

Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 13 (Dec. 1, 2023)

Dear Vanier Family,

Vanier continues to be a vibrant place to learn and work! This past week over ninety of our grade 11 and 12 students wrote the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). Passing the OSSLT is one of the requirements to earn a secondary school diploma in Ontario. Our grade 10 students will write their OSSLT in the spring of 2024. Each year, we continue to improve the percentage of successful students on this test. Last school year, for example, we saw a 6% increase in the number of students who were successful on the OSSLT compared to the previous year.

Next week, we will continue taking graduation photos (more details are provided below). Students graduating in June 2023 are strongly encouraged to book a time to take their grad photo, even if they choose not to order photo packages, as their image will become part of our school history. Grad photos are included in the yearbook and will be hung in a special hallway in our school for years to come.

Yesterday was the end of the month and so today we celebrated our **November students of the month**. Just as a reminder, each month, staff nominate exemplary students for their academic excellence, exemplary character, and contribution to the school community. Please help me congratulate this month's winners:



Armenouhi Arslanian



Dareen Al Diab



Brahini Fatima



Irda Oztabak

Last but not least, if you have not had the chance to come out to any of our School Advisory Council meetings since the start of the school year, we hope you'll join us at our next meeting on **December 6, 2023, @ 6:30 pm**. Our school's social worker will be our special guest for the night. She is scheduled to do a presentation on "*What to do When your Teen is Out of Control*" but is available to answer any questions you may have about supporting your child during the grieving process. We look forward to seeing you next Wednesday. Meeting will be held in the Library.

Have a wonderful weekend, Vanier!

Karen Johnson

Principal, Georges Vanier SS

416-395-3250 Ext. 20010

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

GVSS



Holiday Charity Drive

6-15 December



What to Donate:

- **Toys** (*new or gently used*)
- **Hygiene products** (*new*)
- **Non-perishable food** (*canned, dried, preserved, etc*)

Drop-off Details:

-STUDENTS:

-Student shop @ lunchtime (*near northeast entrance to the caf*)

STAFF:

-Anytime in main office, guidance, or library



PSST.. STUDENTS:

Each donated item= entry into a draw to win a prize!

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>

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...*Last Week!!*

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...*Almost here!*

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...Coming up soon!!

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 December 22, 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 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

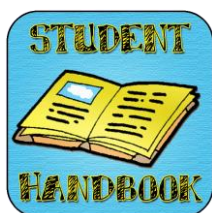


After school Literacy & Numeracy Help from Teachers

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.



Student Handbook. Students are asked to take time to review the Georges Vanier [Student Handbook](#) as soon as possible so they become aware 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

Webinar Wednesdays for parents and caregivers of Black Children...NEW!!!

The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement presents [Webinar Wednesdays](#). This virtual series aims to support and empower Black parents and caregivers, and families raising Black children in Toronto District School Board (TDSB) schools. Through collaborations with various TDSB Departments, the series offers resources and information to families about system navigation processes and builds on their knowledge and advocacy skills to improve Black students' academic achievement and overall well-being.

Date: December 6, 2023

Time: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Registration link: <https://bit.ly/3Rh52Jz>

For more information contact, jeffrey.caton@tdsb.on.ca, Centrally Assigned Principal, or lindsey.marshall@tdsb.on.ca, Program Co-Ordinator, Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement.

Indigenous Education...Coming up soon!

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

Mental 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](#)

Learn4Life Adult Community Programs - Winter 2024 Registration is Now Open...**New!!!**

Winter 2024 registration is now OPEN for Learn4Life's Adult General Interest Program with courses in business, languages, art, music, sports, dancing, and more! Open to adults 18 years of age and seniors, the Learn4Life program offers a unique and valuable opportunity for individuals to pursue their interests, expand their knowledge, and engage in lifelong learning with a wide range of courses and activities designed to cater to diverse interests and passions.

New courses shown below. Visit the [Learn4Life's program page](#) for more information

- Adventures in Photography
- Bringing Stories to Life Through Book Illustrations
- Create Your Own Natural Cosmetics
- De-Stress and Relax
- Pastry Arts for Everyone
- Golf Training Program
- Portuguese Essential Conversation
- Afrobeat Aerobics
- Understanding Landlord Rights and Responsibilities

TDSB Virtual Community Fair: Introduction to Lead Autism Supports Community Agencies

Join us as we invite lead agency representatives that support students with Special/Complex Needs. These agencies include Autism Ontario, Strides Toronto, Lumenus Community Services, Geneva Centre for Autism, and SAAAC Autism Centre. Get firsthand information about these agencies' programs and services such as Autism Supports, Behaviour Therapy Supports (ABA Therapy), Service Navigation, Respite and much more. Get the opportunity to connect with these agencies as you continue to support your loved ones.

