

Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 23 (February 21, 2025)

Dear Vanier Family,

It's been an eventful week at Vanier, despite the challenging weather conditions. Our Cafetorium was abuzz with spirit week activities, all thanks to the hard work and dedication of Ms. Manji and our Student Advisory Council (SAC). The week ended on a high with Cultural Dress and Club fair Day (See photos below).

This past week was also a great one for our sports teams. On Wednesday, our Swim team competed in the City Swim Championship at the Toronto Pan Am Centre. Congratulations to our team members who swam exceptionally well in some very tough heats. A special congratulations to **Justin Chau, Aayan Ali, and Andrew Street** on qualifying for the Provincial Finals at OFSAA in 3 weeks' time in March. Another big highlight of the week was our Senior Boys' Soccer Team's victory over Westview. After taking the lead 3-1 in the first half, the boys fell behind to 4-3 with under 8 minutes left in the game. But our boys showed incredible resilience and determination! They scored two late goals to take the win. Our team now advance to the championship game next week. Go, Vanier!

Our Vanier students are not just excelling in sports, but also in their academic pursuits. A few weeks ago, some of our students participated in the provincial DECA competition. DECA is a global organization that prepares student leaders for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. We are thrilled to announce that **Aner Chevli**, a grade 9 student, emerged as the provincial winner and has qualified for the international competition in Orlando, Florida, in April. This is a remarkable achievement, and we wish Aneri all the best for the international competition.



Have a wonderful weekend, Vanier!

Karen Johnson

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

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

Susan Tsin

Daniel Muttiah

Students dressed up in some of their cultural Attire for Spirit Week



2024- 2025 Vanier School Advisory Council Members

Nalini Devineni (Co-Chair)	Ivy Chi
Stephanie Hennaoui (Co-Chair)	Helen Huang
Danielle Ferguson-Shivrattan (Secretary)	Amit Koul
Cordelia Ramses (Treasurer)	Sachida Tiwari
Mohammad Rashed Ahmazai	Susanna Scocchia (Teacher Rep)
Fely Beck	Neha Devineni (Student Rep)

Our next parent council meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 4th, 2025, from 6:30 – 8:00 pm.** At this meeting we will be having a special presentation from our school's social worker, as she shares strategies for navigating life with teenagers. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Message from our Trustee's Office

TDSB Trustees and Staff from the Research and Development department will be hosting five public consultation sessions across the city on the draft policy for the Learning Opportunities Index (LOI). These sessions ensure families, students, and community members have the opportunity to learn more about the LOI and how it is used to support schools.

Please click [here](#) to learn more about these sessions.

Don't get suspended from School, Get your Vaccination ASAP

Many of you received a letter a few weeks ago regarding outstanding immunizations. As mentioned, students will be suspended from school if they do not have their updated immunizations. If your child has received their vaccines from their primary care provider but hasn't reported them to Toronto Public Health (TPH), you can do so by clicking this link: [Report Student Vaccination](#). (see poster below).

Students who still need to get vaccinated can book an appointment at one of Toronto Public Health's Community Clinics located at Civic Centers throughout the city using this: [Book Student Vaccine Appointment](#) or call (416) 338-7600 to book; (see poster below).

Protect yourself if Travelling over the March Break

With the March break only two weeks away, Toronto Public Health wants to remind you of the importance of staying protected by staying up to date with your vaccine. Please click [here](#) to learn more about travel vaccines.



Social Media Safety Night for Parents on February 26, 2025, from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM at Scarborough Village Community Centre (3600 Kingston Road)

Aligned with TDSB's policies on responsible technology use, including social media and cellphone guidelines, this event aims to equip parents/caregivers/guardians with strategies to navigate their children's digital engagement.

The **Toronto Police Services (Child Exploitation Unit/Internet Child Exploitation)** will be **presenting**. There will also be a **panel of specialists including TDSB Social Work, Youth Outreach Workers (YOW)** present on this night.

