.

4/5 or 1/1 Queen Eggs

Au Pied de Cochon - Fatty Food & Friendly Staff

Lazaros Kalipolidis

Montreal, a city of smog warnings on a weekly basis and the occasional student protest, is also home to a magical and wondrous place. It has become a staple in the Montreal culinary experience ever since it was established back in 2001; Martin Picard's Au Pied De Cochon.

Picard's restaurant has resuscitated old school, traditional Quebec dishes, ones our great-grandparents' parents prepared such as Pouding Chomeur and Ragout. On the menu, you have choices of tarts, poutines, burgers, lobster rolls, etc. all of which have been topped or covered in foie gras. Picard has built a shrine to it, by his food and the restaurant itself.

Due to an open space design, one may see the food, which comes in very generous portions, being prepared. This institution is an homage to fatty and protein induced dishes. The smell of smoke, wood, and the burning of fatty meats fill up the air as you walk in.

Songs from Les Cowboys Fringants and Les Colocs play in the background. As you walk to



your table, the cheers and laughs from tipsy customers, filling their faces with what they have ordered grow louder. Families gather to celebrate whatever they want to, while siblings have their fight over who stole the cheese curds from their poutine and couples, both old and new fall in love all over again between a dish of force fed duck and a paired wine.

The ambiance is one of the most uplifting and lively in the Montreal culinary scene. A Cabane À Sucre deep within the heart of a bustling city. You can easily say, without hesitation,

that it really is better than Grand-Maman's cooking.

The service is always impeccable, quick, and in all reality, fun. The waiters know the menu and customers can very well know the chefs. Questions will be answered and wines may be paired.

One of the restaurant's signature dishes: Plogue à Champlain. A maple-syrup poached egg set atop a buckwheat galette, with potatoes and cheddar cheese. With added bacon strips, a duck and maple sauce, and top

with a thick slice of foie gras, you have what I can proudly call, Heaven on Earth.

At Au Pied de Cochon, it's a mistake to sit there, rolling your thumbs, wondering why you let yourself be dragged into a place serving foie-gras. Enjoy while you can! Experiences for your pallet always count and they always have a story. To eat, drink, laugh and let loose -- those are the joys of life, la joie de vivre as one may say.

SPORTS

Déjà Vu?

Brandon Brini



On February 7th 2017, the Boston Bruins fired the longest serving head coach in the NHL, Claude Julien. This decision from the Bruins organization was seen as a lack of good timing and judgment, as they fired the 2011 Stanley Cup winning head coach on the same day the New England Patriots were celebrating their amazing comeback and Super Bowl championship. Way to go Cam Neely!

Exactly one week later, the Montreal Canadiens, going through their worst slump of the season, decide to take advantage of the situation and fire Michel Therrien to hire their rival's ex-coach, Claude Julien. The coach of the Washington Capitals, Barry Trotz, joked that it would take five minutes for Julien to find a job; it surprisingly only took seven days. Not to shabby for Julien.

Amazingly enough, this is a déjà-vu for the Habs organization. The last time they fired Michel Therrien in 2003, his successor was none other than Claude Julien. This is the second time it happens, and quite ironically, it was on Valentine's Day. Talk about showing the love and then dumping your coach to get back with your ex. This is rough, but you must remember, hockey is a business, and sadly, this is how it works sometimes.

Now, the Canadiens started the season stupendously, with a 13-1-1 record, tying the club history for most consecutive victories on home ice, at the start of the season. Everything was going great, and most fans began to believe that this was finally going to be Montreal's year. And then it all went down hill.

They got obliterated by the hottest team in the league, the Columbus Blue Jackets by 10-0. Carey Price got taken out by Kyle Palmieri; Alex Galchenyuk, Andrei Markov and Brendan Gallagher all got injured; and finally, Carey Price stared down the bench against San Jose, when getting pulled for the first time since 2013. Let's not forget the effect of the Subban trade, as it was very clear that Michel Therrien had no problem trading the Canadians best player of last season.

