

**Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 38 (June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024)**

Dear Vanier Family,

This past week was our last FULL one for the 2023-2024 school year, and it was another packed one. As usual, we had a plethora of field trips, celebrations, and special events, but there was one that was super special that I want to bring to your attention. This past Thursday, our grade 10 STEM+ students visited Willow Park Jr Public School to engage their students (JK – grade 6) in various STEM activities. The goal of this cross-panel collaboration was to inspire STEM interests in the youngest of learners. And from the feedback coming in, our Vanier students did just that. The staff and students at Willow Park were not just impressed, they were inspired. One teacher remarked, "They [our Vanier students] gave me hope for the future." Huge thanks to Ms. Wong, one of our STEM teachers, and to Ms. Ellen Walton, our Black Students' Success and Excellence Coach, who spearheaded this fantastic initiative.



This past week, our grade 9 students wrote their EQAO math exams; they deserve a round of applause for their dedication and hard work. Their efforts over the semester have been commendable, and we eagerly anticipate the positive reports of their achievements. Well done, grade 9s!

As you've seen from these weekly newsletters, Vanier has had a hectic year! Many of the events over the year have been captured in our yearbook. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the yearbook club and their staff advisor, Mr. Street, for putting together a beautiful capsule of our 2023-2024 school year. Yearbooks were distributed on Friday, June 14th, for those who purchased one; distribution will continue next Tuesday for those who have not picked theirs up yet. We have a few copies remaining, so students will be able to purchase one, while supplies last.

Next week Tuesday will be our last in-class learning day; we will transition to exams on Wednesday. We wish all the students who are writing exams the best of luck.

Last, but not least, to all those who "father", have a wonderful Father's Day on Sunday.



Have a fantastic weekend Vanier!

**Karen Johnson**

Principal, Georges Vanier SS

416-395-3250 Ext. 20010

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



@GeorgesVanierSS

## Special Thanks

As we wrap up the school year, I want to express special thanks to two individuals who have worked with our staff and students over the course of this school year and previous ones. While they are not part of our paid staff, they are a part of us and are deeply loved and appreciated by both staff and students. They have made Vanier a better place.



First up is **Dr. Spencer J. Harrison. Spencer** is an artist, activist, and academic. He has just completed his 15<sup>th</sup> year as a volunteer at GVSS in the role of Artist-in-Residence. From his studio in the school Spencer paints exhibitions which are shown nationally and internationally. In Vanier he mainly works with the Art and Physical Education departments. He also focuses on issues of human rights in the school, working with the GSA and other individuals navigating and celebrating issues of identity. When not volunteering at GVSS he is a faculty member at OCAD University.

Next up is **Greg Birkett**, who has served as poet-in-residence and equity consultant for over two years now. Greg is a published co-author (*Black History: Africa, the Caribbean, and the Americas* – Emond Montgomery Publications, *The Great Black North Poetry Anthology-Frontenac House Poetry*) and playwright. He is a recognized educator (Governor-General Award for Teaching Excellence Finalist, 2011, A.H.E.N. Excellence in Teaching Award winner, 2016), has written curricula for the Ontario Ministry of Education, and has served as a curriculum consultant for the O.B.H.S. (Ontario Black History Society). Since the start of the school year, Greg has worked with our staff to develop inclusive curricula to reach our diverse learners and has played a pivotal role in empowering our student leaders in the BCU. Through Greg's coaching, the students delivered a very powerful play on "Shadism" at this past Black History Month assembly and during one of our parent council meetings. Greg also runs a monthly poetry group called "Poetry Saved Our Lives" with our students.



## 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

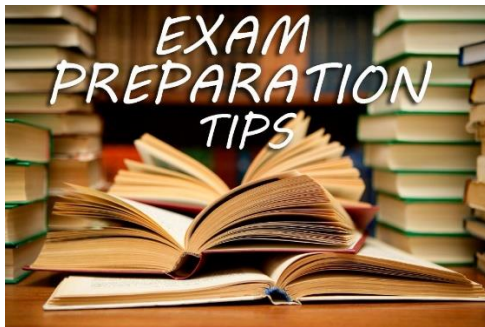


graduation CAP & TASSEL, which **THEY CAN KEEP**. Students/families must contribute \$5.00 (through cash-on-line; link is provided below) to purchase their cap and tassel.

