

Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 27 (March 28, 2024)

Dear Vanier Family,

I hope you have had a wonderful week. One of the highlights from this 4-day week was the retirement celebration of one of our beloved teachers, Ms. Mariam Kathrada. Ms. Kathrada has been teaching for over 40 years and continued to be an enthusiastic and exemplary teacher right up until the very end (March 28th). She will be sorely missed by both our staff and students, but we wish her the absolute best as she embarks on this next chapter of her life.

As I shared in last week's newsletter, our Robotics Team participated in the First Robotics competition at the University of Waterloo from March 21 – 23rd. I am excited to report that our team won BIG! They were crowned Rookie All-Star and their Alliance took the top spot – winning Gold! With this win, our team moves on to the provincial competition, which will be held next weekend. Well done Vanier students! We are so proud of you!



We are also proud to announce our students of the month for March. They include **Edris Faqiri** (gr. 9), **Amilton Calongo** (gr. 10), **Layan Al Zoubi** (gr. 12) and **Martin Linton** (gr. 12).

Next week will be another short and busy one. On **Wednesday, April 3rd**, we will have our second last parent council meeting for this school year, at 6:30 pm, in the Learning Hub. This meeting will allow parents/caregivers to get updates about school staffing, budget, and student issues and to express their concerns. For this meeting, we will be having a draw to give away a special gift, so I hope to see many of you there! **Thursday, April 4th**, will be our Parent/Caregiver – Teacher Interviews/Conferences. The details for this night are shared below. The link to book an interview with your child's teacher opens today. If you have any difficulties signing up or connecting with your child's teacher, please get in touch with our Main Office at 416-395-3250.

Last, but not least, I want to take this opportunity to wish those celebrating Easter this coming weekend, a blessed and joyful season. Do not forget that school is closed on Good Friday (March 29th) and Easter Monday (April 1st).

Best,

Karen Johnson

Principal, Georges Vanier SS

416-395-3250 Ext. 20010

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



Goodbye to our beloved teacher, Ms. Kathrada



Vanier School Advisory Council (VSAC)

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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Upcoming Council Meeting Dates: | April 3, 2024 | May 1, 2024|@ 6:30 pm in the Learning Hub

Parent/Caregiver – Teacher Interviews/Conferences

Next Thursday, April 4th, 2024, will be our Semester 2 Parent/Caregiver - Teacher Interviews/Conferences. We will hold two sessions of Interviews/conferences:

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

Session 2: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM 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 and enter the code **nu642**

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



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 11th and 12th, 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 11th and 12th. 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.

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

E-Learning Graduation Requirement



On February 1st, 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 1st, 2020-2021 (current grade 9s, 10s, 11s).

Please note that students can count ONE secondary school credit earned remotely during the provide-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 5th, 2024. OR

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

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

Equity

Latin–America History Month at the TDSB – April 2024

The month of April is proudly recognized as Latin–America History Month at the Toronto District School Board. This year the focus and theme of 2024 is: **"Weaving Our Legacies: Return to Our Collective Path | Enlazar Nuestras Legados: Volver a Nuestro Camino Colectivo."** The "e" in Nuestras was purposefully chosen to disrupt the dominant and default patriarchal binary gender grammar system of the colonial language of Spanish. The intentional use of the letter "e" as gender inclusive was created by LGBTQIA+, gender non-binary, and feminist communities in what is recognized today as Latin-America.

Sources: <https://callmelatine.wordpress.com/>

Latin-America History Month

Since the creation of the Latin-America History Month Volunteer Planning Committee in 2016, the membership, which is comprised of educators, community organizers, parents/caregivers and TDSB staff and alumni, continues to ensure that we are reflective of all intersectional differences within our communities of Latin-America / Abya Yala / Pachamama and its diaspora, including those right here at the TDSB.

In alignment with this year's theme, we are centering weaving individual and collective legacies of resistance, struggles, joy, love, and healing as peoples of the Latin-America / Abya Yala / Pachamama and its diaspora. While also focusing on the communal purpose of raising consciousness and moving towards reclaiming our whole authentic selves and a (re)commitment to reciprocal relations, solidarity, and action towards a just world.

During the month of April, several activities are being planned for students, staff, and community members. We invite everyone to join us to kick off Latin-America History Month with a virtual launch, on Friday, April 5, 2024, from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Sikh Heritage Month at the TDSB – April 2024

Sikh Heritage Month has been proudly recognized at the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) since 2016 as the Board of Trustees voted to designate April of each year as Sikh Heritage Month making the TDSB the first school board in Canada to do so. Sikh Heritage Month is recognized nationally across Canada.

This year's the Sikh Heritage Month's theme is **Chardi Kala (The Positive and Uplifted State of Mind)**. According to Sikh beliefs, Chardi Kala is a state of mind that radiates positive energy, optimistic attitude, strong confidence, and virtuosity. With true belief in the supreme power of the Almighty and the oneness of humanity, this state of mind can pave a way for the well-being and happiness of all.

SIKH HERITAGE MONTH

The TDSB community, students, and staff are invited to join our virtual Sikh Heritage Month launch to learn about the Sikh heritage and traditions! Join us for a remarkable morning of information and celebration on Wednesday, April 3rd from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m., zoom webinar link: <https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/94688340698>).

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.



The TDSB has created a new webpage, [Substance Use, Misuse and Abuse](#), with resources for parents, caregivers, guardians, staff, children and youth, including tips, identity-affirming community agency contacts, and where one can seek supports for youth substance use, misuse and abuse.

There is also a new TDSB webpage, [Resources to Address Inappropriate Social Media Images and AI](#). This one is dedicated to helping you, Parents, Caregivers, Guardians, Staff, Children and Youth navigate the digital safety world safely. On the site, you will be able to:

- Explore preventative measures and intervention strategies for inappropriate social media content, sextortion, and sexting.
- Find tips for parents, caregivers, guardians, staff, children, and youth on preventing and addressing inappropriate online content.
- Watch a short video from the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, offering essential insights into protecting children online.

If you or someone in your school community encounters issues related to inappropriate social media content or sextortion, please contact your respective Manager of Social Work and Attendance or Caring and Safe Schools for assistance.

As part of their commitment to combating sex trafficking, TDSB's anti-sex trafficking professional development resources and learnings, in alignment with the [TDSB Anti-Sex Trafficking Policy P099](#), are below.

- [The TDSB Anti-Sex Trafficking Resource Webpage](#)
- AST Information Videos for Parents, Caregivers, Guardians and Staff in collaboration with Community Partners
 - Ø Video #1: [Victim Services of Toronto-Learning about AST](#)
 - Ø Video #2: [Victim Services of Toronto-AST and Stigma](#)
- Anti-Sex Trafficking Information Videos for Parents, Caregivers and Guardians to Support Students with Special Education/Complex Needs Healthy Vs. UnHealthy Relationships
 - Ø [Video #1: Relationships](#)
 - Ø [Video #2: Emotions & Boundaries](#)
 - Ø [Video #3: Relationships & Abuse](#)

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.

***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 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

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

Parent Concern Protocol

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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