



SEMPER FIDELIS

THE VANCOUVER COLLEGE CONNECTION

NOVEMBER 30, 2009

VANCOUVER COLLEGE

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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

The first three months of the school year have flown by, and it is hard to believe that we are into the Advent season. Re-registration packages for the 2010-2011 school year are currently being prepared and they will be distributed to all students by mail beginning the week of December 7th. In order to secure a seat for your son, I would ask that you complete the re-registration forms and return them to our Registrar, Mrs. Margaret Vossen by December 18th. The early notification of re-registration gives us a good indication of the number of spots available for new applicants for the 2010-2011 school year.

Several weeks ago, letters were sent to families regarding the Blessed Edmund Rice Annual Fund. We continue to appeal to those families who have not yet donated to please do so by the end of December to qualify for a tax receipt for the 2009 tax year. Moneys from this fund are needed to cover our operating costs (see page 8).

Work on our elementary playground has been halted by the extended wet weather. The installers need 48 consecutive hours of dry weather in order to complete the prep work prior to the installation of the safety tiles; so we are hopeful for a break in our current weather patterns. We thank you for your patience and are excited to get this final phase completed so the boys can have access to the playground and the new equipment that has been purchased by our

Parents Association.

Congratulations to the Executive of the Parents Association and particularly to the co-conveyors of the Finnegan Ball, Mrs. Kathleen Francis, Mrs. Dana Wright, and Mrs. Bianca Fusco-Zanatta for a wonderful 2009 Finnegan Ball. "Finnegan Goes for Gold" was a wonderful evening with a chance to socialize with the extended Vancouver College community. Funds generated from the Finnegan Ball, Mothers Christmas Tea and the Mayfair extravaganza enrich a wide variety of student activities from Kindergarten through Grade 12. On behalf of the students and faculty, I would like to thank you for your continued support of these great events.

Our Middle and Senior report cards are being prepared and I would urge all of you to make appointments as necessary to participate in the Parent-Teacher Interviews. The relationship and communication between parents, teachers, and students is crucial to our continued success.

As this is the final newsletter before the Christmas break, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the entire Vancouver College community, to wish you all a blessed Christmas and a peaceful and joyful New Year.

Semper Fidelis
Mr. John McFarland
Principal

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

We welcome Mr. Thomas Slivinski who is taking Ms. Prescott's classes while she recovers from surgery. We expect Mr. Slivinski to be with us until sometime in the spring. He can be reached via email at tslivins@vc.bc.ca and will be available next

week during Parent Teacher Interviews.

Reports have been mailed home for all senior school students along with information on booking parent teacher interviews. If you have not yet received your



son's report card, please contact the office. Parent Teacher Interviews will take place on Thursday, December 3 and Friday, December 4. Senior School students will be dismissed at 12:15 on December 3rd and there are no classes on December 4th to allow for interviews. Please note that interviews must be booked online prior to noon on December 2nd. If you have difficulty with the booking process, please contact Ms. Castelino for assistance.

Each Senior School student is invited to attend a grade level retreat each year. The Grade 10 retreat, Emmaus, is a one-day retreat and is scheduled three times throughout the year. The Grade 11 retreat, Pilgrimage is an overnight retreat opportunity and this year will take place March 4-5 or March 18-19. For many boys the highlight of their Grade 12 year is the Encounter retreat. This year there are three

opportunities, November, February, and April. Our first group returned on November 9, and I want to congratulate all who were involved with the preparation and direction, most especially our student leadership team. While the February Encounter is full, there are still a few spaces available on the April Encounter. Students should see Mr. Beliveau for details.

As we enter the Advent season, all Senior School students will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on December 2, and we will celebrate our school Advent liturgy on December 16th. I hope that these experiences as well as their class time helps to remind the boys of the reason for the Christmas celebrations and that they all take time to prepare to celebrate the birth of Our Lord.

Mrs. Mary Joy Derouin
Assistant Principal, Senior School

MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT

As the season of Advent approaches we take time to reflect on the many blessings God has provided for us and take the time to consider the needs of others.

