

**Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 26 (March 22, 2024)**

Dear Vanier Family,

As usual, Vanier was buzzing with activities! One notable was our Club Fair on Wednesday (March 20th), where students got to see and learn about the extracurriculars running in our school. Below, you'll find some pictures from that day. For a complete listing of our school's clubs, visit <https://sites.google.com/tdsb.on.ca/gvssac/vanier-clubs>.

This past Thursday was World Down Syndrome Day. To mark the day, students in our PEEL program wore mismatched socks and did a bake sale fundraiser at lunchtime (see pictures below). We ended the week with an extended lunch on Friday (March 22nd) to celebrate Nowruz, the Persian New Year.

Another exciting Vanier event of this week was our Robotics Team debut at the First Robotics competition at the University of Waterloo from Thursday to Saturday. Our Robotics Team consists of over 40 dedicated students spanning Grades 9-12, who demonstrate a relentless spirit of innovation and collaboration. They have worked extremely hard preparing for their competitions since the start of the school year, and we wish them nothing but the best.

As we near the end of March, I want to bring your attention to a very important upcoming event - our **Parent/Caregiver - Teacher Interviews/Conferences**, which will be held on **THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024**. We'll hold two sessions of Interviews/conferences:

**Session1: 2:00PM - 4:00PM Virtual Interview (MS TEAMS or Google Meet)**

**Session 2: 6:00pm - 8:00pm Live In-Person Interviews (held at the school)**

Bookings open on **Thursday MARCH 28, 2024**. Conference sessions are 10 minutes in duration.

Go to [www.schoolinterviews.ca](http://www.schoolinterviews.ca) and enter the code **nu642**

Or go to <https://schoolinterviews.ca/code/nu642> Or scan the QR Code



Last, but not least, this **Saturday, March 23, 2024**, people around the world will observe **Earth Hour**. During Earth Hour, all TDSB schools and offices will go as electricity-free as possible for ONE HOUR at 2 pm. We hope you too will participate in Earth Hour by turning off any non-essential electronics and power bars.

