

Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 33 (May 9, 2025)

Dear Vanier Family,

This past week was yet another busy one at Vanier. It was Mental Health Week, so we hosted special daily de-stressing activities. For example, on Wednesday, we had the therapy dogs in school, where over 150 students got to spend time with our furry friends (see pics below). On Thursday, staff and students took a little break from class to enjoy a walk outside. Huge thanks to the WAVE club and their staff advisors, Ms. Burgess, Ms. Boswell, and Ms. Story for their hard work for coordinating the various activities.

Although supporting mental health is not officially part of their mandate, our Garden Club provides opportunities for students that do just that. This past week, they and their staff advisor, Mr. Berhane-Kiflue, were busy cleaning up outdoor spaces in preparation for the spring planting season. Seeing students turning over our garden soil beds was a delight.

On Thursday, May 8th, nine students from our BCU, along with students from four other TDSB schools, boarded a coach bus to attend the African Diaspora Youth Conference that is held annually at the University of Windsor (see pic below). This conference, which welcomes students from Toronto, the Greater Toronto Area, and Metro Detroit, is a unique opportunity to connect, plan, network, and set post-secondary goals. Due to a limited space, only select schools were chosen for this conference. Vanier was one of them, a testament to our very active Black Student Association and strong commitment to equity. We eagerly await their safe return on May 10th and to hearing about their enriching conference experience.



This past week Tuesday, we held our final council meeting for the 2024-2025 school year. Special thanks to all the parents who attended, not just on Tuesday night, but have faithfully attended all our meetings throughout the year. Huge thanks as well to our trustee, James Li, for coming and providing insight into some of the pressing issues facing our Board currently.



This past Monday was **Red Dress Day** - a National Day of Awareness for

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S)

In honour of this day, Vanier welcomed a special guest-speaker, Ms. Rachel Allian-Sutherland, who is Anishinaabe and works with the Thunder Woman Healing Lodge. She spoke to our NAC and NBE classes about her work and Red Dress Day (see pick above). Huge thanks to Ms. Allian-Sutherland for her inspirational talk. Our students learned a lot!

Next week, students will continue writing AP examinations. Good luck to all those writing the AP Calculus (Monday, May 12) and Physics (Friday, May 16) exams.

As we approach the end of the school year, it's important to remember that according to the Ministry's assessment and evaluation policy, 30% of a student's grade will be determined by the final evaluation conducted towards the end of the course. This evaluation, overseen by a teacher, may consist of an exam, performance, essay, or other appropriate method. It's crucial for students and families to avoid scheduling conflicting activities during these culminating assessments or exam days. Missing a culminating task or exam without a valid reason will result in a zero grade for that assessment. An examination schedule will be shared the final week in May.



Last, but not least, this Sunday, May 11th, is Mother's Day. I want to wish all those who "mother", a happy Mother's Day. Thanks for all the tireless work you do.

Karen Johnson

Principal, Georges Vanier SS

416-395-3250 Ext. 20010

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

Susan Tsin (vp)

Daniel Muttiah (VP)

Mental Health Week – Spending Time with Therapy Dogs



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!

I See You, Mama: Black Mothers Reimagining Schools for Their Children

What does leadership look like when Black mothers are at the centre of improving Black children's outcomes? How do Black mothers' everyday acts of care, advocacy, and resistance shape their children's schooling experience? Join us for an insightful webinar that centres Black mothers' leadership and work. Together, we'll explore how Black mothers' dreams, stories, and community-building practices challenge exclusion and transform schooling for Black children. This session highlights the many ways Black mothers engage in self and community care, as they organize for their children's education. Grounded in current Canadian research, this session affirms what we already know: Black mothers lead in powerful ways schools often fail to see or name.

