

**Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 32 (May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024)**

Dear Vanier Family,

We trust your week has been fulfilling! It was a pleasure to connect with many of you this past Wednesday (May 1) during our final official parent council gathering of the year. Your steadfast support for our students and school is deeply appreciated. As we approach the end of the academic year, please remember that you're welcome to reach out to me or our council chairs, Nalini Devineni and Stephanie Hennaoui, with any concerns via their WhatsApp group. Your feedback and engagement are invaluable to us. To join this WhatsApp group, kindly use the following link: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/DbRLzm6EIJV1a03NVnCA0>. Additionally, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the students of our BCU club, along with our dedicated educators, Ms. Chichester and Ms. Davidson, and equity consultant, Mr. Greg Birkett, for their outstanding presentation at our recent council gathering.



As April bids us farewell, it's time to shine the spotlight on our outstanding Students of the Month: Marcus Alcius (Grade 12), Aynda Hama Amin (Grade 9), Anwar Jowshani (Grade 10), Kings Simeon (Grade 11), and Kai Ming Li (Grade 10). Congratulations to each of these remarkable individuals for their exemplary character, achievements, and spirit.

Looking ahead to May, we're in for an exciting month packed with activities here at Vanier. From Caravan/Carnival Day to Arts Night and our annual Athletic Banquet, there's something for everyone. Throughout the month, we'll also be celebrating Asian Heritage Month with a variety of engaging events. We kicked things off today by welcoming Patrick De Belen, a talented slam poet, to share his work and inspire our students.

The well-being of our students remains a top priority, and to that end, we've organized activities aimed at promoting movement, conversation, and fun. Please refer to the next page for details on our mental health week initiatives.

Wishing you all a fantastic weekend, Vanier!

***Karen Johnson***

Principal, Georges Vanier SS

416-395-3250 Ext. 20010

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



## Mental Health Week @ Vanier

**Join Us For**

# Vanier's Mental Health Week May 6-13

**Monday 6**

**Poetry!**  
Create Blackout or  
Magnetic Poetry in  
the Learning Hub!  
Lunch, 12:05-End

**Tuesday 7**

**Walk & Talk  
Period 1  
With Your Class**

**Art!**  
Create something beautiful with Art  
Club! Room 134 After School

**Wednesday 8**

**Open Music Jam!**  
Join Mr. Snow, Ms. Park and  
Music Club in the Studio at  
lunch!  
Room 125/126

**Thursday 9**

**Garden with Eco and  
Garden Club**  
Room 314, Lunch  
**Karaoke with Friends  
of Peel**  
Room 129, Lunch

**Friday 10**

**Games with Chess  
and Gaming Club**  
Room 316, Lunch

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- All Events Open to Everyone!
- Each Event you attend your Name will be Entered in a Draw for a Great Gift Card!

## RED DRESS DAY – MAY 5

May 5th is Red Dress Day, a National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S). As a way to commemorate and honour the memories of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls across Canada, Métis artist Jaime Black helped inspire the Red Dress Movement, where red dresses are hung from windows and trees to represent the pain and loss felt by loved ones and survivors.



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## Graduation 2024...Select your gown size.

Vanier's graduation ceremony for the 2023/24 school year will occur on **June 27<sup>th</sup>, 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)**

## COUNTDOWN TO PROM 2024



### Attention all grade 12's

This year's prom will be held on **June 6, 2024**, at Crystal Fountain!

Ticket sales begin next week on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Tickets will be \$90 until May 21st (early bird). After that date, tickets will be \$95.

**2023-2024 Athletic Banquet.** On May 30<sup>th</sup>, Vanier is hosting its very own athletic banquet. All students who participated on this year's teams are invited. There will be an awards/medals ceremony, dinner, and dancing. You do not want to miss it.

Students can purchase tickets for this event in the cafeteria at lunch. Tickets sold before May 1 will have an "early bird discount" for only \$15 each. Tickets after this date will be \$20.



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## 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

## Equity

### Asian Heritage Month at the TDSB: May 2024

Asian Heritage Month has been proudly recognized at the Toronto District School Board during the month of May since 2007. This heritage is also celebrated by the Province of Ontario with the royal ascent of the [Asian Heritage Act \(2005\)](#) and across Canada since May 2002 when the federal Senate adopted a motion to officially designate May as Asian Heritage Month. This year's theme is **Our Journeys: Thriving Through Struggle and Triumph.**



The TDSB is the largest and one of the most diverse school boards in Canada. Nearly one-quarter of our students were born outside of Canada and collectively we speak more than 120 languages. According to the 2023 Student Census, 46% of TDSB students self-identified as Asian.

During the month of May, the Asian Heritage Month Volunteer Planning committee members are working

together to assemble various educational opportunities and resources for our students, staff and TDSB community to further learn about Asian heritage. All students, staff, and TDSB community members are invited to join us at our upcoming Asian Heritage Month Virtual Launch Celebration.

**Date:** Tuesday, May 14, 2024 **Time:** 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

**Zoom webinar link:** <https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/98436950594>

### Jewish Heritage Month - May 2024

Jewish Heritage Month continues to be recognized at the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) during the month of May. The TDSB's Jewish Heritage Committee's (JHC) program for 2024, as in previous years, is part of the committee's commitment to plan educational opportunities and enrich the curriculum for further learning about Jewish heritage and culture. Each year we choose one grade or division to focus on with a program and in some years, we have been fortunate to work with other organizations to provide larger scale programs.

This year, the Jewish Heritage Committee is focussing on students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 using the book [The Mouse Who Danced the Hora](#) by Pamela Mayer, illustrated by Christine Davenier, to teach our youngest students about diversity and equity through Jewish wedding traditions, and learning to dance the Hora. Click [here](#) for our Jewish Heritage Month poster with more information about TDSB Jewish Heritage Month.



Please follow the Jewish Heritage Committee on X: @TDSB\_JH and visit the JHC website for more information. <https://sites.google.com/tdsb.on.ca/tdsbjewishheritagecommittee/home>

## 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](#)

### **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](mailto: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](https://www.9-8-8.ca) and [9-8-8 number for mental health and suicide prevention | CRTCC](https://www.9-8-8.ca)

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

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

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

Live chat: [www.youthline.ca](https://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](https://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**

May 5 <sup>th</sup>	Red Dress Day ( <i>Nat'l day of awareness for murdered &amp; missing Indigenous women &amp; girls</i> )
May 6 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup>	Mental Health Week
<b>May 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup></b>	Ottawa & Kingston Trip
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Victoria Day – No Classes
May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Late Start – Classes start at 9:55am
May 27 <sup>th</sup> -31 <sup>st</sup>	Bike to School Week
May 28 <sup>th</sup>	Art Show Opening Reception 6:00-8:00pm
May 29 <sup>th</sup>	Late Start – Classes start at 9:55am
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	Athletic Banquet 5:00-10:00pm
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Caravan/Carnival; starts at Lunch
June 6 <sup>th</sup>	Prom @ Crystal Fountain

June 27<sup>th</sup>

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

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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)