

Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 19 (January 26th, 2024)

Dear Vanier Family,

This past Monday, we recognized our January Students of the Month. These students, whose pictures are shown below, demonstrated exemplary character, school spirit, and academic achievement. The remainder of the week was quiet as students were busy writing their final examinations for semester one.



Vanessa Arora



Aarushi Awasthi



Arash Fadaei



Edris Faqiri



Alexis Feng



Anvar Isakov



Hunter Knowles



Ash Morrell



**Apameh
Tavakolian**

Just a reminder that next Wednesday (January 31), all students will attend school and follow a special schedule shown below to review their exams and final marks in their courses. The next day, February 1, students will again be away from school as this is a PA (professional activity) day. We welcome back all our students on **Friday, February 2 for the official start of semester 2.**

For semester 2, students will begin four new courses. Some students may want to make timetable changes based on their semester one achievements and interests. Starting on February 2, students can request a timetable change using the following form.

<https://forms.gle/PL1noTZSWtB5i43J8>. Please note that there are limited options in semester 2.

Sincerely,

Karen Johnson

Principal, Georges Vanier SS

416-395-3250 Ext. 20010

<https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/georgesvanier>

Bell Let's Talk Day-Mental Health and Well Being Every Day



This past Wednesday, Jan. 24th, 2024, was Bell Let's talk day. [Bell Let's Talk Day](#) is an annual event for Canadians to come together and raise awareness about mental health issues.

While we recognize Bell Let's Talk Day on January 24th, 2024, the TDSB focuses on students' mental health and well-being **EVERY DAY**.

#BellLetsTalkDay provides us with another important opportunity to continue conversations about mental health & well-being. In recognition of this day and the important conversations that happen every day, the TDSB Professional Support Services (PSS) Mental Health & Well-Being Committee have curated a number of identity affirming resources for students, staff and parents/guardians and caregivers. Please share widely with your school communities:

- [Immediate Mental Health Supports](#)
- [Mental Health Choice Boards](#)
- [Identity Affirming Mental Health Lounges \(*reading lists and community supports*\)](#)
- [Monthly Themes Mental Health Activities](#)
- [Identity Affirming Community Resources and Agencies](#)
- [Other Mental Health and Well Being Resources and Activities](#)
- [Winter Well Being Guide 2024 \(*translated in 20 languages*\)](#)
- [TDSB Staff Well Being Tool Kit](#)
- [TDSB Staff Well Being Resources Webpage](#)

Vanier School Advisory Council (VSAC)

Our 2023-2024 Parent Advisory Council:

Nalini Devineni (Co-Chair)	Cordelia Ramses
Stephanie Hennaoui (Co-Chair)	Saber Ullah
Danielle Ferguson-Shivrattan (Secretary)	Maryam Marzban
Susanna Scocchia (Teacher Rep)	Ivy C.
Peju Omirinde (Student Rep)	

We will not hold a school advisory council meeting for the month of January and but look forward to meeting on February 28th, 2024. Please continue to share your input and feedback for ensuring our school remains safe and welcoming with me or our parent council executives on WhatsApp:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/DbrLzm6EIJV1a03NVonCA0>

News from our Trustees' Office

Please click on the hyperlink below to access the Ward 13 Trustee's (James Li) Update for January 2024.

[Ward 13 – Trustee January 2024 Newsletter](#)

Upcoming Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Conference

The 17th Annual Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Conference is taking place on **Saturday, February 3, 2024**, from 10am – 3pm at Earl Haig High School. The PIAC Conference is a great opportunity for parents/caregivers to deepen their understanding of the educational landscape, connect with fellow parents/guardians/ caregivers and staff, and contribute to the continued success of our schools and communities. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.torontopiac.com/whats-happening/conferences>

School Messenger - Safe Arrival PIN Setup

For the security of safe arrival absence reporting, parents/guardians can set up a Personal Identification Number (PIN) per student. This pin will be required when reporting and explaining absences for this student by phone. Please click on the following link, [Parent/Guardian 4 digit code](#), to see instructions for setting up the pin.

Student Activity Fee - REMINDER!!

