

Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 12 (Nov. 24, 2023)

Dear Vanier Family,

As I shared in an early email, this past week was a very somber one at Vanier as we mourn the loss of one of our beloved students. A special thank you to all the social workers and counsellors who supported our staff and students this past week. Thanks as well to all our parents/caregivers who are keeping us in their thoughts and prayers. Special thanks to the Therapeutic PAWS of Canada organization for bringing the therapy dogs to our school this past Wednesday as an additional layer of support.



We know it is going to take some time to deal with this tragic event. We will continue to support our students in school, but here are some [additional resources](#) that students and families with varying identities can access. Please don't hesitate to contact the school if you or your child need additional support or guidance.

Karen Johnson

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

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

Vanier School Advisory Council (VSAC)

Our 2023-2024 Parent Advisory Council:

Nalini Devineni (Co-Chair) Stephanie Hennaoui (Co-Chair) Danielle Ferguson-Shivrattan (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 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 using the code **GVR** to be part of the grade 12 composite and/or order photos.

Click [here](#) for more information.



Activating myBlueprint...**New**

All students who are new to Vanier are required to activate their myBlueprint accounts. myBlueprint is an online application tool that all TDSB students use to complete their course selections for next year. Course selection for September 2024 will begin in February 2024. The activation process is very quick and easy. All new myBlueprint accounts should be activated no later than December 15th, 2023. Click [here](#) for the instructions to do so.

Updates from our Guidance Department...**NEW!!**

College application Workshop. On December 12th and 14th during periods 1 and 2, Guidance will host college application workshops for college-bound students. The deadline to submit college applications for equal consideration is February 1st, 2024.

OUAC Applications. This a reminder that the OUAC application deadline for university-bound students is January 15th, 2024. We suggest students aim to have their OUAC applications done and submitted on or before the holiday break. The OUAC site sees peak volumes of traffic over the Christmas holidays. This is when OUAC support staff are working a reduced number of hours. Support may be limited, so please plan your post-secondary application timelines accordingly!

Google Classrooms. All students should be connected to the Guidance Google Classrooms. This is how we communicate important information with students. Please ensure your child is connected with Guidance! Use the following codes to join:

Vanier Guidance y22en2f	Vanier Graduates 2024 zd2yfl4
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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.schoolcashionline.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 to provide/obtain more information.
2. **Health and Safety Measures.** To help reduce the risk of illness from Covid-19 and other viruses, students are encouraged to stay home when sick, complete the school screening (self-assessment) before coming to school, clean their hands often and stay up to date on their vaccinations. While mask-wearing is not mandated, it is still recommended that these are worn when indoors.



Achievement



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

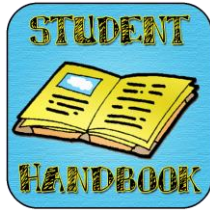
Starting next week, Grade 9 and 10 students will be able to receive extra **help from Vanier teachers** for their math and English or ESL courses. Students must sign up with their subject teachers to attend these weekly after school support sessions (it is not a drop-in session). Below are the times 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.: Next week **Monday (Nov. 27th) and Tuesday (Nov. 28th)**, Grade 11 and 12 students who have not yet fulfill the requirement will be writing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). The OSSLT is an online test and must be written in person on one of the dates mentioned above. Grade 10s will write their OSSLT during the Spring of 2024. Our school will be operating on a special schedule (see below) next Monday and Tuesday to accommodate the writing of the test. **Please note that only students who are writing the OSSLT will attend school during the morning hours. Classes will not start until 1:00 pm for the rest of the student body.**

OSSLT FALL Schedule	
Monday November 27, 2023	
9:00am - 12:00pm	OSSLT (Group 1)
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm - 2:05pm	BLOCK A Classes
2:10pm - 3:15pm	BLOCK B Classes
Tuesday November 28, 2023	
9:00am - 12:00pm	OSSLT (Group 2)
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm - 2:05pm	BLOCK D Classes
2:10pm - 3:15pm	BLOCK C Classes



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](#)

Equity

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Post-Secondary Opportunities Gathering

The Urban Indigenous Education Centre is honoured to host a Post-Secondary & Trades Fair for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students across the Toronto District School Board, on Wednesday, December 6, 2023. Indigenous students will have the opportunity to:

- Meet universities, college, and trades program representatives face-to-face, and engage with Indigenous representatives, mentors, and alumni.
- Inquire about valuable information on programs, admissions, scholarships/bursaries, and support services.
- Learn how to access multiple options for post-Secondary pathways;
- Find out about employment opportunities for summer and beyond.

Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: The Urban Indigenous Education Centre, 16 Phin Avenue - see [map](#). Please enter through Entrance #5

For more information, contact Emerelle Sliwa-Julian, Graduation Coach at Emerelle.Sliwa-Julian@tdsb.on.ca

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 **"Vasudhiva 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.