It is a long campaign, and despite having a huge advantage when it came to points, that gap is slowly closing and Ottawa, as well as Boston and Toronto, can all overtake Montreal. There's no way that this looked good for Therrien, as there has been a serious decline in play. Just as Carey

Price said: "We have lost our team identity." After publicly stating this, it was pretty clear to the general manager, Marc Bergevin, that this team needs a new voice, a fresh start, a new identity; and this is exactly what Claude Julien brings.

Julien has been known for coaching great hockey teams. He focuses on playing with pride, playing for your teammates, your coach, your organization, your fan base and most important of all, the logo on the jersey. In the eyes of Marc Bergevin, Julien is a "superstar" coach, one of the league's best, and honestly, I cannot say I don't agree with that statement.

Julien is man with experience, and a coach that every team would want to have because he is just that great. I mean, seven days; all it took was seven days for him to find another job. Michel Therrien, on the other hand, something tells me he won't be coaching in the NHL anytime soon or even ever again, as he has proven that he cannot win the major games, although he has the best goalie in the league, one of the best defenseman's and one of the best shooters and goal scorers out there. It was a nice five year run for Therrien, but I think we can all agree that this day was coming, and it was time for a new face. The Canadiens were very lucky to pounce on a classy and well experienced man like Claude Julien.

Free Swim

Schedule from January 8th to June 11th 2017

Free swim hours are available for the public.

Note: Schedule is subject to change.

LUNCH TIME: Mon, Wed & Fri: 12:00PM-12:55PM

Tues & Thurs: 12:00PM-12:55PM (Lap swimmers only)

EVENING: Thursday: 4:30PM-6:30PM

WEEKEND: Sunday 4:00PM-5:30PM

Me, and Seven Billion Others

Zeina Maan

While the human race began more than six million years ago, civilization and the development of cities have only existed for around six thousand years, and thenceforth humanity has created a series of group-level conflicts. Regardless of small tribes and clan battles that have been in existence since humankind was born, the world has borne witness to at least 3000 wars in the last 3700 years, with roots often tied to ideological changes. Religions, nationalities, ethnicities, and many other categories could define the way of living of a whole society, and constitute certain groups of humans into belongings. Therefore, these people instinctively feel responsible for defending their country, religion, or race against any new or different cultures – which can be a subject of controversy and war. That being the case, nowadays almost every official army consists of between 10,000 and 20,000 soldiers.

The question is, why would humans be ready to sacrifice their lives or kill each other in order to protect some cultures that they have never chosen to belong to, nay that they were taught to define themselves under their names? In my opinion, humans are mainly taught to adopt their identity from the society they live in, not to think of, and look for their own. They instinctively feel safer following the herd behavior, which explains the phenomena of large numbers of people acting in the same way without using rationality.

We often hear people saying, “I am proud to be a Canadian, American, Muslim, etc..” On the other hand, belonging to any of these communities is not a personal accom-



plishment of which to be proud. It’s a decision that society took over one’s personal life, even before birth. You’ve been told who you are, and taught how to define yourself. I think that, in a way, the impacts of this phenomenon on a human’s behaviour vary according to the civil laws of the country they live in, and how multicultural it is.

The more a community is devoted to its own beliefs and traditions, the more it unconsciously raises its members on the ideas of refusing other populations, and fighting against any possible change. Often, therefore, people belonging to such a community think they hold the absolute truth, and transmit their thoughts and beliefs to next generations as sacred and undoubtable. Consequently, the majority of the population becomes intolerant against whoever brings in new or different ideas, and violence often consists of the first solution to prevent this from happening.

I do not really think it’s out of inhumanism that people turn violent in these cases. It is more because, when raised in devoted communities, people fear adopting a new lifestyle and losing the others’ support. What ancestors have transmitted is the

only thing these humans know; they all follow the same traditions, sanctify the same values, and see the concepts of right and wrong the same way. Have they thought about having their own, individual considerations of right and wrong? Have they tried to live neutrally before deciding to what religion or community they want to proudly belong? Did they have the freedom of choosing their values, rather than adopting their parents’ ones?

