

Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 4 (Sept 29, 2023)

Dear Vanier Family,

As we come to the end of this week, we celebrate our first full month of the school year. Students and staff are now settled in their routines and our school is bustling with activities. This week, for example, we engaged in truth and reconciliation learning, with a special focus on Friday, on residential schools, in honour of **Orange Shirt Day**. See pictures below of some of Vanier's art installations and activities, as we marked this day.



In addition to marking **Orange Shirt Day** on Friday, our entire school community participated in Terry Fox walk or run during period 2. We used this opportunity to raise funds for cancer research and to foster greater mental and well-being for our students.

Next week will be another busy, but fun time, as it will be our Spirit Week. Please see table below for the list of our planned events. Don't forget that next Friday, Oct. 6th is a Professional Activity Day so there will be no school for students.

MONDAY OCT 2	TUESDAY OCT 3	WEDNESDAY OCT 4	THURSDAY OCT 5
Theme: Pink Day (Barbie Day)! Dress in your pinkest outfit from head to toe.	Theme: Cultural Day! Wear clothes from your own cultural background.	Theme: Pajama Day! Wear your coziest pajamas to school.	Theme: Jersey Day! Dress up in support of your favourite team/sport.
Activity: Music Trivia on announcements; PRIZE = free pizza party!	Activity: Music Trivia on announcements; PRIZE = free pizza party!	Activity: Music Trivia on announcements; PRIZE = free pizza party!	Activity: Music Trivia on announcements; PRIZE = free pizza party!
Event: The Box Grab Mini Game in the Caf @ Lunch	Event: Club Fair in the Caf @ Lunch	Event: Karaoke in the Caf @ Lunch	Event: Surprise VAC Event in Gym 1 + 2 @ Lunch
Activity: Photobooth in the Caf - run by Yearbook Club.	Activity: Photobooth in the Caf - run by Yearbook Club.	Activity: Photobooth in the Caf - run by Yearbook Club.	Activity: Photobooth in the Caf - run by Yearbook Club.

Last, but not least, I want to extend a huge thank you to all the grade 9 parents who came out to curriculum night last Tuesday (sept 26). Next week Wednesday (Oct. 4), will be our first parent council meeting. More information about this night is shared below. We look forward to seeing many of you there. It will be an opportunity to hear about what's happening in our school from me, the principal, as well as from our student council executives.

Have a fantastic weekend, Vanier!

Karen Johnson

Principal, Georges Vanier SS

416-395-3250 Ext. 20010

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

✉ @GeorgesVanierSS

Vanier School Advisory Council (VSAC).....It's ALMOST HERE!!!

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**. We'll be meeting in the Learning Hub (library). 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.

Parents and Caregivers as Partners Conference...New!!

Join us at our annual Parents and Caregivers as Partners Conference on **October 21 and 22, 2023**. Parents, guardians, and caregivers are invited to participate in a weekend of learning, connection, and engagement and to learn strategies to support your child throughout the year.

All the in-person sessions are scheduled between 2:00 and 3:30 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday. Transportation from central sites is available to all venues, leaving the location at 1:00 p.m. and returning at 3:30 p.m. More information will be provided as we approach the date.

The virtual conference includes a keynote address on Saturday, October 21, 2023, by Dr. Gholnecsar (Gholdy) Muhammad, an Associate Professor of Literacy, Language, and Culture. On Sunday, October 22, 2023, Sarah Baldeo, an accomplished neuroscientist, technologist, corporate strategist, and a successful entrepreneur, will be our keynote.

Visit www.parentsaspartners.ca to register and for more information.

An Update from our Trustees' Office...New!

Ward 13 MYSP Virtual Forum

TDSB is Renewing its Multi-Year Strategic Plan. All members of the TDSB school community are invited to Have Your Say! We encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities to contribute to the conversation. Learn more at:

www.tdsb.on.ca/MYSPPRenewal

Trustee James Li invites you to a virtual Ward Forum to provide your input into the TDSB's renewed Multi-Year Strategic Plan. **Thursday, October 19, 2023, 6:30-8:30pm via Zoom**

[REGISTER HERE](#) to let us know you will be attending and if you require any accommodation to participate in this discussion. Thank you! Click [here](#) for more info.