This evening **will include**:

1. Practical strategies for navigating social media risks
2. Open discussion on online safety
3. Take-home resources and giveaways
4. Food and childcare

Looking for Feedback from TDSB's Muslim Community members

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) invites TDSB students, families and community members who self-identify as part of the Muslim diaspora to attend a community consultation. These consultations will support the development of a multi-dimensional strategy to affirm Muslim identities and address Islamophobia within the TDSB. Attendees are encouraged to participate in conversations exploring the various ways the TDSB can nurture, affirm, and support Muslim students, families, and community members, while also understanding and addressing manifestations of Islamophobia. Click [here](#) to access more information about this event.

Guides for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers Video Series

TDSB's Special Education and Inclusion department is excited to share our Guides for parents/guardians/caregivers [video series](#). These videos provide an overview of our Guides to Special Education, designed to help families understand the programs, services, and supports available to students. From learning about Individual Education Plans (IEPs) to navigating the Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC) process, these resources are here to support you every step of the way. We also encourage you to explore the full guides on the [Special Education and Inclusion Website](#).

COURSE SELECTION TIME - Important News from our Guidance Office

February is myBlueprint (MBP) course selection month! Guidance has been working with all students to help support their understanding of course selection, choose courses for next year, and assist with pathways planning. All students in TDSB must use [myBlueprint](#) to choose their courses.

Since Tuesday, February 18th, students have been encouraged to submit their course selections. Parents/caregivers are strongly encouraged to review their child's course choices before they are submitted. Please click on the link below to see all our course offerings for the 2025-2026 school year. Once courses are submitted, changes cannot be made. If students do need to make a change to their course selection, they will need to speak to their Guidance counsellor.

[Vanier Course Charts February 2025](#)

DUE DATE for ALL MBP Course selections: Monday February 24th, 2025!!

Achievement

After-School Literacy and Numeracy Support. Please table below for our semester 2 after school literacy and numeracy support schedule. Please remember that these are not "drop-in" sessions but are there to provide ongoing support to students who sign up.

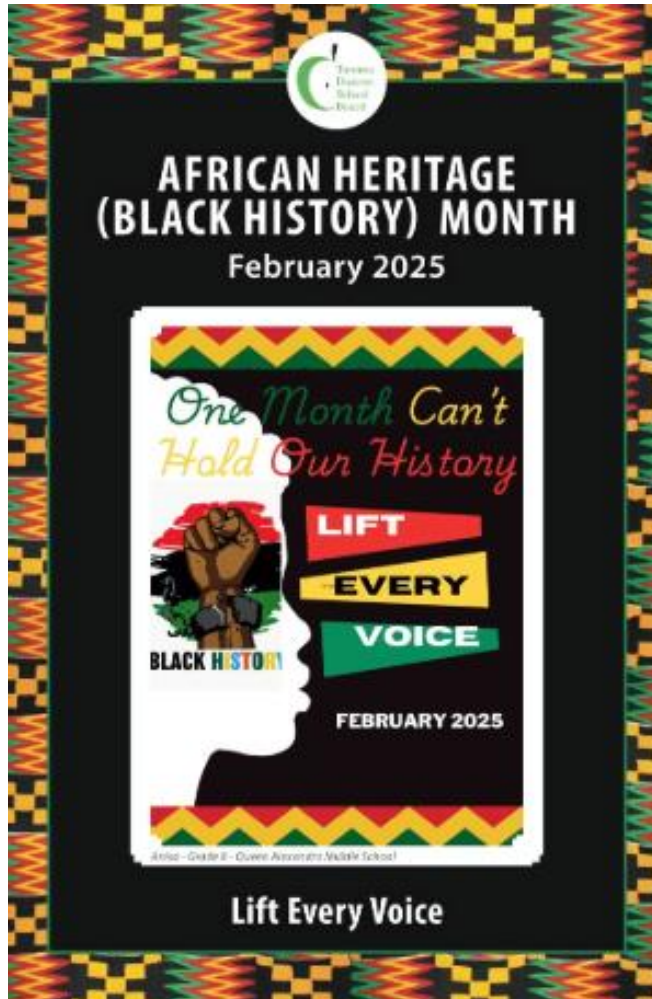
Literacy Support	Ms. Gerstnerova	Mon & Wed 3:30 – 4:30 pm	Room 211
	Mr. Hussain	Tues & Thursday 3:30 – 4:30 pm	Room 203
Numeracy Support	Ms. Li	Mon & Wed 3:30 – 4:30 pm	Room 330

