

## Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 10 (Nov. 10, 2023)

Dear Vanier Family,

I hope you've had a fantastic week. Our Girls' Ultimate Frisbee Team certainly did! They were still basking in yet another golden performance at the North Regional Championships last Friday, when they defeated Earl Haig SS 14-12 in a thrilling nail-biter of a game. This has been the fourth year of the league, and our girls have taken home the championship each of those years. This past Wednesday, they were crowned silver medalists at the district finals. Huge congratulations to the team and their coaches, Mr. Milligan and Ms. Lam, for all their hard work! You are an inspiration to us all, and we are so proud of you. GO VANIER!

Other highlights from this week include an excellent information night organized by our guidance team for our grade 8 students and their families on Tuesday night and our REACH days on Monday and Tuesday, where students had the opportunity to catch up on and submit missed assignments before mid-term report cards are generated. We also had a very special and powerful FIRST at Vanier this past Thursday. We held our first cross-panel Anti-Hate and Oppression Conference, where nearly two hundred grade 5 students got to hear firsthand about the holocaust from a survivor and participated in workshops led by the senior students from our social justice and equity course. These elementary students had the opportunity to learn in an interactive way about various forms of oppression, including anti-Asian racism, anti-Indigenous racism, antisemitism, and Islamophobia. Special thanks to our Keynote speaker, Andy Reti; our Vice-principal, Shawn Robertson, for organizing; Ms. Maharaj and her entire class for leading these workshops; our Vanier Staff, who assisted; and the administrators and teachers who accompanied the grade 5 students. It truly was an amazing day.

We ended the week on Friday (Nov. 10) by marking Remembrance Day. Rather than doing our "traditional" whole school assembly, time was allocated for each class to engage in a Remembrance Day lesson that the staff and students of the Remembrance Day committee thoughtfully prepared. Special thanks to Mr. Sproule, our assistant curriculum leader for Canadian History, Social Sciences, and Humanity, for organizing this amazing learning opportunity around Remembrance. Our goal at Vanier is to engage in intentional learning that will generate a greater impact on our school community.

Last, but not least, I want to take this opportunity to wish our Vanier community who are celebrating this weekend, a Happy Diwali.

**Karen Johnson**

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

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

## ***This Past week at Vanier in Pictures....***



### ***Our very 1<sup>st</sup> Anti-Hate Conference***

**Our Ultimate Girls' Frisbee Team became North Regionals Champions & Silver Medalists at City Finals.**

**And lest, we Forget....  
Our whole school  
Intentional Learning on  
Remembrance Day**





## ***This Past week at Vanier in Pictures....***



*The Champs...Our Girls' Ultimate Frisbee Team*



## Vanier School Advisory Council (VSAC)

Our 2023-2024 Parent Advisory Council:

Nalini Devineni (Co-Chair) Stephanie Hennaoui (Co-Chair) Danielle Ferguson-S (Secretary) Susanna Scocchia (Teacher Rep) Peju Omirinde (Student Rep)	Cordelia Ramses Saber Ullah Maryam Marzban Ivy C.
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Our Co-chairs have created a WhatsApp group for Vanier parents. If you would like to be a part of this WhatsApp group, so you can discuss parent concerns, please click on the following link:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/DbrLzm6EIJV1a03NVonCA0>

Our next council meeting will be on **Wednesday, December 6, 2023**. On this night, there will be a presentation from our school's social worker on "What to do When your Teen is in Out of Control". Hope to see many of you there.

## News from our Trustees' Office

Please find below the Ward 13 Trustee (James Li) Update for November 2023.

[Ward 13 Trustee Update: November 2023](#)

## It's GRAD PHOTO Time...New

Graduation Portrait sessions are happening between **Monday November 27 to Tuesday December 5** in room 120

Grade 12 students who are graduating **MUST** pre-book a sitting at [www.bookmygrad.ca](http://www.bookmygrad.ca) using the code **GVR** to be part of the grade 12 composite and/or order photos.

Click [here](#) for more information.



## Activating myBlueprint...New

Any students who are new to Vanier are required to activate their myBlueprint account. myBlueprint is the online tool that all students in TDSB use during course selection which takes place in February. Please have your child activate their myBlueprint account today! Click [here](#) for the instructions to do so.

