

Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 37 (June 7th, 2024)

Dear Vanier Family,

We concluded another week of thrilling activities at Vanier! For instance, on Tuesday, June 4th, we hosted our Anti-Hate Conference 2.0. We extend our immense gratitude and congratulations to Ms. Maharaj and her grade 12 Equity class (see picture below) for their relentless efforts in organizing another outstanding conference! The workshops on how to combat anti-Asian racism, antisemitism, and Islamophobia were not only dynamic and engaging but also left a profound impact on our students, reinforcing our commitment to inclusivity and respect.



We celebrated our prom on Thursday night (June 6th) at Crystal Fountain Banquet Hall. It was a heartwarming sight to see our students, dressed in their finest, enjoying themselves and creating beautiful memories. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Ms. Illena Yang, Ms. Mandana Tajalli-Yazdi, Ms. Wong, and the Prom Committee for their efforts in organizing such a memorable event (see pictures further down).

The week culminated with our STEM+ orientation day on Friday for our incoming grade 9 students. We are deeply appreciative of Mr. Devji and all our enthusiastic STEM+ students for their dedication and hard work in organizing a day filled with dynamic and fun activities for the incoming class. Their efforts are a testament to the spirit of Vanier (see pictures further down).

In this newsletter, we want to take a moment to celebrate and congratulate some exceptional students. First and foremost, we want to express our special congratulations to our students of the month for May. These students, handpicked by our staff for their outstanding academic achievement, character, and spirit, have [specific achievements]. These achievements are a true testament to the quality of education and values we uphold at Vanier.

Name/Grade		Nominated for
Seojin Choi	9	Academic achievement
Jaser Nuestro	9	Academic achievement
Hady Dabbous	10	Leadership skills
Adel Mohamed Riaz	10	Academic Achievement
Jaydan Gomez	10	Academic Achievement
Nilab Eshan	10	Character Traits
Michail Kioulafis	11	Citizenship/Character traits/Achievement
Kings Simeon	11	School Spirit
Halia Trillanes Santos	11	Character traits and Academic achievement.
Pradeep Geevanandan	12	Character Traits

Next, I want to extend huge congratulations to all our students who participated in various math contests throughout the 2023-24 school year. Our students did exceptionally well in these contests - with each of them receiving distinct honours for finishing in the top 25% of all the students across Canada, as you will see in the table below. Well done!

Medals for the best score in school:		
Derek Young (gr 10) received 2 medals: Canadian Intermediate Math Contests and Cayley Contest Justin Chau, Alexis Feng, and Akarsan Pakirathan are 3 grade 9 students who got the same highest score and received medals on the Pascal Contest Andre Jin (gr.11) received a medal on the Canadian Senior Math Contests Vivel Koul (gr.11) received a medal on the Fermat Contest Leon Yang (gr.12) and Jia Bao Saber Li (gr.11) both got the same highest scores on the Euclid Contest		
Certificates of Distinction (top 25%):		
Canadian Intermediate Math Contests (gr.9-10) Derek Young Matthew Wang Aryaman Mehra Michael Song Akarsan Pakirathan	Canadian Senior Math Contests (gr.11-12) Justin Chau Oliver Cau Jin Andre Henry Li Ivan Chen Parkin Pun Tszyu Aston Ng Subodh Thallada	Pascal (gr.9) Justin Chau Matthew Cheung Tiana Wang Aruniya Rajasekaran Akarsan Pakirathan Alexis Feng Bodhi Chew Adwaith Nair
Cayley (gr.10) Derek Young Wang Matthew Evan Dou	Fermat (gr.11) Vivek Koul Andre Jin Daisy Zhang Richard Meng Shariah Mirza Joanna Luo	Euclid (gr.12 or lower) Jiabao Saber Li Leon Yang Jiatao Geng



Last but certainly not least, I want to congratulate the following students for being nominated as valedictorian for the graduating class of 2024. Next week (June 12 - 14th), grade 12 students will have the unique opportunity and responsibility of selecting their valedictorian, who will speak on their behalf during the commencement ceremony on June 27. To do so, students will listen to an online speech prepared by each candidate espousing why they deserve to be the valedictorian.

A website with the speeches and instructions for voting will be shared with our grade 12 students shortly. All grade 12 students are strongly encouraged to vote for their best candidate, as this is your chance to have a voice in this important decision! Each of these candidates is a remarkable student, embodying the values and spirit of Vanier. They have been true ambassadors of our school, and I am confident that whichever one is selected will represent their class and Vanier with pride.