Peer Tutoring. If you are a **grade 9 - 11 student** who **wants help with your Math, Science, or English** coursework, you may request 1:1 or small group peer tutoring.

Information on [how to request](#) a tutor is posted throughout the school, as well as on the SAC website and Instagram accounts. You may also access the poster by clicking [here](#).

Equity

African-Heritage Month at the TDSB - February 2025. During the month of February, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) proudly recognizes African Heritage (Black History) Month. African Heritage (Black History) Month is recognized across Canada, thanks to The Honourable MP Jean Augustine, who introduced the motion in the House of Commons in December 1995; it officially took effect in February in 1996.



The [Black History Month Act](#) was also passed in Ontario in 2016 and has been formally recognized since. African Heritage (Black History) Month is an occasion to commemorate present and past individuals who helped shape the path of our future student leaders, while also celebrating the many achievements and contributions of numerous individuals with this heritage! Their voices and actions impact our society, and work to continuously improve the world we live in.

The chosen theme for 2024-2025 is **Lift Every Voice**. This theme is drawn from the iconic first line of the Black National Anthem, resonates deeply as it encourages collective strength, unity, diversity, and resilience. Whether you identify as Black, African, African-Caribbean, Black 2SLGBTQI+ or African-Indigenous, this powerful phrase invites us to acknowledge and celebrate our shared heritage, recognize our historical and ongoing struggles, and honour our achievements. It also serves as a call to action, encouraging inclusivity, collaboration, and solidarity, reminding us of the impact we can make when we raise our voices together for justice, equity, and the greater good.

Toronto District School Board (TDSB) organized a variety of events to celebrate the rich heritage of the people and nations of Africa and the African Diaspora for our students, staff, and community

members. This includes the Know Your Worth Black Youth Empowerment Conference for secondary schools in partnership with York University Black Law Student Association.

Here at Vanier, our BCU Club (Black Collective Union) is busy working on a dramatic performance, which they will be presenting to our entire school community as part of our local African Heritage Month celebrations. Stay tuned for further information about this.