## General Information & News

1. **Student Activity:** This year's student activity fee (SAF) will be \$35 per student OR \$60.00 if you have two children in our school. This SAF fee pays for a Yearbook, Vanier Athletic Association, Student ID card, and Student Council activities. **Parents are encouraged to use School Cash Online to pay their child's student activity fee by November 30, 2023.** Please use this link, <https://tdsb.schoolcashonline.com/>, to register for Cash Online if you have not already done so. If needed, financial assistance is available to offset the activity fee. You may contact the principal, [karen.johnson@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:karen.johnson@tdsb.on.ca) to provide/obtain more information.
2. **Student Clubs and Activities:** There are numerous clubs for your child to participate in at Vanier. For a list of these clubs and other activities being hosted by our Student Council, please visit their website, <https://sites.google.com/tdsb.on.ca/gvsssac/home>
3. **TTC Tickets:** Students in Grades 9 to 12 may be eligible to receive TTC tickets. Please note transportation is **not provided for students attending our school under Optional Attendance.** Applications are accepted year-round. Information on Eligibility and the application form can be accessed from this site: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Going-to-High-School/Transportation>
4. **Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS):** Settlement Workers deliver individual/family services or group programs that help new immigrants understand and successfully transition into life in Canada. We have settlement workers on site to support our Vanier community. They work out of room 201 on Mondays – Fridays and will be able to provide support in Farsi & Dari, Arabic, Mandarin & Cantonese, Hindi & Urdu, and Russian & Ukrainian. Please click [here](#) to learn about their services.

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## Achievement



### After school Literacy & Numeracy Help from Teachers...**New!**

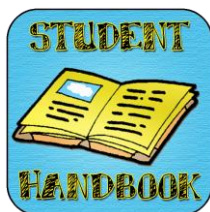
Starting next week, Grade 9 and 10 students will be able to receive extra **help from Vanier teachers** for their math and English or ESL courses. Students must sign up with their subject teachers to attend these weekly after school support sessions (it is not a drop-in session). Below are the times and locations of these supports.

After-School Math Help (Ms. Stopnicki)	Tuesdays & Thursdays	3:30 – 4:30	Room 323
After School ENG/ESL Help (Ms. Gerstnerova)	Mondays & Wednesdays	3:30 – 4:30	Room 211
After School ENG/ESL Help (Mr. Hussain)	Tuesdays & Thursdays	3:30 – 4:30	Room 203



**Peer Tutoring.** If you are a **grade 9 or 10 student** who **wants help with your Math, Science, or English** coursework, **sign up using this Google Form.** This form will also be available on posters throughout the school, the SAC website, and the SAC Instagram. Sign up any time in the year to request help.

**O.S.S.L.T.:** Grade 11 and 12 students who still need to fulfill their literacy requirement will be writing the fall OSSLT from **Monday, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>**. The OSSLT is an online test and must be written in person on one of the dates mentioned above. Students will be writing all morning during both periods 1 and 2. Some students may need to use double-time and continue to write through lunch into period 3. Grade 10s will write their OSSLT during the Spring of 2024.  
**NEW!!!**



**Student Handbook.** Students are asked to take time to review the Georges Vanier [Student Handbook](#) as soon as possible so they become aware of our school's policies and procedures.

**Pay particular attention to the [GVSS Assessment & Evaluation Policy 2023](#) and our [Academic Eligibility Policy For Extracurricular Activities](#)**

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## Equity

### **Black Student Post-Secondary Engagement Symposium.**

The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement in collaboration with TDSB Guidance invites Black students, educators and their families to the [TDSB Black Student Post-Secondary Engagement Symposium](#). The TDSB Black Student Post-Secondary Engagement Symposium is an opportunity for institutions to connect with Black students in the TDSB to share programs, interest groups, clubs, communities, and services that affirm Black students' lived and historic experiences, support their sense of belonging in post-secondary spaces, and connect them to culturally relevant programs and resources.

**Date: November 15, 2023**

**Time: 7 – 9 p.m.**

**Location: John Polanyi Collegiate Institute**

Register [here](#) or at [bit.ly/TDSB\\_ENGAGE](https://bit.ly/TDSB_ENGAGE) For more information contact, [jeffrey.caton@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:jeffrey.caton@tdsb.on.ca), Centrally Assigned Principal, or [lindsey.marshall@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:lindsey.marshall@tdsb.on.ca), Program Co-ordinator, Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement

## Hindu Heritage Month at the TDSB - November 2023

The TDSB is proud to recognize Hindu Heritage Month during the month of November. Hinduism is one of the oldest living religions which have flourished for over 10,000 years. It is an occasion to recognize and celebrate the rich tapestry of traditions, teachings and values that are integral to Hinduism and practiced by millions around the world today. November is an opportunity to celebrate the Hindu way of life, examine its impact and contributions to world culture, and recognize values which promote compassion, tolerance, and inclusion. This year's theme is **"Vasudhaviva utumbakum: The World is One Family"**.

