

**Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 9 (Nov. 3, 2023)**

Dear Vanier Family,

Whew...today, we wrapped up another hectic week at Vanier! We held our parent council meeting on Wednesday night, our parent/caregiver-teacher interviews on Thursday, had Take Our Kids To Work day, hosted a Halloween dance for our students with developmental disabilities, and held a Halloween carnival, in addition to our regular batch of field trips and sporting events! With this week marking the end of the month, we also recognized our students of the month. Please help me congratulate the following October Winners:



**Arash Fadaei**



**Hana Faizalla**



**Anvar Isakov**

As you can see, our school is a bustling place with daily extracurricular activities. These are only possible with the supervision and hard work of our staff members, who serve as club advisors, coaches for our numerous teams, and organizers of a myriad of activities in our school. I want to take the opportunity to say a special thank you to Ms. Farheen Manji, our Assistant Curriculum Leader of Student Engagement. Ms. Manji works closely with our student advisory council (SAC) to plan and organize student-centered activities like the Halloween Carnival from this past week. Special thanks are also extended to our Fall coaches, Mr. Blazina, Mr. Burton, Ms. Dinadis, Mr. Girdler, Mr. Hui, Ms. Lam, Mr. Laufer, Mr. Milligan, Ms. Maharaj, and Ms. Wong for all the long hours they put in to coach our students.

Finally, a special thank you to our parents and caregivers for your continued support. Your presence at our council meetings and parent-teacher interviews shows how much you care. Please know our doors are open; you never have to wait for specific calendar dates to connect with us.

**Karen Johnson**

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

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

✕ @GeorgesVanierSS

## *Vanier's Halloween Spirit*



## Vanier School Advisory Council (VSAC)

Our 2023-2024 Parent Advisory Council:

Nalini Devineni (Co-Chair) Stephanie Hennaoui (Co-Chair) Danielle Ferguson-S (Secretary) Susanna Scocchia (Teacher Rep) Peju Omirinde (Student Rep)	Cordelia Ramses Saber Ullah Maryam Marzban Ivy C.
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Our Co-chairs have created a WhatsApp group for Vanier parents. If you would like to be a part of this WhatsApp group, so you can discuss parent concerns, please click on the following link:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/DbrLzm6EIJV1a03NVonCA0>

Our next council meeting will be on **Wednesday, December 6, 2023**. On this night, there will be a presentation from our school's social worker on "What to do When your Teen is in Out of Control". Hope to see many of you there.

## Post-Secondary Parents/Caregiver Information Night...*in case you missed it!*

On **Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 – 7:00 pm**, our Guidance Team hosted a *virtual* Post Secondary Applications information session for parents and caregivers. This session covered how to apply to college and university, application fees, deadlines, and researching scholarships. In case you missed that evening, you can scan the QR code on the side to access the presentation.

## Post Secondary Information Presentation Link:

[bit.ly/3PQLhGB](https://bit.ly/3PQLhGB)



## General Information & News

- 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 November 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](mailto:karen.johnson@tdsb.on.ca) to provide/obtain more information.



2. **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>
3. **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>
4. **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...**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

**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.

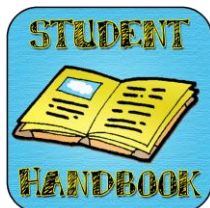
**R.E.A.C.H Days:** Our Remedial, Enrichment And Change (R.E.A.C.H.) days will be **Monday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> (Day 2)** and **Tuesday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> (Day 1)**. A special schedule for these two days is shared below. All students will come to classes on those days, but the last block of the day (2:00 -3:15) will be for those students who need to make up any missed assignments/class work and get extra assistance from their teachers to improve their marks, before mid-term report cards are generated.

**NEW!!!**

Period 1:	9:00 – 10:00
Period 2:	10:00 – 11:00
Lunch:	11:00 – 12:00
Period 3:	12:00 - 1:00
Period 4:	1:00 – 2:00
REACH:	2:00 – 3:15

**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. 27<sup>th</sup>** and **Tuesday, Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>**. 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!!!**



**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

### **Black Student Post-Secondary Engagement Symposium.**

The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement in collaboration with TDSB Guidance invites Black students, educators and their families to the [TDSB Black Student Post-Secondary Engagement Symposium](#). The TDSB Black Student Post-Secondary Engagement Symposium is an opportunity for institutions to connect with Black students in the TDSB to share programs, interest groups, clubs, communities, and services that affirm Black students' lived and historic experiences, support their sense of belonging in post-secondary spaces, and connect them to culturally relevant programs and resources.

