

**Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 37 (June 7, 2025)**

Dear Vanier Family,

We had another exciting week at Vanier! This past Tuesday, we held our first Spring Showcase to celebrate the students' achievements in the performing arts program. The night featured great vocal and instrumental music, dancing, and thought-provoking skits. A big thank you to all the student performers, their parents, and our teachers—Ms. Park, Mr. Snow, and Ms. Lam—for making it a success. Click [here](#) to listen to a sound clip from one of the performances and check out the pictures below. Next week, we will celebrate the talents of our visual arts students **at Arts Night on Tuesday, June 10, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM (see flyer below). We look forward to seeing you there!**

On Thursday, June 6, we held our Prom at Crystal Fountain Banquet Hall. It was wonderful to see our students dressed in their finest and creating beautiful memories. A heartfelt thank you to Ms. Mandana Tajalli-Yazdi and the Prom Committee for organizing such a memorable event, as well as to all the staff who showed up to help supervise (see more pictures below).



On Friday, we held our STEM+ orientation day for our incoming grade 9 students. We are deeply appreciative of Mr. Devji and all our enthusiastic STEM+ students for their dedication and hard work in organizing a day filled with dynamic and fun activities for the incoming class. Their efforts are a testament to the spirit of Vanier (see picture below).



As I shared in an earlier newsletter, our Garden Club and some of our classes (NAC101, CHC2D, and NBE3U) have worked earnestly this year to get our Indigenous Garden that celebrates the rich diversity of various Indigenous cultures, up and “growing.” To celebrate their hard work, we had a lunch for students featuring foods from these diverse indigenous cultures on Friday (June 6)





As you've seen through these newsletters, our students have garnered a lot of success on the national and international stage this past year in our business and science departments. I want to take this opportunity to extend huge congratulations to all our students who participated in various math contests throughout the 2024-25 school year. Our students did exceptionally well in these contests, achieving distinct honours for finishing in the top 25% of all the students across Canada, as you will see in the table below. Well done! Special congratulations to the students whose names are highlighted for earning the top marks in our school in their respective contests.

Certificates of Distinction (top 25%):		
<b>Canadian Intermediate Math Contests (gr.9-10)</b> <b>Justin Chau</b> Alex Zhang Xinbo Liang Akarsan Pakirathan Matthew Cheung	<b>Canadian Senior Math Contests (gr.11-12)</b> <b>Richard Meng</b> Xuleon Liu Niknaz Akbarpour    Skyler Yang Yuxi Fan                Shariah Mirza Kaiming Li              Mina Lee Alex Zhang	<b>Pascal (gr.9)</b> <b>Alex Zhang</b> Aneri Chevli Aarav Gandhi Casvin Kaur Xinbo Liang Nishant Lakkala Changhong Zhen
<b>Cayley (gr.10)</b> <b>Matthew Cheung</b> Aryaman Mehra Akarsan Pakirathan Akshat Srivastava Justin Chau	<b>Fermat (gr.11)</b> <b>Kaiming Li</b> Derek Young Matthew Wang Baneet Sarna	<b>Euclid (gr.12 or lower)</b> <b>Richard Meng</b> Shariah Mirza

Last, but not least, I want to end by acknowledging that today (June 6), Muslims in Canada and around the world mark **Eid al-Adha**. This day holds profound significance for Muslim communities, marking the end of the Hajj pilgrimage. We wish all those celebrating, a blessed day.



