

Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 36 (May 30, 2025)

Dear Vanier Family,

Today we concluded another extraordinary week at Vanier! Here are some of the highlights. This past Tuesday, we held our student council elections for the 2025-2026 president and vice-president, and I am thrilled to announce the results below. It was so good to see how well our students demonstrated leadership, passion, and commitment to serving our school community. We look forward to a great year under their leadership.

Co-Presidents

Sevinc Cengiz



Stephanie Xie



Vice Presidents

Nigan Rai



Shane Allidina



On Tuesday afternoon, our Grade 10 STEM classes took over Willowdale Park Elementary School, engaging young learners with hands-on activities focused on climate change and its impact. The dedication and creativity of our STEM students were on full display as they executed their culminating tasks with excellence. A heartfelt thank you goes to their teacher, Ms. Wong, and coach Walton from the Centre for Black Students' Excellence and Achievement for their tireless efforts in supporting this remarkable cross-panel initiative.





Wednesday morning saw us gather for our last staff meeting before the exam season. The fantastic breakfast prepared by our parent council truly energized us, and we owe a debt of gratitude to all the parents and caregivers who contributed funds. Your support means the world to our staff!

Wednesday evening, we celebrated our annual athletic banquet, which was a joyous occasion dedicated to recognizing our student-athletes' hard work and commitment. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to our Athletes of the Year:

Most Promising Athletes (grade 9) - Alyssa Archer and Areeb Ali

Junior Athletes of the Year - Jayla Akinbode and Bentley Taylor-Iles

Senior Athletes of the Year (grades 11 & 12) - Stephanie Badia and Zyrelle Tamayo.

We couldn't have achieved this success without the unwavering support of our staff and community coaches, who play a vital role in guiding our student-athletes. Your contributions are invaluable, and we appreciate each of you.



Throughout the week, various sports events took place, but I want to specifically commend our PEEL program students (for those with developmental disabilities) for their outstanding performances at the **TDSB Special Needs Track & Field Championship on Thursday**. Their enthusiasm and athletic talent shone brightly, with many students securing top spots in their events. Congratulations to all! A special thank you to Mr. Bajwa and the PEEL program staff for their meticulous planning, ensuring the event's success. **Some pics are shown below.**

Friday brought our second annual **Fun Fair and Carnival**—what an unforgettable experience! With interactive games, inflatables, a dunk tank, and delicious foods from around the globe, the excitement was palpable. Our staff and students truly enjoyed this fantastic event. Thank you to Ms. Manji, Ms. Wang, our dedicated student leaders from SAC, various school clubs, and the entire Vanier staff for your hard work in bringing this day to life. **Enjoy some pics below.**



As we wrap up May, it's time to celebrate our **Students of the Month**. Please join me in congratulating the following students for their outstanding achievements and commitment throughout this month. Together, let's continue to inspire and support each other, fostering a community where excellence thrives!

| Student's Name | Grade | Nomination Category |
|-------------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| Mahwash Said Nosir | Grade 9 | Academic Excellence |
| Mary Dastgheib | Grade 11 | Academic Excellence |
| Le Bao Minh Gina Nguyen | Grade 10 | Academic Excellence |
| Aliyah Hennaoui | Grade 12 | Academic Excellence |
| Arshman Singh | Grade 9 | Excellent Citizenship |
| Leona Ko | Grade 9 | Exemplary School Spirit |
| Asa Safari | Grade 10 | Academic Excellence |
| Sayed Jasoor Hashemi | Grade 11 | Exemplary Character Traits |
| Eliana Gibadullina | Grade 11 | Exemplary School Spirit |
| Radin Zakeri | Grade 12 | Academic Excellence |
| Dariel Gil Herrera | Grade 9 | Academic Excellence |
| Jayden Gomez | Grade 11 | Exemplary School Spirit |

Have a fantastic weekend, Vanier!

Karen Johnson

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

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

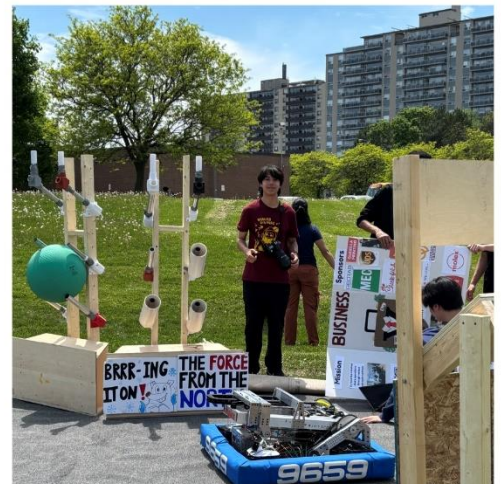
Susan Tsin (vp)

Daniel Muttiah (VP)

Caravan – Enjoying Foods from around the world



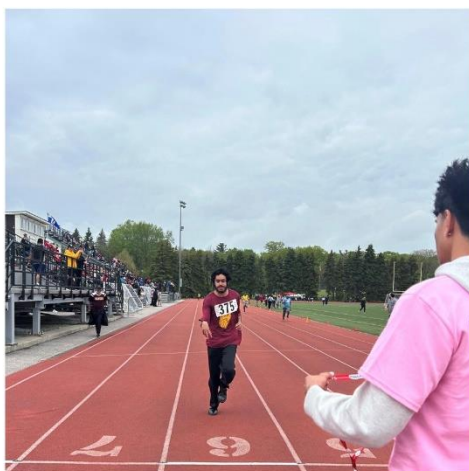
FUN FAIR Activities – including Dunking a teacher



Fun Fair Activities – Face painting, Henna, Balloon Animals



Our PEEL students at our Track & Field Meet







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 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:

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 June 13th, 2025 to indicate if they will be attending this year's commencement ceremony and select their gown size.