Vancouver College is a very busy place and the spirit of the school is alive in so many different facets of school life. On Halloween, many of our students and staff participated by dressing up for the day and then, on November 6th, students donned their Purple and Gold attire to cheer on the varsity football team who defeated Notre Dame in the Archbishop's Cup. Our Halloween Drive for the Homeless netted many generous contributions of money, blankets, canned goods, and clothing for the Sisters of the Atonement.

Our Remembrance Day Service on November 10th was beautifully done and well received by parents, students, and staff. The Grade 9 Mass on November 4th at St. Peter and Paul, celebrated by Fr. Cook, was very well organized by Ms. Roger, Mrs. Accili and Mr. Small. I was impressed with how well our boys participated in all aspects of the liturgy.

The Middle School Retreats for our Grade 7 and 8 students have gone very well and each class has been challenged to be aware

of its obligation to reach out to marginalized in our society. It is our hope that each homeroom will put together a Christmas Hamper for a needy family. This year our hampers will go to the *Phil Bouvier Daycare and Native Health Centre*. The Grade 8 students were involved recently in a workshop put on by the "Friends 2 Friends" Society dealing with students with different learning and social needs, particularly those with Autism.

Our Advent Liturgy is scheduled for Wednesday, December 16th in the Alumni Gymnasium. The last day of classes for our students will be Friday, December 18th with dismissal at 11 am.

Term one for our Middle School students concluded on Friday, November 26 with Report Cards to follow. Parent-Teacher Interviews will take place on December 3rd from 2:30 - 8:00 pm and on December 4th from 8:30 - 1:00 pm. Interviews will done by appointment only and can be booked online. All interviews for Middle School teachers will take place in the Alumni Gymnasium. Honour Roll Certificates for students achieving 79.5 % or better as well as Certificate of Distinction awards will be distributed in December.

Grade 9 students will be taking their first set of exams during the week of January 25 – 29, 2010. A two-part Exam Prep seminar, led by Ms. Monica Beck, will take place for the Grade 9's with the first session scheduled for Monday, December 7th. The Justice Theatre Group will be doing a presentation for our Middle School students on the effects of bullying on December 11th in the Kucher Center for Performing Arts.

Our Grade 7 students enjoyed a great week at the North Vancouver Outdoor School. Ms. F. Li and the Grade 7 volleyball are still competing in playoff action while Mr. JP Planta is preparing the Grade 7 basketball team to defend their title at the upcoming HSBC Tournament.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPDATE

The season of Advent will soon be upon us. This quiet, joyful, and hope filled season is a time for increased prayer and charitable acts. The boys will take part in weekly Advent services. The individual classes will also be participating in a variety of projects to raise funds for "Love is the Answer," the charity that helps orphans in Africa. We will have the toy drive for Sisters of Charity and we will continue to have canned food collections. There are record numbers of people signing up to receive hampers this year and we need to do our part to help as many as we are able. We will also participate in the sacrament of reconciliation. All of these actions are to bring us closer to Jesus as we celebrate his birth on December 25. We pray that he will be born in our hearts as we remember his birth over two thousand years ago.

This season, it is also our job, as parents, to teach our children to give from the heart. When we participated in the Halloween candy drive, I asked my children to give some of their candy to "The Door is Open." They went into their rooms and some time later they came out and handed me a plastic bag full of candy. They said, "Here, you can take these because we don't like them." My husband looked at me, and the quiet, unspoken thought between us was one of disappointment as we thought we had done a better job of teaching our children how to

The Grade 8 football team did very well and just completed their regular season, but lost in the semi-finals as did our JV football team, who qualified but lost in the quarterfinals. There are many students involved in the various clubs: Environment, Jr. Edmundians, Book Club, and the Debate team. It's great to see so many involved in the many activities Vancouver College offers.

Once again, I thank you for your constant enthusiasm, support, and prayers. God bless you.

Mr. Michel DesLauriers
Assistant Principal, Middle School

give. I sat my girls down and explained to them that we don't give what we don't want. We give what we think the receiver would like, and we give what is special to us. I also explained how a true gift is often one of sacrifice. A few minutes later, my children donated some of the better quality candy.

