

Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 33 (May 10th, 2024)

Dear Vanier Family,

This past week was yet another busy one at Vanier. Our spring teams - rugby, baseball, soccer, and ultimate frisbee – are up and running; SAC elections have started; and students are continuing to engage in plenty of enrichment opportunities. For example, the garden cub and their staff advisor, Mr. Berhane-Kiflue, have started cleaning our outdoor spaces in preparation



for the spring planting season. On Wednesday, May 8th, a few students from our BCU attended the "Raise the Black Bar" conference at the Court of Justice in downtown Toronto with staff supervisor Ms. Chichester. It was a fantastic opportunity for students – they visited two law courts, toured the Court of Justice, learned about Indigenous justice matters in the Indigenous Learning Centre, and met with Justice Lori Thomas and a Crown Representative.

You might remember a few weeks ago, that our Robotics Team was in Houston, Texas. Next week (May 15th – 17th) our grade 10 STEM+ students will be on a field trip to Kingston and Ottawa as part of their CIVICS course. Some of the highlights of their trip will include guided tours

of Fort Henry, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Kingston, Parliament Hill (west Block), which is the centre of Canadian Government and Politics, visits to the Canadian War Museum, the Supreme Court of Canada, the ByWard Market and the Canadian Science and Technology Museum to name a few. We wish our students a safe, educational, and enjoyable time.

As we approach the end of the school year, it's important to remember that according to the Ministry's assessment and evaluation policy, 30% of a student's grade will be determined by the final evaluation conducted towards the end of the course. This evaluation, overseen by a teacher, may consist of an exam, performance, essay, or other appropriate method. It's crucial for students and families to avoid scheduling conflicting activities during these culminating assessments or exam days. Missing a culminating task or exam without a valid reason will result in a zero grade for that assessment.

Last, but not least, this Sunday, May 12th, is Mother's Day. I want to wish all those who "mother", a happy Mother's Day. Thanks for all the tireless work you do.

Karen Johnson

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



Trustee Update

Please click on the link below to access Ward 13, Trustee Li's Update **for May 2024**.

[Ward 13 Trustee Update: May 2024](#) - Read Online | HTML

Achievement

June 2023 Culminating Tasks and Exams. Culminating tasks will commence on June 3rd and exams will run from June 19 – 25. Please be sure to review our assessment and evaluation (A & E) policy well in advanced of these dates so you are aware of the expectations for this crucial time in the school year. You may access our A & E policy by clicking [here](#).

Grade 9 Math EQAO...Mark your calendar! The grade 9 Math EQAO exam for semester 2 will take place on June 13 – 15.

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)

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 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 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](#)

Please join us to learn more about how to support your child over the summer months.

- *Learn Activities and Games*
- *Manage emotions and behaviours*
- *Technology use at home*
- *Build positive relationships*
- *TDSB Summer Programs*
- *Community Resources*

Session will be offered on two dates & times;

- 1) Tuesday May 28th, 2024 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Click [here](#) for more details.
- 2) Wednesday May 29th 6:30- 8:00 PM. Click [here](#) for more details.

If you require a language interpreter, please send in your request by May 20th to SpecialEd@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 15 th –17 th	Ottawa & Kingston Trip
May 20 th	Victoria Day – No Classes
May 22 nd	Late Start – Classes start at 9:55am
May 27 th –31 st	Bike to School Week
May 28 th	Art Show Opening Reception 6:00-8:00pm
May 29 th	Late Start – Classes start at 9:55am
May 30 th	Athletic Banquet 5:00-10:00pm
May 31 st	Caravan/Carnival; starts at Lunch
June 6 th	Prom @ Crystal Fountain
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

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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

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