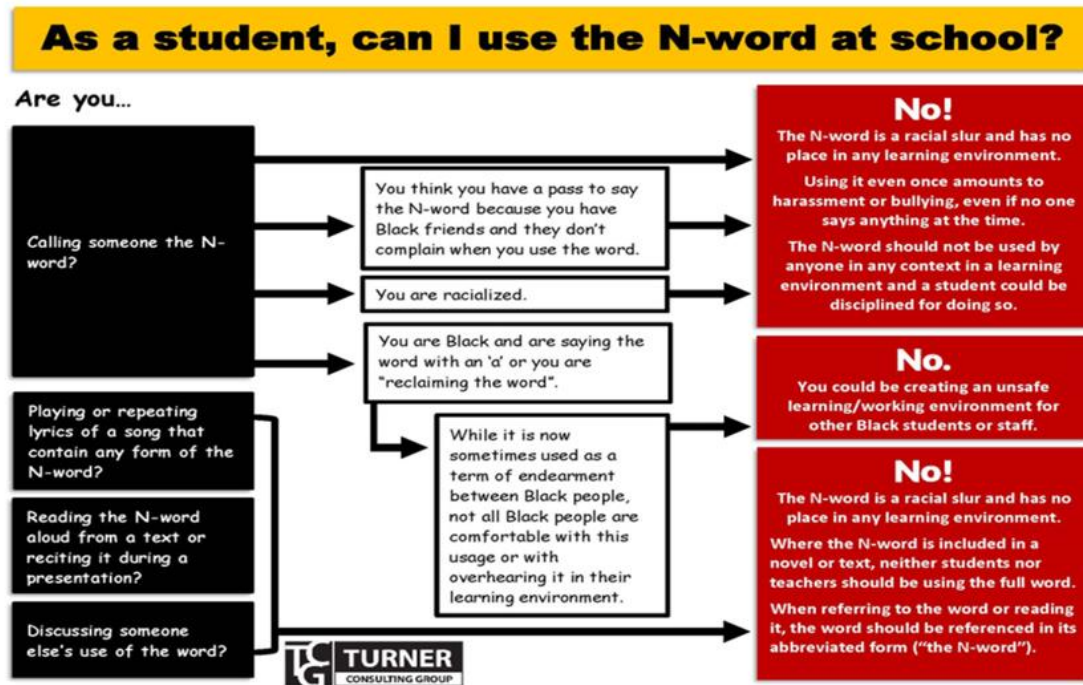


**Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 25 (March 8, 2025)**

Dear Vanier Family,

As we head out into the March break, I want to share some of the fantastic feats we accomplished at Vanier this past week. Vanier students excelled at the 35th annual TDSB Tech Skills Competition, taking home 1 Gold, 3 silver, and 2 Bronze awards! Fourteen of our students competed in an array of tech challenges, ranging from Animation, Photography and Graphic Design, Coding, Prepared Speech, and Mechanical CAD. We want to congratulate all our students for their inspiring hard work and dedication. Special shout-outs to the medal recipients: Baneet Sarna - **Prepared Speech, Bronze**; Alisha Awasthi - **Mechanical CAD, Gold**; Shariah Mirza – **Coding, Silver**; Abid Mohamed Riaz - **Graphic Design, Bronze**; Claire Hunter and Mehreen Alam – **Animation, Silver**; and Neha Hallim – **Photography, Silver**. Also, special thanks to Mr. Blazina, Ms. Ang, Mr. Bodden, Mr. Venerus, and Ms. Yeostros for supervising and making it possible for our students to compete.

This past Thursday we held our annual Black History Month Assembly, and it was spectacular! After months of practicing, students from our Black Collective Union (BCU) club delivered an entertaining and enlightening assembly consisting of beautiful performances of dance, music, and poetry and a play that interrogated the use of the N-word – the abbreviation for a racial slur that is demeaning and racist toward Black people. While there is much debate on the use of this word in popular culture, it's important to remember that no one is allowed to say or write the N-word on any TDSB properties or functions. This assembly made this clear, and we want to reassure you of the TDSB's unwavering policy against it. Please find below a graphic that re-iterates this message.