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)**

## **Spring Showcase – Featuring students in our Performance Arts I**



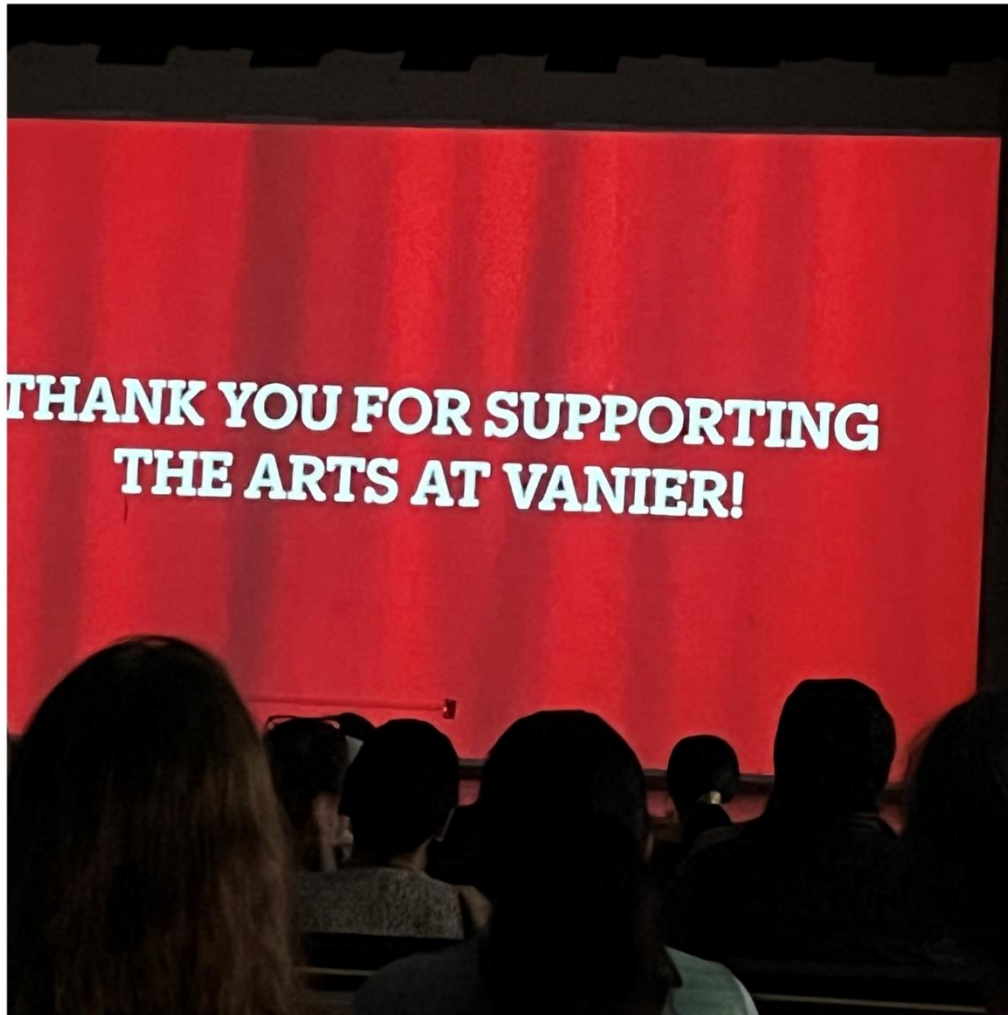


## **Spring Showcase – Featuring students in our Performance Arts II**





## **Spring Showcase – Featuring students in our Performance Arts III**





## Spring Showcase – Featuring students in our Performance Arts IV





## **PROM 2025 – Oh What a Night I!**



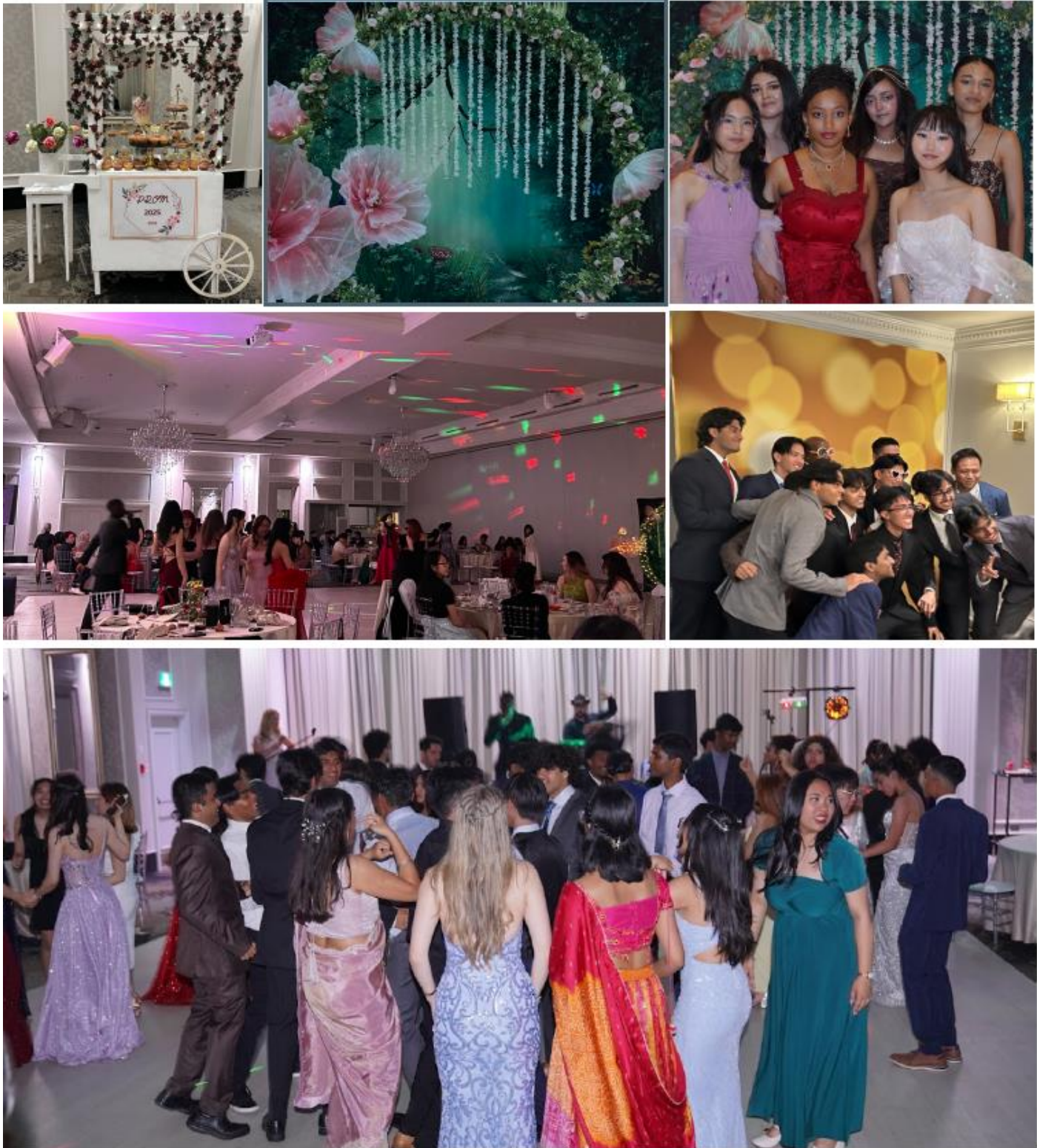


## **PROM 2025 – Oh What a Night II!**





## **PROM 2025 – Oh What a Night III!**







## Important Announcements for Upcoming Events

### ***Yearbooks Distribution***

We will distribute yearbooks to those who paid their activity fee **next Wednesday (June 11) in Period 2**. Students will be called down by grade level to pick up their yearbooks. We have ordered a few extra books for those students who want to purchase one now. They will be sold for **\$30 each (cash)**, first come, first serve.



### ***Commencement News***

#### ***a) Valedictorian Vote:***

Next Wednesday – Friday (June 11-13), the graduating class of 2025 will be voting for their valedictorian. This is a significant opportunity for you to choose a graduate who will speak on your behalf on commencement day. This year's valedictorian candidates are:



**Awadhiya, Suhani**



**Etto, Yewande**



**Madaria, Aditya**



**Georgiou, George**



**Masjidi, Khushi**

All grade 12 students are encouraged to listen to the candidates' video pitches on why they would make a great valedictorian and then cast their vote. These videos and a voting link will be published on this [Google Site](#) on **Wednesday, June 11 at 9:00 am**. Remember, students will have **until 4:00 pm on Friday, June 13**, to cast their vote. Good luck to all the candidates.

#### ***b) Commencement (Graduation ceremony)***

- **On Tuesday, June 17**, during period 3, we'll run a dress rehearsal to review the commencement procedures and instructions. This is a crucial step to ensure a smooth and enjoyable day for everyone. All students attending commencement must attend this rehearsal in the cafetorium.
- This is a reminder to grads if they have not yet completed the [Google form](#) to confirm their attendance at this year's commencement and purchase their cap and tassel, to do so ASAP so we can order the right amount. Students who buy caps and tassels can pick these up on Exam/Mark review day (**June 25**) from **9:00 am – 12:30 pm** from the Main Office, in case they want to add their unique (but respectful) touches to them.