**Date: November 15, 2023**

**Time: 7 – 9 p.m.**

**Location: John Polanyi Collegiate Institute**

Register [here](#) or at [bit.ly/TDSB\\_ENGAGE](https://bit.ly/TDSB_ENGAGE) For more information contact, [jeffrey.caton@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:jeffrey.caton@tdsb.on.ca), Centrally Assigned Principal, or [lindsey.marshall@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:lindsey.marshall@tdsb.on.ca), Program Co-ordinator, Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement

### **Hindu Heritage Month at the TDSB - November 2023**

The TDSB is proud to recognize Hindu Heritage Month during the month of November. Hinduism is one of the oldest living religions which have flourished for over 10,000 years. It is an occasion to recognize and celebrate the rich tapestry of traditions, teachings and values that are integral to Hinduism and practiced by millions around the world today. November is an opportunity to celebrate the Hindu way of life, examine its impact and contributions to world culture, and recognize values which promote compassion, tolerance, and inclusion. This year's theme is **"Vasudhaviva utumbakum: The World is One Family"**.

### **Indigenous Education Month at the TDSB 2023.**

November is [Indigenous Education Month](#) at the Toronto District School Board. Throughout the month, students, staff, and community members honour a number of important days to deepen knowledge, to learn from our shared histories, and to strengthen relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples. It is important to remember to center First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives, voices, histories, and contemporary realities across the TDSB every day. This month places emphasis on creating opportunities to learn from Indigenous perspectives on treaties, leadership, achievements, resurgence, futurities, and creativity. The TDSB is committed to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action (TRC) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



Below is a list of significant dates throughout the month of November:

- Treaties Recognition Week is the first full week of November, November 5-11.
- November 7 is International Inuit Day.
- November 8 is National Indigenous Veterans Day.
- November 16 is Louis Riel Day in Ontario.

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## **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](#)



**presents**

## Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Sessions

### Introduction to Special Education and Inclusion in the TDSB

**Tuesday, November 28, 2023**

**6:30 pm to 7:30 pm**

**ZOOM link:**

<https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/92299164503?pwd=ZWozVldoYXdUUEJXQVRzZGVlekNodz09>

OR

**Wednesday, November 29, 2023**

**10:00 am to 11:00 am**

**ZOOM link:**

<https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/995261120982?pwd=QTRna0UvSEpZeFFhb1dBajJkQ2pPd09>

If you require a language interpreter, or personal accommodation, email [SpecialEd@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:SpecialEd@tdsb.on.ca) by Nov 22, 2023.



## Upcoming Dates & Events

Nov 6 & 7	R.E.A.C.H Days – Special Schedule
Nov. 7	Grade 8 Open House - 6:30-8:30pm
Nov 9	Photo Retake Day
Nov. 10	Remembrance Day
Nov. 16	Report Card Day
Nov. 17	PD Day
Nov. 22	Late Start – PLC Meeting
Nov. 27 & 28	O.S.S.L.T.
Nov. 29	Late Start – Staff Meeting
Nov. 27-Dec.5	Grad Photo Week

### Special Note:

**Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 5, 2023, at 2:00 A.M.** On Saturday night, clocks *are set back 1 hour* (i.e., gaining one hour) to “fall back.” Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour earlier on Nov 5, 2023, than the day before. There will be more light in the morning.



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:jennifer.hayward@tdsb.on.ca)

Margarita Leventis

Supporting Students with Surnames G - M

[margarite.leventis@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:margarite.leventis@tdsb.on.ca)

Loraine Chichester

Supporting Students with Surnames A - F

[loraine.chichester@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:loraine.chichester@tdsb.on.ca)

#### Special Education:

Steven Maurer (Assistant Curriculum Leader)

[steven.maurer@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:steven.maurer@tdsb.on.ca)

#### Student Success:

Paula Burgess (Assistant Curriculum Leader)

[paula.burgess@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:paula.burgess@tdsb.on.ca)

**Superintendent:** Kurt McIntosh (LC2|LN11)

416-395-8808 • [Kurt.McIntosh@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Kurt.McIntosh@tdsb.on.ca)

**Trustee:** James Li • Ward 13

416-395-8787 • [James.Li@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:James.Li@tdsb.on.ca)