I think the answer that is convenient for the majority of populations and individuals around the world would be no. On the contrary, the more they grow, the more these customs and values will be instilled in their brains, the more they will define themselves the same way, and stop looking for who they are. As a result, it is not surprising that these people fight against change. It’s the only lifestyle they have been introduced to; it’s their identity!

On the other hand, I think liberal societies suffer less from this phenomenon – especially those who welcome immigrants. Secular states’ laws are only based on human rights and not any other ideologies, which may consist of punishing whoever is harming

other people physically or psychologically. Therefore, laws do not legalize honor killings, neither do they follow a religious or a political doctrine of the majority. Furthermore, when living in a society garnished with people belonging to different categories, humans learn to live equally, whether they belong to a minority or to a majority, and sometimes are able to open up and discover other lifestyles that could be more convenient for them. Nevertheless, I am not saying that people in liberal societies do not tend to follow the herd behavior most of the time, but I think violence against any modernization or renovation does not exist in them as largely as in other societies where the law allows it.

For example, a lot of people in the western world, including girls and women, do not react against the way females are being objectified in advertisements; not because they think it is the right way of promoting products, but because they have simply never thought about it! Even though this phenomenon, and plenty of other ones, have many negative impacts on our everyday life, not everybody has a tendency to make a change. Therefore, these impacts limit women’s freedom and lead them to behave in a certain way to reach an ideal physical appearance – to the society’s standard.

We are seven billion humans on Earth, but none of us have the same DNA as another person, none of us have the same face or body features as another person. Thus, it is also possible for us to have seven billion different personalities, to have seven billion different paths, and to live seven billion different journeys. Identity is not to be adopted, neither to be given. It is a whole path that we create ourselves. It is the happiness worth fighting for, and the struggle to reach it.

Five Reasons to Get Involved this Semester

Katherine Willcocks

Student life here at Vanier is bursting with opportunities to get in touch with the college's community, and to make a difference (both within the school and in one's own Vanier experience). However, with the time table a typical college student keeps, it may seem beyond impossible to fit in a moment for extra-curricular activities. As a Editor-in-Chief of the VCSA Insider, let me reassure you that it is absolutely doable. Here's why you should consider "getting involved" among your priorities this semester:

1. Perfect Your Time Management Skills



It may be a bit of a sink or swim situation if you sign up for a zillion things in the beginning of the semester. However, start with one small position, or give it a few weeks before launching yourself into things. With practice, you'll get the hang of juggling transit, classes, homework, responsibilities towards club x, y, or z, and even... *drum roll please*... a social life! If you do get off to a rocky start, however, keep in mind that most clubs provide a great environment to which you contribute as little or as much as you'd like.

2. Become a People-Per-son



You may not be a social butterfly, and that's okay. There are places for outsiders (places like the student newspaper for example (hint hint). Seriously though, whether you're into leadership or simply chilling, you'll find people who share your interests. For the former, one may consider joining the VCSA Council, or the Model UN. For the latter, there's an awesome video game club that makes passing time much more enjoyable. Whatever the club or endeavor, you're sure to meet new and interesting people.

3. Learn to Prioritize



It is important to keep in mind that academic success comes before any extracurricular involvements. Joining a club or council usually helps in keeping responsibilities in order; just don't put too much on your plate. If you do choose to participate in any time-consuming activities, you'll quickly realize that you can't easily get away with skipping your study time on a regular basis.

4. Pick up a New Skill



Partly due to the multi-ethnic nature of the student body, Vanier students have much to teach each other. Learn to make a prize-worthy cappuccino with the coffee club, or explore theatre or music. Practice your journalism if you're brave enough to write for the VCSA Insider (you can even use a pen name if you'd like). Remember, in any school, there's a lot more to learn than what's written on your course outlines.