At this time of year, I am always reminded of the true story told by a priest at Guardian Angel Parish. A teacher, who taught special needs children, was doing her best to teach the students what it means to give from the heart. She told the students that we all have to give Jesus a gift each Christmas. Many students brought in canned food that they did not want or toys that they no longer played with. There was one student with Downs Syndrome who constantly played a harmonica, it always had a special spot in his pocket and whenever he could he would play it. When the teacher was putting away the nativity scene in early January, she noticed that tucked under the baby Jesus was the harmonica. The student, whom she thought understood the least, gave the biggest gift of all. If only we could have such a giving, generous heart for one another. I pray that I may teach my children at home, and those at school how to give God's love to each other.

Ms. Barbara Seppelt
Assistant Principal, Middle School

Heads Up

December 2:

Mothers Christmas Tea

December 3–4:

Parent Teacher Interviews (early dismissal on the 3rd and no school for M/S and S/S students on the 4th)

December 8

M/S Band Concert

December 9:

Section Meeting—C Schedule

S/S Band Concert

December 16:

Advent Liturgy

December 18:

Last day of classes

January 4:

School re-opens

Above are scheduled events and are subject to change. Please check the website regularly for current information.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Campus Ministry offers a variety of opportunities for students to grow in their faith and to participate in the sacraments.

The Middle School Retreats for each Homeroom in Grade 7 and 8 concluded on November 20th and have gone extremely well. The Grade 7 theme of Servant & Friends and the Grade 8 theme of One in the Spirit have served to challenge our young men to, as St James would say, "put their faith into practice." Mr. DesLauriers, who has conducted the retreats, is grateful for the many Jr. Edmundians (Grade 9 students) who assisted.

The Grade 9 students recently celebrated a mass presided by Fr. Cook at St. Peter & Paul parish. It was well organized by the Grade 9 teachers, Mrs. Accili, Ms. Rogers, and Mr. Small. The students participated and led all aspects of the celebration, including the singing!

We recently received a letter from the Sisters of the Atonement thanking the VC community for their generosity during our Halloween Drive for the Homeless. Each Middle School homeroom will be putting together Christmas Hampers in the next few

weeks for needy families and your son's Religion teachers are continually collecting small change to support our Missions. All monies collected go to support St. Mary's Elementary School, run by the Christian Brothers in Dominica.

Our annual Advent Liturgy will take place in the Gym on Wednesday, December 16 at 9:45 am. Parents and guests are more than welcome to join us as we celebrate the Advent season and anticipate the blessed season of Christmas!

In addition, during this Advent season, Vancouver College will be offering times during which Elementary and Senior students may receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Elementary School will be meeting in Sts. Peter and Paul on December 1st between 9:30 and 11:30 while Senior students will be meeting in the Kucher Theatre on December 3 between 9:30 and 11:30 am.

**Messrs. Kevin Beliveau & Mich DesLauriers,
Ms. Carole Prescott, Mrs. Lilian Vernier &
Br. Charles Gattone
Campus Ministers**

EDMUNDIAN ASSOCIATION

The Edmundian Association has been very active this past month. We held our 1st annual Edmundian retreat in October, which was a success. We were also involved in the Finnegan Ball, University Fair, and grade-level liturgies. In the near future, we will also help with Parent-Teacher Interviews, Advent Liturgy, Mothers Christmas Tea, and any other time when our services are needed.

We are also resurrecting the Social Justice Club under a wing of the Edmundians and hope to take on four major projects this year. With almost 30 students applying to join the Club, we anticipate great things from our Social Justice Club! We continue to

challenge other classes, groups, clubs, teams, and associations to get involved in social justice work in any way they can - we are all called to serve others!

We have meetings every week to keep our members up to date and we always show up to events in full force. Both presidents, Daniel Lee and myself (Nicolas Arciniega), are very proud of the Edmundians this year because of their continued efforts and dedication! As we approach the Advent and Christmas seasons and move into January we will continue to serve, lead, and dream!

**Nicolas Arciniega
Co-Presidents, Edmundian Association**

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Representative Council continues to provide solid leadership in the school. During the last week of October, the Council took advantage of Halloween offering candy-o-grams to both middle and senior school students. The profit from the sales amounted to some \$200, which will be sent to Development and Peace for South East Asian Relief. The Student Council has also considered an approved funding for the Pro-Life Club's participation in the Reverence for Life Conference to be held at St. John Brebeuf Regional High School in Abbotsford. They have also provided funds to the Senior School's Chess Club and are currently considering other requests. They have also started to plan a number of community-building activities for December and the New Year.

