

Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 28 (April 4, 2025)

Dear Vanier Family,

I hope this newsletter finds you well despite the tumultuous weather we've been experiencing. As you know, I like to use the introductory page(s) of this newsletter to highlight events from the past week and forecast upcoming ones. Before doing so, I want to take this time to congratulate all our



students (almost 40 of them!) who participated in this year's HOSA national competition, which was held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre on March 27 - 28. The mission of HOSA Canada is to enable secondary and postsecondary students to **become leaders in the healthcare industry** by enabling future health professionals to acquire knowledge, skills training, and leadership development through competition. We are incredibly proud of our students for not only their achievements but also for representing our school so well on the national stage. Special congratulations to **Mehreen Alam** and **Vihaan Varshey**, who finished in the top ten in their

events!

This past Monday, being the last day of the month, was our day to recognize our students of the month for March. Congratulations to this month's winners:

Student's Name	Grade	Nomination Category
Caleb Leung	Grade 10	Academic: Demonstration of excellent Academic Achievement
Hady Dabbous	Grade 11	Academic: Demonstration of excellent Academic Achievement
Amsila Shahid	Grade 10	Citizenship: Demonstration of exemplary Citizenship
Le Bao Minh Gina Nguyen	Grade 10	Academic: Demonstration of excellent Academic Achievement
Harshitha Ramesh Babu	Grade 9	Academic: Demonstration of excellent Academic Achievement
Parham Talkhekar	Grade 12	Character: Demonstration of exemplary Character

On Tuesday, we hosted our parent council meeting; this was a very informative time as we got to listen in on a forum co-hosted by our school's trustee on upcoming changes to school-generated funds. Thanks to all the parents in attendance.

Wednesday was a day of celebration and inclusivity as we marked World Autism Day. Students in our PEEL program celebrated by wearing a rainbow of colours, symbolizing our diverse and inclusive spirit.



Also, on Wednesday, over 20 of our students wrote the University of Waterloo Euclid Math Contest! This contest is written annually by over 25,000 participants worldwide; it's an opportunity for senior-level secondary school students to solve innovative problems using their creativity and all of the knowledge they have gained in secondary school mathematics.

On Thursday, renowned slam poet Patrick de Belen was in the building conducting a writing workshop with students and assisting with the prep for our Asian Heritage Assembly, which will take place in May.

We wrapped out the week on Friday with an Open mic jam session in our Music studio. Thanks to Ms. Park for providing these creative outlets for our students to relax and unwind.

Next week, **Thursday (April 10)** and **Friday (April 11)** will be our OSSLT and REACH Days (we'll follow a special schedule). Only students writing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) and those needing extra support with their outstanding assignments will attend.

Karen Johnson

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

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

Susan Tsin (VP)

Daniel Muttiah (VP)



Vanier Students @ the
***Believe and Belong
in Veterinary
Medicine*** event at the
Centre of Excellence
for Black Student
Achievement
on April 2, 2025



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, May 6th, 2025, from 6:30 – 8:00 pm.** This will be our final meeting for the 2024-2025 school year, so if you have not had a chance to attend one all year, this will be your last opportunity to do so.

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](#).