**Karen Johnson**

Principal, Georges Vanier SS

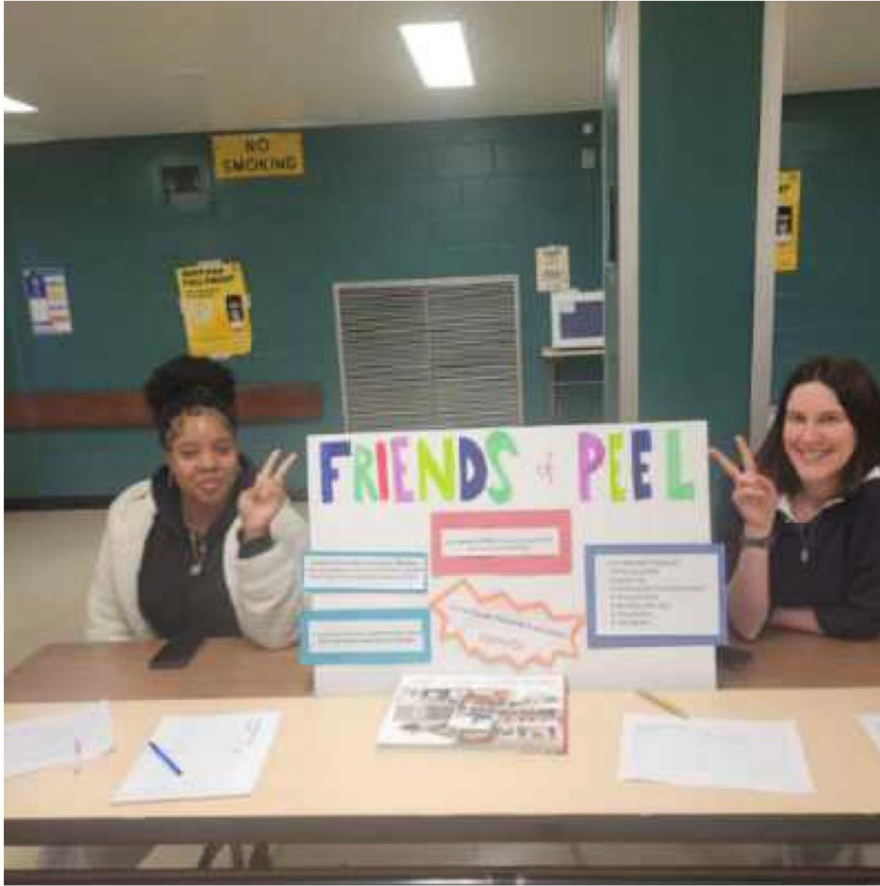
416-395-3250 Ext. 20010

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

**Some Pictures from our Club Fair on Wednesday, March 20, 2024**



**Some Pictures from our PEEL Program**



## Vanier School Advisory Council (VSAC)

<p>Nalini Devineni (Co-Chair) Stephanie Hennaoui (Co-Chair) Danielle Ferguson-Shivrattan (Secretary) Susanna Scocchia (Teacher Rep) Peju Omirinde (Student Rep)</p>	<p>Cordelia Ramses Saber Ullah Maryam Marzban Ivy C.</p>
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**Upcoming Council Meeting Dates:** | April 3, 2024 | May 1, 2024|@ 6:30 pm

## Achievement

### Peer-Tutoring

Peer tutoring is available for grades 9-11 students who want help with their Math, English, and Science courses. Simply **complete THIS FORM** to request a tutor. Students can sign up at any point in the semester!



### After-School Literacy/Math Tutoring

IT'S BACK! The program will start the week of Feb 26 and end, the week of June 3.

This is NOT a drop-in session! Students will need to register to attend. They may do so by coming to the main office. Classes will run from 3:30 to 4:40pm. Below are the teachers who will be providing the tutoring, along with their day and location.

**Mr. Husain** (Tues/Thurs) – LITERACY Room 203  
**Ms. Gersternova** (Mon/Wed) – LITERACY Room 211  
**Mr. Hui** (Mon/Thur) – MATH Room 320

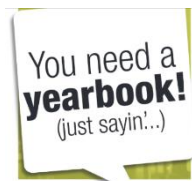
**OSSLT- Spring 2024.** On April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, our Grade 10 students, and any remaining Grade 11s and 12s who still need to do so, will be writing their Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test. Please be reminded that passing the OSSLT is a mandatory requirement to receive an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). More information on our spring writing session will be shared shortly.

**R.E.A.C.H (Remedial, Enrichment And Change) Days** will also take place on April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Remember REACH is an opportunity for students to work with teachers to complete and submit any missing assignments before mid-semester marks are released. Please see the table below for a special school schedule that will be followed for these two days.

<b>OSSLT Spring Schedule</b>	
<b>Thursday April 11, 2024</b>	
9:00am - 12:00pm	<b>OSSLT (Group 1)</b>
12:00pm - 1:00pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:00pm - 2:05pm	<b>BLOCK A - REACH</b>
2:10pm - 3:15pm	<b>BLOCK B - REACH</b>
<b>Friday April 12, 2024</b>	
9:00am - 12:00pm	<b>OSSLT (Group 2)</b>
12:00pm - 1:00pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:00pm - 2:05pm	<b>BLOCK D - REACH</b>
2:10pm - 3:15pm	<b>BLOCK C - REACH</b>

### Student Activity Fee

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.



## E-Learning Graduation Requirement



On February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, the Ministry of Education shared details on the new graduation requirement of two e-Learning credits to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). This applies to students who started Grade 9 on or after September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020-2021 (current grade 9s, 10s, 11s).

Please note that students can count ONE secondary school credit earned remotely during the province-wide closure from April 2021 to June 2021, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic towards this requirement. This means these students will only need to take one additional e-Learning credit.

A parent/caregiver/guardian or student (18 years of age or older or 16 or 17 years of age and has withdrawn from parental control) can opt out of the e-Learning Graduation Requirement. No explanation or reason is needed to opt-out/withdraw.