This year's student activity fee (SAF) will be \$35 per student OR \$60.00 if you have two children in our school. This SAF fee pays for a Yearbook, student ID card, and Student Council activities. **By the end of this month, we will have to submit to our publishers the number of yearbooks to produce for our school. As such, parents are encouraged to use School Cash Online to pay their child's student activity fee, so they won't miss out on the yearbook, as soon as possible.** If needed, financial assistance is available to offset the activity fee. You may contact the principal to provide/obtain more information.

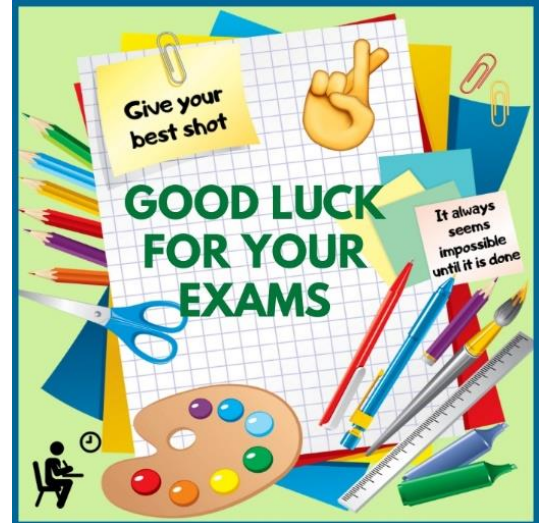


You need a
yearbook!
(just sayin'...)

Achievement

Semester 1 Final Exams. As part of their summative (final) evaluations, some of our Semester 1 courses will have exams. **Exams Dates: January 24th – January 30th, 2024.** An exam schedule and instructions can be found [here](#).

Please note there are no exemptions for culminating tasks and exams. As such, all students must participate in these activities to earn their credit. If a student is not able to write an exam during the allotted time, a medical note is required, and the student will write the exam on another day. You may find more information about our policy ([GVSS Assessment & Evaluation Policy 2023](#)) around examinations and culminating tasks in the [Georges Vanier Student Handbook](#)



Preparing for Exams and Culminating Assignments –

January is the time of year when secondary students are working on course culminating assignments and preparing for Semester 1 exams. For some tips and resources about exams, culminating tasks, mental health/well-being and access to free 24/7 online tutoring support, check out the [Exam and Course Culminating Fact Sheet](#).



Online Tutoring for TDSB Students - Online, on demand tutoring is available 24/7 for students. Secondary students can access tutoring for all courses and grades through [Paper](#). View the [Paper Poster](#) for more information or contact Paper.

Marks Review Day Schedule, January 31, 2024

Period 1: 9:00 – 9:40
Period 2: 9:45 – 10:25
Period 3: 10:30 – 11:10
Period 4: 11:15 – 11:55

Virtual Learning

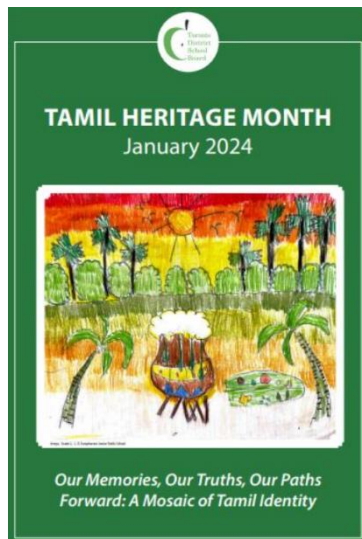
This is a reminder that the TDSB will continue to offer Virtual Learning for the 2024-2025 school year.

Students who are currently enrolled in virtual learning (from Kindergarten to Grade 11) will automatically be enrolled in virtual learning for 2024-2025, unless they complete the [Return to In-Person form](#). This form closes on Friday, January 26.

Students who are currently learning In-Person who would like virtual learning next year, may apply through the Out-of-Area Admission process. For more information, please see: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Find-your/School/Out-of-Area-Admissions>. The process closes on **Wednesday, January 31**.

