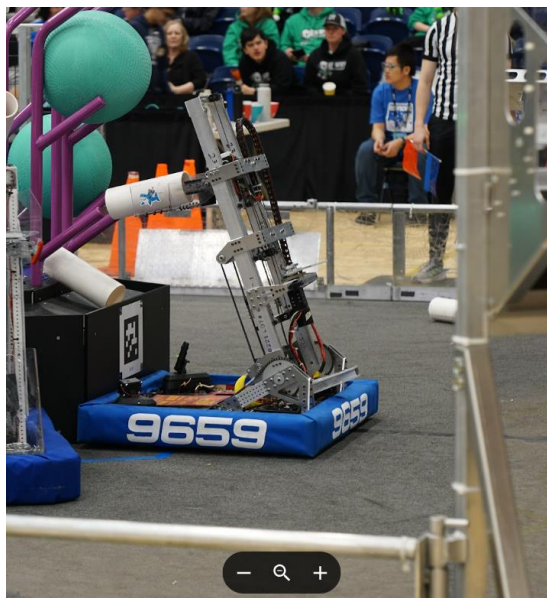


Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 26 (March 21, 2025)

Dear Vanier Family,

I hope you had a fantastic March Break! This first week back from the break was filled with a flurry of activities! For example, we had a number of spring sports tryouts (e.g., Track and Field and girls' soccer) and coveted field trips such as the one to Air Canada, where a few of our students got to go behind the scenes to see ins and outs of transporting thousands of people around the world each day. Our Robotics team (FRC 9659) also came back roaring – they competed in the First Robotics Regional Championship at Humber College on Tuesday and Wednesday. Despite some setbacks, the team made the playoffs and won the Creativity Award for our novel approach to this year's game, REEFSCAPE, and qualified for the Provincial Championships in April. Go "Vikings"!



Today (Friday, March 21st) is [#WorldDownSyndromeDay](#). 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. Down-syndrome-fact-sheet (dsat.ca). For more information, please click [here](#).

To mark this day, students in our PEEL program wore mismatched socks and did a snack sale fundraiser for their upcoming zoo trip on Friday at lunchtime.



Next Tuesday (March 25th) is a very important date on our school calendar. It's our semester 2 **Parent/Caregiver - Teacher Interviews/Conferences**. A special letter was emailed earlier this week with all the details, but here they are again. We'll hold two sessions of Interviews/conferences:

Session1: 2:00PM - 4:00PM Virtual Interview (MS TEAMS)

Session 2: 6:00pm - 8:00pm Live In-Person Interviews (held at the school)

Bookings opened on **Wednesday MARCH 19, 2025**. Conference sessions are 10 minutes in duration. You may book using on of the following ways:

1. Go to: www.schoolinterviews.ca and enter the code **5pqn**
2. Or <https://schoolinterviews.ca/code/5pqn>
3. Or scan the QR Code on the right



Last but not least, I want to remind you of an important matter – **VACCINATION**.

Many of you received a letter over a month 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), please click on this link to do so: [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 link: [Book Student Vaccine Appointment](#) or call (416) 338-7600 to book. (see poster below).

Students who are not in compliance will receive a final reminder (suspension order) by mail. They will have at least 15 school days from the suspension order to get the required vaccines or submit a valid exemption before the start of the suspension period.

The start of active suspension will commence between April 8 - May 2. Suspension periods are for 20 school days or until requirements are met. With the school year rapidly drawing to a close, you do not want any disruption in your child's education, so report or get their vaccination done today! Thank you!

