



Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 32 (May 2, 2025)

Dear Vanier Family,

This past week was a BIG one at Vanier! In last week's newsletter, I shared that one of our grade 9 students was on their way to Florida to compete in the International DECA competition! Well, it gives me great pleasure to announce that our student, *Aneri Chevli, was crowned the DECA World Champion in Principles of Marketing.* Aneri began her journey to becoming the DECA World Champion for Principles of Marketing early in the school year under the guidance of her dedicated mentor, Josef Stetter, a teacher at Georges Vanier. She was extremely diligent in her



preparation for the DECA competitions, consistently seeking feedback and practicing extensively. Aneri completed over 30 case studies and thoroughly learned all the key performance indicators essential to her category. Her hard work paid off when she passed a rigorous 100question test, advancing to the regional competition alongside 38 other qualifying teammates.

At the provincial competition, Aneri's exceptional performance placed her in the top 20 overall, earning her a spot at the Career International Development Conference (ICDC), the DECA World Championship held in Orlando, Florida. At ICDC, Aneri competed against 25,000 students globally, where her outstanding performance in the written exam and two challenging case studies advanced her to the top 20 finalists. On April 28, Aneri was crowned the DECA World Champion in Principles of Marketing, a moment of immense pride for Georges Vanier SS and the entire Toronto District School Board, as she represented us with grace and excellence!

This past Thursday, we marked a significant milestone with our first Asian Heritage Month Assembly (see pics below). We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our Asian Student Union (ASU) for their meticulous planning and delivery of an engaging assembly, which was a testament to our school's commitment to diversity and inclusivity. The assembly was a delightful blend of Asian-inspired performances (K-pop & Bollywood dancing), games, and educational segments about the continent of Asia. We also extend our special thanks to our poet-in-residence, Patrick de Belen, and teacher, Heather David, for their invaluable support to the ASU.





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With April coming to a close this past week, it was time to recognize our students of the month. Please help me congratulate our April's Students of the Month:

Student's Name	Grade	Nomination Category
Yihan Rose Xue	Grade 11	Academic Excellence
Sumaya Rajabli	Grade 9	Exemplary Character Traits
Salma Jarrar	Grade 9	Academic Excellence
George Georgiou	Grade 12	Leadership
Aisha Naeem	Grade 10	Exemplary Character Traits
Jiarui Dong	Grade 9	Academic Excellence
Danville Graham	Grade 11	Leadership
Sevinc Cengiz	Grade 11	School Spirit
Hamza Rajabli	Grade 10	Exemplary Character Traits
Jayanna Rebecca	Grade 12	Leadership
WunWa (Edwin) Cheung	Grade 10	Citizenship

Next week promises to be another special week at Vanier. From May 5 to 9, organizations across Canada will celebrate Mental Health Week, and we will join them. Our WAVE club, in collaboration

with our athletic counsel, will be hosting a number of events for students and staff to participate in throughout the week. Please see the calendar of events below. WAVE works hard throughout the school year to provide mental health education and create a safe space for students to develop mental wellness and destigmatize the issues about mental health. We appreciate all the hard work they and their staff advisors exert throughout the year to help foster better mental health for our staff and students.



AP examinations are also taking place next week. Good luck to all those writing the AP Biology (Monday, May 5) and Chemistry (Tuesday, May 6) exams.

Last, but not least, Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 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

Susan Tsin (VP)



Principal, Georges Vanier SS 416-395-3250 Ext. 20010 https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/georgesvanier





## **Pics from our Asian Heritage Month Assembly**















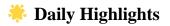


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🗩 Vanier's Mental Health Week Activities 🎉



Join us in celebrating Mental Health Week with fun, community-building, and wellness-focused events for everyone at Vanier!



Monday – May 5
 Staff & Students' Basketball Game
 Time: Lunch Hour
 Location: Gym 1
 Kick off the week with some friendly competition and school spirit!

Tuesday – May 6
 Staff & Students' Volleyball Game
 Time: Lunch Hour
 Location: Gym 1
 Another chance to connect through sport—come play or cheer from the sidelines!

Wednesday – May 7
 Therapy Dogs Visit, Room 120
 Take a break, reduce stress, and enjoy some calming time with our furry friends!

📰 Thursday – May 8

**Walk & Talk** – Period 2 (Teachers to sign up their classes) Step outside and connect with classmates and staff during a refreshing group walk. A chance to reflect, move, and share.

Friday – May 9
 Open Mic Karaoke - Sing your heart out, cheer on your friends, & end the week on a high note.

Time: Lunch Hour

**P** Location: Music Studio

# Let's celebrate wellness, break the stigma, and support each other—because at Vanier, we thrive together!





## **RED DRESS DAY – MAY 5**

May 5th is Red Dress Day, a National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S). As a way to commemorate and honour the



memories of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls across Canada, Métis artist Jaime Black helped inspire the Red Dress Movement, where red dresses are hung from windows and trees to represent the pain and loss felt by loved ones and survivors.

## 2024- 2025 Vanier School Advisory Council Members

Nalini Devineni (Co-Chair)	lvy 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 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.

## Upcoming Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Engagement Session: Strategies and resources to support students with ADHD

Special Education and Inclusion will host a session to explore strategies and resources to support students diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

Date: Wednesday, May 28, 2025 **OR** Date: Thursday, May 29, 2025

Time: 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Please check out this <u>flyer</u> for more information.





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## 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: <u>Report Student Vaccination</u>. (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: <u>Book</u> <u>Student Vaccine Appointment</u> 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!