**Georges Vanier Secondary School**  
3000 Don Mills Rd. E., North York



Huge thanks to our resident poet and author, Greg Birkett, who wrote the play that was performed by the students and who worked with them over these past months to fine tune their performance. Special thanks as well to all the staff supervisors - Ms. Chichester, Ms. Boswell, and Ms. Malcolm - who coached and supported the students to prepare and deliver a very polished, entertaining, and educational assembly. Last, but not least, huge thanks to the students for working so hard over the past few months to bring this show to life. Well done! You did an amazing job, and we are so very proud of you.

Next week (March 10 – 14) is March break. I wish you all a safe and relaxing break. Remember to change your clocks this Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, by springing forward one hour as we return to Daylight Saving Time. We will see you back in school on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.



**Karen Johnson**

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

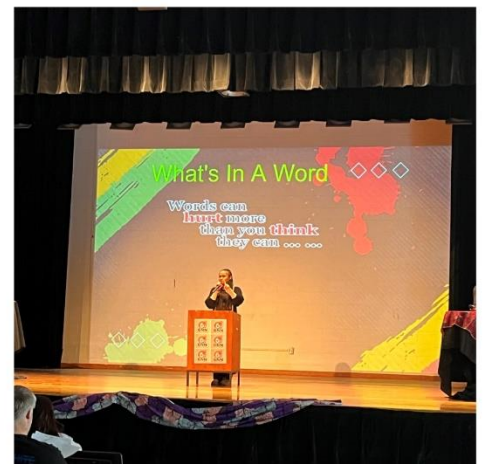
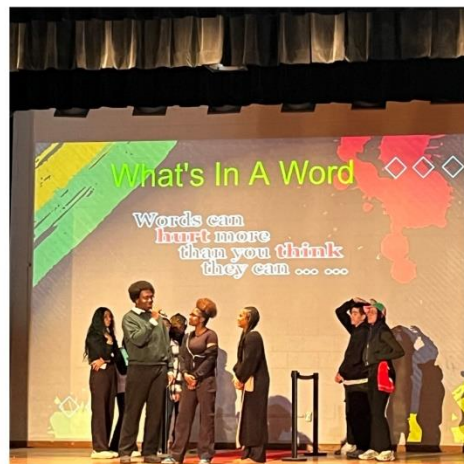
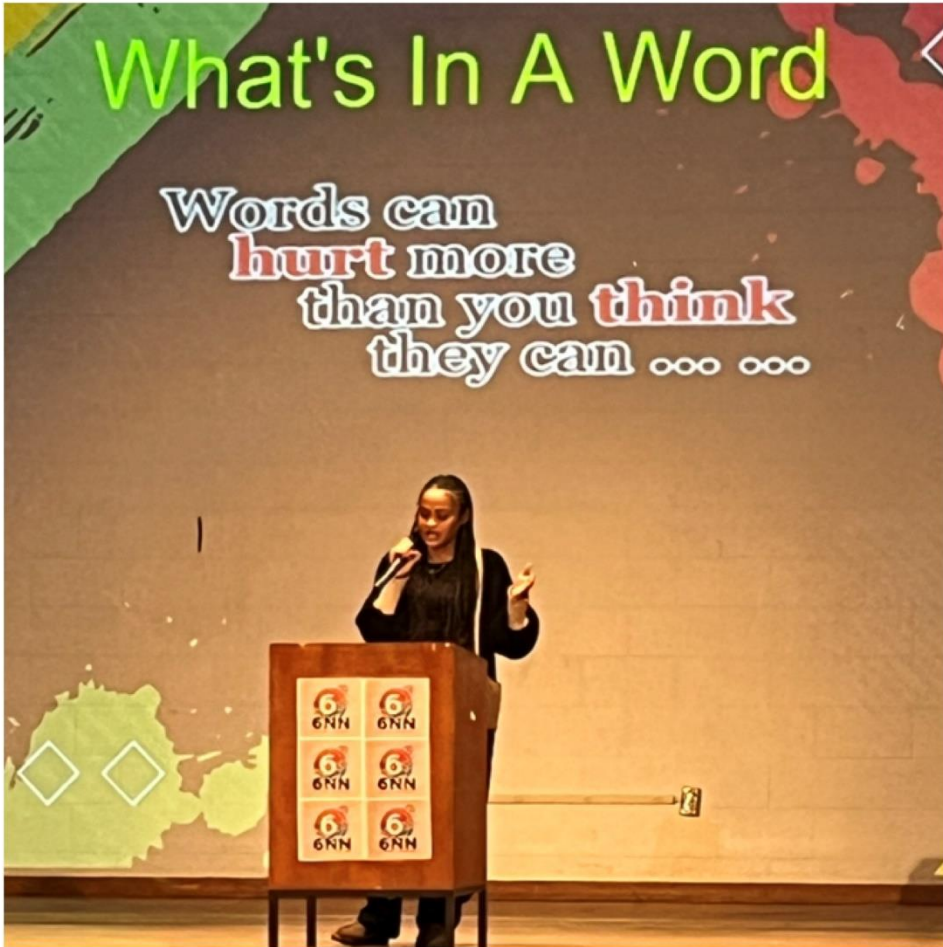
<https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/georgesvanier>