AMBASSADORS ASSOCIATION

The Vancouver College Ambassadors are made up of school leaders who strive to be true role-models for all students at Vancouver College. The 11-strong members come from different backgrounds such as Lettermen, Edmundians, Student Council, or other school clubs. This diversity allows the Ambassadors Association to come together to serve the school as an amazing, dependable team. This month, the Ambassadors acted as ushers for the Remembrance Day Ceremony as they guided students and guests to their seats.

Also, some ambassadors assisted with the Vancouver College University Fair as hosts for the many guests and presenters who came to our school. Our next events include the Mothers Tea Party and possibly the Parent Teacher Interviews. I am confident that our group will do an astounding job at these events. I am very proud of the Ambassadors and believe that we will continue to do a great job and have a fantastic school year.

Daniel Lee

STUDENT SERVICES

Post-Secondary Fair at VC

On November 18, the school hosted our annual post-secondary fair for Vancouver College and Lower Mainland Catholic School students. Forty-nine universities, colleges, and institutes were represented including many BC institutions. The fair was well-attended by our students, particularly Grade 10 students, encouraged through their Planning 10 exploration and research. Attendees were able to collect viewbooks and other materials, as well as to make personal contact with admissions representatives to ask questions in general and about their personal circumstances. Students are encouraged to continue their research through print materials and internet access in the Student Services Centre, information and links on the Student Services pages on the school website, our subscription to post-secondary search engines, My Road and Career Cruising, post-secondary websites, and discussions with Mrs. Beck and Mr. Accili.

Study Skills and Academic Motivation

For many students, the transition to Grade 10 and to Senior School from Middle School requires some adaptation in study skills, time management, and motivation. Adjusting to the increased rigour and academic workload, balancing a higher

intensity in athletics and other activities with school work, navigating a greater number of classrooms and instructors, and managing increasing independence can be a challenge. Students who have achieved average or better grades with minimal or inadequate work and study time can suddenly find themselves struggling because of a lack of foundational knowledge, increased volume of work, and achieving below their expected standard. To assist students with these adjustments, the school hosted a presentation by Terry Small for all Grade 10 students on November 30th. Mr. Small is a well-known "study skills guru," who is regularly welcomed by numerous public school districts, private schools, and businesses in the Lower Mainland to present on a variety of topics. Mr. Small presented strategies for studying efficiently, exam preparation and success, effective note taking, maximizing memory, and academic motivation to the students. For more information about Terry Small and other upcoming presentations, please visit his website at www.terrysmall.com. For assistance with study skills and time management for your son, please contact Mrs. Beck or Mr. Accili in the Student Services Department.

Ms. Monica Beck & Mr. Greg Accili
Student Services Counsellors



VC RECITAL SOCIETY

The newly formed VC Recital Society is a Middle and Senior School club that provides students the opportunity to perform solos or small ensemble pieces in the school's top-notch theatre.

The goal of the VC Recital Society is to recognize the developing talents of our students by giving them a forum to perform at school.

This is for students who may or may not be part of one of the school's renowned bands.

VC Recital Society is aiming to put on lunch-time concerts in the theatre. New members are welcome to attend meetings usually scheduled during senior lunch on Thursdays and Middle School lunch on Fridays.

Encourage your talented sons to join!

Mr. Ben Kim
Teacher Sponsor

IRISH ATHLETICS

FOOTBALL

It's been an excellent season for football at Vancouver College. The Junior Varsity team had a strong regular season going 8-1, but was knocked out of the playoffs in the quarterfinal round by WJ Mouat. The Grade 8 team played in the Tier I semi-finals against STM and were unfortunately defeated.

The Varsity football team finished the regular season at 9-1 and won the AAA Western Conference title for the 5th straight year. After a first round bye, the Irish defeated South Kamloops in the quarterfinals 23-12. The Irish then went on to play WJ Mouat in the semifinals on Saturday, November 25th, in McLeod Stadium, Langley, and unfortunately lost 14-15 in a hard fought battle. Congratulations to the entire football squad and coaches, especially Mr. Bennett, for a great season. Special thanks to all the parents and VC community for their support.