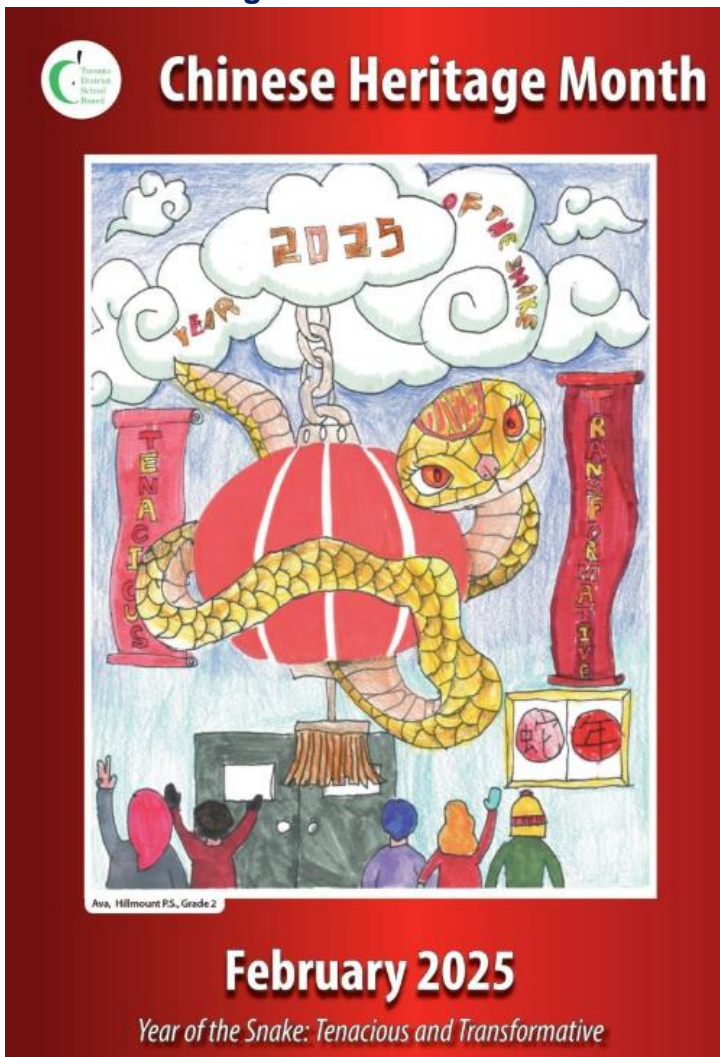
Black identifying students within the TDSB were asked to submit a poster of their interpretation of the theme, Lift Every Voice for the African Heritage (Black History) Month Poster Contest. The poster included on this page is one of the winning entries.

Honouring African Heritage Experiences

People of African descent have a rich legacy of cultural practices and traditions across generations. The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement in collaboration with various community educators is excited to offer diverse learning experiences focused on honouring and affirming African, African-Caribbean, and Black students' identities. These African-centred programming and learning experiences provide opportunities for students, staff, caregivers and community members. Please find the menu for February 2025. Click [here](#) for a calendar of events.

For more information contact, jeffrey.caton@tdsb.on.ca, Centrally Assigned Principal, or rukiya.mohamed@tdsb.on.ca, Program Coordinator, Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement.

Chinese Heritage Month at the TDSB - February 2025. The TDSB proudly recognizes Chinese Heritage Month in February each year. This year, we celebrate the ***Year of the Snake: Tenacious and Transformative***. We hope to encourage students, staff, and the TDSB community to make impactful changes amidst challenges.



The Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is one of the most significant holidays of the Chinese heritage. The date is determined by the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar, and the celebration lasts 16 days. This year, the first day began on Wednesday, January 29. Festivities can include family gatherings, decorations, and of course, a feast!

All TDSB students were invited to participate in the popular Chinese Heritage Month Poster Contest. The poster shared here was one of the winning posters!

Health & Well-Being

The [Winter Well-Being Guide 2024-2025](#) is now available. The Guide is prepared by the Mental Health and Well-Being Committee, in collaboration with the Mental Health Leads and the System Leader for Mental Health and PSS. [The Winter Well-Being Guide 2024-2025](#) offers updated, culturally relevant, and responsive resources to support students and parents/caregivers/guardians in fostering mental and physical wellness during the winter months. It also includes specific supports for students with disabilities and complex needs.

To ensure accessibility for our diverse community, the guide has been translated into the top spoken languages within the TDSB. You can access it here: [Winter Well-Being Guide 2024-2025](#)

Learn4Life Adult General Interest Program - Winter Registration Opens Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Registration for winter courses in the Learn4Life Adult General Interest Program opens on November 13 at 8:30 a.m. Available to adults 18 and older, the Learn4Life program offers a unique opportunity to pursue interests, expand knowledge, and engage in lifelong learning. The program features a wide range of courses and activities designed to cater to diverse interests and passions—from art and fitness to languages, sports and handiwork.

