

Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 3 (Sept 22, 2023)

Dear Vanier Family,

We continue to enjoy a great start-up to the school year. Despite the ongoing roof work, the building remains immaculate, our students are attending classes, and our school has started to roar with activities. This past week, for example, we had our first late start day for professional learning. Please remember that the 3rd and 4th Wednesday of every month are late start days, which means classes will begin at 9:55 am and end at 3:15 pm. We also had our photo day this past Thursday. Students will receive hard and digital copies of their photo ID within a couple of weeks. A reminder again that students will need these to gain access to all school events (e.g., sports games and school dances). There will be a make-up photo day on November 9 for students who were absent on Sept 21. One last note about the photo ID cards - the cost for these is embedded in our annual student activity fee, which is \$35/student.

As part of the re-organization process to right-size our classroom enrollments, this past week, we welcomed a new staff member at Vanier, Deanna Choi, a math, and physics teacher. We also welcomed Tiffany Kistow, the CYW, to our PEEL program. Over the next weeks, we may have additional staff changes as the re-org process continues. We appreciate your patience during this time.

Next week will be a special one at Vanier. From 6:00 – 7:35 pm on Tuesday, Sept. 26, we'll hold our grade 9 curriculum night. Grade 9 parents/caregivers were sent an invitation letter earlier this week. We encourage all our grade 9 parents/caregivers to attend so they can hear from subject teachers about the expectations of their child's courses and strategies to ensure their success.

Next week is also Truth & Reconciliation Week and Orange Shirt Day. At Vanier, we are continuing our goal of decolonizing our curriculum, which means de-centering the hegemonic European perspectives of things, including (but not limited to) the people, events, and interpretations offered for study in our classrooms. Next Friday, in particular, all our classes will be learning about Aboriginal peoples in Canadian History and the legacy of residential schools.

Have a fantastic weekend!

Karen Johnson

Principal, Georges Vanier SS

416-395-3250 Ext. 20010

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

✉ @GeorgesVanierSS

Vanier School Advisory Council (VSAC)

The first meeting of our School Advisory Council will be *held in-person* at the school on **Wednesday, October 4, 2023, at 6:30 pm**. All parents/caregivers are welcome and encouraged to attend. Parents/caregivers must be ELECTED to the School Council, however.

Parents/caregivers can nominate themselves or others for election to the School Advisory Council. The election of all council members will be held at the first official meeting of the year. You may access the nomination form by clicking [here](#).

Once all the members of council are elected, they will then elect/select the executive Members of Council which include 1-2 Co-Chair(s), 1-2 Vice-Chair(s), 1 Treasurer, and 1 Secretary. Please click [here](#) to learn more about the role and responsibilities of those serving on a school advisory council.

News from our Trustees' Office

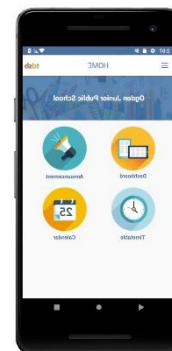
Our school's Trustee is Mr. James Li (Ward 13). Please click [here](#) for his welcome back letter.

General Information & News

1. **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/gvssac/home> **NEW!**
2. **Terry Fox Run.** On Friday, Sept. 29th, Vanier students and staff will participate in Terry Fox walk or run during Period 2. Donations for cancer research will be collected in class on Sept. 27, 28, and 29th. We appreciate your generosity. **NEW!**
3. **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 Sept 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 to provide/obtain more information.
4. **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: **NEW!!**

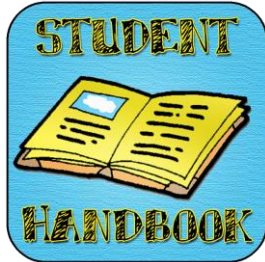
<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Going-to-High-School/Transportation>

5. **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. **NEW!!**
6. **Start of Year Forms:** Parents, guardians, and students will be able to complete and submit these forms through Permission Click. A reminder email was sent out recently. Please be sure to complete these forms. If you are having difficulties doing so, please contact our Main Office.
7. **Reporting an Absence:** TDSB is offering a more efficient way for parents and caregivers to report all student absences, late arrivals, or future absences by using the [School Messenger](#) app. You can also report by calling the school messenger portal at **1-833-250-2290**. All attendance being reported before 9:00 a.m. must be done using School Messenger. You no longer need to call the school directly.
8. **TDSB Connects App for Students.** The TDSB Connects app is available to all students through the [Google Play Store](#) and the [Apple App Store](#). The app contains school announcements and integrates with the school Google calendar and is an excellent way to make information available to students. Both these tools also link into the school's Brightspace Homepage. If possible, students are highly encouraged to download the APP on their devices.
9. **TDSB Disconnecting from work Policy.** Please be aware that, as outlined in this policy, TDSB staff will not be available to make or respond to any work-related communications (emails, telephone, texts, etc.) between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. Monday to Thursday; after 6 p.m. on Friday; Saturday; Sunday; and on statutory holidays.
10. **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

Peer Tutoring. Come the first week of October, our 1:1 peer tutoring program will begin once again. Students needing support can apply to receive a tutor in various subject areas. Information on how to sign up for a tutor will be provided shortly.



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

At Vanier, we will continue to work towards equitable outcomes for all our students by incorporating culturally relevant and responsive pedagogy into all courses. This involves getting to know the students we have in our classrooms and delivering material in a way that demonstrates students seeing themselves reflected through visual representation in the classroom, content of learning material, and students' voices.

We ensure an equitable environment for all our students we also offer courses such as:

1) **Deconstructing Anti-Black Racism (IDC4UV).**

This course explores and deconstructs anti-Black racism, within a Canadian and North American context. It seeks to teach the terminology that encompasses the discussion of race and racism in the Canadian context as well as celebrate the diversity of the black experience, their excellence, and their part in advocacy.

2) **Equity and Social Justice: From Theory to Practice (HSE4M)**

This course enables students to develop an understanding of the theoretical, social, and historical underpinnings of various equity and social justice issues and to analyze strategies for bringing about positive social change. Students will learn about historical and contemporary equity and social justice issues in Canada and globally. They will explore power relations and the impact of a variety of factors on equity and social justice. Students will develop and apply research skills and will design and implement a social action initiative relating to equity or social justice issues.

Indigenous Learning

Truth and Reconciliation Week: Occurs from September 25 - 30th. The last day, Sept. 30, is National Day for Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day. Throughout this week, Vanier staff and students will learn about residential schools and their impact on our Indigenous peoples.

For example, students in our ***Expressions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Cultures*** course (NAC1O1) will be exploring the history and legacy of residential schools through a variety of resources from children's literature, poetry, and artworks by Indigenous artists, and a screening of a short film entitled, *KEEWAYDAH* by filmmaker Terril Calder. They will also be designing their own Orange Day shirts to celebrate the experiences and resilience of Indigenous peoples, as well as to remind us that every child matters.

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](#)

Daily Schedules & Late Start Dates

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

Upcoming Dates & Events

September 26	Gr. 9 Curriculum Night @ 6 pm
September 27	Late start, Staff Meeting
September 29	Terry Fox Run; Assembly Day Schedule
September 25-30	Truth & Reconciliation Week
September 30	National Day for Truth & Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day
October 6	Professional Activity Day – No school for students.

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