Equity

Tamil Heritage Month. Tamil Heritage Month is proudly recognized during the month of January at the TDSB since January 2016. It has also been marked across the province of Ontario since March 2014 with the implementation of the Tamil Heritage Month Act, 2014 (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/14t04>). Further, Tamil Heritage Month is formally recognized



nationally since January 2016 by the passing of a motion which reads, that, in the opinion of the House, the government should recognize the contributions that Tamil-Canadians have made to Canadian society, the richness of the Tamil language and culture, and the importance of educating and reflecting upon Tamil heritage for future generations by declaring January, every year, Tamil Heritage Month.

Toronto has the largest Tamil population outside of the South Asian subcontinent with thousands of TDSB students and staff members identified as Tamil. The importance of building awareness, creating a strong self-identity, and understanding one's own roots and rights are important objectives of the activities being planned for this month.

This year, the theme for Tamil Heritage Month is ***Our Memories, Our Truths, Our Paths Forward: A Mosaic of Tamil Identity***. Memories play an integral role in how we shape our stories and identities. They are what we tell ourselves about who we are, and they form the basis for how people know us as well as how we perceive and know the world around us. Memories also shape our truths, and it is within our memories and truths that we set goals for ourselves and move forward, individually, and collectively as a group of people.

TDSB Virtual Community Fair for Parents/Caregivers of Children, Youth and Young Adults with Special or Complex Needs...Let's Talk about Transition to Adulthood.

Adult Transition Planning can be very challenging for Parents/Caregivers of Young Adults with Special/Complex Needs. We have invited lead Adult Transition Agencies to share some crucial steps in this Planning Process. Help set up your young adult for success as they transition from TDSB. This is Part 1 of a 2 Part series where Part 1 will focus on Funding requirements and Part 2 will focus on Community Agencies sharing about their Recreational, Social, Life Skills or Employment Programs. ([flyer](#))

Speakers: Ontario Disability Support Program, Developmental Services Ontario, and Passport Funding Program.

When: **Monday, February 12th, 2024, from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon** and the same information will be repeated on Monday, February 26th, 2024, from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 255 846 447 429

Passcode: 3BWFVF

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

For more information send email to virtualfairinfo@tdsb.on.ca

Health and Well-Being

2023-2024 Winter Well-Being Guide. The [Winter Well-Being Guide](#) (click on the live link to access it) is filled with activities, games, wellness tips, resources and community agencies to support wellness for all students, parents/guardians/caregivers, and school communities.



The Guide provides accessible resources and is available in the top 20 TDSB spoken languages. Visit this site to access the guide in other languages:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/Supporting-You/Mental-Health-and-Well-Being-Professional-Support-Staff-PSS/Well-Being-Guide>

***NEW* Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Helpline 9-8-8...NEW!!!**

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) through the Canadian Radio and Television Corporation (CRTC) has announced on November 30th, 2023, a national three-digit Mental Health and Suicide Prevention hotline number, 988, will be in effect.

CMH's new role in leading the development of 988 service delivery in Canada builds on their experience delivering Talk Suicide Canada, previously known as the Canada Suicide Prevention Service. The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) has been selected as the organization to lead the coordination of service delivery for the national three-digit number.

In the face of increased demand for crisis services, **9-8-8** provides:

- A number that's easy to remember in a crisis.
- Support in English and in French, by phone and text.
- Quick access to support from trained responders, available 24/7/365.
- High quality, evidence-based, equitable suicide prevention and crisis support for everyone in Canada.



For more information about 9-8-8: Suicide Crisis Helpline, visit <https://988.ca>.