Achievement

June 2025 Culminating Tasks and Exams. Culminating tasks will commence on June 3rd 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 | 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.

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

Italian Heritage Month @ TDSB - June 2025



Italian Heritage Month has been proudly recognized during the month of June at the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) since May 2012. Further, the Italian Heritage Month Act was passed in 2010 resulting in the Italian heritage being celebrated in June across the province in Ontario. This year's theme for Italian Heritage Month at the Toronto District School Board is La Dolce Vita: ***Celebrating the Sweet Life of Italian Culture.***

Embracing life to its fullest is enjoying a simple meal made with a few modest ingredients, enriched with love and shared with family and friends with a backdrop of music and enjoying the moment. Italian culture appreciates art, fashion, elegance, and

maintaining a balanced life. These all contribute to this year's theme of La Dolce Vita: Celebrating the Sweet Life of Italian Culture.

June is also Seniors Month, and students from across the TDSB participate in marking this month by drawing and/or writing a message on a postcard that features the national flower of Italy. These postcards when complete will be distributed to the residents of Villa Colombo Home for the Aged during the month of June.

June is National Deafblind Awareness Month

The month of June serves as a time to raise awareness about the distinctive challenges encountered by individuals with an identified dual sensory loss. Deafblindness, a combination of sight and hearing loss to varying degrees, profoundly impacts communication, mobility, learning, and access to information. Those who are deafblind often rely on alternative communication methods, such as tactile sign language, braille, or assistive technology.



In Ontario, students are identified as deafblind when neither sense can fully compensate for the loss of the other, meaning that neither can be used as a primary means of learning. They have unique and complex needs, requiring services and support which are different from those designed exclusively for individuals who are blind or have low vision, are Deaf or hard of hearing, or have multiple exceptionalities. When both vision and hearing challenges exist, attention and consideration must be given to both senses simultaneously. Environmental adaptations, positioning adjustments, and modifications in information delivery are needed.

To learn more about the local deafblind community, please visit [Deafblind Awareness Month | DBCS \(deafblindservices.ca\)](https://deafblindservices.ca)

Portuguese-Speaking Heritage Month at the TDSB - June 2025



Portuguese-Speaking Heritage Month is proudly recognized during the month of June at the TDSB and has been since 2011. The month also coincides with the Province of Ontario's Celebration of Portuguese Heritage Act which passed in 2001. In part, the Celebration of Portuguese Heritage Act states:

The Portuguese Canadian community is a vibrant community in Ontario and continues to make many significant contributions to our society and to enrich it with its history, language, culture and work ethic.

The month of June and the day of June 10, in particular, have always been a great time of celebration by the Portuguese

community. The celebrations honour the life of Luis de Camoes and his famous epic poems, the Lusiads, with cultural performances, history seminars, poem recitals, street parades, and many other activities. The Lusiads are epic poems narrating the history of Portugal up to and including the era of the discoveries of the 15th and 16th centuries. June 10 is the anniversary of the death of Luis de Camoes.

As part of the celebration, an invitation is being extended to all students, staff and the larger TDSB community to attend the annual **Portuguese Parade taking place on Saturday, June 7th, 2025**. All are welcome to join this vibrant, colourful parade that brings the Portuguese-speaking community together to celebrate Luis de Camoes!

Those wishing to participate in the parade are asked to meet at **9:00 am on Oakwood Avenue north of St. Clair Ave. W. on Saturday, June 7, 2025**. There will be clearly identified parade volunteers in the area to assist to locate the TDSB vehicle. The parade starts at 9:30 am and ends at 12:00 noon.

This year's theme for Portuguese-Speaking Heritage Month at the TDSB is ***A Festa of Food***. Festa is the Portuguese word for celebration, and you can't have a celebration without food.

June is Pride Month

June is Pride month across all of TDSB. It is a time to celebrate 2SLGBTQ+ communities and reflect on the important work that must continue to make our schools and workplaces more inclusive, welcoming and affirming for all. Pride month offers learning opportunities for each of us to engage in and learn from as we strive to celebrate 2SLGBTQ+ Pride every day at Toronto District School Board.



It is also an opportunity to highlight the varied issues related to 2SLGBTQ+ communities as well as the impact of homophobia, transphobia, and biphobia on TDSB students, staff, and community members. Community based agencies such as Toronto Pflag, CANVAS Arts Action Programs, Lumenus Community Services, Get REAL Movement Inc., White Ribbon and Queer Song Book Orchestra, are also excellent resources for supporting work related to 2SLGBTQ+, students, parents and families.

Health & Well-Being

Learn4Life Adult General Interest Program - Spring Registration Opens Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Registration for winter courses in the Learn4Life Adult General Interest Program opens on May 14 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 July 2, 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

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| June 3 | Spring Showcase Night |
| June 5 | Prom |
| June 10 | Arts Night |
| June 18 – 24 | Exams |
| June 25 | Exam/Marks Review Day |
| June 26 | Graduation Ceremony @ 10:00 am |

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

3

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

4

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