**Leen
Al Diab**



**Armenouhi
Arslanian**



**Talha
Choudhary**



**Tarun
Moturi**



**Nazifa
Shawkat**



**Jordan
Stephenson**

Graduating students, as we gear up for the big day, please remember the commencement dress rehearsal set for **next Thursday, June 13th, at 1:00 pm** in the cafetorium. This brief but crucial session is designed to guide you through the proceedings, ensuring the commencement ceremony is a well-organized and enjoyable event for all. Your presence is vital. Additionally, if you haven't yet done so, please use [this form](#) to declare your gown size and purchase your caps and tassel. This will help us ensure we can order the right ones for you in time.

Karen Johnson

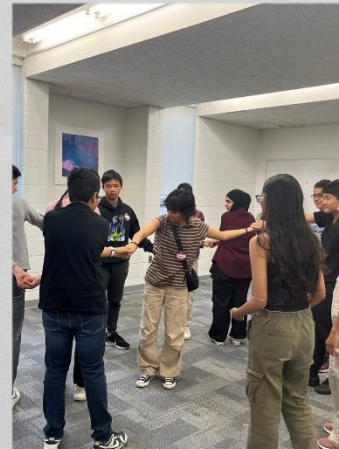
Principal, Georges Vanier SS
416-395-3250 Ext. 20010

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

Prom 2024



STEM+ Orientation Day for our Incoming Grade 9s



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~~ **JUNE 7th** to indicate if they will be attending this year's commencement ceremony and select their gown size.

Achievement

June 2024 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](#).

EQAO EXM - June 2024. Students taking grade 9 math this semester will be writing their EQAO exams next week. Good luck grade 9s! We look forward to receiving your excellent results in a few months.

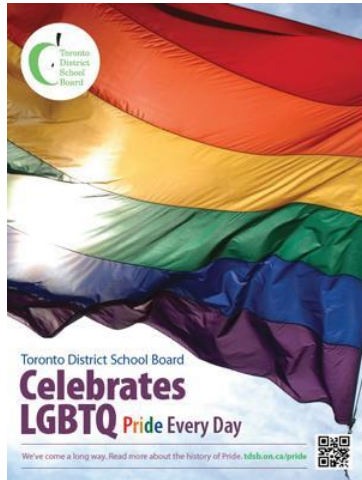
Yearbook Distribution. Yearbooks will be distributed next Friday (June 14th). Students who have paid for their yearbooks will be called down during period 1 or 2 to pick them up.

June Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Day 1 Culminating Activities Begin	4 Day 2 Anti-Hate Conference 2.0 (HSE) Pride Flag-raising SPEEL Year End Celebration @ Oakwood (Bajwa)	5 Day 1 Indigenous Education Committee Luncheon <i>World Environment Day</i>	6 Day 2 Science Ctr. - All Day (Szeto/Devji/Patel) PROM (Crystal Fountain Event Venue)	7 Day 1 Afterschool Lit/Num Ends
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10 Day 2	11 Day 1 Grade 9 - EQAO Math Ontario Science Ctr. - All Day (Szeto)	12 Day 2 Grade 9 - EQAO Math Valedictorian Vote	13 Day 1 Grade 9 - EQAO Math Moratorium Begins Valedictorian Vote	14 Day 2 YEARBOOK DISTRIBUTION Moratorium Valedictorian Vote
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
17 Day 1 Moratorium Locker Clean Out (Garbage bins in hallways)	18 Day 2 Moratorium	19 Exams/Culminating Tasks	20 Exams/Culminating Tasks	21 Exams/Culminating Tasks <i>National Indigenous Peoples Day</i>
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
24 PEEL Graduation & PROM party → Exams/Conflict/Credit/Rescue Day → Failure Summary Form due to Guidance by 3pm → Recommended Course Placement Forms DUE by 3pm	25 → Exams/Culminating Tasks → Marks Due 9am	26 Exam/Mark Review Day Pd 1 9:00 - 9:40 Pd 2 9:45 - 10:25 Pd 3 10:30 -11:10 Pd 4 11:15 -11:55 → <u>Mark Verification Form</u> Due 12pm	27 PD DAY COMMENCEMENT @ 10:00am → Mark Summaries for all S2 courses due to Subject VP by 3:15pm in <u>shared drive</u>	28 PD DAY → OCAS Marks Update → Report Card (sent home electronically)

Equity

June is Pride Month at the TDSB!



