

Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 31 (April 26th, 2024)

Dear Vanier Family,

We hope this message finds you well and thriving as we come to the end of another exciting week at Vanier. It's been a whirlwind of events and accomplishments, and we couldn't be prouder to share them with you.

First and foremost, let's celebrate the triumphant return of our Robotics Team from their incredible journey to Houston, Texas! Their hard work and dedication shone brightly as they represented our school with honor, finishing an impressive 33rd out of 75 teams in their division. We're beaming with pride at their achievements and look forward to witnessing their continued growth and success.

But the excitement didn't stop there! Thursday night, April 25th, was a magical evening as our talented students took center stage at VIBE (Vanier's International Big Event), our annual talent showcase. It was an absolute delight to see our community come together to support our students as they showcased their remarkable talents. A heartfelt thank you to all the students, staff, and especially to Ms. Charron, Ms. Chichester, Mr. Devji, Ms. Manji, Ms. Park, and Mr. Snow for their unwavering dedication and hard work in making VIBE such a spectacular success.



As we bid farewell to April, let's take a moment to reflect on Autism Awareness Month. We extend our gratitude to Ms. Sheppard for her heartfelt efforts in raising awareness of autism within our school community. Your dedication to fostering understanding and inclusion is truly commendable.

Looking ahead to May, we have an abundance of exciting events lined up at Vanier! From Asian Heritage to Jewish Heritage, National Speech and Hearing, Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, and Mental Health Awareness Week, there's something for everyone to participate in and learn from. Stay tuned for more details on our Asian film festival and the special guests who will be joining us to inspire and engage our students.

Last, but not least, next **Wednesday, May 1st, 2024 @ 6:30 pm**, will be our final parent council meeting of the school year! You won't want to miss this night, as we'll be having a thought-provoking performance by our BCU club, exploring the theme of "shadism" in a play written by our esteemed artist in residence, Greg Birkett. It promises to be a memorable evening filled with insight and reflection. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Karen Johnson

Principal, Georges Vanier SS 416-395-3250 Ext. 20010
<https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/georgesvanier>

VIBE 2024....OH WHAT A NIGHT!

Click on the following links to hear/see a few of the amazing performances.

[Video 1,](#)

[Video 2,](#)

[Video 3,](#)

[Video 4](#)

[Video 5](#)



Special Presentation of Play for Parent Council

The GVSS Black Collective Union
Presents

**Shadeism:
Reflections of
You**

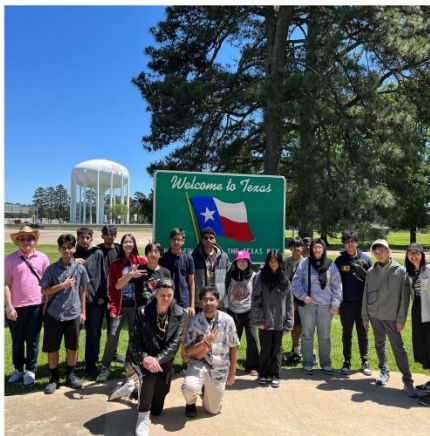
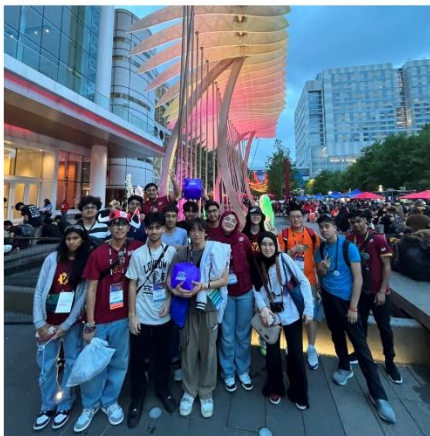
A play by Greg Birkett