Health & Wellbeing

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](#)

Free Parent/Caregiver Online Workshop - November 29th from 6:30 - 7:30 PM

It can be challenging to sort fact from fiction online, and an increase in hate speech, alongside ChatGPT and other artificial intelligence tools, have made it even harder. This [virtual workshop](#) is designed to help parents and caregivers learn simple skills for spotting misinformation in the context of social media platforms and AI. To register, visit: www.ctrl-f.ca/en/TDSB

Registration is free and will be limited to 300 spots.

This session is a repeat of the April and October 2023 sessions.

Presenters:

Kim Davidson is a teacher-librarian and digital media literacy specialist who has been with TDSB for 22 years. She is also a member of CIVIX's Board of Directors.

Ken Boyd is Director of Education at CIVIX, a charity dedicated to building the habits and skills of active and informed citizenship among youth.



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=ZWozVldoYXdlUUEuXkQVRzZGVlekNodz09>

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 by Nov 22, 2023.



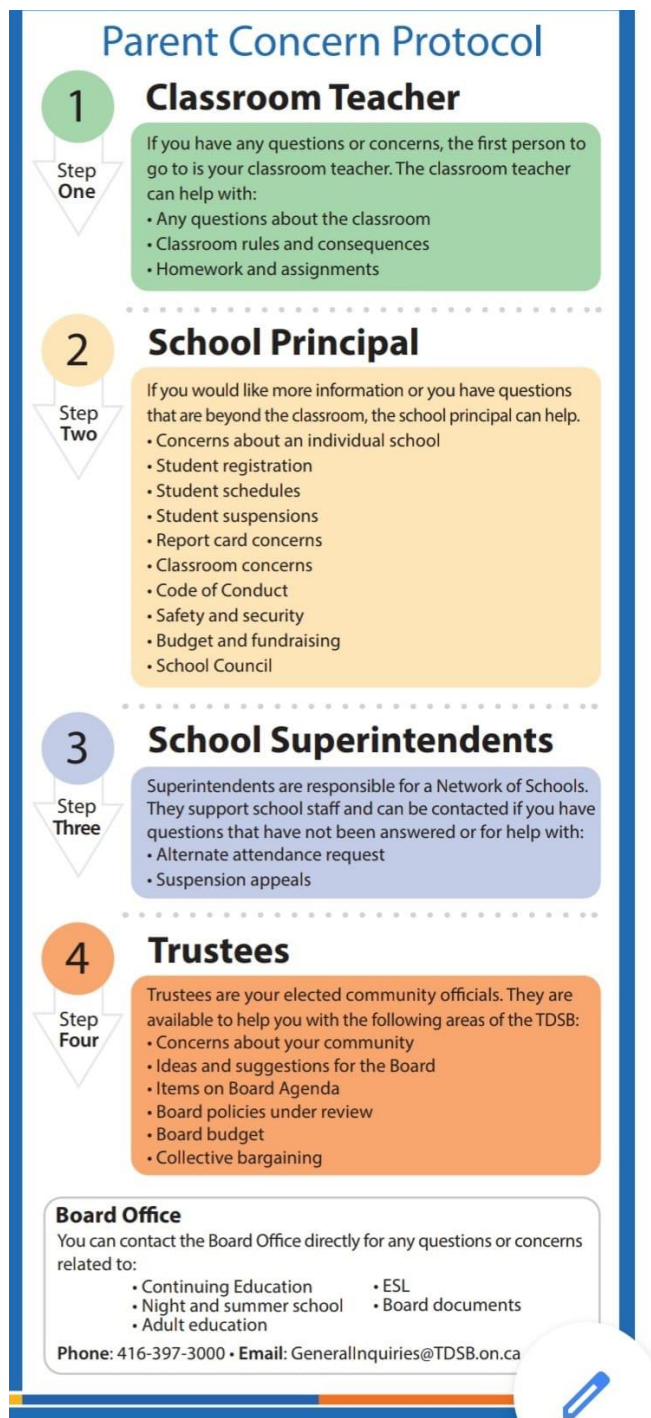
Daily Schedules & Late Start Dates

Please click [here](#) to see our Daily Schedules & Late Start Dates

Please note that in addition to next week's special schedule for the OSSLT, Wednesday, Nov. 29th will be a late start schedule – classes begin at 9:55 am

Upcoming Dates & Events

Nov. 27 & 28	O.S.S.L.T.
Nov. 27-Dec.5	Grad Photo Week
Nov. 29	Late Start – Staff Meeting
Dec. 6	School Council Mtg. 6:30-8:00pm
Dec. 12 & 14	College Workshops Pd. 1 & 2
Dec. 13	Late Start
Dec. 20	Late Start
Dec. 25	Christmas Day
Dec. 26	Boxing Day



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