Pride Month is an opportunity to celebrate diversity and raise awareness amongst all staff and students about the rich and varied intersecting identities, cultures, and histories of 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.

Pride is a time for TDSB students, staff, and families to continue learning about Queer history, joy, excellence, and resilience; it is a time to celebrate the diversity that exists in every school community across the TDSB. It is also an opportunity to highlight the varied issues related to 2SLGBTQIA+ communities as well as the impact of homophobia, transphobia, and biphobia on TDSB students, staff, and community members.

Italian Heritage Month at the TDSB - June 2024

Toronto District School Board (TDSB) has proudly recognized Italian Heritage Month during the month of June since 2012. The Province of Ontario also marks Italian Heritage Month and passed the Italian Heritage Act (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/10i17>) in 2010. **This year's theme for Italian Heritage Month is Sharing Our Stories and Embracing Our Future/Condividere le nostre storie e abbracciare il nostro futuro.**

We are excited to share the many stories from Italian ancestors whose contributions helped shape our Canadian cultural mosaic. Italian stories and traditions reaffirm identity and connect us to one another. These stories allow us to walk for a moment in someone else's shoes, and to see ourselves in others. Stories unite future generations while they evolve and create new customs and traditions for us to embrace. Together, the past, present, and future will redefine what it means to be an Italian Canadian.

To commemorate this year's theme, we invite all TDSB students from all TDSB schools to submit a video that captures their special memory or tradition with their nonni (grandparents) or an elderly caregiver/guardian. We look forward to sharing the videos with you!



Portuguese-Speaking Heritage Month at the TDSB – June 2024

Portuguese-Speaking Heritage Month is proudly recognized during the month of June at the TDSB and has been since 2011. The Province of Ontario passed the Celebration of Portuguese Heritage Act in 2001. **This year our theme is Unidos/United!**

The contributions of the Portuguese-speaking community to Canada are significant as they include the arts, sports, music, culinary arts, and many professional contributions to education and medicine. Canadians, along with all TDSB students, staff, and its communities all enjoy the energetic and vibrant traditions that are shared through the customs of the Portuguese-speaking community. Over 1,4000 TDSB students speak Portuguese as their mother tongue or as a primary language. Internationally, there are 250 million Portuguese-speaking people, making it the fifth-most spoken language in the world.



An invitation is being extended to all students, staff, and the larger TDSB community to attend the **annual Portuguese Parade taking place on Saturday, June 8th, 2024!** This vibrant and colourful parade brings the Portuguese-speaking community together to experience traditional music, dance, and food! All are welcome to join the fun and celebrate Luis de Camoes, poet and writer of Portuguese heritage who is regarded as a national literary icon. **All**

wishing to participate in the parade are asked to meet at 8:00 am in the Lansdowne Avenue and Bloor Street area. There will be clearly identified parade volunteers in the area to assist to locate the TDSB vehicle. The parade starts at 9:00 am and the parade route starts at Lansdowne Avenue and College Street and continues along Dundas Street West to Ossington Avenue. A limited amount of TDSB: Unidos/United t-shirts will be provided to participants!

An in-person celebration will be held with significant guest speakers, dignitaries, and performances to mark Portuguese-Speaking Heritage Month committee at the Toronto District School Board. Stay tuned for a video of this special occasion to be shared with you!
Please follow us on Twitter @TDSB_PSHM.

Health and Well-Being

2024 Mental Health and Well-Being Guide, Translated into 23 Languages

The 2024 [Summer Well-being Guide](#) created by the Mental Health and Well-Being Committee, the Mental Health Leads and the System Leader for Mental Health and Professional Support Services, is now available.

It has resources, community connections, events, and ideas for parents/caregivers/guardians to promote mental and physical wellness during the summer months. The resources in this [Guide](#) are culturally responsive with many resources for students with disabilities/special education needs.

The [Guide](#) has been translated into the top 23 TDSB languages spoken and is accessible.

If you have any questions, please contact mentalhealthandwellbeing@tdsb.on.ca

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](#)

***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

Calendar for Next School Year

Please click [here](#) to view the TDSB calendar for next school year

Trustee Update (Ward 13): June 2024

You may read the latest newsletter from Trustee James Li here: [Trustee Update: June 2024](#)



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](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

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