

**Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 38 (June 13, 2025)**

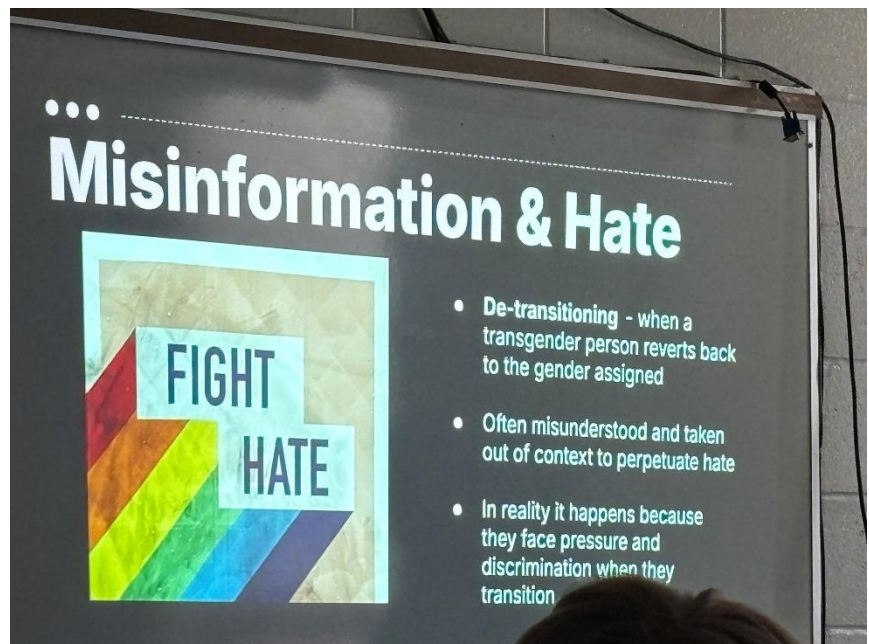
Dear Vanier Family,

This past week was our last FULL one for the 2024-2025 school year! Oh how time flies! Even though our students are now working on their culminating activities and final exams, Vanier continues to hum with excitement. On Tuesday night we held our annual art show, a testament to the incredible talent of our Vanier students. Their amazing creations in our visual arts courses, which included drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, photography, and more, left us in awe. We're so fortunate to offer so many courses for them to express their creative genius. Huge thanks to Mr. Bodden and all the other arts teachers for all their hard work over the year to help our students expand their skills. Thanks as well to all the students, parents, and staff who attended last night's show. (Please enjoy some pics below).

This past Monday and Tuesday, our grade 9 students wrote their EQAO math exams; they deserve a round of applause for their dedication and hard work. Their efforts over the semester have been commendable, and we eagerly anticipate the positive reports of their achievements. Well done, grade 9s!

This past Thursday, students in **HSE4M (Equity and Social Justice: From Theory to Practice)** delivered anti-hate workshops to some of our grades 9 and 10 classes as part of their culminating task. These workshops were informative and engaging and addressed issues of:

- **Antisemitism**
- **Anti-Asian Hate**
- **Anti-Black Racism**
- **Gender and Sexuality**
- **Islamophobia**



It is always inspiring to see our senior students engaging in these rich culminating tasks where they put into practice what they learned in their class to help widen the equity lens of our Vanier students. Our goal is to continue to make Vanier a safe and welcoming place for all our students. Special thanks to the HSE4M students and their teacher, Ms. Lam, for bringing us closer to our goal.

As you've seen from these weekly newsletters, Vanier has had a hectic year! Many of the events over the year have been captured in our yearbook. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the yearbook club and their staff advisor, Mr. Street, for putting together a beautiful capsule of our 2024-2025 school year. Yearbooks were distributed on Wednesday, June 11th, for those who purchased one. We will continue to distribute them during lunchtime until June 17th for students who were absent. We have a few copies remaining, so students will be able to purchase one (for \$30.00) while supplies last.