**Susan Tsin**

**Daniel Muttiah**

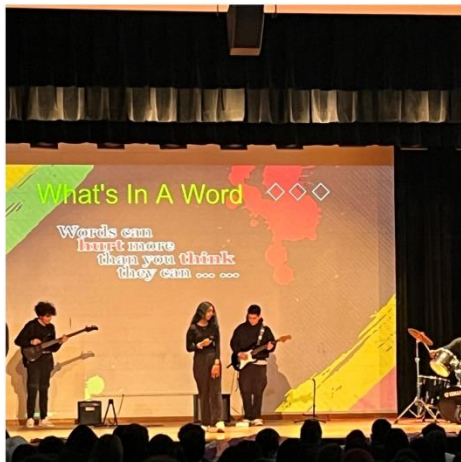
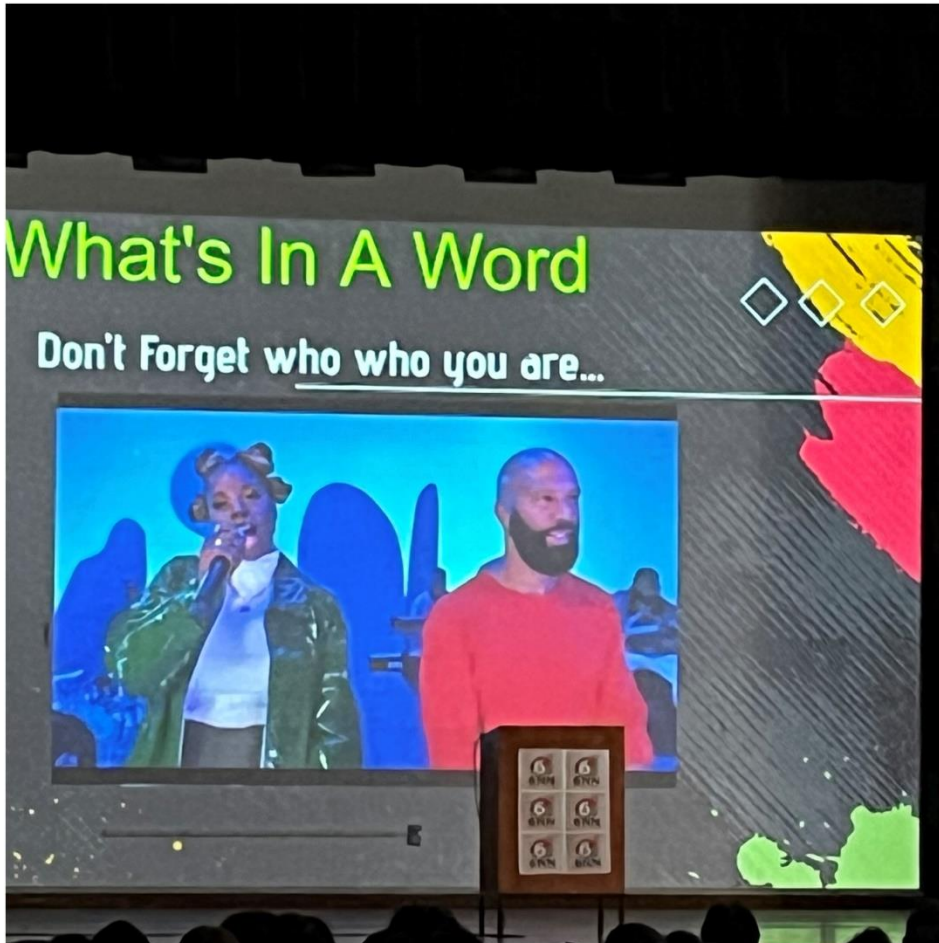