Graduating students are asked to complete [this form](#) by ~~May 27~~ **JUNE 19<sup>th</sup>** to indicate if they will be attending this year's commencement ceremony and select their gown size.

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### Achievement



**June 2024 Culminating Tasks and Exams.** Culminating tasks will commence on June 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](#).

#### Preparing for Exams and Culminating Assignments

- At the end of the school year, secondary students are working on course culminating assignments and preparing for Semester 2 exams. For some tips and resources to help, including access to free 24/7 online tutoring support through [Paper](#), check out the [Exam and Course Culminating Fact Sheet](#). View the [Paper Poster](#) for more information or contact Paper.

## June Calendar

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

## KEY DATES - SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2024-2025

Professional Activity Days	September	October	November	January	February	June
<b>Elementary Schools</b>	27	11	15, 29	17	14	6
<b>Secondary Schools</b>		11	15, 29	30	14	26, 27

<b>Designation of Professional Activity Days</b>	
<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Secondary</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>September 27, 2024 – Professional Development</li> <li>October 11, 2024 – Professional Development</li> <li>November 15, 2024 – Parent Teacher Conferences</li> <li>November 29, 2024– Professional Development</li> <li>January 17, 2025 – Assessment and Reporting</li> <li>February 14, 2025 – Parent Teacher Conferences</li> <li>June 6, 2025 – Assessment and Reporting</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>October 11, 2024 – Professional Development</li> <li>November 15, 2024 - Professional Development</li> <li>November 29, 2024 - Professional Development</li> <li>January 30, 2025 - Professional Development</li> <li>February 14, 2025 - Professional Development</li> <li>June 26, 2025 - Professional Development</li> <li>June 27, 2025 - Professional Development</li> </ol>

**EQAO:** - The following dates have been established:

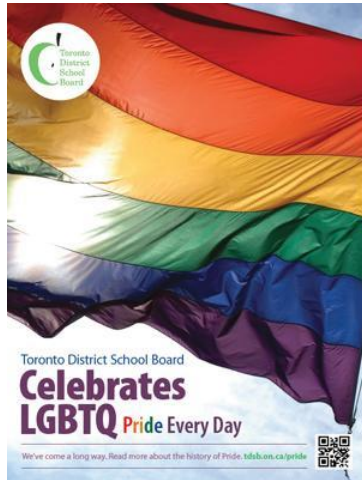
**Gr. 9 Math:** TBD  
**Gr. 9 Math:** TBD

**OSSLT:** TBD  
**Primary/Junior EQAO:** TBD

<b>Dates to Remember - School Year Holidays (as per Ministry of Education)</b>	
<b>Labour Day:</b>	<b>September 2, 2024</b>
<b>Thanksgiving:</b>	<b>October 14, 2024</b>
<b>Winter Break:</b>	<b>December 23, 2024 – January 3, 2025</b>
<b>Family Day:</b>	<b>February 17, 2025</b>
<b>Mid-Winter Break:</b>	<b>March 10-14, 2025</b>
<b>Good Friday:</b>	<b>April 18, 2025</b>
<b>Easter Monday:</b>	<b>April 21, 2025</b>
<b>Victoria Day:</b>	<b>May 19, 2025</b>

## 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.



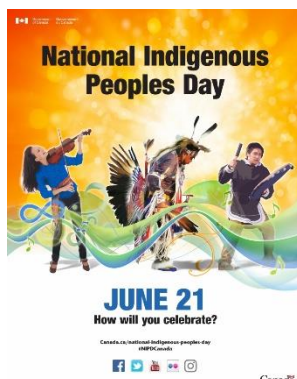
An invitation is being extended to all students, staff, and the larger TDSB community to attend the **annual Portuguese Parade taking place on Saturday, June 8th, 2024!** This vibrant and colourful parade brings the Portuguese-speaking community together to experience traditional music, dance, and food! 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.

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## **Indigenous Education**



The Toronto District School Board looks forward to joining communities across Canada in celebrations and learning on Friday, June 21, 2024, to recognize National Indigenous Peoples Day. June 21 has long been a day of significance that represents renewal for many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples as this day marks the Summer Solstice.



## Mental Health & 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](mailto: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 de**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.

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

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

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

Live chat: [www.youthline.ca](http://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](http://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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## **Calendar for Next School Year**

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

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## **Trustee Update (Ward 13): June 2024**

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

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## 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](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)