

**Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 35 (May 23, 2025)**

Dear Vanier Family,

As usual, this week we had a slew of amazing field trips, including one to the University of Western Ontario this past Thursday, where 42 of our students had the opportunity to compete in an Applied Science Olympics based on concepts learned in grade 9/10 science, and concepts covered in grades 11-12 biology, chemistry, physics, and math. Vanier students did extremely well, taking 1st in “Escape from Cell-catraz” (DNA transcription and protein synthesis event), 1st in Compound Boggle (chemical nomenclature event), 2nd in This Little Pig (fetal pig dissection event), 2nd in Taxonomy Spelling Bee (spelling of scientific genus and species names), and 3rd in Geology Triathlon (rock, mineral and fossil identification). Congratulations to our students and their teachers, Ms. Wong, Ms. Stopnicki, Mr. Devji, Ms. Choi, and Mr. Berhane-Kiflue, for all their hard work over the past few months, as they prepared for these competitions.



On Friday, our LEAP program students embarked on a unique learning experience with a field trip to Little Canada, an attraction in the heart of Toronto. This visit, which showcased Canada’s cities and landscapes through miniature art, was a first-time opportunity for many of our students to see Canada in a scaled-down form. The Literacy Enrichment Academic Program (LEAP) is an accelerated program for students aged 9-18 who have recently arrived in Ontario schools with significant gaps in their education.

Also on Friday, we were thrilled to welcome back our grade 10 STEM Students who had been away in Ottawa since Wednesday (May 21). Their return not only marked the end of a successful trip but also reinforced the sense of community and belonging in our school. The students had a blast, learning a lot and making memories that will last years to come. We extend our heartfelt

thanks to Mr. Devji, who works tirelessly each year to organize and supervise this trip for our students, as well as to all the teachers (Mr. Sproule, Ms. Lam, and Ms. Shahbakhti) who gave up time with their families to accompany our students on this trip.

As we look forward to the next week, we are filled with anticipation for the upcoming SAC election on Tuesday (May 27). This event is a significant part of our school's democratic process, where students will have the opportunity to select next year's student council president and vice president. We encourage everyone to listen to each candidate's video speech during period one before casting their vote. It's an exciting time for our school community!

Please find below the names of candidates as well as links to their platforms and posters.

<p><b>PRESIDENT CANDIDATES:</b> Click on links next to candidates' names to learn more!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sevinc Cengiz <a href="#">[Message]</a> <a href="#">[Poster]</a></li> <li>• Stephanie Xie <a href="#">[Message]</a> <a href="#">[Poster]</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>VICE-PRESIDENT CANDIDATES:</b> Click on links next to candidates' names to learn more!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dareen Al Diab <a href="#">[Message]</a> <a href="#">[Poster]</a></li> <li>• Nigan Rai <a href="#">[Message]</a> <a href="#">[Poster]</a></li> <li>• Shane Allidina <a href="#">[Message]</a> <a href="#">[Poster]</a></li> <li>• Yeganeh Amini <a href="#">[Message]</a> <a href="#">[Poster]</a></li> </ul>
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Next Wednesday, May 25, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm, we'll hold our annual **athletic banquet** to celebrate all our student-athletes' outstanding accomplishments. It will be a night of awards, dinner, and dancing. It will also be a chance to bond with your coaches and teammates and wrap up the season in style! Tickets are only \$30!

Next Friday, May 30, we'll be hosting our annual **Fun Fair & Caravan** as part of our mental health and well-being activities for our students. There will be bouncy castles, lots of games, including a staff dunk tank, and great food from around the world. We look forward to a great day of fun for our staff and students (see poster below).



As we approach the end of the school year, we have a series of additional celebrations lined up, including our art night, prom, and graduation ceremony. However, it's crucial to remember that our regular class activities will continue **until June 17**, before we transition into our exam schedule. We encourage all students to maintain their focus, attend their classes, and put forward 100% effort in their courses to achieve the highest level of academic success.