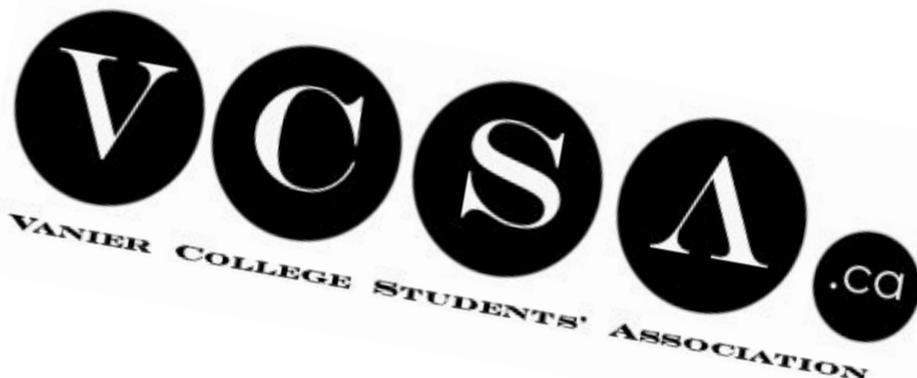
5. Leave Your Mark



One of the best ways to get your ideas across is to work with the VCSA Council members (or become one yourself). Everyone has an opinion; express yours by attending the VCSA General Assemblies – your vote counts, your concerns matter. Are you environmentally conscious? See Student Services about the environmental committee; there's always lots to do!

In essence, have fun during your time at Vanier; getting involved in the school's community allows you to develop as a person and as a leader, and ensures an enriched college experience.

*Remember: It's never too late to join the VCSA Insider!



Event Horizon

Fiction By Mohammed Choudhury

I write this to you knowing not whether it will go through, as my last message and regret. I'm sorry for hurting you - although this is what I choose, even though you tried to keep me in check. My feelings changed as the seasons went by, from my birth in spring; like fall in my depression. I may have been strong in the summer, but now I feel all the more dumber. Winter is coming.

My faith once under your guidance, absolute; but the questions that came in time lead me astray. In doubt. With sorrow and loss.

I remember the times I came to you -- smile and joy. Your presence made me even less coy. The days that we passed, in my mind, were bright when I looked at your face. Safety and comfort in your pleasant serene embrace. Your soft yellow voice ended my daily haste. And when my spirit was in disarray, you came my way, and relieved me of my stress.

And for that, you have my eternal thanks.

But when my secrets were revealed... unfortunately that changed how you feel, and an old relationship is laid to rest. It's sad to say, but I am no longer the same - the person you once knew is dead.

A bitter end to these days, I've had to part ways, never to see each of you again.

Sorry, once again, my time is due soon; I'm thinking of you my friend.

Just a Waver

Benjamyn Upshaw-Ruffner

If you can read this	Twinkle
Then you can't	Tremble
You aren't allowed	
To be more than an ant.	Footsteps approach
	Pitter patter
Treacherous tiny traps	Palpitating dirt
lock you away	Thinking minds shatter.
Within the earth	
Where you will stay.	When you were young
	These were but dreams
Flicker	Stop thinking now
Falter	It is never as it seems.



French Sea In Haikus; Fragments Of A Mother

June Rossaert

A lioness speaks;
Of war, breeze, and battle scars
Whispers to her cub

Anguished cries of a
Cracked child pulled from the warm mud
Kissed wounds for a dime

Soft-furred open paws
For the ripped paper doll kids
Claws to the matches

But lioness in a
Sundress, a wicked guide for
Bandaid heroines

Scarlet lullabies
Harsh bark of a gentle tongue
Cub in a straight curve

Twilight roars, star-jaw
Hot coals for a shattered view
Black glass finger-kiss

A lioness bites;
Cracked neck of a passerby
Royal feast in stains

Splattered in the wake
Cub limping, picturesque take
On tired shoulders

A blue-green meadow
Home torn from her jagged teeth
In broken bones; peace

But lioness in a
Gold-crown, a limelight for the
Bandaid heroines



When am I...?

