

Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 31 (April 25, 2025)

Dear Vanier Family,

Vanier is a busy place! Every week, there is a plethora of activities that keep our school hopping. This week was the biggest one of all, as we had VIBE (Vanier's International Big Event) on Thursday night (April 24th). This was a magical night as our extremely culturally diverse student body showcased their amazing musical talents. Our students have invested countless hours planning and practicing for VIBE since last fall, so I know how relieved and proud they are that this night went off without a hitch. Thank you, Vanier students, for sharing your talent, endless hard work, and professionalism. A heartfelt thank you to all the staff, especially to Ms. Manji, Ms. Charron, Ms. Park, Mr. Snow, Ms. Choi, and Ms. Yang, for their unwavering dedication and hard work in making VIBE such a spectacular success. Below are some highlights (photos and sound clips from this year's VIBE).



As mentioned above, we have a very diverse student body that includes not just cultural backgrounds but also a host of other identities. Regardless of their identities, we want all of our students to feel at home at Vanier, so we have several clubs serving as affinity spaces. For example, we have had clubs such as BCU (Black Student Alliance) and GSA over the past few years. I'm pleased to announce that this past school year, our students have launched an ASU (Asian Student Union) and an MSA (Muslim Student Association). These clubs are already quite active. For example, our Asian Student Union is busy planning an Asian Month Assembly for our school, which will be held next Thursday, May 1st. This will be the first of its kind at Vanier, so we look forward to this assembly, where Patrick de Belen, renowned Filipino Canadian storyteller, arts educator, spoken word poet, and film writer, will be our keynote speaker. Our MSA leads Friday prayers and will be attending the TDSB's Muslim Association 2025 student conference **on May 14th, 2025**.

Starting this weekend, from April 26- 29, top students worldwide, including our own Aneri Chevli, will be in Florida, USA, for DECA's 2025 International Career Development Conference. We are so proud of Aneri for making it to that level and wish her a safe and successful time at the conference.

Last, but not least, **Tuesday, May 6th, 2025, @ 6:30 pm**, will be our final parent council meeting of the school year! This will be your opportunity to hear from our school trustee and about upcoming school events such as our Funfair Day, prom, and graduation. I look forward to seeing you there.

Karen Johnson

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

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

Susan Tsin (vp)

Daniel Muttiah (vp)

VIBE 2025...Oh What a Night!



Sound Clips:

[Clip 1](#)

[Clip 2](#)

[Clip 3](#)

[Clip 4](#)

VIBE 2025...Oh What a Night!



Video Clips:

[Clip 5](#)

[Clip 6](#)

[Clip 7](#)

[Clip 8](#)

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](#).

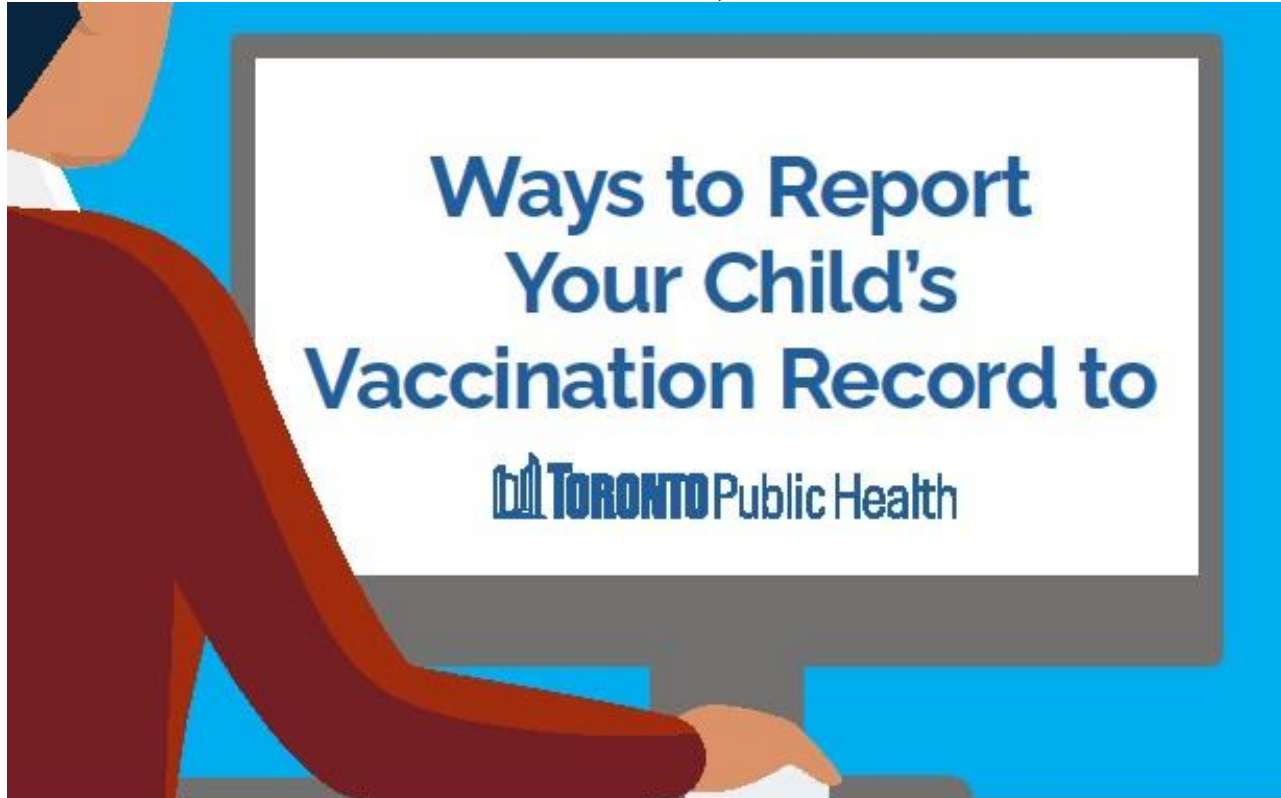
Student Vaccination – URGENT!!