**Karen Johnson**

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

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

**Susan Tsin (vp)**

**Daniel Muttiah (VP)**



# May 30 Fun fair & Caravan



Period 1: 9:00 - 9:45 A.M.  
Period 2: 9:50 - 10:35 A.M.  
Period 3: 10:40 - 11:25 A.M.  
Period 4: 11:30 A.M. - 12:15 P.M.

Caravan (Food Festival): 12:15 - 1:45 P.M.  
Fun Fair Booths: 12:15 - 3:15 P.M.



*Scan for Event Pamphlet  
← or visit*  
<https://tinyurl.com/GVMAY30PAMPHLET>







## News from the Trustee's Office...Ward 13

Please click on the link below to access the May 2025 Newsletter from our school's trustee, Mr. James Li:

<https://d2mxsxdlyuhqy.cloudfront.net/mailling/w6g4dj/8320c70cac2ecd9b1eff7db1103b2d8a?format=pdf&ch=5000&cw=3900>

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### **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.

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### **Marking Red Shirt Day: May 28th**

Red Shirt Day is an annual event in celebration of National "AccessAbility" Week. It is a day when people across Canada come together and wear red in schools, workplaces and spaces everywhere in order to create a visible display of solidarity: to show their support for persons and families of those who are living with disabilities, celebrate the achievements of people living with disabilities, and to pledge their commitment to help create a fully accessible and inclusive society that honours and values the contributions of people of all abilities in all aspects of life in Canada.



For more information: <https://redshirtday.org/about-us/>

### **National AccessAbility Week - Sun, May 25 - Sat, May 31, 2025**

National AccessAbility Week (NAAW) takes place every year starting on the last Sunday in May. It is a time when accessibility and inclusion is promoted across communities and workplaces and a time to celebrate the contributions of Canadians with disabilities. It is also an opportunity to recognize the efforts of Canadians who are actively removing barriers and ensuring persons with disabilities have an equal chance to participate in all aspects of Canadian society.

[National AccessAbility Week: May 26 to June 1, 2024 - Canada.ca](#)



## News for the *Class of 2025*

### COUNTDOWN TO PROM 2025

#### Attention all grade 12's

This year's prom will be held on **June 5, 2025**, at Crystal Fountain! Tickets will be on sale in the Caf at lunch on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Tickets will be \$90 until May 16th (early bird). After that date, tickets will be \$100.



**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 [this form](#) 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).





*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

**June 2025 Culminating Tasks and Exams.** Culminating tasks will commence on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and exams will run from June 18 – 24. Please be sure to review our assessment and evaluation (A & E) policy well in advanced of these dates so you are aware of the expectations for this crucial time in the school year. You may access our A & E policy by clicking [here](#). Please click [here](#) to see our Semester 2 Exam Schedule and [here](#) for important instructions/information about our exams and review days.

**Grade 9 Math EQAO...Mark your calendar!** The grade 9 Math EQAO exam for semester 2 will take place on June 9 – 10.

**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	<b>Mon &amp; Wed</b> 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.

## 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.

The [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](http://www.kidshelpphone.ca) Phone: 1-800-668-6868 Text: 686868

**Black Youth Help Line** – available 9 AM – 10 PM [www.blackyouth.ca](http://www.blackyouth.ca) 416-285-9944

**LGBT Youth Line** – Sunday – Friday 4 PM – 9:30 PM – PEER SUPPORT\*

Live chat: [www.youthline.ca](http://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](http://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