BeNjamyn Upshaw-Ruffner



I look outside this layer of glass,
And find what I can see.
I regard waves of light in their infinite mass,
And in them I see me

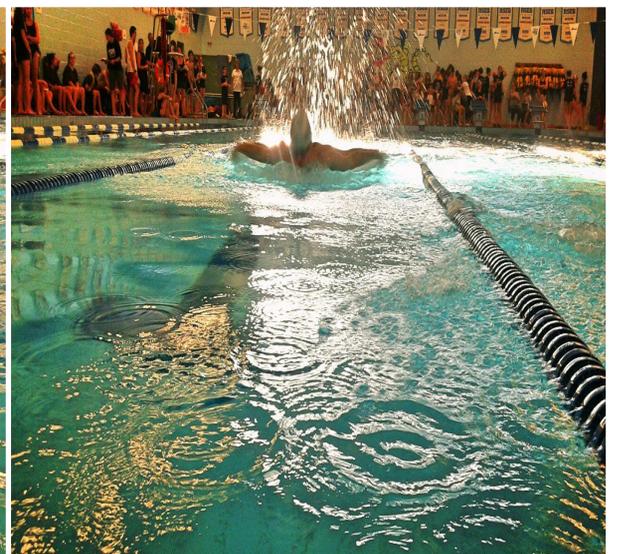
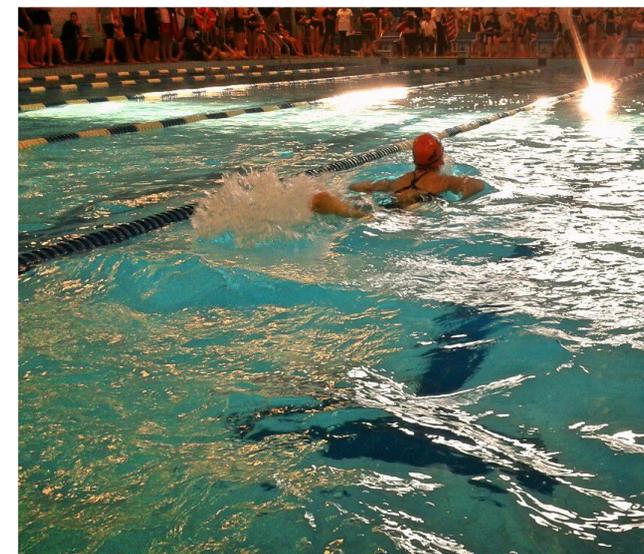
Me? I ask. Who is this person?
He is a creature like the rest; he consumes space and
time.

How is his condition? Is it bad, will it worsen?
I think now and again; he must hear familiar bells
chime.

If I can hear such bells, then I know I have air.
It makes its way to my cerebrum, creating emotion.
I then amass memories, which I may share.
Because when I need to sustain myself, a conversation
is the best potion.

He has reached a new level in life, his game.
His goal is not to win, but to enjoy learning why and
how.
Both he and I occupy vastly different space, yet remain
the same.
Our perception of the important exists in the now.

Regardless of the future
In spite of the past
Mistakes are something I can suture
Hardships are something I can outlast



Fifty Meters and Fourteen Thousand Thoughts

Text & Photography: Katherine Willcocks

“On your mark, get set...” the loudspeaker announces. I’m on the starting block, waiting for the signal to tell me to begin the race.

It’s a small race – only fifty meters, but I’m nervous anyway.
I am stronger than my competitors, but I’m anxious none the less.
Family and friends are watching in the crowd. I smile at them, but I’m still jittery.
I think about receiving the gold medal, but I become even more uneasy.

I imagine being in the pool, gliding farther and farther with each stroke. I see myself moving swiftly in the water, each kick bringing me closer to victory. I picture the medal around my neck. I daydream about standing on the podium, everybody watching me in my few minutes of fame.

“What if I don’t win?” I think, horrified.

I begin to wonder what it’ll be like if I don’t win. I try to picture myself, being the last one left in the pool. I’d get out, nobody would clap and I’d disappear into the crowd unnoticed. If I lost there’d be no medal. If I lost, I wouldn’t stand on the podium proudly. If I lost-

My thoughts are interrupted when I realize that the race has begun without me.