Varsity players receiving all conference honours are Ryan Wong, Sagar Bachra, Geno Lalana, Mitchell Smith, and Patrick Bull. Players receiving both all conference and all provincial where Matthias Goossen, Garret Sanvido, and Reiner Theil. In addition, Ryan Wong was the winner of a BC High School Football Association scholarship for his work on the field and in the classroom.

CROSS COUNTRY

The Vancouver College Cross Country team had a short but intense season this fall. Starting in September with 25 athletes competing at the junior (Grades 8-9) and senior (Grades 10-12) divisions, the team consistently placed second in weekly league meets and qualified for the provincial championships, which were held at Crescent Park in South Surrey on November 7.

We had a strong showing at the Zone Finals where our junior team placed second and missed first by a mere two points. At provincials, the junior team continued to make a strong showing with Grade 8 runners William Hoy placing 19th and Michael Vela 26th against 108 runners from grades 8 to 10. In the Senior division Mark Bonar (Grade 11) was the top Irish runner. Captain, Chris D'Arcy, was the next Irish runner and Colin Cheng rounded out the competitors. All the runners raced hard and left it all on the course and Colin, giving 110%, even left his breakfast at the finish line. The team looks strong next year with almost all the runners returning to compete at the provincial championships in Victoria in November 2010.

Thanks to Coach Gord Penn and all those involved in the Cross Country program.



PHYSIOTHERAPY AT VANCOUVER COLLEGE

Due to high demand, we have made arrangements to begin offering physiotherapy services at Vancouver College. Greg Kirk from Apex Physiotherapy will be on campus in the High Performance Centre on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00–5:30 pm.

This will ensure that our student-athletes receive a high standard of one-on-one care; that rehabilitation information can be communicated directly to both me and the coaches; and that travel time is reduced to and from appointments at private clinics.

Our High Performance Coordinator, Scott Vass, has personally worked with Greg and he has the utmost respect and trust in Greg's level of care and service.

Greg Kirk graduated from UBC with a Masters in Physiotherapy. He has also completed certifications in Active Release Therapy® and Acupuncture from the Acupuncture Foundation of Canada Institute. Greg has a passion for sports and has worked with athletes at the high school, NCAA, national, and professional levels.

If you have any questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Vass directly. To book an appointment (30 minutes/session at \$50), please call Greg at Apex Physiotherapy directly at 778-999-4263 or email physio.greg@gmail.com.



GRADE 12 RELIGION STUDENTS SERVE THE HOMELESS

On October 30th, 18 students from Mr. Dardano's Religion 12 class visited the Franciscan Sisters of Atonement and *The Door is Open* to make sandwiches and feed over 100 homeless people. On the menu was Grade 12 student Darren Moraga's special mushroom soup served with grilled cheese sandwiches and Nanaimo Bars. One of the centre's employees remarked, "they really liked the mushroom soup; they rarely get such a meal here." After the 400 sandwiches were made and the meal served, Father Ken Forster, OMI spoke to

the boys about his work as a missionary priest in the DTES, and his nine year stint in Kenya. Afterward, the students cleaned St. Paul's Church, gave out clothing on the streets, and organized the clothing room. Students received credit for service hours and many voiced their intent to return again. The next dates for Vancouver College students are November 20th and December 14th and several dates in the new year. Parent volunteers are welcome to accompany students on upcoming field trips.



Vancouver College in Association with Little Flower Academy, Crofton House, and St. Pats announce the 2010 production of West Side Story.

The cast has enthusiastically began rehearsals under the Direction of Mrs. Nicole McDonald and Musical Direction, of Mr. Chris King. Ms. Nancy Herb and Mrs. Margaret Vossen are choreographing spectacular numbers. An amazing show is on the rise! Look ahead to how you can purchase tickets in the new year for performances at the Kucher Centre on March 23 - 27.

MUSICAL NOTES

We are off to a fine start this fall with all of our musical groups and look forward to another great year for music at Vancouver College.

In the spring, we will be traveling to Disneyland with the Senior Concert Band, Whistler with Concert and Jazz 9, and Kelowna with Jazz 10, 11, and 12. As well, we will be participating locally in both the Kiwanis Concert Band and Jazz Band Festivals. We hope that some of our students will be playing in the orchestra for the upcoming production of *West Side Story* (see article on the right).