Special
Invitation

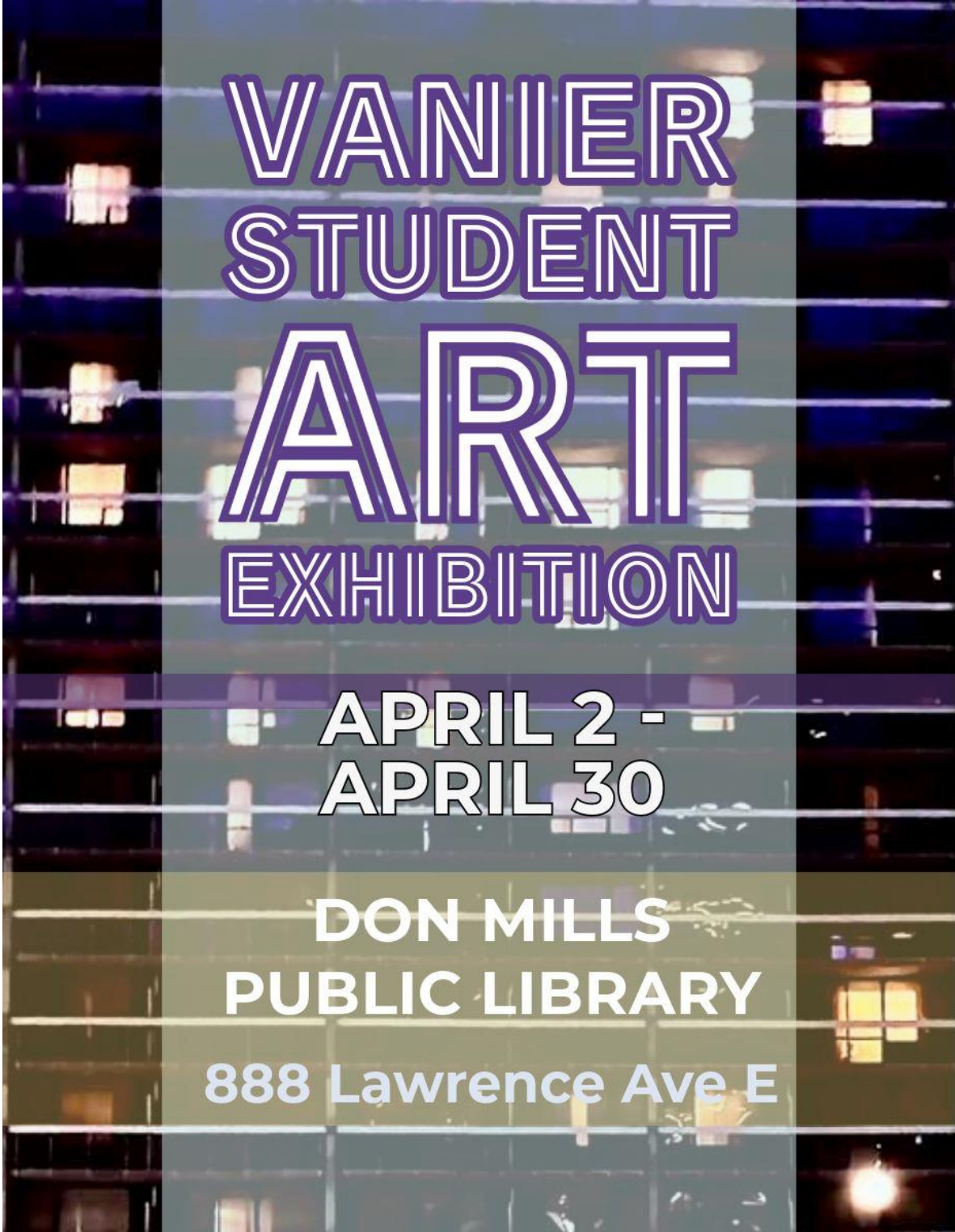
A Special Parent
Council Performance
followed by Discussion
with the playwright
in The Learning Hub

May 1
6:30-8:30

Our Robotics Team at the First Robotics Competition in Texas



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**

Vanier School Advisory Council (VSAC)

Our final council meeting for the 2023/24 school year will be on **May 1st, 2024**. As mentioned in my opening comments, we'll be having a special performance on this night. Our school's trustee, James Li, will also be in attendance. If you have not yet had the chance to attend any of our council meetings, we hope you will join us for this final one. Our meeting will be held in our school's learning hub (library).

Budget Town Halls

TDSB Trustees will be holding a few Budget Town Halls to ensure that families, students, and community members have the opportunity to hear more about the 2024-25 budget, ask questions, and share feedback. Click [here](#) to see the upcoming dates and times.

Graduation 2024...Select your gown size.

Vanier's graduation ceremony for the 2023/24 school year will occur on **June 27th, 2024, at 10:00 am** at the school. This is certainly one of the highlights of the school year as we celebrate this important milestone with our graduates. To mark this special event, graduating students will wear GOWNS for the Vanier Commencement ceremony. Our school will provide the graduation gowns, but students **MUST RETURN** them at the end of the graduation ceremony. We will attempt to provide you with the best sized gown, based on the sizing information you provide below. To complete their outfit, students will also wear a



graduation CAP & TASSEL, which **THEY CAN KEEP**. Students/families must contribute \$5.00 (through cash-on-line; link is provided below) to purchase their cap and tassel.

Graduating students are asked to complete [this form](#) by May 27 to indicate if they will be attending this year's commencement ceremony and select their gown size.

Graduation Award...Be sure to apply for these awards by clicking on the QR code below:



graduation
GVSS
2024



**AWARDS AND
SCHOLARSHIPS**

- GRADUATES CAN SELF NOMINATE.**
- YOU MUST COMPLETE AN APPLICATION.**
- MANY OF THE AWARDS COME WITH MONEY.**
- YOU CAN ALSO SUBMIT YOUR NAME TO BE CONSIDERED FOR VALEDICTORIAN!**
- ANY GRADUATING STUDENT CAN APPLY!**
- ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY WEDNESDAY MAY 22, 12:00 PM**

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/GVSSAWARDS2024](https://bit.ly/gvssawards2024)

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.

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 dededicated 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](#)

Virtual Community Fair for parents/caregivers of students with Special/Complex Needs.

Parent/Caregivers are even more effective when they are able to be supported by a community that understands their parental needs and those of their child, youth or young adult with Special/Complex Needs. For this Virtual Community Fair, parents/caregivers will get the opportunity to build connections with community agencies that offer supportive programs such as parenting groups, family resource sharing groups, and to discuss supports related to; Behaviour Support, ASD Supports, Life Skills Programs and Respite/Summer Programs.

Guests: Family Services Toronto, Extend-A-Family, WoodgreenCommunity Services, Holland Bloorview, Lumenus Community Services and Dream Serenade.

When: Monday, May 6th, 2024, from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon and the same information will be repeated on Monday, May 13th, 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

***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

May 1 st	School Council Meeting in Learning Hub, 6:30-8:00 pm
May 6 th -10 th	Mental Health Week
May 8th – 10th	Ottawa & Kingston Trip
May 20 th	Victoria Day – No Classes
May 29 th	Late Start
May 31 st	Caravan/Carnival during Lunch
June 6 th	School Prom
June 27 th	Commencement (Gr 12 Graduation)

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

3

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
- 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

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