

Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 39 (June 20, 2025)

Dear Vanier Family,

Today, we marked the end of the 2nd last week of the 2024-2025 school year, a year filled with growth, learning, and unforgettable moments. Many of our students wrote their final exams this week and, hopefully, are now enjoying a well-deserved rest. Teachers will be busy marking these and other culminating tasks to prepare students' results.



Our week ended on a high note with a prom and graduation for students in our PEEL program (which serves our students with developmental disabilities). Congratulations to our two graduates, Ashakia Andrews and Radin Zakeri. Special thanks to all the families who joined us for this extraordinary event, and a huge thanks to the PEEL staff for all their hard work in preparing these students for life after high school and for putting on such a memorable send-off party for them. (See pics below).

Next Wednesday, June 25, will be Marks' Review Day (please see the schedule below). This will be an opportunity for students to look over their exam and final marks and address any issues with the teacher about marks before report cards are finalized. All students are strongly encouraged to attend. Please note that report cards will be emailed to students and caregivers (if a student is under 18) **by July 3, 2025**. If you do not receive it, please get in touch with our Main Office.

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

Our final and most significant event of this academic year **is our graduation, scheduled for next Thursday, June 26th, @ 10:00 am.** This ceremony, lasting approximately 2 hours, will mark a significant milestone in the lives of our graduates. We invite everyone to join us for an informal reception with light snacks after the ceremony. We are eagerly looking forward to the presence of our graduates' friends and family on this momentous occasion. More details about graduation are shared below.

Karen Johnson

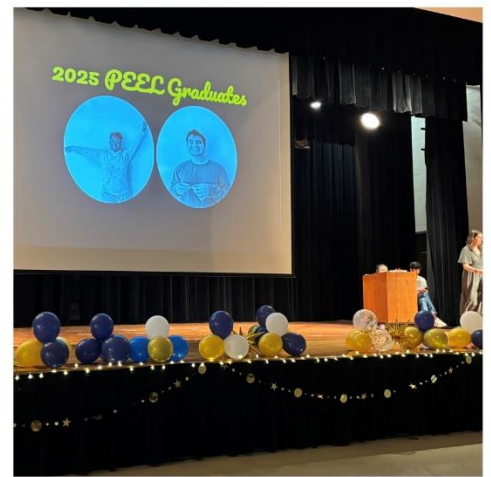
Principal, Georges Vanier SS
416-395-3250 Ext. 20010

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

Susan Tsin (vp)

Daniel Muttiah (VP)

PEEL Students Graduation and Prom



Commencement News

Class of 2025 - Valedictorian

Thanks for casting your vote for this year's valedictorian. Your elected winner is George Georgiou. Congratulations George! We look forward to your valedictory speech on June 26th.



Commencement (Graduation ceremony)

- As shared at the rehearsal this past week, graduates must arrive at 9:00 am on Thursday, morning to prepare for the graduation ceremony (pick up their gowns and hats (if not yet done), and get ready for the graduation procession into the cafetorium.
- It looks like the temperatures are going to be high next week. Please dress appropriately so you're comfortable during the 2-hour-long ceremony.
- The "real" diploma and Ontario school certificates will be distributed in the Learning Hub after the ceremony and reception. These must be picked up after the ceremony as they will not be mailed. So please be sure to pick them up!
- Remember, grads, to hand in your Chromebook ahead a head of time, as you will not be able to pick up your diplomas without having done so.
- If you have not yet paid for your cap and tassel (\$10.00) please do so through cash-online ASAP.

<https://tdsb.schoolcashionline.com/Fee/Details/336009/153/False/True>

- Students who purchase 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 or Educational & Business Partnerships, businessdevelopment@tdsb.on.ca.

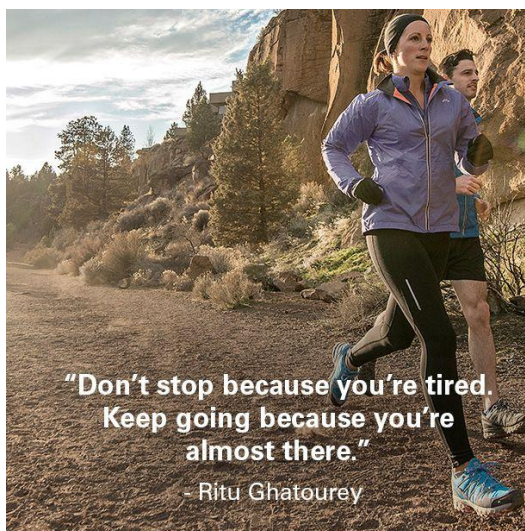
Achievement

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.



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



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
Elementary Schools	26	10	14	16	13	5, 26
Secondary Schools	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)	
Labour Day:	September 1, 2025
Thanksgiving:	October 13, 2025
Winter Break:	December 22, 2025 – January 2, 2026
Family Day:	February 16, 2026
Mid-Winter Break:	March 16-20, 2026
Good Friday:	April 3, 2026
Easter Monday:	April 6, 2026
Victoria Day:	May 18, 2026

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.](#)

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.

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 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

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

margarita.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