## Pics from our 2025 Black History Month Assembly





## More Pics from our 2025 Black History Month Assembly



**The Vanier Staff and Students who made the Black History Month Assembly Possible!**



**WELL DONE!**



## 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, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, from 6:30 – 8:00 pm.** At this meeting we will be having our Trustee, James Li, in attendance. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

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### Message from our Trustee's Office

Please click [here](#) to access our Trustee's (Mr. James Li) newsletter for the month of March.

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## 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).

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## 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.



## 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](#).

## World Down Syndrome Day 2025

[#WorldDownSyndromeDay](#) is marked each year on March 21. The 21st day of the 3rd month signifies the triplication of the 21st chromosome which causes Down Syndrome. TDSB staff and students are encouraged to 'Rock Your Socks' to raise awareness and create a single global voice advocating for the rights, inclusion, and well-being of people with Down syndrome. We encourage students to wear mismatched socks, or draw pictures of mismatched socks to stir up conversation and remind people that things that are different are still beautiful and wonderful! Down-syndrome-fact-sheet ([dsat.ca](#)). For more information, please click [here](#).

Our own PEEL department encourages everyone to wear funky socks for World Down Syndrome Day, and they will also be doing a snack sale in the cafeteria at lunch.

## March Is Easter Seals Month

Easter Seals Ontario dedicates March to raising awareness and support for children and youth with physical disabilities through Easter Seals Month. This year, they are shining a light on the stories, perspectives, and contributions of individuals with physical disabilities. Join this March to help create a more inclusive, accessible, and equitable society for children and youth with physical disabilities at [MarchIsEasterSealsMonth.org](http://MarchIsEasterSealsMonth.org).

## 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	<b>Mon &amp; Wed</b> 3:30 – 4:30 pm	Room 211
	Mr. Hussain	<b>Tues &amp; Thursday</b> 3:30 – 4:30 pm	Room 203
Numeracy Support	Ms. Li	<b>Mon &amp; Wed</b> 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.

Enroll today by joining the Google Classroom (see poster for classroom code).





## EQUITY

### Ramadan 2025

Saturday, March 1, 2025, marks the first week of Ramadan - one of the holiest months in the Islamic calendar. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims worldwide abstain from food and water from sunrise to sunset for 29 or 30 consecutive days--as determined by the lunar calendar. Fasting is one of the five pillars of Islam. Muslims break their fast each evening with a communal dinner called an iftar.

During Ramadan, Muslims make every effort to recite the Quran, perform extra prayers, engage in charity, and perform good deeds to reach a higher level of spirituality. Once the month is over, Muslims celebrate Eid al-Fitr, the festival of breaking the fast with family and friends, wearing special clothes and sharing gifts for up to three days.

For those who are celebrating, Happy Ramadan!



## **Greek Heritage Month (GHM) @ the TDSB**

The TDSB is proud to recognize Greek Heritage Month (GHM) over the month of March. It is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Greek Canadians to Canada, and an occasion to mark and enjoy the history of Greek culture. This heritage is also celebrated across the Province of Ontario since 2019 with the implementation of the Hellenic Heritage Month Act. This Act reads, in part:

“March is a significant month for the Hellenic community and March 25 is celebrated each year as Greek Independence Day. Proclaiming March as Hellenic Heritage Month provides an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about the outstanding achievements and contributions of the Hellenic Canadians in the province.”

2025 marks 10 years of recognizing GHM at the TDSB! For this reason, our theme for this year is:

**Odyssey - A Decade of Celebrating Greek Heritage Month**  
**Οδύσσεια - Μία Δεκαετία Εορτασμού του Μήνα Ελληνικής Κληρονομιάς**



# **Greek Heritage Month**



## Health & Well-Being

### **Learn4Life Adult General Interest Program - Spring Registration Opens Wednesday, February 12, 2025**

Registration for winter courses in the Learn4Life Adult General Interest Program opens on February 12 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.