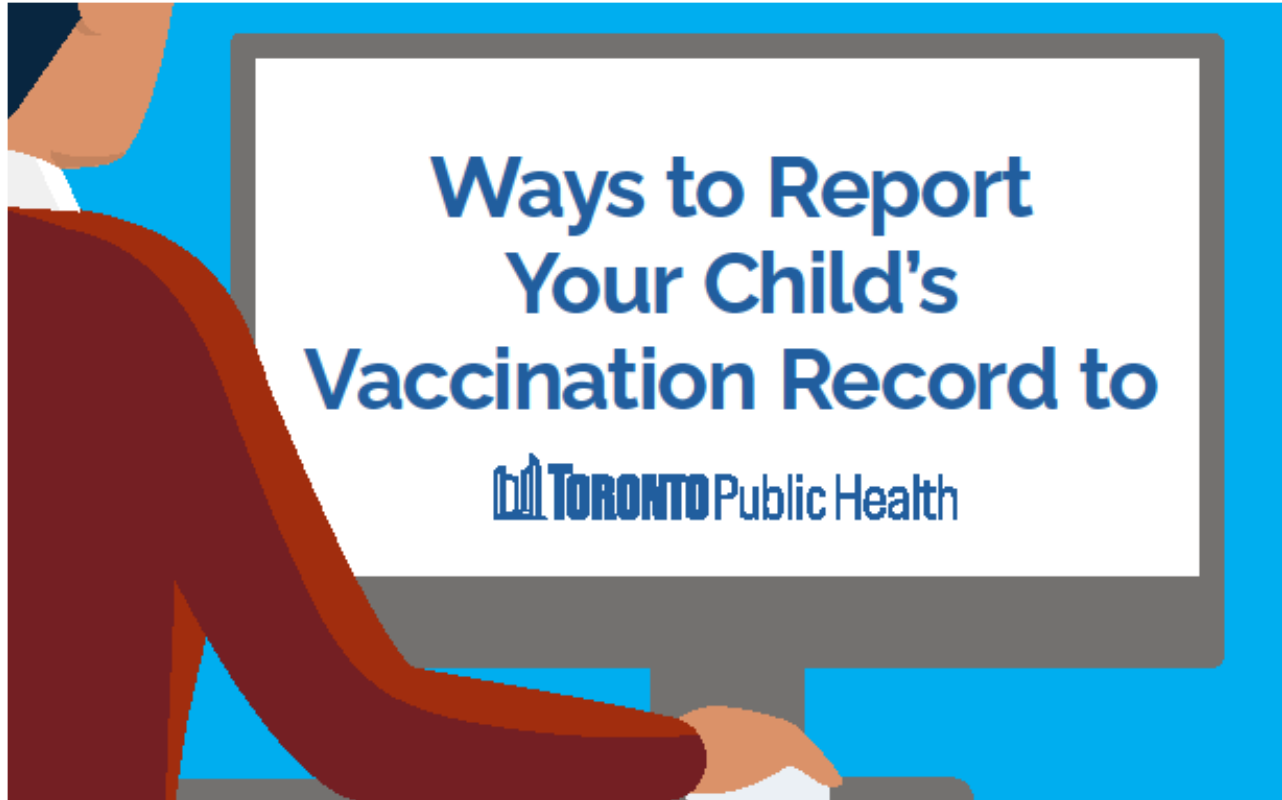
Karen Johnson

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

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

Susan Tsin

Daniel Muttiah



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.

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

Vaccine														
Age at Vaccination	*Diphtheria	*Tetanus	*Pertussis	*Polio	Haemophilus B (Hib)	Pneumococcal	Rotavirus (by mouth)	*Measles	*Mumps	*Rubella	*Varicella (Chickenpox)	*Meningococcal-C	Influenza	
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

August 2024

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 1st, 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.

Message from our Trustee's Office

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

Social Media and Safety: A Parent's Roadmap

The TDSB has partnered up with the Toronto Police Services to deliver an engaging Social Media Safety Night for Parents on **March 26, 2025, from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM at Malvern Family Resource Centre – 90 Littles Road, Scarborough.** This event aims to equip parents/caregivers/guardians with strategies to navigate their children's digital engagement. 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) and guests. This evening will include practical strategies for navigating social media risks, open discussion on online safety, take-home resources and giveaways. Click [here](#) for a flyer with more information about this event.

Purple Day – Epilepsy Awareness Day – March 26

Purple Day on March 26 is a global movement to increase awareness about epilepsy. Bring out your purple spirit on this day - wear Purple, bake purple goodie and spread the word about epilepsy!

Let's show support for the 1 in 100 people living with epilepsy—together, we can make a difference! Share examples of your Purple Spirit on Instagram or X using #PurpleSpirit2025.



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](#).

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](https://marchiseastersealsmonth.org).

E-Learning Graduation Requirement



On February 1st, 2022, the Ministry of Education shared details on the new graduation requirement of two e-Learning credits to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). This applies to students who started Grade 9 on or after September 1st, 2020-2021.

A parent/caregiver/guardian or student (18 years of age or older or 16 or 17 years of age and has withdrawn from parental control) can opt out of the e-Learning Graduation Requirement using [this form](#). No explanation or reason is needed to opt-out/withdraw and there is no impact of the ability to graduate. The form must be return to our Main Office by Friday, April 4th, 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.

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

Summer 2025 Programs

Please click on the links below to access information on:

- 1) [Continuing Education Secondary Credit](#) (Registration opens Tuesday, April 22nd)
- 2) [e-Summer School Program](#) (Registration tentatively opens on Monday, April 15th for TDSB students and Tuesday, April 29th for NON-TDSB students.
- 3) [TDSB Global Leadership and Communication Camp 2025](#)
- 4) [Special Education and Inclusion Summer Program](#)



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.



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

Mar 4	Parent Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm
Mar 6	Black History Month Assembly
Mar 10 – 14	MARCK BREAK
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

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