

Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 20 (February 2nd, 2024)

Dear Vanier Family,

This Friday (Feb. 2), we officially commenced semester 2. As we turn the page, we would like to congratulate our Vanier students for the hard work and perseverance they displayed throughout the first semester. We encourage all students to continue working at their highest potential as they move into semester 2, as we will be bringing back our “honour roll” recognition of students in grades 9 – 11 who receive 80% or more overall average in their courses.

We will be doing this during the Fall of 2024. As usual, we will recognize and celebrate those in grade 12 at our annual graduation ceremony at the end of June.

In addition to celebrating and recognizing students for their academic achievements, we will also acknowledge students in grades 9 – 12 who have demonstrated exemplary character, leadership, and contribution to our school with some special awards described below. Students will be nominated for these special awards by our Vanier staff.



Perseverance and Personal Achievement Award: Awarded to students who have demonstrated outstanding perseverance, personal growth, and commitment to success.

School Life Award: Awarded to students who have made significant contributions in at least three of the following areas: student leadership, environmental initiatives, peer tutoring, curricular program involvement, athletic involvement, and other extra-curricular activities.

Outstanding Leadership Award: This award recognizes a student for their exceptional leadership and service to their school and/or their community.

School Service Award: Awarded to a student who has demonstrated care and support of fellow students, shown consistent respect for others, helped facilitate a more positive experience/cultural harmony for students at Vanier, and demonstrated active community involvement.

As you know, Vanier is a bustling and vibrant place and will be even more so in Semester 2! There are so many things to look forward to, including our African Heritage and Chinese Heritage month activities during February, our annual talent show, VIBE, in April, our Prom in early June, and graduation near the end of June. With all these activities, plus the monthly holidays, semester 2 will go fast! Students will have to be extra diligent in their schoolwork to ensure that they are always putting in 100% effort and not procrastinating with their assignments. And we, as a staff, will continue to support them and provide opportunities that enrich their mental health and well-being.

Let's make this a great semester, Vanier!

Karen Johnson

Principal, Georges Vanier SS
416-395-3250 Ext. 20010

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

Vanier School Advisory Council (VSAC)...**NEW INFO!!**

Nalini Devineni (Co-Chair) Stephanie Hennaoui (Co-Chair) Danielle Ferguson-Shivrattan (Secretary) Susanna Scocchia (Teacher Rep) Peju Omirinde (Student Rep)	Cordelia Ramses Saber Ullah Maryam Marzban Ivy C.
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Our Co-chairs have created a WhatsApp group for Vanier parents. If you would like to be a part of this WhatsApp group, so you can discuss parent concerns, please click on the following link: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/DbrLzm6EIJV1a03NVoNCA0>

Upcoming Council Meeting Dates: February 28, 2024* | April 3, 2024 | May 1, 2024

Please note that our February Council meeting will be a very important one, as we will have a special **Parents & Prevention: Human Trafficking workshop** given by Victim Services Toronto. This workshop will focus on empowering parents and caregivers with the tools they need to keep youth in their care, safe. Caregivers will learn about:

- What human trafficking is
- Boarder context in which human trafficking takes place
- Where Youth are recruited from
- Red Flags to look out for
- How to support Youth
- Hear firsthand experience from the parent of a survivor
- How to get involved and spread awareness

Upcoming Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Conference

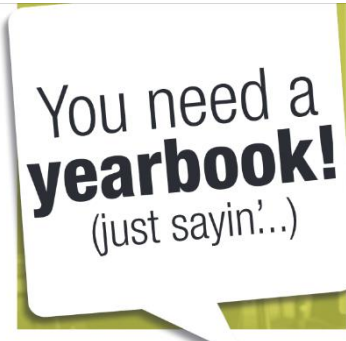
The 17th Annual Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Conference is taking place on **Saturday, February 3, 2024**, from 10am – 3pm at Earl Haig High School. The PIAC Conference is a great opportunity for parents/caregivers to deepen their understanding of the educational landscape, connect with 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.



Achievement

Timetable Changes. 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 as most courses are already full.



Semester 2 Report Cards. These will be emailed on February 7th, 2024, to parents/caregivers and students. As usual, if you do not receive the email or cannot access the report card, please do not hesitate to contact our Main office.

PHOTO DAY for STUDENTS. Edge Imaging Photography will be back in the building on **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024** (morning ONLY) to take photos for Vanier students who did not get photos or an ID card in the Fall. Students will be called down in the morning. Be sure to bring your best smile!

Grade 12 students who still need to sit for a Graduation Photo Session may also book a time for grad photos online for the same day. The sitting fee is \$35. **Information about this will be shared soon.**

Equity

African- Heritage Month at the TDSB - February 2023. During the month of February, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) proudly recognizes African Heritage (Black History) Month. African Heritage (Black History) Month is recognized across Canada, thanks to The Honourable MP Jean Augustine, who introduced the motion in the House of Commons in December 1995; it officially took effect in February in 1996.