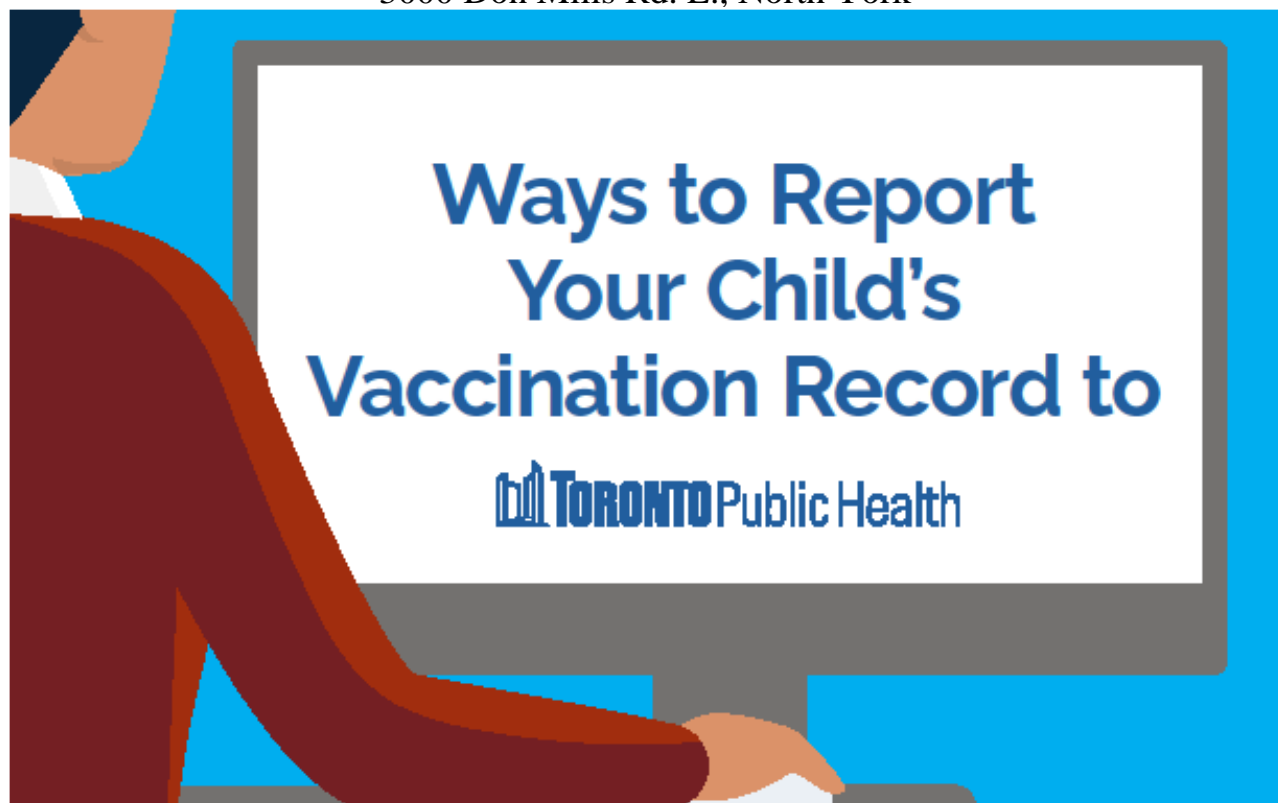
Student Vaccination – URGENT!!

Some of you have received a letter 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!



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

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

OSSLT and REACH Days: Thursday, April 10th and Friday, April 11th, will be dedicated to the OSSLT (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test) and R.E.A.C.H activities. We will be following a special schedule on these days, as outlined below. Please be reminded that success on the OSSLT is a mandatory requirement to graduate from high school. Most of the students writing the OSSLT will be grade 10 students. REACH (**R**emedial, **E**nrichment, **A**nd **C**hange) days provide students with the opportunity to complete any outstanding assignments with support from their teachers before mid-term report cards are generated. Students who are doing well in their courses don't need to attend these sessions but may use this time for enrichment.

Thursday, April 10 (Day 2)	Friday, April 11 (Day 1)
<p>OSSLT - Group 1 (AM) 9:00am-12:00pm OSSLT 12:00pm - 1:00pm LUNCH</p> <p>REACH DAY 1</p> <p>1:00pm - 2:05pm BLOCK D - REACH 2:10pm - 3:15pm BLOCK C - REACH</p>	<p>OSSLT - Group 2 (AM) 9:00am-12:00pm OSSLT 12:00pm - 1:00pm LUNCH</p> <p>REACH DAY 2</p> <p>1:00pm - 2:05pm BLOCK A - REACH 2:10pm - 3:15pm BLOCK B - REACH</p>

After-School Literacy and Numeracy Support. Please see 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.

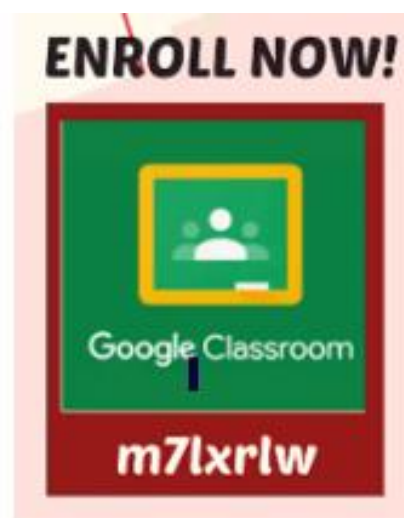
Literacy Support	Ms. Gerstnerova	Mon & Wed 3:30 – 4:30 pm	Room 211
	Mr. Hussain	Tues & Thursday 3:30 – 4:30 pm	Room 203
Numeracy Support	Ms. Li	Mon & Wed 3:30 – 4:30 pm	Room 330

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](#)

