



Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 32 (May 3rd, 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/DbrLzm6EIJV1a03NVoNCA0. 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

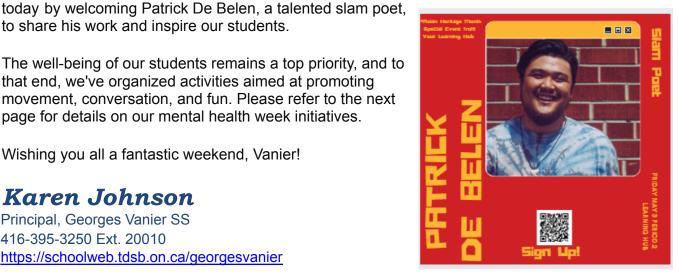
to share his work and inspire our students.

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

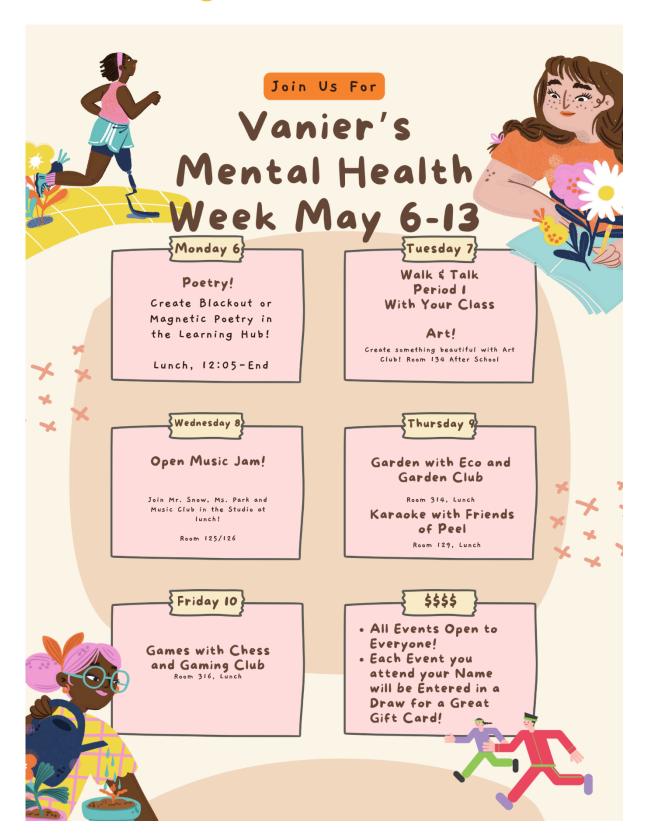
Principal, Georges Vanier SS 416-395-3250 Ext. 20010 https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/georgesvanier







Mental Health Week @ Vanier







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.

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 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 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 <u>this form</u> 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:







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 30th, 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.



Peer-Tutoring

Peer tutoring is available for grades 9-11 students who want help with their Math, English,

and Science courses. Simply complete <u>THIS</u> <u>FORM</u> 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 <u>Asian Heritage Act (2005)</u> 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, <u>Substance Use</u>, <u>Misuse and Abuse</u>, 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 Al. 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

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
- evervone in Canada.

For more information about 9-8-8: Suicide Crisis Helpline, visit https://988.ca.

• Quick access to support from trained responders, available 24/7/365. • High quality, evidence-based, equitable suicide prevention and crisis support for







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*

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 5th Red Dress Day (Nat'l day of awareness for murdered & missing Indigenous women & girls)

May 6th-10th Mental Health Week **May 15th-17**th Ottawa & Kingston Trip

May 20th Victoria Day – No Classes

May 22nd Late Start – Classes start at 9:55am

May 27th-31st Bike to School Week

May 28th Art Show Opening Reception 6:00-8:00pm May 29th Late Start – Classes start at 9:55am

May 30th Athletic Banquet 5:00-10:00pm
May 31st Caravan/Carnival; starts at Lunch

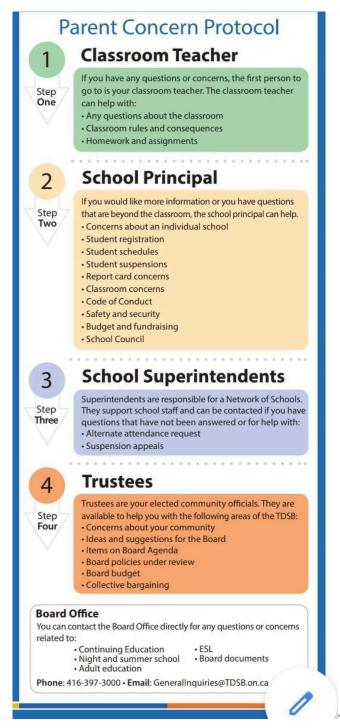
June 6th Prom @ Crystal Fountain



Georges Vanier Secondary School 3000 Don Mills Rd. E., North York ON M2J 3B6 Commencement (Gr 12 Graduation)



June 27th



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 <u>jennifer.hayward@tdsb.on.ca</u>

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 • <u>James.Li@tdsb.on.ca</u>