The [Black History Month Act](#) was also passed in Ontario in 2016 and has been formally recognized since. African Heritage (Black History) Month is an occasion to commemorate present and past individuals who helped shape the path of our future student leaders, while also celebrating the many achievements and contributions of numerous individuals with this heritage! Their voices and actions impact our society, and work to continuously improve the world we live in.

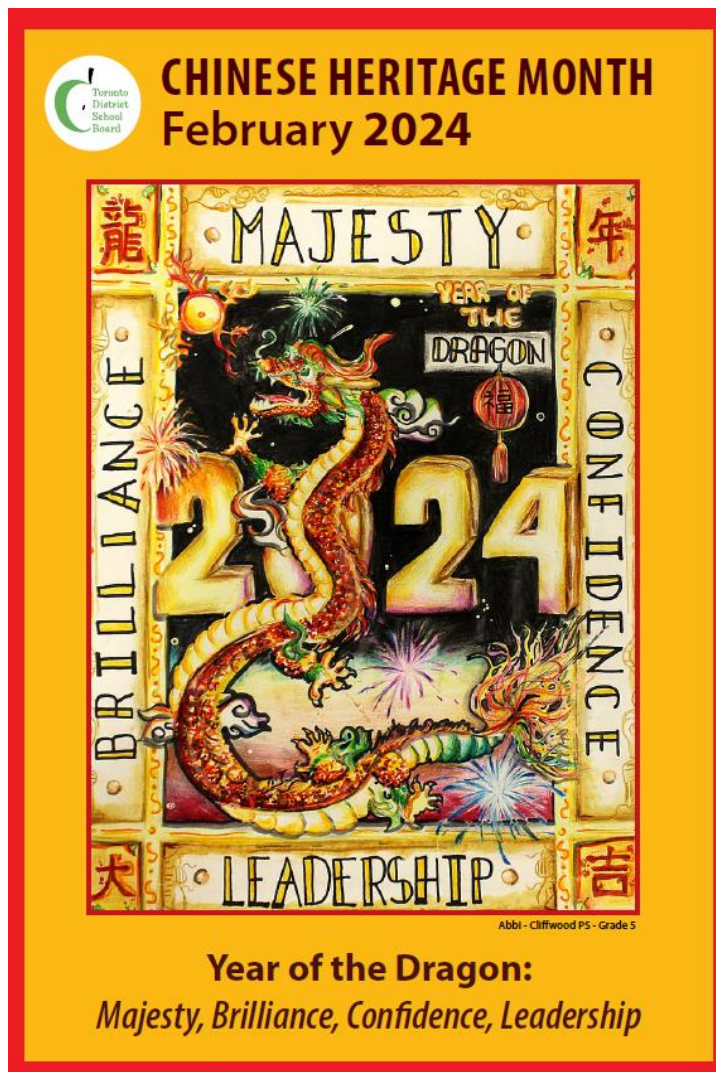
This year's chosen theme is: **Our Black Is...Our Black Is Resilient, Community, Beautiful, Unity, Joy, Self-Determination, Excellence, Empowering, Purpose, Brilliance, Engaging, Creative, Belonging, Tenacious, Powerful, Faith, Audacious, Powerful, Me...**

In recognition of February 2024 African Heritage/Black History Month, the TDSB's **Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement** has collaborated with a variety of community partners, leaders, and TDSB departments to celebrate the wonderful and undeniable achievements of Black people, their histories, and their cultures. As TDSB celebrates African Heritage/Black History Month with the theme Our Black Is...We invite you to join us for the many opportunities planned for this month. Click [here](#) for a flyer of some of the events scheduled.

Here at Vanier, our BCU Club (Black Collective Union) is busy working on a dramatic performance, which they will be presenting to our entire school community as part of our local African Heritage Month celebrations. Stay tuned for further information about this.



Chinese Heritage Month at the TDSB - February 2023. TDSB Chinese Heritage Month is proudly recognized in February each year. During this month, several learning resources and educational opportunities will be provided to our students and staff to further enhance their knowledge of the Chinese heritage. This year we celebrate the **Year of the Dragon: Majesty, Brilliance, Confidence, Leadership.**



This February we will also celebrate the Lunar New Year. Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is one of the most important celebrations for Chinese communities around the world. Lunar New Year is celebrated annually, and its dates are based on the lunar calendar. For 2024, it starts Saturday, February 10 and ends Saturday, February 24. The festivities include family gatherings, decorations, and of course a feast!

TDSB celebrations. To mark Chinese Heritage Month, all TDSB students were invited to participate in the CHM's popular annual poster contest. Below are the links to the nine winning entries.

- [Chinese Heritage Month Posters 01](#)
- [Chinese Heritage Month Posters 02](#)
- [Chinese Heritage Month Posters 03](#)
- [Chinese Heritage Month Posters 04](#)
- [Chinese Heritage Month Posters 05](#)
- [Chinese Heritage Month Posters 06](#)
- [Chinese Heritage Month Posters 07](#)
- [Chinese Heritage Month Posters 08](#)
- [Chinese Heritage Month Posters 09](#)

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

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

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Classroom Teacher

Step One

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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School Principal

Step Two

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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School Superintendents

Step Three

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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Trustees

Step Four

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

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