

**Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 29 (April 12, 2024)**

Dear Vanier Family,

We have had a very eventful week at Vanier! The highlight of our news is that our newly formed Robotics Team (see picture below) has been crowned Rookie All-Star (the top new robotics team) at the recent provincial FIRST Robotics competition. This remarkable achievement has earned them a spot at the world championship in Houston, Texas, from April 17 – 20! As we speak, we are tirelessly working to secure the \$ 30,000 required to send the Team to Texas, a journey that will not only be a life-changing experience for our students but also a testament to the potential of our school's robotics program. We've raised \$ 10,000 so far and are hoping for the rest. If you or your company can help support our Team, please get in touch with me ASAP. Congratulations to our Team for all their hard work and successes so far. Your achievements make us proud! Good luck at the World Championships!



This past week, we also had our Spring writing of the OSSLT exams. We have steadily increased our literacy rate over the past few years—for example, we had a 6% increase in the number of students who were successful on the test between the 21/22 and 22/24 school years. We look forward to some good outcomes in the Spring. This week, we also held our REACH days for students to complete any outstanding assessments before the mid-term marks are submitted.

Next week, our student council will kick off the ticket sales for one of the most anticipated events at Vanier, **VIBE** (Vanier International Big Event), which is set to take place on April 25th. This is a night filled with fun, entertainment, and a chance for our community to come together. We are looking forward to seeing many of our parents and caregivers at this event. Please refer to the flyer below for details on ticket sales. Also, remember next week is the application deadline for next year's student council members. We encourage our students to consider being part of the SAC, as this is the team that drives student activities in our school.

Last but certainly not least, to those celebrating, have a happy and healthy Tamil New Year!