## You're Invited!



The TDSB Arts Department and the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement welcomes staff, students, and community to *Panfest Vybz*, a free evening community event that celebrates Caribbean carnival culture through the Arts.

The evening will include performances by student musicians from a variety of schools (Winston Churchill CI, Africentric Alternative, Robert Service Senior PS and Tecumseh Senior PS) and the professional Impulse Steel Orchestra.

#### Date: Thursday May 8, 2025

#### Time: 6:30-8:30PM

**Location**: Winston Churchill CI, 2239 Lawrence Ave E., Scarborough, ON M1P 2P7 **Agenda**: Reception from 6:30 - 6:55PM (light refreshments served at this time); Procession and Performances starting 6:55 PM - 8:30 PM **Registration**: <u>bit.ly/Vybz-25</u>





## **Student Council Elections for the 2025-2026 School Year**

Student Advisory Council (SAC) is now accepting applications from eligible students interested in running for Student Council President and Vice Presidents for the 2025-2026 school year! The application and reference forms, as well as the instructions for completing these were emailed to student's board email from Ms. Manji.

The student council president and vice president play pivotal roles in shaping the experiences of all our students. Your potential to influence the student body is immense, and we eagerly await your applications. The deadline to submit the application and reference forms is May 6th, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.

Once a list of candidates who meet the necessary criteria is selected, an election will be held **on May 27th, 2025**. On this day, all students will vote for their preferred candidate for student council president and vice-president for the 2025-2026 school year.







## 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 (<u>https://corsageproject.ca/</u>)

**GRADUATION 2025...mark your calendars!** Vanier's graduation ceremony for the 2024/25 school year will occur on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 <u>this form</u> by May 26<sup>th</sup>, 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. Students may apply for these awards if they meet the criteria between May 2 and May 23. Please see poster below with a link and QR code to access the awards application. The awards committee will review all the applications and decide on the winning candidate (excluding, valedictorian).













## Achievement

#### 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 "dropin" 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	<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).

#### Summer 2025 Programs

Please click on the links below to access information on: 2) <u>Continuing Education Secondary Credit</u> (Registration opens Tuesday, April 22nd)

3) <u>e-Summer School Program</u> (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







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## EQUITY

#### Asian Heritage Month at the TDSB: May 2025

Asian Heritage Month has been proudly recognized at the Toronto District School Board during the month of May since 2007. This heritage is also celebrated by the Province of Ontario with the royal ascent of the <u>Asian Heritage Act (2005)</u> and across Canada since May 2002 when the federal Senate adopted a motion to officially designate May as Asian Heritage Month.

This year's theme, **Asian Canadians Up and Rising**, celebrates the strength, resilience, and achievements of Asian Canadian communities. It recognizes individuals and groups who have contributed to shaping Canada's past and present, while also highlighting emerging voices and future leaders



The TDSB is the largest and one of the most diverse school boards in Canada. Nearly onequarter of our students were born outside of Canada and collectively we speak more than 120 languages. According to the 2023 Student Census, 46% of TDSB students selfidentified as Asian.

Students, staff, and community members are invited to the Asian Heritage Month Virtual Launch Celebration on Thursday, May 8, 2025 from 1:00 –

2:00 pm. ! This event will feature speakers, student performances, and further learning about this vibrant heritage: <u>Click here to access the live stream!</u>

#### Jewish Heritage Month - May 2025

In 2021, the Province of Ontario passed the *Jewish Heritage Month Act* 2, recognizing the important contributions that Jewish Canadians have made to Ontario's social, economic, political, and cultural fabric.

Thee <u>TDSB's Jewish Heritage Committee</u> is pleased to present two educational programs for May 2025 that have been vetted and approved by TDSB staff.

**Being Jewish in Ontario** - a brand-new collection of 10-minute short films and lessons that explore what it means to be Jewish today through the voices of youth and their family members. Please visit the <u>Being Jewish in Ontario</u> website to access the film and learning resources.



#### The Children's Republic

This play is written by Canadian playwright Hannah Moscovitch and produced by the Harold Green Theatre Company and Koffler Arts. It casts local Toronto actors, including high school students, and relays the heartfelt and inspirational tale of <u>Dr. Janusz Korczak's</u> selfless journey to bring safety to Polish-Jewish orphans within Warsaw.





## 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.







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## Kids' Helplines:

**Kids Help Phone Line** is a 24 hour/7 days per week crisis line that youth can contact for support: Online Chat: <u>www.kidshelpphone.ca</u> 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

 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. <u>https://www.helpahead.ca/</u> 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. <u>https://www.whatsupwalkin.ca/resources/</u>

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

May 5 – 9	Mental Health Week
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- 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)
- June 5 Prom
- June 26 Graduation



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#### Parent Concern Protocol **Classroom Teacher** If you have any questions or concerns, the first person to go to is your classroom teacher. The classroom teacher Step One can help with: · Any questions about the classroom Classroom rules and consequences Homework and assignments School Principal 2 If you would like more information or you have questions Step that are beyond the classroom, the school principal can help. Two 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 School Superintendents 3 Superintendents are responsible for a Network of Schools. Step They support school staff and can be contacted if you have Three questions that have not been answered or for help with: Alternate attendance request Suspension appeals

#### 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 policies under review
   Board budget
- Collective bargaining

#### **Board Office**

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You can contact the Board Office directly for any questions or concerns related to:

- Continuing Education
   SL
   Soard documents
   Adult education
- 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 <u>margarite.leventis@tdsb.on.ca</u>

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 • <u>James.Li@tdsb.on.ca</u>