I hurry into the water, but mess up my dive.
My goggles stay on, but they fill with water.
I open my eyes, but my vision is blurry.
I achieve the perfect flip turn, but I run out of breath.
I look up as I gasp for air ... but I shouldn’t have.

I find out that I have lost the race, but there’s still one lap left.

I think about finishing the competition. “Why should I bother?” I ask myself for a second. I want to give up, but something’s pulling at me to continue. So I let the water out of my goggles, fill my lungs with air and swim recklessly.

I find myself smiling. Never in my life, had I enjoyed swimming more than now. My hand hits the wall and it becomes official – I have finished last. Still, I hop out of the pool with a smile on my face. To my surprise, my teammates are waiting for me. They give me high-fives, hugs and thumbs-up. They don’t care that I have lost. Neither do I.

I watch the winner receive her medal on the podium, but I do not envy her.
I lost, but I gained more than she did.
She thinks that winning is everything, but I know better.

HOROSCOPES



Pisces (Feb.22-Mar.21): Big decisions can be stressful; don't let yourself become overwhelmed. Try making lists of pros and cons, or meditating for a while before getting too invested.



Aries (Mar.22-Apr.21): Raise your voice Aries! There's been something on your mind recently, but inhibition holds you back. Don't allow it to keep you quiet; your advice will help.



Taurus (Apr.22-May21): Remember, in life, you must be a team player. Try to see the best in the people around you, and the best in you will flow out on its own. Do take a moment to recharge by yourself however; it's all about balance.



Gemini (May22-Jun.21): That new project you were wondering about taking on? It's time. There is no better day than today to start anything, and the sooner you begin - the sooner you accomplish your goals.



Cancer (Jun.22-Jul.23): Move Cancer, move! Dance, run, play a team sport - anything. Keeping still makes you antsy; get up, get out - it'll take your mind off things.



Leo (Jul.24-Aug.23): Someone around you needs your help, Leo. Most people won't admit it when they need a motivating push from a friend, or an honest opinion - it's up to you to offer; don't wait for them to ask.



Virgo (Aug.24-Sept.22): Love is in the air Virgo! Valentine's day may have passed uneventfully, but that doesn't mean you're out of luck! The best relationships take time to build.



Libra (Sept.23-Oct.22): With spring around the corner, now is a good time to reconnect with a family member you've been distanced from over the winter.



Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.21): Run with the wind Scorpio! You're on the verge of a life change, and you've almost settled on your decision. Don't second-guess yourself; you're on the right track.



Sagittarius (Nov.22-Dec.21): Talk to your partner; they want to spend more time having deep conversations by your side, and they want to know how you feel. There's never a bad time to discuss what the future may hold.



Capricorn (Dec.22-Jan.21): Time is of the essence Capricorn. You've been procrastinating, and it will catch up to you. Get projects completed before tuning in to Netflix this time - your grades will thank you for it!



Aquarius (Jan.22-Feb.21): Surround yourself with things that make you happy. There is enough negativity in your life right now - consider re-evaluating your friend list, too many is just as bad as not enough.



Do you have a way with words?

A creative side?

An investigative personality?

Did you write something
you'd like to share?

Send your work to us at
studentnewspaper.vanier.college

Or stop by Room D-168 to learn how to join the
VCSA Insider!

