

Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 5 (Oct 6, 2023)

Dear Vanier Family,

I hope you have enjoyed the summer-like weather this past week! The weather was perfect for all the activities at Vanier, which included a Pink (Barbie) Day on Monday, a Club Fair on Tuesday where students got to see the multitude and diversity of clubs that are up and running this school year, karaoke on Wednesday at lunch, a staff vs students volleyball match on Thursday, numerous sporting events including soccer matches, cross-county meets, and a rugby tournament on Thursday! It was lovely to see the parents/caregivers and students taking in the rugby games on their lawn chairs.

Another highlight from this past week was our parent council meeting on Wednesday night, with over thirty parents in attendance. It was so lovely to see everyone there, especially those parents/caregivers who are new to Vanier. We look forward to seeing even more of you at our next council meeting.

Last school year, we brought back the Student of the Month recognition, where staff nominate students each month for exemplary character, school Spirit, and academic excellence. This past week, we recognized the students for September:



Victor Dinica



Madina Hamdard



Molola Smith

Next week will be another busy week. On Tuesday and Wednesday, Toronto Public Health will host a dental screening clinic for our Vanier students. More information is provided below. On Thursday (Oct. 12), Our guidance department will host a Post-Secondary Fair from 10:30 am – 12:00 pm, where senior students can speak with representatives from various post-secondary institutions from around the GTA.

Finally, as we head off into the weekend, we want to take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Karen Johnson

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

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

X @GeorgesVanierSS



Chromebooks for Grade 9 Students ...**New!!!**

The Chromebooks for students whose families have completed the Opt-In form on Permission Click will be delivered to the school on October 11th. We hope to process and distribute these to our students by the end of next week. Grade 9 students will be able to keep these devices for their time in high school and are encouraged to take good care of them since there will be no replacements.

Families of students in grade 9 who have yet to submit an application to receive a Chromebook can do so by completing the Device Program Agreement Form they received through Permission Click as part of the school year start-up package. **The next deadline to do so is Wednesday, October 11, 2023, @ 4:00 pm.**

Parents and Caregivers as Partners Conference

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. Gholnescsar (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

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/MYSPRenewal

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/gvsssac/home>

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. **ALMOST HERE!!**

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 Fasi & 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.



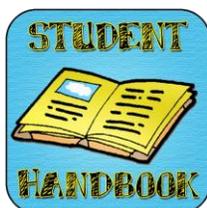
9. **TDSB Disconnecting from work Policy.** Please be aware that, as outlined in this policy, TDSB staff will not be available to make or respond to any work-related communications (emails, telephone, texts, etc.) between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. Monday to Thursday; after 6 p.m. on Friday; Saturday; Sunday; 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. 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

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.

The Toronto District School Board 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.**

In October 2020, the Government of Ontario of Ontario proclaimed Somali Heritage Week Act, which states that "the Province of Ontario recognizes the economic, political, social and cultural achievements and contributions of Somali Canadians in all aspects of Ontario society. Like many refugees and immigrants who have made Ontario their home, Somali Canadians are proud to be part of diverse communities across the province."

During the month of October several Somali Heritage Month educational opportunities are being organized for all TDSB students to further learn about Somali traditions and customs. For example, our intermediate and senior level students will be provided with the opportunity to participate in a creative writing challenge by answering questions about Somali traditions and share their thoughts on a variety of topics. There will be an author reading and rich resources available to staff for further learning. The Somali Heritage Month volunteer planning committee is also planning on putting together a special project to spotlight Somali students! Stay tuned for more information!



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.

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 Focused 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 virtualfairinfo@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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Classroom Teacher

Step One

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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School Principal

Step Two

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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School Superintendents

Step Three

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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Trustees

Step Four

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