Some of the new courses this term include:

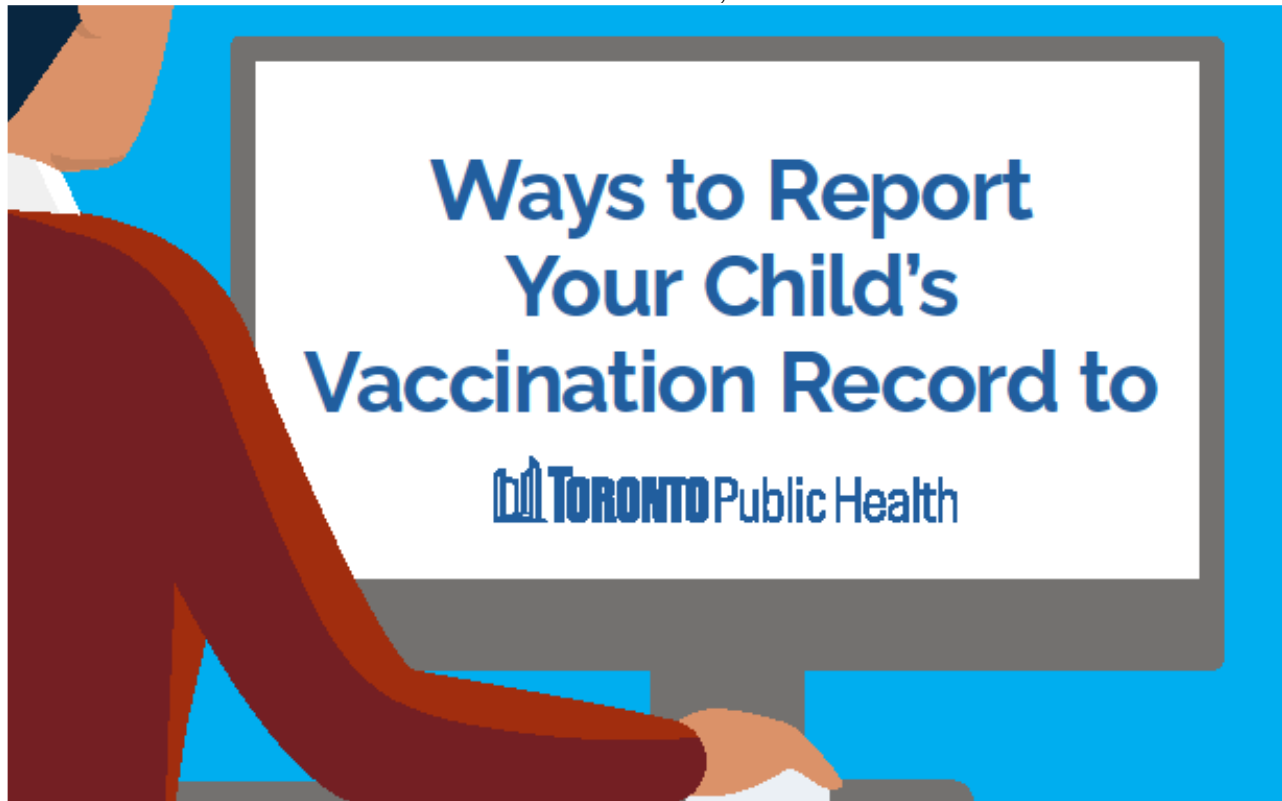
1. Making Your Home Smarter
2. Classics of Horror
3. Wood Carving Introduction
4. How to Minimize Cost of Living and Maximize your Purch
5. Strength for Life - Full Body Fitness
6. Portugal's Iconic Pastel de Nata Workshop



Courses start January 11, 2025. [Visit Learn4Life's program page](#)

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Helpline 9-8-8 Quick access to support from trained responders, available 24/7/365. Support in English and in French, by phone and text. High quality, evidence-based, equitable suicide prevention and crisis support for everyone in Canada.





Scan the QR Code. It's the fastest and easiest way to report your vaccinations through ICON.