Next Tuesday (June 17), will be our last in-class learning day; we will transition to exams on Wednesday. We wish all the students who are writing exams the best of luck. Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, will be exam/marks review day. This will be an opportunity to look over your exam and final marks and address any issues with your teacher about marks before report cards are finalized. The schedule for this day is as follows:

#### Exam/Mark Review Day Schedule

**Pd 1 9:00 - 9:40**  
**Pd 2 9:45 - 10:25**  
**Pd 3 10:30 -11:10**  
**Pd 4 11:15 -11:55**



Last, but not least, to all those who "father", have a wonderful Father's Day on Sunday.

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)**

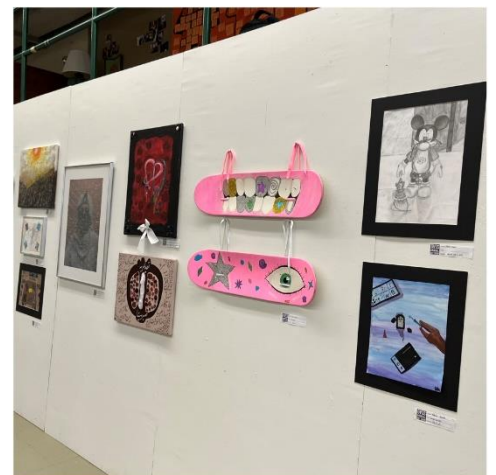
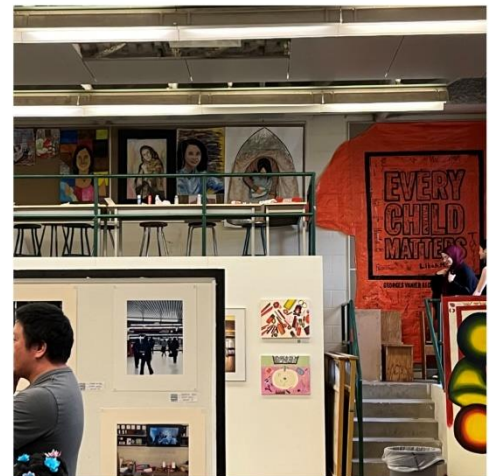


## Arts Night – Featuring Students' Visual Art Creations





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## Upcoming Events - June Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3  Spring Showcase (6 – 8 pm)	4	5  PROM 2025 5:30 – 10:30 @ Crystal Fountain Banquet Hall	6  STEM + Orientation for incoming Grade 9s  Indigenous Garden Luncheon
9  Gr 9 Math EQAO Session A  SAC Leadership Retreat  Eid al-Adha	10  Gr 9 Math EQAO Session B  ANNUAL ART SHOW (6 - 8 pm)	11  Yearbook Distribution Period 2	12  Moratorium	13  Moratorium
16  Moratorium  Locker Clean Out	17  Moratorium  Commencement Rehearsal Gr 12 Classes Period 3, 1:15 pm	18  Exams	19  Exams	20  Exams  PEEL Program Graduation & Prom Party 10:30am
23  Exams	24  Exams	25  Exam/Mark Review Day Schedule Pd 1 9:00 - 9:40 Pd 2 9:45 - 10:25 Pd 3 10:30 -11:10 Pd 4 11:15 -11:55	26  PA DAY Commencement Starts @ 10:00 am	27  PA DAY





**Georges Vanier Secondary School**  
3000 Don Mills Rd. E., North York  
**Commencement News**



**Valedictorian Vote**

Thanks for casting your vote for this year's valedictorian. The winner will be announced next Monday (June 16) morning. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate each candidate for their courage in letting their name stand for possible election. Regardless of whom your class elects, you have all been exemplary students and have represented Vanier and your peers well! I know great things await you as you move on to the next phase of your life journey.