Date: May 21, 2025

Time: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Audience: TDSB Parents/Caregivers and Community Members

Registration: https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cKerb6RDQHC2mxHlnvh0xQ

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

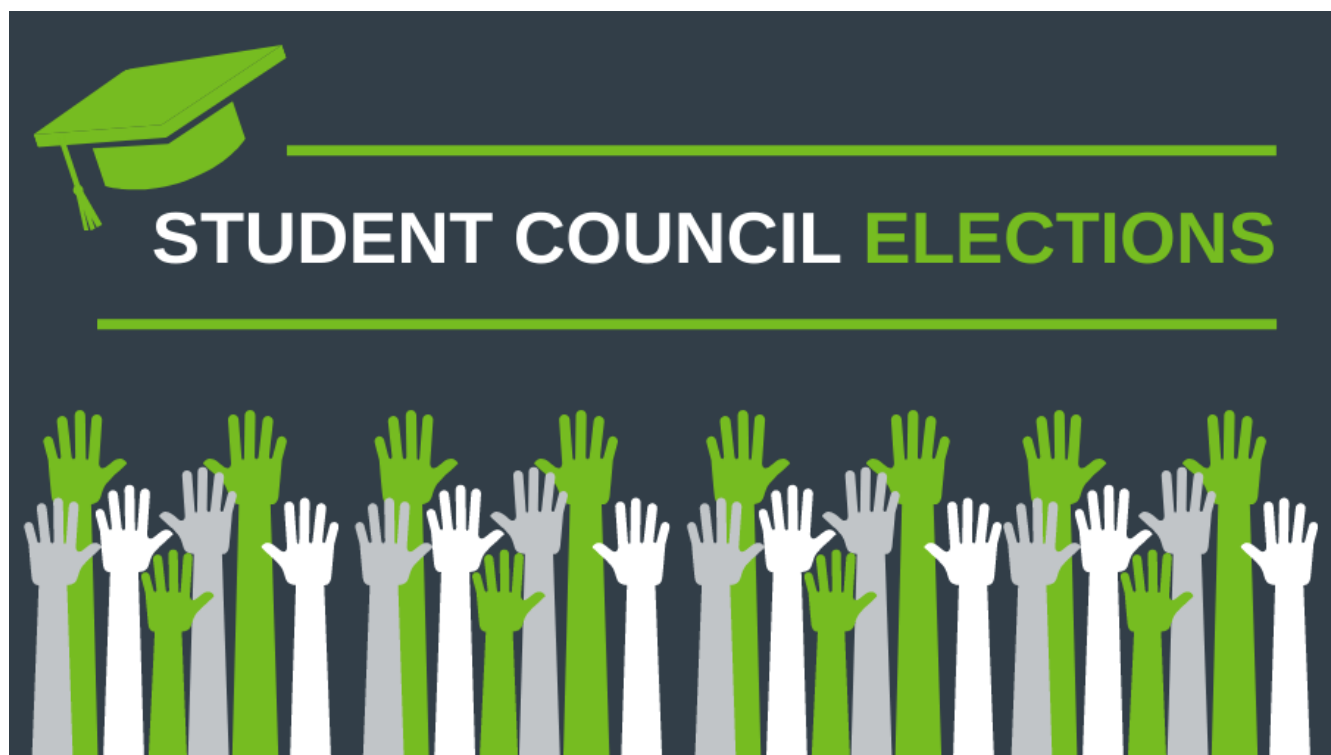
Please check out this [flyer](#) for more information.

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 (<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. 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).



graduation

**GVSS
2025**



AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS



**GRADUATES CAN SELF NOMINATE.
YOU MUST COMPLETE AN APPLICATION.
MANY OF THE AWARDS COME WITH MONEY.
YOU CAN ALSO SUBMIT YOUR NAME TO BE
CONSIDERED FOR VALEDICTORIAN!
ANY GRADUATING STUDENT CAN APPLY!
ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY
FRIDAY MAY 23, 12:00 PM**

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/GVSSAWARDS2025](https://bit.ly/gvssawards2025)

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 “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

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 [Asian Heritage Act \(2005\)](#) 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 one-quarter 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 self-identified 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: [Click here to access the live stream!](#)

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 [TDSB's Jewish Heritage Committee](#) 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 [Being Jewish in Ontario](#) 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 [Dr. Janusz Korczak's](#) 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.



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

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)
June 5	Prom
June 26	Graduation

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