When: Monday, December 11th, 2023

Time: 9:30 am to 12:00 noon

The same information will be repeated on Mon., December 18th, 2023, from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

Join on your computer or mobile app.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 255 846 447 429

Passcode: 3BWFVF

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

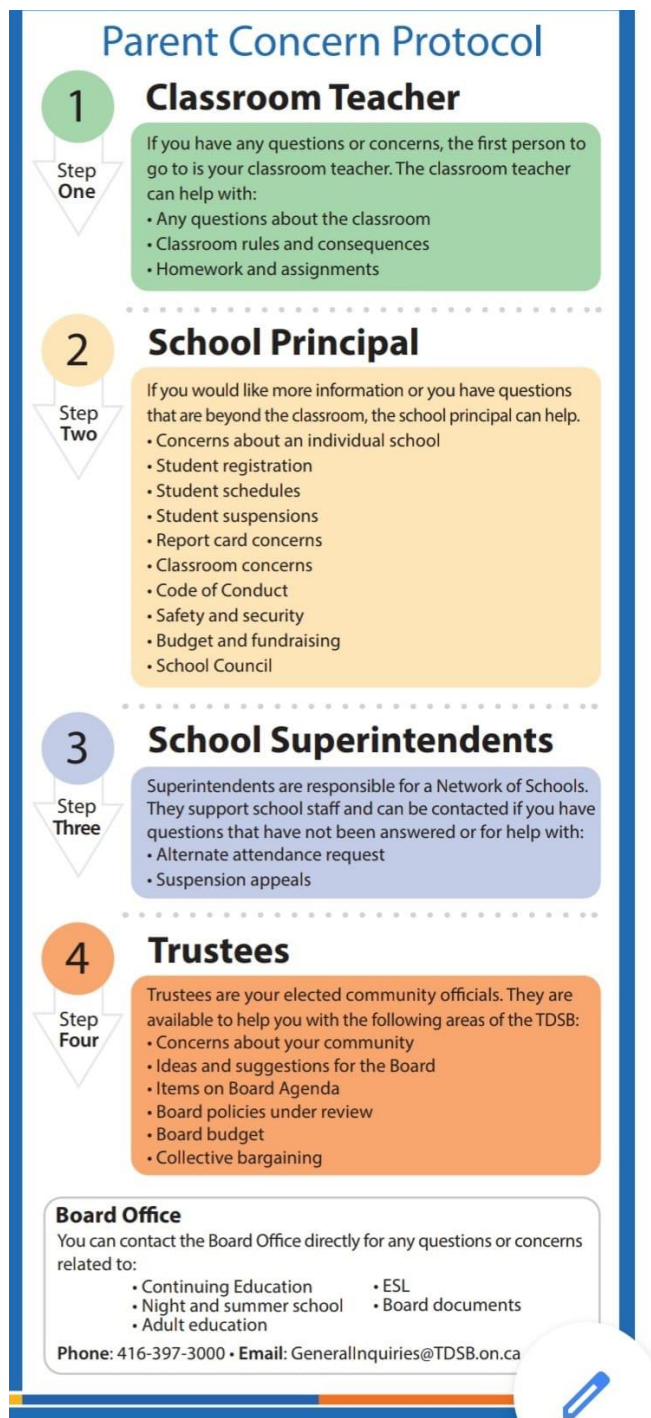
For more information send email to virtuallfairinfo@tdsb.on.ca Or call Larena Case at 416-570-3314 or Maria Antonia Aymerich at 416-524-1930 or Vanessa Wong at 647-229-0730.

Daily Schedules & Late Start Dates

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

Upcoming Dates & Events

Nov. 27 & 28	O.S.S.L.T.
Nov. 27-Dec.5	Grad Photo Week
Dec. 6	School Council Mtg. 6:30-8:00pm
Dec. 12 & 14	College Workshops Pd. 1 & 2
Dec. 13	Late Start
Dec. 19	Holiday Concert
Dec. 20	Late Start
Dec. 21	Semi – Formal
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