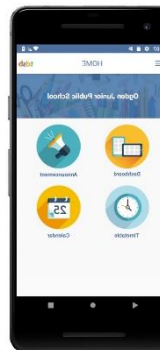
General Information & News

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. **Free Dental Screening Clinic @ Vanier.** On Tuesday, October 10 and Wednesday October 11, nurses from Toronto Public Health will be at Georges Vanier Secondary School to conduct a dental screening for any interested student. The nurses will see one patient at a time over the two-day period, in room 120, every 10 minutes from 09:00 to 3:00, except for the lunch hour.

If you would like your child to be seen by the nurses, please direct your child to come to the Main Office and Sign up. Please note that appointments will be granted on a first come, first-serve basis. Also note that this will be the only Dental Screening held this school year at GVSS. Contact VP, Shawn Robertson (416-395-3250 ext. 20012) if you have any questions. **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 October 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.

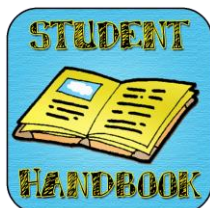
 8. **TDSB Connects App for Students.** The TDSB Connects app is available to all students through the [Google Play Store](#) and the [Apple App Store](#). The app contains school announcements and integrates with the school Google calendar and is an excellent way to make information available to students. Both these tools also link into the school's Brightspace Homepage. If possible, students are highly encouraged to download the APP on their devices.
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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. 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 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

The TDSB's core commitment is to improve well-being and achievement for all our students through engaging, equitable learning environments, inclusive curriculum, and culturally rich learning opportunities, to ensure that all our students and staff gain knowledge and appreciation of the heritages, histories, and achievements of the Board's many diverse communities. While there are designated History/Heritage Months (H/HM) in the TDSB, our city, and at times our nation, learning about our students' cultures and history is not to be limited to one month but is intended to be embedded within every classroom, across every curriculum, and throughout the school year.

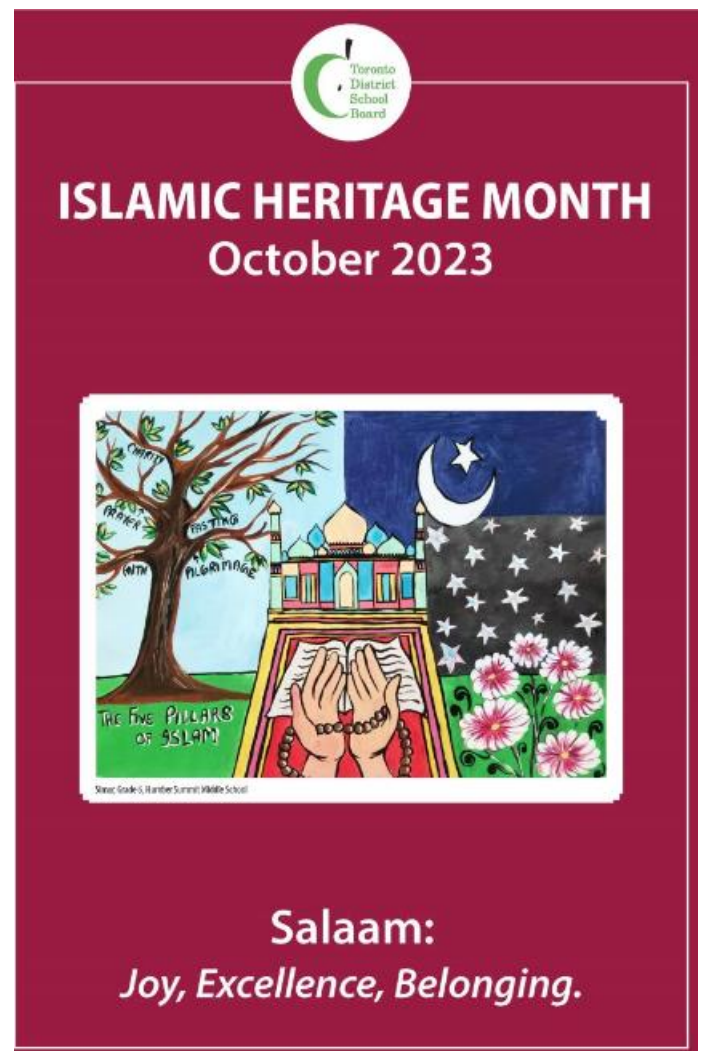
Islamic Heritage Month (IHM) is proudly recognized during the month of October at the Toronto District School Board. Our main theme for the month is **Salaam: Joy, Excellence, Belonging**. Islamic Heritage Month has been recognized across Canada in different ways since October 2007.