## Indigenous Education Month at the TDSB 2023.

November is [Indigenous Education Month](#) at the Toronto District School Board. Throughout the month, students, staff, and community members honour a number of important days to deepen knowledge, to learn from our shared histories, and to strengthen relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples. It is important to remember to center First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives, voices, histories, and contemporary realities across the TDSB every day. This month places emphasis on creating opportunities to learn from Indigenous perspectives on treaties, leadership, achievements, resurgence, futurities, and creativity. The TDSB is committed to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action (TRC) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



Below is a list of significant dates throughout the month of November:

- Treaties Recognition Week is the first full week of November, November 5-11.
- November 7 is International Inuit Day.
- November 8 is National Indigenous Veterans Day.
- November 16 is Louis Riel Day in Ontario.

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## Health & Wellbeing

**Breakfast Club:** The Vanier School Nutrition program serves breakfast between 8:00 – 9:00 am in front of room 208 A each school day. Our students are welcome to grab breakfast before heading to their morning classes.

**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 an [action plan dedicated to achieving this goal](#).

[MHWB Resource for all grades](#)  
[Parent-Caregiver Resources](#)

## **TDSB Virtual Community Fair for Parents/Caregivers of Children, Youth and Young Adults with Special Education/Complex Needs: Introduction to Lead Community Agencies**

Come Meet with Lead Community Agencies and Learn about their Community Programs, Respite, Social Skills, and Recreational Programs that support Children, Youth or Young Adults with Special Education/Complex Needs. Get started on accessing much needed supports that will aid with the overall development of your child/youth/young adult.

**Guests:** Surrey Place, Community Living Toronto, ConnectABILITY, Holland Bloorview, Geneva Centre.

**When:** **Monday, November 13th, 2023, from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon**; the same information will be repeated on Monday, November 20th, 2023, 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 [virtuallfairinfo@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:virtuallfairinfo@tdsb.on.ca) Or call Larena Case at 416-570-3314 or Maria Antonia Aymerich at 416-524-1930 or Vanessa Wong at 647-229-0730.

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## **Healthy Bodies – introducing sex ed. Discussions to children with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities”**

This month marks the first of four educational and virtual office hours sessions hosted for parents/guardians/caregivers and educators of students with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities. The target demographic for these sessions are adults who support students enrolled in DD/DK/PD-ISP or students with similar developmental profiles. Each session will start with an educational component that flows into a flexible structure of information sharing, answering questions, and making connections with other parents/guardians/caregivers, educators, along with consultation and support from our TDSB OT/PT staff.

The topic of our first session is: “Healthy Bodies – introducing sex ed. Discussions to children with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities”

Our first parents/guardians/caregivers’ session will be hosted on **Wednesday November 22nd, 2023 from 11:30am-12:30pm** – please see the [parent/guardian/caregiver Nov. 22nd flyer and circulate to community if parents/guardians/caregivers as relevant](#).

Should you have any questions, please contact the manager of TDSB OT/PT services: [Jocelyn.lai@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Jocelyn.lai@tdsb.on.ca) or contact [BusinessDevelopment@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:BusinessDevelopment@tdsb.on.ca) .





**presents**

## Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Sessions

### Introduction to Special Education and Inclusion in the TDSB

**Tuesday, November 28, 2023**

**6:30 pm to 7:30 pm**

**ZOOM link:**

<https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/92289164503?pwd=ZWozVldoYXdlUUEiXkQVRzZGVlekNodz09>

OR

**Wednesday, November 29, 2023**

**10:00 am to 11:00 am**

**ZOOM link:**

<https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/995261120882?pwd=QTRna0UySEpZeFFhb1dBajJkQ2pPd09>

If you require a language interpreter, or personal accommodation, email [SpecialEd@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:SpecialEd@tdsb.on.ca) by Nov 22, 2023.



## Upcoming Dates & Events

Nov 6 & 7	R.E.A.C.H Days – Special Schedule
Nov. 7	Grade 8 Open House - 6:30-8:30pm
Nov 9	Photo Retake Day
Nov. 10	Remembrance Day
Nov. 16	Report Card Day
Nov. 17	PD Day
Nov. 22	Late Start – PLC Meeting
Nov. 27 & 28	O.S.S.L.T.
Nov. 29	Late Start – Staff Meeting
Nov. 27-Dec.5	Grad Photo Week

## Parent Concern Protocol

1

Step One

### Classroom Teacher

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

Step Two

### School Principal

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

Step Three

### School Superintendents

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

Step Four

### Trustees

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

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)