

Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 7 (Oct 20, 2023)

Dear Vanier Family,

We celebrated another great week at Vanier. For example, on Wednesday, our Cross-Country team competed in the North Regional Championship, and 8 of our students qualified for the District Championship. On Thursday, we took a busload of students to the Ontario College Fair, which was held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

Next week promises to be a special one! Our PEEL Program will host a Halloween Dance Party on Tuesday, October 31st, for students with developmental disabilities and have invited students from some of our neighbouring schools. We look forward to having a great time with our special students. While on the topic of Halloween, I want to take this opportunity to remind our school community that to support safe, welcoming, and dynamic learning spaces, costumes that are viewed as offensive, inappropriate, or discriminatory to different cultures/peoples, and thus can cause harm to members of that community and the TDSB, are not permitted. As well, it is important to be aware of the potential negative and triggering impact, violent images, props, costumes, or scenarios can have on students and families with varying lived experiences and backgrounds. Props that resemble weapons of any kind are also not permitted.

October was certainly a busy month, and November promises to be even more so. While more details are shared further down in the newsletter, I want to highlight some key events that will take place in early November.

November 1 – Parent Council Meeting

During our first council meeting, we had over 30 parents in attendance. We look forward to even more at our next meeting.

November 1 – Take Our Kids to Work Day (TOKTWD).

Take Our Kids to Work Day is taking place on **Wednesday, November 1, 2023**. More information is shared below but please let us know if your child will be participating in TOKTWD.

November 2 – Parent/Caregiver Interview Day

Our Parent/Caregiver–Teacher interviews will take place on **Thursday, November 2, 2023**. A letter with the details on how to book an appointment were sent earlier. We look forward to seeing you!

Karen Johnson

Principal, Georges Vanier SS

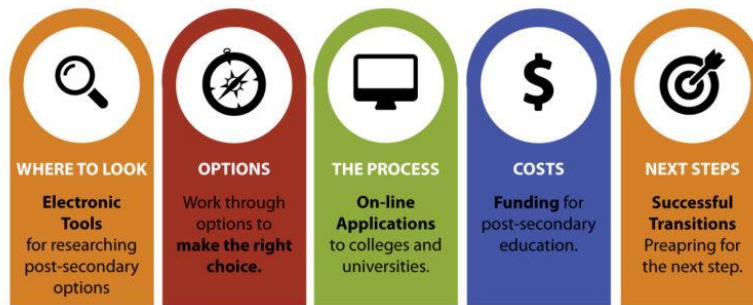
416-395-3250 Ext. 20010

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

✕ @GeorgesVanierSS

Post-Secondary Parents/Caregiver Information Night...**ALMOST HERE!**

On Thursday, October 26th, from 6:00 – 7:00 pm, our Guidance Team will be hosting a **virtual** Post Secondary Applications information session for parents and caregivers. This session will cover how to apply to college and university, application fees, deadlines, and researching scholarships. We welcome all parents and caregivers of our grade 12 and graduating students to join us for the session! This session will be a repeat of the presentation given to all grade 12 classes during period 1 on October 26th. To join the evening session on October 26th, click on the following link: meet.google.com/fxy-kzqn-drp



Financial Assistance for Students Pursuing Post-Secondary Education...**Almost Here!**

The Ontario Learning Development Foundation (OLDF) has a GREAT opportunity for students and parents to learn about a post-secondary financial assistance program called the **Canada Learning Bond (CLB)**

The Canada Learning Bond (CLB) is money that the Government of Canada adds to a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) to help pay the costs of full or part-time studies after high school for low-income families. **Students may be eligible to receive up to \$2000.00 CAD from the CLB that gets deposited into their RESP account.**

The Ontario Learning Development Foundation (OLDF) is hosting FREE virtual CLB information Webinars every month via Zoom, which covers what the Canada Learning Bond is and how students can be eligible for it. In addition, they will cover how students can receive a \$25.00 CAD e-gift card sign-up bonus once they apply for the CLB.

October dates for these webinars:

- Saturday, October 14, 2023 at 11:00am EST
- Saturday, October 21, 2023 at 11:00am EST
- Saturday, October 28, 2023 at 11:00am EST

To sign up for a webinar click on the link shown here: <https://forms.gle/pYpzcsqHmViAW3Af8>

If you have any questions, contact the Ontario Learning Development Foundation (OLDF) via email at info@oldf.org or clb@oldf.org, or call them at 416-628-3786.

Parents and Caregivers as Partners Conference...Almost Here!!

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.

Vanier School Advisory Council (VSAC) ...NEW!!

Please help us congratulate and thank the following parents for their election to the 2023-2024 Parent Advisory Council:

Nalini Devineni (Co-Chair) Stephanie Hennaoui (Co-Chair) Danielle Ferguson-S (Secretary)	Cordelia Ramses Saber Ullah Maryam Marzban
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In addition to the parent representatives, the council will include Vanier's teacher, Susanna Scocchia, and student rep, Peju Omirinde.

Our next Council meeting will be on **Wednesday, November 1, 2023**. The role of the council is to represent you – our parents. Information on how to contact the council will be shared with you shortly.