In November 2016, the Province of Ontario established October as Islamic History Month through the Islamic Heritage Month Act, and further stated that "proclaiming a month to be Islamic Heritage Month in Ontario will provide all Ontarians, both today and in future generations, with an opportunity to reflect, celebrate, and learn about the rich and longstanding Islamic history in the Province and the diverse roles and contributions of Muslim people in communities across Ontario. This new understanding will in turn help combat anti-Islamic sentiment."

(Link: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/16i20>)

As part of the celebrations to mark Islamic Heritage Month, TDSB has partnered with the Aga Khan Museum Education Department to provide virtual workshops to classroom teachers and their students to further learn about Islamic heritage and customs.

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) also proudly **recognizes Somali Heritage Month during the month of October**. The TDSB has been marking Somali Heritage Month since June 2016, and we continue to expand on the selected theme **Educate. Elevate. Excel**. We will highlight this heritage month in next week's newsletter.



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 Parent/Caregiver Focussed Digital Citizenship Workshop: Parents/Caregivers, the TDSB invites you to a free online workshop ([flyer](#)) to learn about digital media literacy skills so you can understand and better support your child to use technology for learning, identify misinformation and help stop the spread of online hate. This virtual workshop is also designed to help parents/caregivers learn simple skills for verifying online information, in this era of social media and artificial intelligence such as ChatGPT. **NEW!!**

The TDSB is partnering with Civix to offer this valuable learning opportunity to TDSB families via Zoom.

Date: Thursday, Oct. 12th from 6:30 - 7:30PM or Wednesday, Oct. 18th from 6:30 - 7:30PM.

Registration is required at: <https://CTRL-F-TDSB.eventbrite.ca>

Please note that registration is free and will be limited to 300 participants on a first come, first served basis, so please register early.

TDSB Virtual Community Fair: For Parents/Caregivers of Children, Youth and Young Adults with Special or Complex Needs. Come meet with TDSB's very own Professional Support Services and Special Education and Inclusion Consultants who will discuss crucial support at your child/youth/young adult's school. Get an opportunity to talk to a TDSB Psychologist, Occupation Therapist and Physiotherapist, Speech and Language Pathologist, Social Worker and a Special Education and Inclusion Consultant. **New!!**

When: Monday, October 16th, 2023, from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm OR Monday, October 23rd, 2023, from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. ([flyer](#))

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

Or call Larena Case at 416-570-3314 or Maria Antonia Aymerich at 416-524-1930

Daily Schedules & Late Start Dates

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

Some Useful Links

School Cash Online	SCO
EMA (Excursion Management Application)	EMA
TDSB Days of Significance 2023-2024	http://tdsbweb.tdsb.on.ca/system-calendar
TDSB Health and Safety	TDSB Health and Safety
Ontario Immunization Reporting	Report Student Immunizations
Volunteer Hours Form	Volunteer Hours Form
Vulnerable Sector Screening	https://www.tps.ca/services/background-checks/

Upcoming Dates & Events

Oct. 2-5	Spirit Week at Vanier
Oct. 4	School Council 6:30-8:00pm
Oct. 5	World Teachers' Day
Oct. 6	PA Day - No school for students
Oct. 9	Thanksgiving Day - No school for students
Oct. 10	World Mental Health Day
Oct. 10 - 11	TPH Dental Screening
Oct. 10	Body Confidence Awareness Week (TDSB)
Oct. 12	Post Secondary Pathways Fair from 10:30 am -12 Noon
Oct. 16	Anti-Bullying Awareness & Prevention Week
Oct. 18	Late Start - PLC Day
Oct. 19	Ontario College Fair @ the Enercare Centre in downtown Toronto - 9 am-2 pm
Oct. 25	Late Start - Staff Meeting
Oct. 25	Post Sec. App. Session for Parents 6pm

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