

Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 15 (Dec. 15, 2023)

Dear Vanier Family,

We just wrapped up another busy and fantastic week at Vanier! One highlight from this past week was the special holiday breakfast prepared by Ms. Luz Rios Carvajal and 20+ student volunteers. They transformed our humble hallway into a “café” decked out with holiday decorations and music to create a beautiful ambiance for our students to enjoy a hot breakfast. Thank you!



Due to popular demand, on Friday (Dec. 15), we were fortunate to have the therapy dogs back in our school. Thank you to Therapeutic Paws of Canada, a non-profit organization, for granting us another visit. Your dogs did wonders to lift and nurture our spirit.

Also on Friday, Dec. 15, we wrapped up our annual Charity Drive. Thanks to our entire Vanier community (students, staff, and families) for their generous donations of hygiene products, clothes, children's toys, and non-perishable food items. These will be distributed to the North York Harvest Food Bank, the Toronto Fire Fighters' Toy Drive, and our own students in need.

Next week is our final week before the long-awaited winter break, and it promises to be another busy but fun one. On Monday (Dec. 18) at lunch, we'll be celebrating the 130 grade 9 and 10 students who participated in the Beaver Computing (Coding) Contest by the University of Waterloo. Our students did exceptionally well this year! Eleven of them finished in the top 5% across Canada, and 25% of our school's participants earned above 86%, with two earning a perfect score. Congratulations to all our students and their teachers.

On Tuesday (Dec. 19), our Music and PEEL(DD) departments will put on a holiday concert during period 2. We look forward to hearing the performances of students in our regular program, as well as those from our DD classrooms.

The last of our BIG events for next week is the Semi-formal, which will take place on Thursday, December 21, from 2:30 - 5:45 pm. Basic and VIP tickets for \$10 and \$15 respectively will be sold in the cafeteria until December 19. Students with tickets will be excused from their period four classes to attend the semi-formal. This year's theme is *Candy Land*. Students will get to enjoy live music, food, and a chance to win prizes - perfect for the holiday season!

Just five more school days to go. Have a fantastic weekend, Vanier!

Karen Johnson

Principal, Georges Vanier SS
416-395-3250 Ext. 20010
<https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/georgesvanier>

News from our Trustees' Office...**NEW!!**

Please click on the hyperlink below to access the Ward 13 Trustee (James Li) Update for December 2023. [Ward 13 – Trustee December 2023 Newsletter](#)

News 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:

<u>Vanier Guidance</u> y22en2f	<u>Vanier Graduates 2024</u> zd2yfl4
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Semester 2 e-Learning Day School Registration.

Registration for Semester 2 e-Learning Day School courses will begin on Tuesday, December 5, 2023. A list of courses being offered can be found [here](#).

Students are asked to connect with their home school Guidance Counsellors after registering for an e-Learning course on the e-Reg system in order for Counsellors to approve the student's request. An orientation for students will take place on Tuesday, February 6, 2024. Courses will begin on Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

Late registration will continue until Thursday, February 22, 2024, with final Guidance approvals completed no later than Thursday, February 27, 2024, at 12:00 noon.

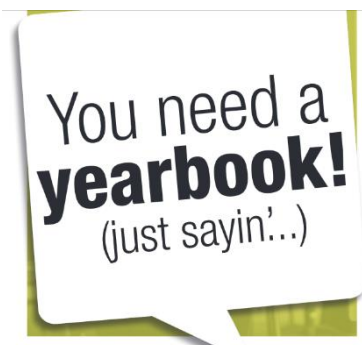
Please click on the following [information flyer](#) and [poster](#) for more information about semester 2 e-learning.

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.

General Information & News

- 1. Student Activity Fee:** 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, student ID card, and Student Council activities. **By the end of December 2023, we will have to submit to our publishers the number of yearbooks to produce for our school. As such, parents are encouraged to use School Cash Online to pay their child's student activity fee, so they won't miss out on the yearbook, as soon as possible.** If needed, financial assistance is available to offset the activity fee. You may contact the principal to provide/obtain more information. **REMINDER!!**



- 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.



- 3. 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.

Achievement

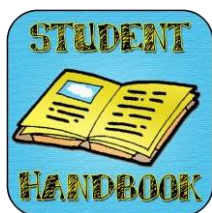


After school Literacy & Numeracy Help from Teachers

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](#)

Mental 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](#)

***NEW* Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Helpline 9-8-8...NEW!!!**

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](#)

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

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

Upcoming Dates & Events

Dec 6 – 15	SAC Charity Drive
Dec. 12 & 14	College Workshops Pd. 1 & 2
Dec. 13	Late Start
Dec. 19	Holiday Concert – Period 2
Dec. 20	Late Start – Staff Meeting
Dec. 21	Semi – Formal – Winter Candyland – Period 4 Buyout
Dec. 25 – Jan 5	Winter Break

Parent Concern Protocol

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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

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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

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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

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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

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