Worth It

Alaina Roberts



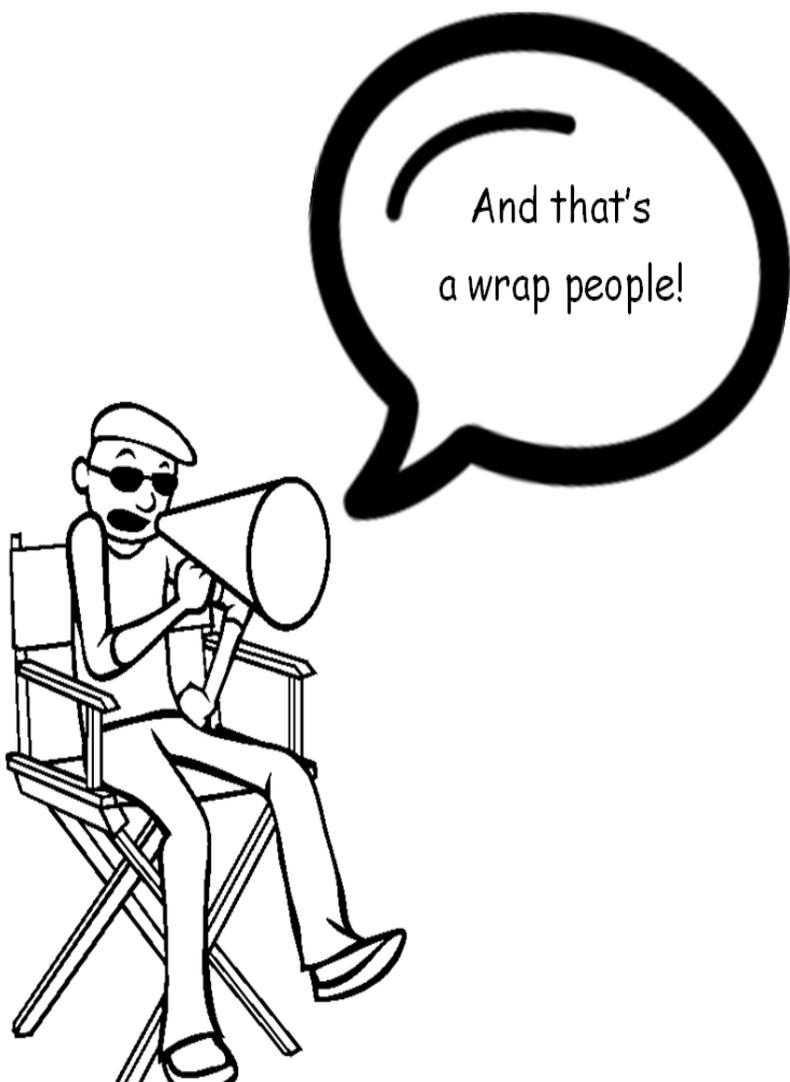
1. I can be broken Without being held. What am I?
2. I run, but never walk. What am I?
3. What has hands, but can't clap?
4. I'm at the beginning of eternity. The end of time and space. I begin every ending. And end every race. What am I?
5. How many eggs can you place into an empty basket?

Answers:

1. A Promise 2. A River 3. A Clock 4. The Letter "E" 5. One egg - after that, the basket will not be empty anymore.

Finders Keepers: Spring Break Edition

V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N	E	E	S	E	S	S
S	X	I	L	F	T	E	N	A	D	R	R	S	T
V	B	O	V	S	O	E	S	F	V	O	Y	U	A
V	G	I	F	I	M	I	R	N	O	O	T	N	Y
U	N	R	N	O	E	I	I	D	R	D	I	N	C
I	I	R	L	G	E	M	T	E	A	N	O	Y	A
O	R	R	T	N	E	U	O	D	N	I	R	G	T
F	P	D	D	I	O	W	T	V	N	S	F	E	I
F	S	S	X	O	E	R	A	D	I	R	Y	I	O
V	R	I	M	N	A	T	I	T	N	E	S	T	N
V	E	E	S	V	S	E	A	I	C	S	S	S	Y
M	S	I	E	E	A	O	S	R	A	H	C	O	R
T	M	L	T	T	S	N	A	S	I	B	E	Y	N
W	N	S	O	T	S	N	N	U	L	C	L	S	W



- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. BingeWatch | 5. Movies | 9. Staycation |
| 2. Free | 6. Netflix | 10. Sunny |
| 3. Friends | 7. Outdoors | 11. Travel |
| 4. Indoors | 8. Spring | 12. Vacation |