If you have not yet done so, please complete [this online form](#) to indicate your decision about this graduation requirement - whether you want to opt out or not. Please complete this online form by Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024. OR

Print and complete [this form](#) AND return it to the Main Office by Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

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## The Peanut Streets Plan - Help improve road safety

In consultation with the local community, the City of Toronto is developing a Neighbourhood Streets Plan for the Peanut area that will address three main areas of concern:

1. Road safety for vulnerable road users (e.g., pedestrians, children, older adults, and people cycling)
2. Excessive speeding
3. Excessive motor vehicle traffic on local streets

They want to hear from people in the area about their transportation safety concerns. Your input can help them plan changes to improve the local streets.

Use the [interactive map](#) to share your road safety comments online by **April 10, 2024**. For in-person, attend the March 27 public drop-in event. Learn more at [toronto.ca/peanutstreets](https://toronto.ca/peanutstreets)

## Equity

**Greek Heritage Month (GHM) @ the TDSB: March 2024.** March is Greek Heritage Month at the Toronto District School Board. It is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Greek Canadians to Canada, and an occasion to mark and enjoy the history of Greek culture. The theme for this year is: ***Greek Thought and Civilization: From Myth to Logos***



# Greek Heritage Month



**March 2024**

**“Greek Thought and Civilization: From Myth to Logos”**

**“Ελληνική Σκέψη και Πολιτισμός: Από τον Μύθο στον Λόγο”**

Please visit the [GHM Website](#) website for information and resources:

### [GHM 2024 Calendar of Daily Activities](#)

Join us on Friday, March 22nd for a Social Event at Floga Restaurant: [GHM Social Event](#)

Join us on Sunday, April 7th at 1:30 pm for the Greek Independence Parade on the Danforth (meet at 15 Phin Avenue at 1:00 pm)

Join us for the GHM Closing Event on Saturday, April 13th at the Greek Community Centre at 30 Thorncliffe Park Drive from 1 to 3 pm.

For further information, please contact [anna.epitropou@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:anna.epitropou@tdsb.on.ca), GHM Chair

**Ramadan 2024.** Monday, March 11, 2024, marks the first week of Ramadan, one of the holiest months of Islamic calendar. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims worldwide abstain from food and water from sunrise to sunset for 29 or 30 consecutive days - as determined by the lunar calendar. Fasting is one of the five pillars of Islam. Muslims break their fast each evening with a communal dinner called an iftar. During Ramadan, Muslims make every effort to recite the Qur'an, participate in extra prayers, engage in charity, and complete good deeds to reach a higher level of spirituality. Once the month is over, Muslims celebrate Eid al-Fitr, the festival of breaking the fast with family and friends, wearing special clothes and sharing gifts for up to three days. The TDSB's Islamic Heritage Month Committee (IHM) has collated various resources, which our staff will use to affirm Muslim students' identities during Ramadan.

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### **ASD After School Skills Development Program Spring 2024 Session**

The spring session for the ASD After School Leisure Program will run from March 26 – June 13, 2024, in-person and virtual. **The program is available to students in Grades 4-10 who have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.** This program provides an opportunity for students to develop, build and enhance their social-communication skills through either weekly in-person or weekly virtual sessions.

**Below is the link for registration of students in Grades 4 – 10 with ASD. The registration period will remain open until Friday, March 15, 2024.**

[Afterschool Leisure Program Parent Letter- Spring 2024 .docx](#)

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## **Epilepsy Awareness Month – March** **Purple Day - MARCH 26, 2024**



**TUESDAY, MARCH 26TH IS**

**PURPLE DAY**  
*For Epilepsy*

**EPILEPSY AWARENESS STARTS WITH YOU!**

[EPILEPSYTORONTO.ORG/PURPLEDAY](https://epilepsytoronto.org/purpleday)

**EPILEPSY**  
*Toronto*  
See the Person



## Health and Well-Being

**Mental Health Resources:** Mental Health and Well-Being is essential to student success. The TDSB is committed to improving the mental health and well-being of students and has created resources to achieving this goal. Please sure to visit the [MHWB website](#) these resources.