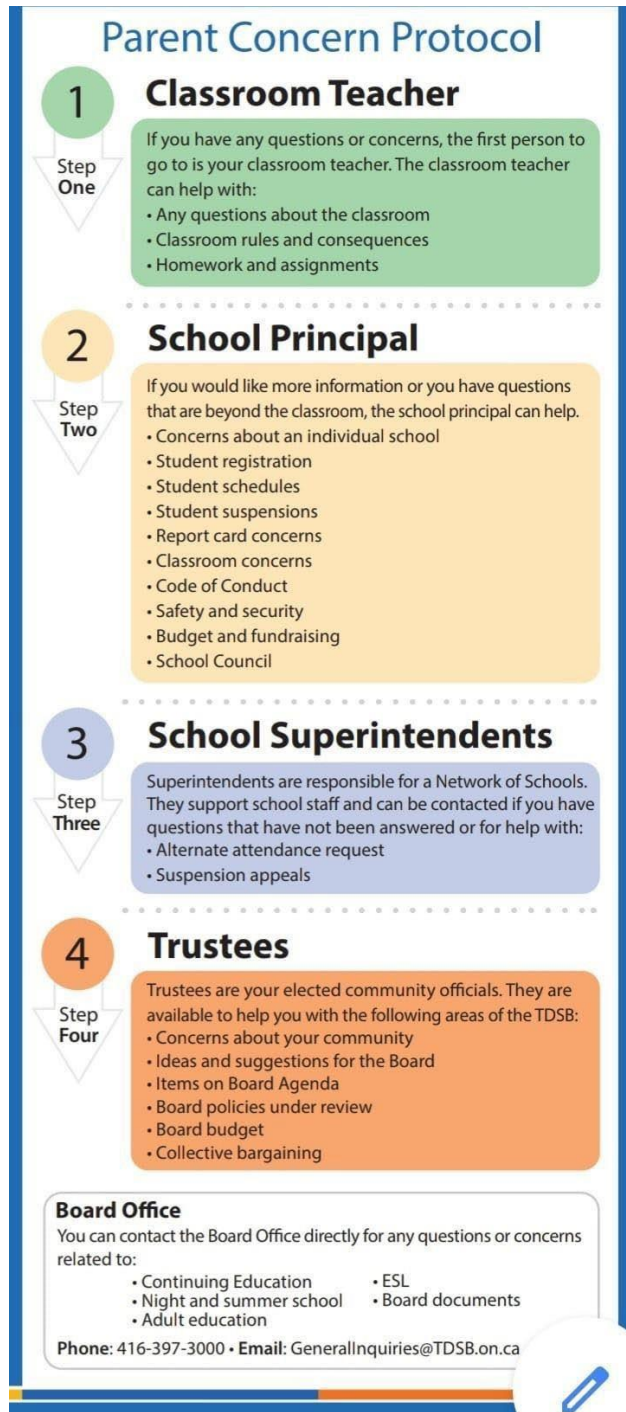
**What's Up Walk-In Clinic** provides free mental health counselling for children, youth, young adults and their families, and family with infants. <https://www.whatsupwalkin.ca/resources/>

**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

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## **Upcoming Dates & Events**

May 28	Late Start – classes start at 9:55 am
May 28	Athletic Banquet , 6:00 – 8:00 pm in the Cafetorium
May 30	Fun Fair & Caravan Day
June 3	Spring Showcase Night
June 5	Prom
June 10	Arts Night



## 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](mailto:jennifer.hayward@tdsb.on.ca)

Margarita Leventis

Supporting Students with Surnames G - M

[margarite.leventis@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:margarite.leventis@tdsb.on.ca)

Loraine Chichester

Supporting Students with Surnames A - F

[loraine.chichester@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:loraine.chichester@tdsb.on.ca)

#### Special Education:

Steven Maurer (Assistant Curriculum Leader)

[steven.maurer@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:steven.maurer@tdsb.on.ca)

#### Student Success:

Paula Burgess (Assistant Curriculum Leader)

[paula.burgess@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:paula.burgess@tdsb.on.ca)

**Superintendent:** Kurt McIntosh (LC2|F13)

416-395-8808 • [Kurt.McIntosh@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Kurt.McIntosh@tdsb.on.ca)

**Trustee:** James Li • Ward 13

416-395-8787 • [James.Li@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:James.Li@tdsb.on.ca)