Other Options:



Mail a copy to:

Toronto Public Health
Vaccine Preventable Diseases
5100 Yonge Street, 2nd Floor
Toronto, ON
M2N 5W4



Fax to:

416-338-2487
On the cover sheet, be sure to include identifying information, (child's name, DOB, OIID, Health Card Number) and parent's contact information.



Email to:

immunization@toronto.ca
Note: Email is not a secure form of communication, but you may use it if you wish.

You can also use these options to report vaccinations from outside Ontario/Canada or records in languages other than English.

REPORT YOUR CHILD'S VACCINE RECORD



**Toronto Public Health needs your child's
vaccine record for school attendance***



Report online at toronto.ca/studentvaccines

*according to Ontario's Immunization of School Pupils Act

Toronto Public Health | toronto.ca/health 416.338.7600

Ontario's Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule For children up to 6 years of age

Vaccine	*Diphtheria	*Tetanus	*Pertussis	*Polio	Haemophilus B (Hib)	Pneumococcal	Rotavirus (by mouth)	*Measles	*Mumps	*Rubella	*Varicella (Chickenpox)	*Meningococcal-C	Influenza
Age at Vaccination													
2 months	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
4 months	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
6 months	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
1 year						✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	
15 months											✓		
18 months	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
4-6 years	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		
Every autumn													✓

Boxes filled with the same colour are given as one needle.

The vaccines with an asterisk(*) are required for school attendance under the Immunization of School Pupils Act.



Report online at toronto.ca/studentvaccines

Questions?

Email us at immunization@toronto.ca

OR

Call us at [416-338-7600](tel:416-338-7600)

August 2024

Kids' Helplines:

Kids Help Phone Line is a 24 hour/7 days per week crisis line that youth can contact for support:
Online Chat: www.kidshelpphone.ca Phone: 1-800-668-6868 Text: 686868

Black Youth Help Line – available 9 AM – 10 PM www.blackyouth.ca 416-285-9944

LGBT Youth Line – Sunday – Friday 4 PM – 9:30 PM – PEER SUPPORT*

Live chat: www.youthline.ca Text: 647-694-4275 Call: 1-800-268-9688

Naseeha - Muslim Mental Health Help Phone – 1-866-Naseeha (627-3342)

Call: 1-866-627-3342 (7 days/week 12-9 PM) Text: 1-866-627-3342 (Mon-Fri 12-9 PM)

Hope for Wellness Help Chat – offers immediate mental health counselling and crisis intervention to all Indigenous peoples across Canada

Live chat: www.hopeforwellness.ca Call: 1-855-242-3310 (24/7)

Other Resources:

Help Ahead is the centralized resource and intake phone line for multiple trusted community-based mental health organizations in Toronto. Help Ahead has up-to-date information about the available programs and services and can find local supports to address the needs of your child and family.
<https://www.helpahead.ca/> 1-866-585-6486

What's Up Walk-In Clinic provides free mental health counselling for children, youth, young adults and their families, and family with infants. <https://www.whatsupwalkin.ca/resources/>

One Stop Talk is a free, confidential service that lets children and youth aged 0-17 years call or connect online from anywhere in Ontario to get brief mental health services. Parents seeking services are encouraged to visit *One Stop Talk* with their child to ensure access to a session.
<https://onestoptalk.ca/> 1-855-416-8255

Upcoming Dates & Events

Feb 18	Photo Day – Take 2 for Grad photos and School ID cards
Feb 18 – 21	SAC Spirit Week
Feb.19	Late Start Day; classes begin @ 9:55 am
Feb. 24	2025-26 Course Selection in MyBluePrint is DUE!!
Feb. 26	Late Start Day; classes begin @ 9:55 am
Feb. 26	PEEL's Got talent Night @ 6 pm

Parent Concern Protocol

1

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

2

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

3

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

4

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|F13)

416-395-8808 • Kurt.McIntosh@tdsb.on.ca

Trustee: James Li • Ward 13

416-395-8787 • James.Li@tdsb.on.ca