# YOU ARE INVITED TO COMMENCEMENT



**THURSDAY  
JUNE 26**

**@ 10:00 AM  
CAFETORIUM**

**Graduates must arrive by 9:00am and report to:**

**Room 103 A - C (Surnames)  
Room 106 D - J (Surnames)  
Room 108 K - P (Surnames)  
Room 110 R - Z (Surnames)**

**The ceremony will begin at 10:00am sharp!**

Reception will follow in the Gyms, where there will be an opportunity to socialize, enjoy some refreshments, meet with staff and take photographs.

Diploma pick up and gown drop off will be in the Learning Hub (Library) following the reception.

**We look forward to seeing you at Commencement 2025!**

## 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:

- 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.



## **TDSB Celebrates National Indigenous History Month in June**

June is National Indigenous History Month and June 21st is National Indigenous Peoples Day. It is a time to celebrate and learn from First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples' diverse cultures, histories, contemporary contexts, perspectives, and achievements. Join the Urban Indigenous Education Centre (UIEC) throughout the month of June for opportunities for staff and students to engage with Indigenous artists, authors, and speakers through various virtual workshops and panel discussions. [Learn More.](#)

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## **Health & Well-Being**

### **Learn4Life Adult General Interest Program - Summer 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](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**

June 10	Arts Night, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
June 11	Yearbook Distribution (Period 2)
June 16	Locker Clean-out Day (Period 1)
June 17	Commencement Rehearsal, Period 3 (Gr 12) in cafetorium
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

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### 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

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### 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

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

Margarita Leventis

Supporting Students with Surnames G - M

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