More information is also available at [9-8-8 | CAMH](#) and [9-8-8 number for mental health and suicide prevention | CRTC](#)

Kids' Helplines:

Kids Help Phone Line is a 24 hour/7 days per week crisis line that youth can contact for support:
Online Chat: www.kidshelpphone.ca Phone: 1-800-668-6868 Text: 686868

Black Youth Help Line – available 9 AM – 10 PM www.blackyouth.ca 416-285-9944

LGBT Youth Line – Sunday – Friday 4 PM – 9:30 PM – PEER SUPPORT*

Live chat: www.youthline.ca Text: 647-694-4275 Call: 1-800-268-9688

Naseeha - Muslim Mental Health Help Phone – 1-866-Naseeha (627-3342)

Call: 1-866-627-3342 (7 days/week 12-9 PM) Text: 1-866-627-3342 (Mon-Fri 12-9 PM)

Hope for Wellness Help Chat – offers immediate mental health counselling and crisis intervention to all Indigenous peoples across Canada

Live chat: www.hopeforwellness.ca Call: 1-855-242-3310 (24/7)

Other Resources:

Help Ahead is the centralized resource and intake phone line for multiple trusted community-based mental health organizations in Toronto. Help Ahead has up-to-date information about the available programs and services and can find local supports to address the needs of your child and family.
<https://www.helpahead.ca/> 1-866-585-6486

What's Up Walk-In Clinic provides free mental health counselling for children, youth, young adults and their families, and family with infants. <https://www.whatsupwalkin.ca/resources/>

One Stop Talk is a free, confidential service that lets children and youth aged 0-17 years call or connect online from anywhere in Ontario to get brief mental health services. Parents seeking services are encouraged to visit *One Stop Talk* with their child to ensure access to a session.

<https://onestoptalk.ca/> 1-855-416-8255

Upcoming Dates & Events

January 24 – 30:	Exam Days
January 24:	Preparing for myBlueprint – Online @ 6:00pm
January 31:	Exam/Marks Review Day – All students in class (Special Schedule)
February 1:	PA Day – No school for students
February 2:	Semester 2 begins!
February 6:	Welcome Back Assembly
February 7:	Semester 1 Report Cards distribution
February 16:	PD Day
February 19:	Family Day
February 21:	Late Start – Classes Start at 9:55am
February 22:	Photo Day (new students)

Parent Concern Protocol

1

Step One

Classroom Teacher

If you have any questions or concerns, the first person to go to is your classroom teacher. The classroom teacher can help with:

- Any questions about the classroom
- Classroom rules and consequences
- Homework and assignments

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Step Two

School Principal

If you would like more information or you have questions that are beyond the classroom, the school principal can help.

- Concerns about an individual school
- Student registration
- Student schedules
- Student suspensions
- Report card concerns
- Classroom concerns
- Code of Conduct
- Safety and security
- Budget and fundraising
- School Council

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Step Three

School Superintendents

Superintendents are responsible for a Network of Schools. They support school staff and can be contacted if you have questions that have not been answered or for help with:

- Alternate attendance request
- Suspension appeals

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Step Four

Trustees

Trustees are your elected community officials. They are available to help you with the following areas of the TDSB:

- Concerns about your community
- Ideas and suggestions for the Board
- Items on Board Agenda
- Board policies under review
- Board budget
- Collective bargaining

Board Office

You can contact the Board Office directly for any questions or concerns related to:

- Continuing Education
- ESL
- Night and summer school
- Board documents
- Adult education

Phone: 416-397-3000 • Email: GeneralInquiries@TDSB.on.ca

School Information

School Phone #: (416) 395 – 3250

School's Twitter: [@GeorgesVanierSS](https://twitter.com/GeorgesVanierSS)

School's Website:

<https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/georgesvanier>

Our Student Support Team:

Guidance:

Jennifer Hayward (Assistant Curriculum Leader)

Supporting Students with surnames N - Z

jennifer.hayward@tdsb.on.ca

Margarita Leventis

Supporting Students with Surnames G - M

margarite.leventis@tdsb.on.ca

Loraine Chichester

Supporting Students with Surnames A - F

loraine.chichester@tdsb.on.ca

Special Education:

Steven Maurer (Assistant Curriculum Leader)

steven.maurer@tdsb.on.ca

Student Success:

Paula Burgess (Assistant Curriculum Leader)

paula.burgess@tdsb.on.ca

Superintendent: Kurt McIntosh (LC2|LN11)

416-395-8808 • Kurt.McIntosh@tdsb.on.ca

Trustee: James Li • Ward 13

416-395-8787 • James.Li@tdsb.on.ca