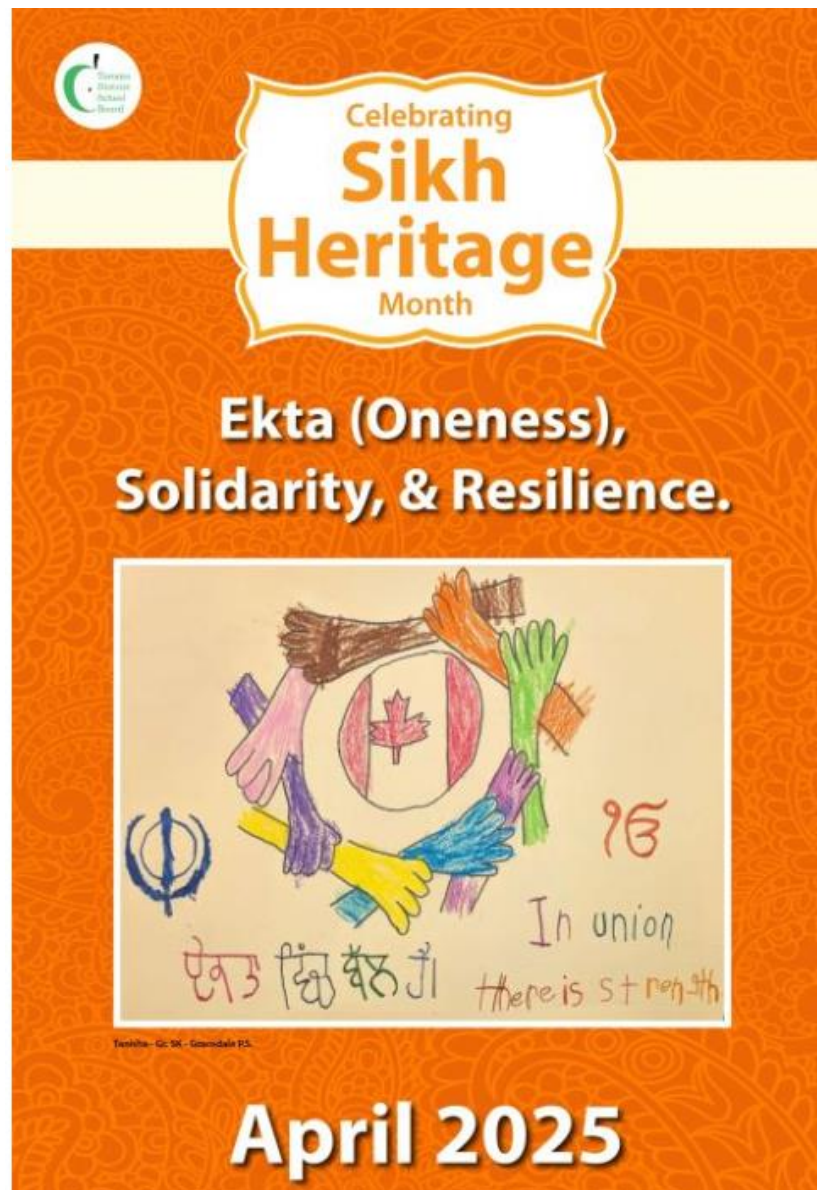


EQUITY

Sikh Heritage Month @ the TDSB

Sikh Heritage Month has been proudly recognized at the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) since 2016 as the Board of Trustees voted to designate April of each year as Sikh Heritage Month making the TDSB the first school board in Canada to do so. Sikh Heritage Month is recognized nationally across Canada.

This theme for Sikh Heritage Month 2025 is **Ekta (Oneness), Solidarity, and Resilience.**



Educational offerings for students, staff, and the community are inspired by Guru Nanak's teachings on justice, equality, and community. These principles challenge discrimination, combat bullying, and promote inclusivity.

By celebrating Sikh diversity and shared humanity, we foster dialogue, learning, and collective action. Through storytelling, workshops, and school-wide initiatives, we highlight how Sikh teachings inspire unity and empower students to stand against injustice with courage, compassion, and Chardi Kala (relentless optimism).

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

April 9	International Day of Pink
April 10 & 11	OSSLT & REACH days
April 17	Mid-Term Report Card Distribution (electronic)
April 18	Good Friday (no school)
April 21	Easter Monday (no school)
April 22	Earth Day
April 23	Late Start – PLC day – classes start at 9:55 am
April 24	VIBE (International Talent Show) 6:00 – 8:00 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

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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

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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