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	*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**

August 2024

News for the *Class of 2025*...**NEW!!**

PROM 2025...our prom will be held on Tuesday, **June 5, 2025** @ **Crystal Fountain Banquet Hall**. If you plan on going to prom and need financial assistance to buy a dress, then see Ms. Burgess in Rm 207A ASAP to be considered for the corsage project (<https://corsageproject.ca/>)



GRADUATION 2025...mark your calendars! Vanier's graduation ceremony for the 2024/25 school year will occur on **June 26th, 2025, at 10:00 am** at the school. This is certainly one of the highlights of the school year as we celebrate this important milestone with our graduates. As we begin to plan for this day, students will be asked in a few weeks to:

- a) **Select their gown size.** The school will **loan** students graduation gowns for the day, which students must return at the end of the graduation ceremony. To complete their outfit, students will wear a graduation cap and tassel, which they can keep. Students/families will be asked to contribute **\$10.00** (through cash-on-line) to purchase their cap and tassel.

Graduating students must complete [this form](#) by May 26th, 2025, to indicate if they will be attending this year's commencement ceremony and select their gown size.

- b) **Nominate themselves or others for a graduation award.** Numerous awards, including **valedictorian**, are given to graduates each year who meet specific criteria. A Google form describing these awards will be shared with students shortly. Students can apply for these awards if they meet the criteria. The awards committee will review all the applications and decide on the winning candidate (excluding, valedictorian).



Special Education and Inclusion Summer School 2025NEW!!

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) will once again offer summer school programs from July 2nd to 25th for students currently enrolled in the Developmental Disability, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Physical Disabilities Intensive Support Programs (ISPs). Please click on this [information flyer](#) to learn more about these programs.

These half-day programs will be held in-person at various locations throughout the TDSB. Students will be supported to develop their independence through programming in the areas of functional literacy and numeracy skills, activities of daily living, communication, and social skills. Visit the [summer school website](#) for more information.

**Applications must be submitted by
Friday, April 25, 2025.**



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 date to return this form if you are planning to opt out is **Friday, April 25th, 2025.**

Achievement

Mid-term Report cards. Mid-term report cards were emailed last **Thursday, April 17, 2025**. If you did not receive them, please contact vice-principal, Daniel Muttiah (Daniel.Muttiah@tdsb.on.ca).



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:

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

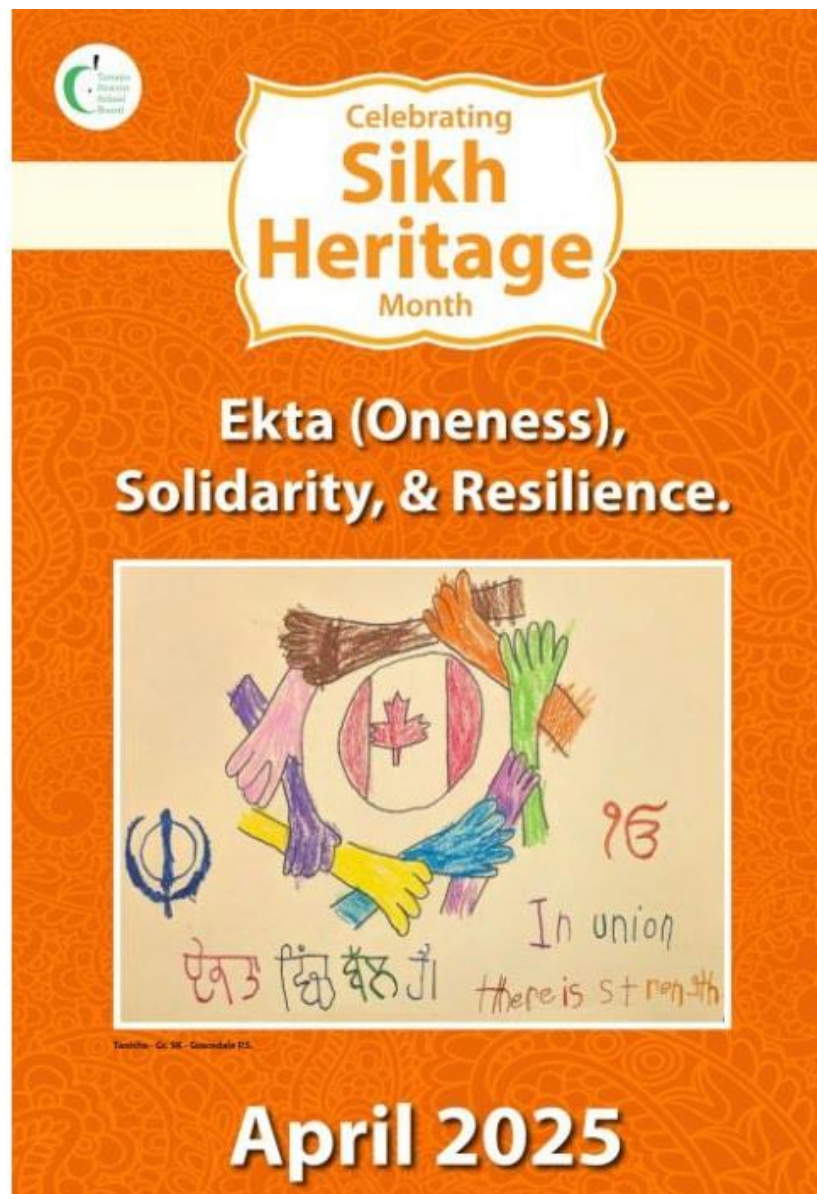


EQUITY

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.

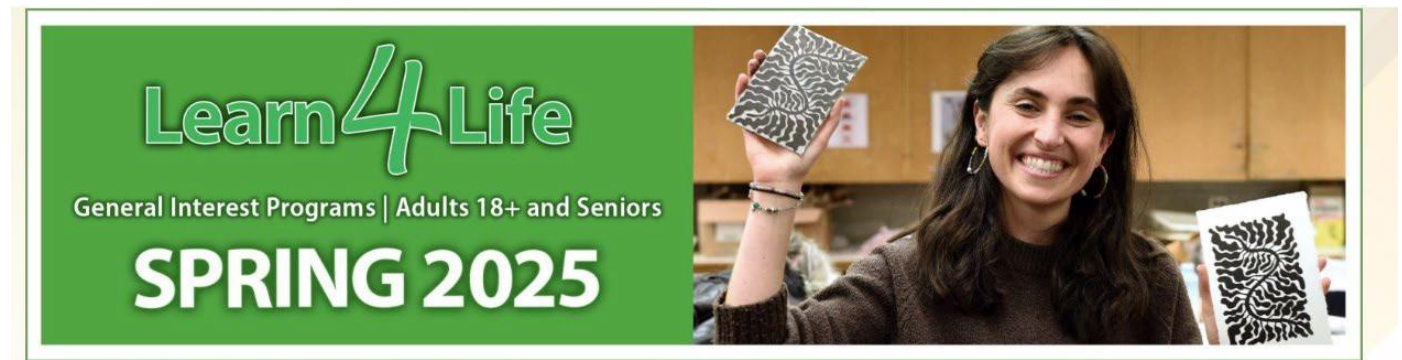
By celebrating Sikh diversity and shared humanity, we foster dialogue, learning, and collective action. Through storytelling, workshops, and school-wide initiatives, we highlight how Sikh teachings inspire unity and empower students to stand against injustice with courage, compassion, and Chardi Kala (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 30	Late Start – Staff Meeting Day – classes start at 9:55 am
May 1	Asian Heritage Month Assembly
May 5 – 9	Mental Health Week
May 19	Victoria Day Holiday (no school)
May 21	Late Start – PLC day – classes start at 9:55 am
May 28	Late Start – classes start at 9:55 am & Athletic Banquet
May 30	Fun Fair & Caravan Day (PM)

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

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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

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