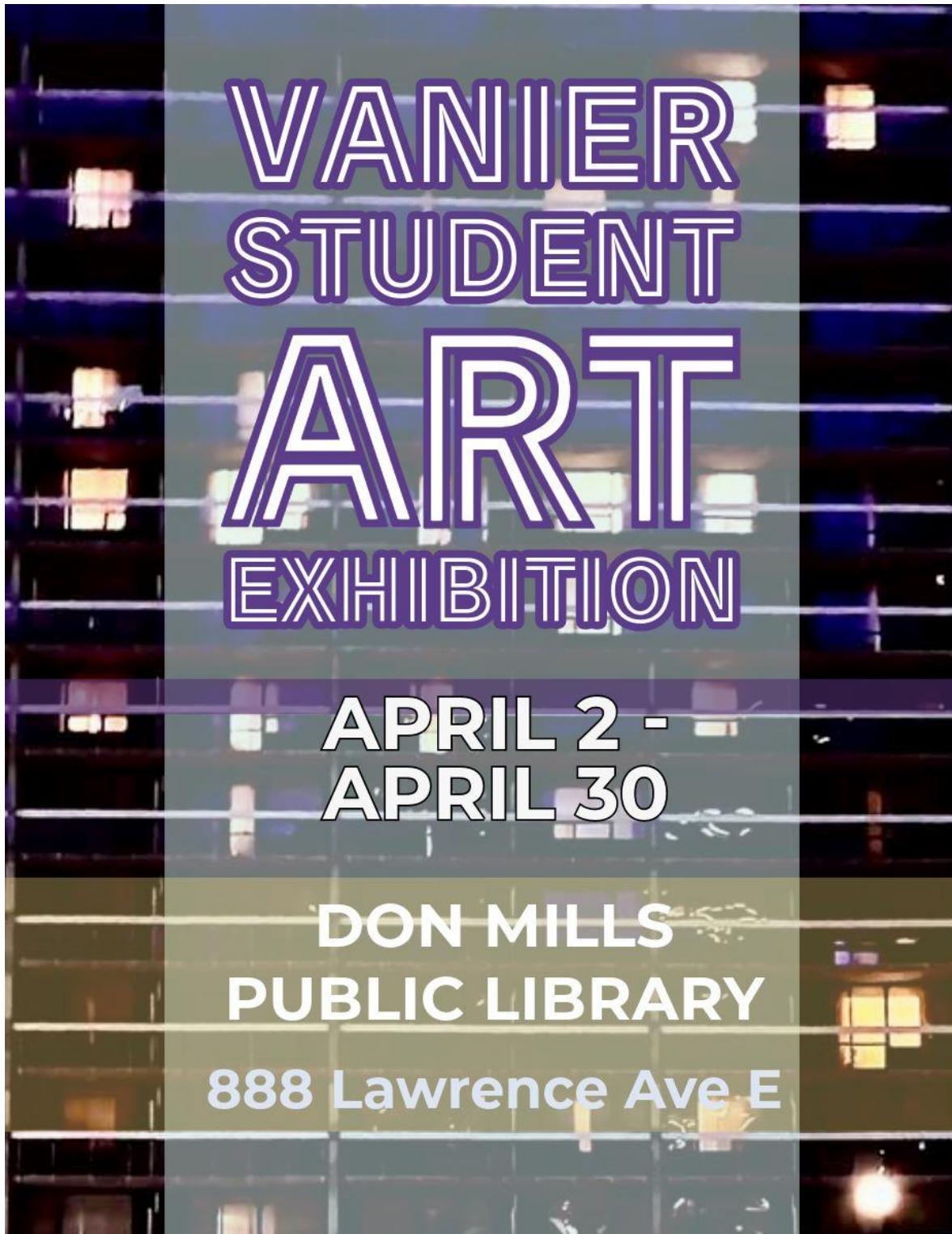
**Karen Johnson**

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

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



Please check out our Students Artwork at Don Mills Public Library



**VANIER  
STUDENT  
ART  
EXHIBITION**

**APRIL 2 -  
APRIL 30**

**DON MILLS  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
888 Lawrence Ave E**

**Please Mark Your Calendars...VIBE 2024 takes place on April 25<sup>th</sup>.**



**VIBE**  
is back!  
April 25<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm

Ticket sales will be held  
from April 15<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> in  
the cafeteria at lunch!

**\$5 (Cash only!)**

\*Tickets will be sold on the night of VIBE as well.

ADMIT ONE  
604760

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## 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:** May 1, 2024|@ 6:30 pm in the Learning Hub

## 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

## TDSB Backpack & School Supplies Drive



All students should have access to backpacks and school supplies. These essential items support well-being so that students may focus on achievement in and out of the classroom. The TDSB is pleased to launch the annual [Backpack & School Supplies Drive](#) (“the Drive”) this month. Backpacks and school supplies can be expensive. They can also wear out easily or are often lost or misplaced by students throughout the school year. They represent a difficult purchase for some students and for their families.

The Drive is LIVE and will run until the end of September 2024. We are accepting donations of new products, including backpacks (gender neutral coloured with no commercial logos preferred), lunch bags, crayons, calculators, and basic school supplies. Those interested in supporting the drive with In-Kind donations can complete our [online donation form](#). Monetary donations towards the purchase of backpacks and supplies are also welcome and can be made online through [School Cash Online](#). For information related to the Drive, please contact Educational and Business Partnerships at 416-395-9694 or [businessdevelopment@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:businessdevelopment@tdsb.on.ca).

## 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](#)



**TDSB Social Work**  
Presents



# VIRTUAL COMMUNITY FAIR

FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS WITH  
SPECIAL OR COMPLEX NEEDS

**WHEN**  
**APRIL 15, 2024**  
**9:30 AM - 12 NOON**  
**AND A REPEAT ON**  
**APRIL 22, 2024**  
**5:30 PM - 8 PM**



LEARN ABOUT  
WILLS, TRUSTS, GUARDIANSHIP,  
REGISTERED DISABILITY SAVINGS  
PLAN (RDSP) AND MUCH MORE!

ALL ABOUT ENHANCING THE  
QUALITY OF LIFE FOR YOUR CHILD  
WITH SPECIAL/COMPLEX NEEDS

**POORANLAW**



**MICROSOFT TEAMS MEETING**

JOIN ON YOUR COMPUTER, MOBILE APP OR ROOM DEVICE

**[CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE MEETING](#)**

MEETING ID: 255 846 447 429 / PASSCODE: 38WVVF

DOWNLOAD TEAMS | JOIN ON THE WEB



FOR ANY QUESTIONS CALL:  
LARENA CASE: 416-570-3314  
MARIA ANTONIA AYMERICH: 416-524-1930  
VANESSA WONG: 647-229-0730  
EMAIL: [VIRTUALFAIRINFO@TDSB.ON.CA](mailto:VIRTUALFAIRINFO@TDSB.ON.CA)

## 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**

Apr. 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 30 <sup>th</sup>	Student Art Show @ Don Mills Public Library
Apr. 14 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Robotics Team–First Robotics World Competition, Houston, Texas
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
Apr. 25 <sup>th</sup>	V.I.B.E. Night – Doors Open @ 6:00 pm
May 1 <sup>st</sup>	School Council Meeting in Learning Hub, 6:30-8:00 pm
May 8 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup>	Ottawa & Kingston Trip

## 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

4

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

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)