**Awadhiya, Suhani**



**Etto, Yewande**



**Madaria, Aditya**



**Georgiou, George**



**Masjidi, Khushi**

**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!**

## **TDSB's Official Launch of the 2025 Backpack & School Supplies Drive**

As we look ahead to the 2025-2026 school year, many students in our community will be excited to head back to class. For some, that excitement is overshadowed by the stress of not having basic school supplies on their first day. A backpack filled with the essentials can make a world of difference in a student's confidence, preparedness, and feeling inclusion.



This year, the need is great as we face greater uncertainty around the impact of tariffs, significant costs in housing and general rising costs of living in Toronto. Your donation can empower a student to learn with confidence, ease the burden on families who are struggling and set the tone for a positive school year.

**A \$25 donation = one backpack for a student.**

### **How you can help:**

1. Make a monetary donation towards the purchase of a backpack and supplies on [School Cash Online](#) (select the "TDSB Backpack Campaign" from the drop down menu).
2. Donate a new backpack or school supplies. We are accepting donations of new backpacks and school supplies (gender neutral in colour, basic school supplies such as pencils, crayons, calculators etc.). Please complete our [Donation Information Form](#).
3. Spread the word with colleagues, friends and family.

Please help us to give the necessary resources for students to succeed.

For more information please go to [www.tdsb.on.ca/backpacks](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/backpacks) or Educational & Business Partnerships, [businessdevelopment@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:businessdevelopment@tdsb.on.ca).

### **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.





## KEY DATES – SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2025-2026

**The official school year calendar for the Toronto District School Board runs from September 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, inclusive**

Professional Activity Days	September	October	November	January	February	June
<b>Elementary Schools</b>	26	10	14	16	13	5, 26
<b>Secondary Schools</b>	26	10	14	29	13	25, 26

Designation of Professional Activity Days	
Elementary	Secondary
1. September 26, 2025 – Professional Development 2. October 10, 2025 – Professional Development 3. November 14, 2025 – Parent Teacher Conferences 4. January 16, 2026 – Assessment and Reporting 5. February 13, 2026 – Parent Teacher Conferences 6. June 5, 2026 – Assessment and Reporting 7. June 26, 2026 – Professional Development	1. September 26, 2025 – Professional Development 2. October 10, 2025 - Professional Development 3. November 14, 2025 - Professional Development 4. January 29, 2026 - Professional Development 5. February 13, 2026 - Professional Development 6. June 25, 2026 - Professional Development 7. June 26, 2026 - Professional Development

**EQAO:** - The following dates have been established:

**Gr. 9 Math:** TBD  
**Gr. 9 Math:** TBD

**OSSLT:** TBD  
**Primary/Junior EQAO:** TBD

Dates to Remember - School Year Holidays (as per Ministry of Education)	
<b>Labour Day:</b>	<b>September 1, 2025</b>
<b>Thanksgiving:</b>	<b>October 13, 2025</b>
<b>Winter Break:</b>	<b>December 22, 2025 – January 2, 2026</b>
<b>Family Day:</b>	<b>February 16, 2026</b>
<b>Mid-Winter Break:</b>	<b>March 16-20, 2026</b>
<b>Good Friday:</b>	<b>April 3, 2026</b>
<b>Easter Monday:</b>	<b>April 6, 2026</b>
<b>Victoria Day:</b>	<b>May 18, 2026</b>

## **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](#)

### **Summer 2025 Well-being Guide**

As the school year winds down, families may experience a mix of excitement and the need for support. The [TDSB Summer 2025 Well-Being Guide](#) offers culturally responsive and identity-affirming resources and activities to help families support their and their children's mental well-being throughout the summer. From mindfulness tips and community programs to creative and physical activities, the guide is designed to help every family make the most of the season. Available in the TDSB's top 22 spoken languages, this guide ensures support is accessible and inclusive for all during summertime! If you have any questions, please email [mentalhealthandwellbeing@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:mentalhealthandwellbeing@tdsb.on.ca).



## **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 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

## **2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR**

## 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](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)