**Protecting Yourself Against Scams:** The rise of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies has led to a rapid increase in scamming activities using AI, which almost perfectly reproduces a person's voice. An "impersonation scam" occurs when criminals make use of AI created voices to read pre-prepared scripts in order to trick people into giving the scammers money. These scenarios can include:

- A young individual was arrested and needs cash to make bail.
- A family member has been kidnapped and they require a ransom for release.
- A friend, claiming to be stranded, urgently needs money for travel expenses.

Scammers will often use pressure tactics like the emergency situations listed above to make you feel like you have no choice but to give them money. These calls are, by design, very stressful, and AI makes it practically impossible to tell reality from fiction. Therefore, it is very important to follow the tips below to better react to and prevent fraud:

- Contact the friend or family member, or someone who can confirm their condition, to ascertain whether or not the original call was genuine.
- Be cautious about what you post online, as scammers will gather voice clips from social media and through other means to create the clone.
- Consider setting a code word for phone calls with close ones as authentication.

Please review the following resources which will deepen your understanding and better protect yourself and the people around you from voice cloning scams.

- [Police believe AI voice cloning used to scam seniors](#) (Video)
- [Ontario man out \\$8K in scam that uses AI to mimic voices of friends and family](#) (Article)

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### Parent's Guide to Ontario's Education System...A note from the Ministry

The Ministry of Education is pleased to inform you that the Parent's Guide to Ontario's Education System was launched today.

This new resource will provide parents with helpful information that supports them to have a stronger role and actively participate in their children's education. The guide covers several subjects such as knowing how their child is doing in school, learning about suspension and expulsion processes, attending a school council meeting or parent involvement committee meeting, and knowing about specialized supports to help all children succeed.

This initiative is part of the government's recent efforts to increase transparency and accountability in our school system.

The full guide can be found at [www.Ontario.ca/educationguide](http://www.Ontario.ca/educationguide).

**\*NEW\* Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Helpline 9-8-8**

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](http://www.kidshelpphone.ca) Phone: 1-800-668-6868 Text: 686868

**Black Youth Help Line** – available 9 AM – 10 PM [www.blackyouth.ca](http://www.blackyouth.ca) 416-285-9944

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

Live chat: [www.youthline.ca](http://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](http://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

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## **Upcoming Dates & Events**

Mar. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Late Start Day; Classes begin @ 9:55 am
Mar. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday – No School
Apr. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Easter Monday – No School
Apr. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	School Council Meeting in Learning Hub, 6:30-8:00 pm
Apr. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Parent/Caregiver-Teacher Interviews
April 8 <sup>th</sup>	PA Day – No School
Apr. 11 & 12	R.E.A.C.H & O.S.S.L.T Days (Special Schedule)
Apr. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Late Start Day; Classes begin @ 9:55am
Apr. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Report Card Day Distribution (Electronically)
Apr. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Late Start Day; Classes begin at 9:55am

## Parent Concern Protocol

1

### 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

2

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:jennifer.hayward@tdsb.on.ca)

Margarita Leventis

Supporting Students with Surnames G - M

[margarite.leventis@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:margarite.leventis@tdsb.on.ca)

Loraine Chichester

Supporting Students with Surnames A - F

[loraine.chichester@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:loraine.chichester@tdsb.on.ca)

#### Special Education:

Steven Maurer (Assistant Curriculum Leader)

[steven.maurer@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:steven.maurer@tdsb.on.ca)

#### Student Success:

Paula Burgess (Assistant Curriculum Leader)

[paula.burgess@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:paula.burgess@tdsb.on.ca)

**Superintendent:** Kurt McIntosh (LC2|LN11)

416-395-8808 • [Kurt.McIntosh@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Kurt.McIntosh@tdsb.on.ca)

**Trustee:** James Li • Ward 13

416-395-8787 • [James.Li@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:James.Li@tdsb.on.ca)