Important dates:

- December 8 - Middle School Band Concert at 7:00 pm Kucher Centre.
- December 9 - Senior School Band and Choir Concert at 7:00 pm Kucher Centre.
Limited tickets available at the door for both of these events.
- March 12 - Jazz Dinner Dance - 6:00 Alumni Gym.

Contact Mr. Olson for ticket information at lolson@vc.bc.ca or phone 604-261-4285.

Mr. Larry Olson & Mr. Milan Milosevic
Band and Choir Directors

VC BOOK CLUB

From 18th century pirates to futuristic government controlled societies, the book club is all over the map!

This year, we started off with the classic "Treasure Island" by Robert Louis Stevenson. The boys enjoyed the swash-buckling adventure of young Jim on the run with Pirates. The group came together for a pot luck after school; the food was of epic proportions. There were thematic choices like lemon jello gold coins and goldfish crackers as well as classic stand-bys like pizza! Everyone ate their fill while discussing their favorite parts of the book.

Our next selection is a more modern classic and current best seller called "The Hunger Games" by Suzanne Collins. This novel follows Katnis Everdeen in the futuristic

world of Panem where every year, teenagers are "chosen" to fight to the death in the Hunger Games. This book is action packed and full of fast paced survival challenges.

"The Hunger Games" is available from Mr. Duggan in hardcover for the bargain price of \$12, subsidized in part by the VC Book Club. Get your copy and start reading today! The discussion party for "The Hunger Games" will take place in early December before we take a break for Christmas. A reminder to Santa: Bookworms LOVE getting books in their stockings - maybe even the sequel to "The Hunger Games" called "Catching Fire?"

Miss Shellee Rogers
Teacher Sponsor

37% PARTICIPATION RATE IN ANNUAL FUND

Each one of us plays a critical role in creating the unique learning environment at Vancouver College that makes each student's experience so special. Our students have greatly benefited from the strong tradition of our parents and extended community who generously give their time, talent, and treasure.

Like all independent schools, Vancouver College relies on financial support over and above tuition fees to maintain its high level of education and on capital donations for facilities maintenance and enhancements. Tuition fees cover approximately 47% of the total cost of providing an education at Vancouver College. Government grants cover another 38%. The *Blessed Edmund Rice Annual Fund* is a key initiative in closing this 15% financial gap. Without your support the cost of tuition will be impacted.

To make up the 15% financial gap, we require, where possible, that every family make a minimum gift of \$1,500 towards the *Blessed Edmund Rice Annual Fund*. Last year 66% of our parents participated in the annual fund helping to raise over \$600,000 of the \$680,000 goal. This year, our annual fund goal is \$700,000. As of November 25, 2009, we have received \$200,000 in gifts and an additional \$195,000 in pledges to be received by June 2010. This represents 56% of our fundraising goal donated by 330 (37%) families. We appeal to those who have not yet donated to please do so by end of December to qualify for a tax receipt for the 2009 tax year.

Kim Findlay, Chief Development Officer, will be contacting families over the next few weeks to ask for your gift. Thank you for your support!



Our goal is for all families to participate in the *Blessed Edmund Rice Annual Fund*.

TWO VC BOYS SELECTED FOR AUSTRALIA EXCHANGE

Vancouver College will again facilitate a Student Exchange Program in 2010 with St. Patrick's College, a Christian Brothers independent Catholic school for boys in Australia. This exchange program began over ten years ago and provides a six-week once-in-a-lifetime experience for two Grade 10 students.

Thank you to all the students and parents who participated in the application and interview process. The committee had a tough time selecting as there were so many qualified students to choose from!

Congratulations to **Lucas de Gelder** and **Sebastian Arciniega** who have been chosen to represent Vancouver College this

year. Their families will then host two students from St. Patrick's when they come to Vancouver College from August to September 2010.

VC students arrive in Australia's late summer and at the start of their school year. They stay with host families who also assist them in experiencing much of Australian customs, food, and tourist activities. Lucas and Sebastian will attend classes and also take their grade level exams in late January at St Patrick's.

We wish Lucas and Sebastian an exciting time of anticipation and preparation as well as a safe journey of discovery!

VANCOUVER COLLEGE



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