General Information & News

1. **Take Our Kids to Work Day (TOKTWD)** is taking place on **Wednesday, November 1, 2023**. Grade 9 students will have the opportunity to job shadow a parent/guardian, or another adult approved by their parents/guardians. On this day, students get the chance to see the world of work firsthand, explore a variety of careers and sectors, and look at what skills are important to thrive in the world of work. Parents/Guardians will need to inform the school that their child is absent due to their participation in TOKTWD. You may do this by calling the school, sending in a note with your child, or completing [this google form](#), by Tuesday, Oct. 31st. **NEW!!**

2. **Parent/Caregiver - Teacher Interviews:** Will occur on **Thursday, November 2nd, 2023**, from 2:00 – 4:00 pm (on-line appointments) and 6:00 – 8:00 pm (in-person appointments).

Bookings open on **Thursday October 26, 2023**. Conference sessions are 10 minutes in duration. Go to www.schoolinterviews.ca and enter the code [4x34u](https://schoolinterviews.ca/code/4x34u)

Or go to <https://schoolinterviews.ca/code/4x34u>

Or scan this QR Code shown here. **NEW!!**



3. **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/qvssac/home>
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: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Going-to-High-School/Transportation>
5. **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.
6. **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.

7. **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.

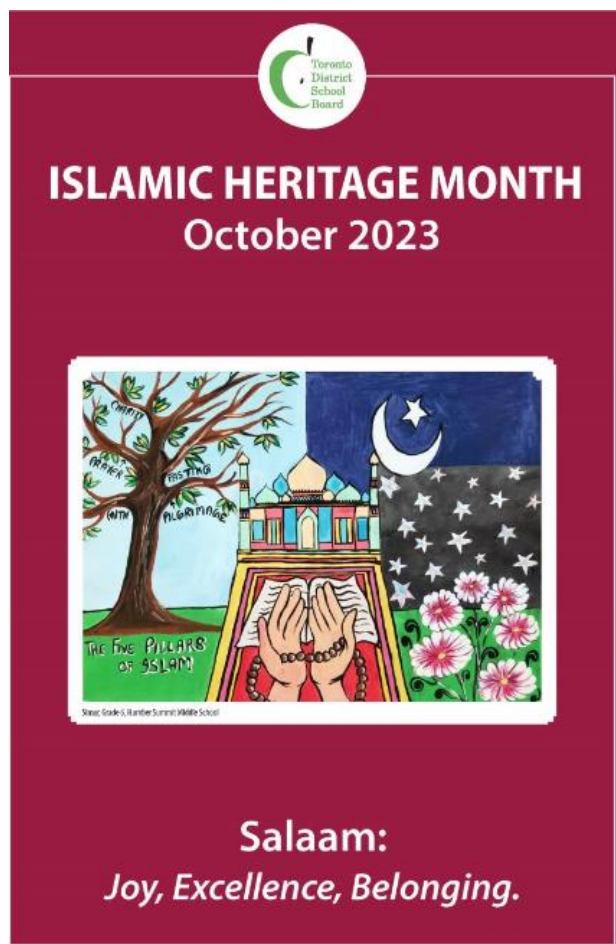


Equity

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

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.**



Achievement



After school Literacy & Numeracy Help from Teachers...**New!**

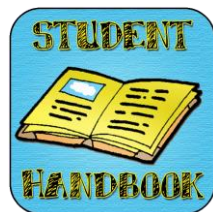
Starting next week, Grade 9 and 10 students will be able to receive extra **help from Vanier teachers** for their math and English or ESL courses. Students must sign up with their subject teachers to attend these weekly after school support sessions (it is not a drop-in session). Below are the times 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

R.E.A.C.H Days: On Monday, Nov. 6th and Tuesday, Nov. 7th, there will be a special schedule for students to make up any missed assignments/class work and get extra assistance from their teachers to improve their marks. More information will be provided soon. **NEW!!!**

O.S.S.L.T.: Grade 11 and 12 students who still need to fulfill their literacy requirement will be writing the fall OSSLT from Monday, Nov. 27th and Tuesday, Nov. 28th. The OSSLT is an online test and must be written in person on one of the dates mentioned above. Students will be writing all morning during both periods 1 and 2. Some students may need to use double-time and continue to write through lunch into period 3. Grade 10s will write their OSSLT during the Spring of 2024. **NEW!!!**

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](#)

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](#)

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.

When: 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

Upcoming Dates & Events

Oct. 25	Late Start - Staff Meeting
Oct. 26	Post- Secondary Application Session for Parents/Caregivers @ 6:00 pm
Oct. 31	PEEL Halloween Dance
Nov. 1	TOKTWD (Take Our Kids to Work)
Nov. 1	Parent Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm
Nov. 2	Parent/Caregiver-Teacher Interviews: 2:00 – 4:00 pm AND 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Nov 6 & 7	R.E.A.C.H Days
Nov. 7	Grade 8 Open House - 6:30-8:30pm
Nov 9	Photo Retake Day
Nov. 10	Remembrance Day Assembly

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