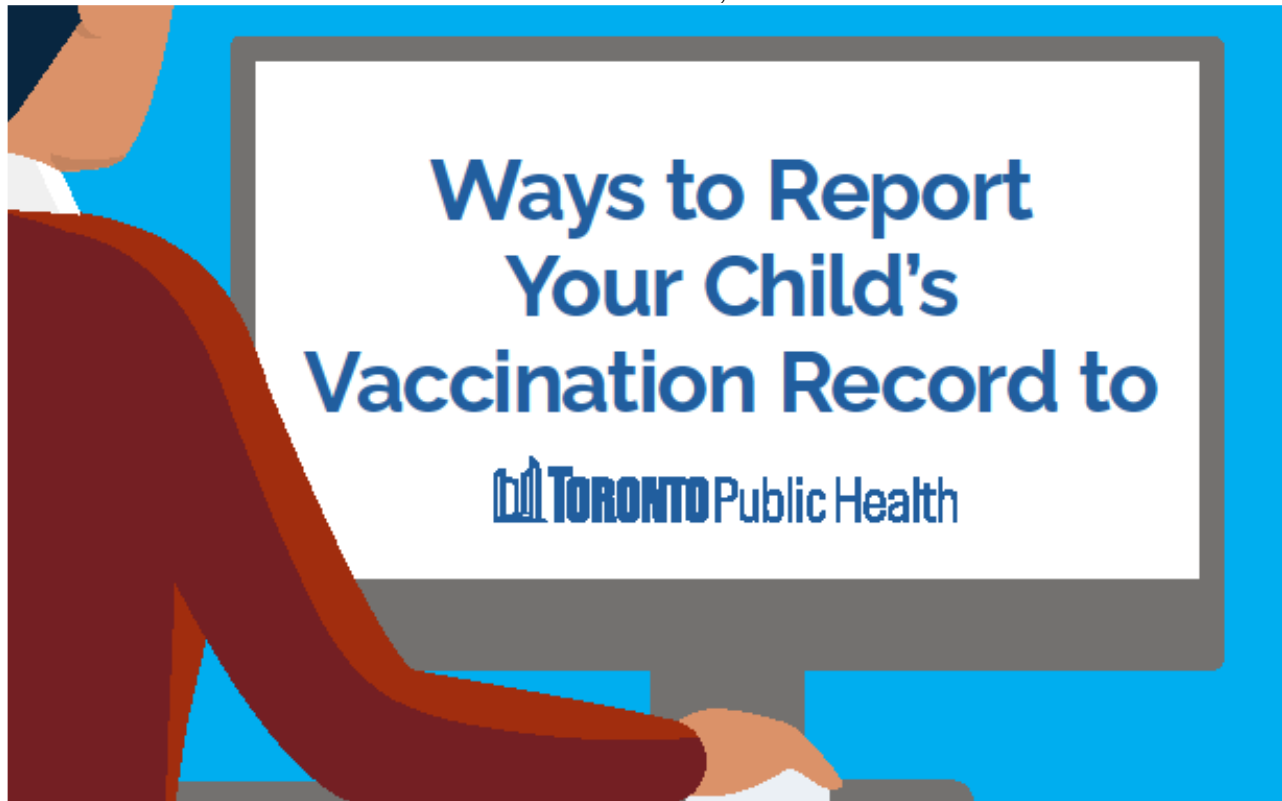
Courses start April 1, 2025. [Visit Learn4Life's program page for more information.](#)



**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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](https://toronto.ca/studentvaccines)

\*according to Ontario's Immunization of School Pupils Act

**Toronto Public Health**

[toronto.ca/health](https://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](https://toronto.ca/studentvaccines)**

**Questions?**

**Email us at [immunization@toronto.ca](mailto: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](http://www.kidshelpphone.ca) Phone: 1-800-668-6868 Text: 686868

**Black Youth Help Line** – available 9 AM – 10 PM [www.blackyouth.ca](http://www.blackyouth.ca) 416-285-9944

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

Live chat: [www.youthline.ca](http://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](http://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

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## **Upcoming Dates & Events**

Mar 4	Parent Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm
Mar 6	Black History Month Assembly
Mar 10 – 14	<b>MARCK BREAK</b>
Mar 25	Parent Teacher Interviews (2 – 4 pm, online/6 – 8 pm, in-person)
Mar 26	Late Start; classes commence @ 9:55 am

## Parent Concern Protocol

1

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

2

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

3

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

4

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|F13)

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)