

Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 10 (November 8, 2024)

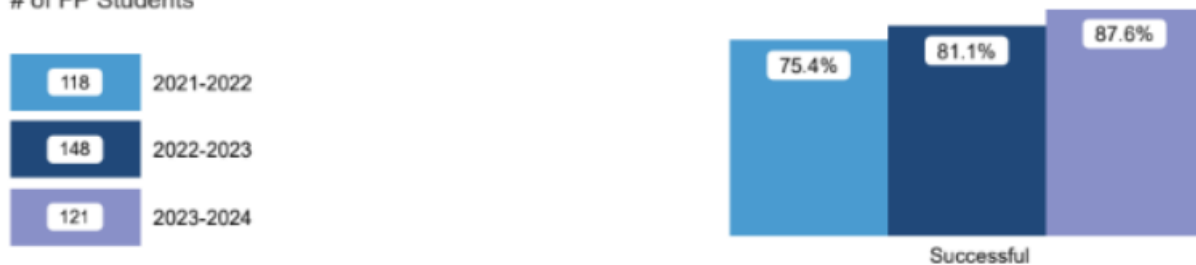
Dear Vanier Family,

I hope you have had a great week with its summer-like temperatures. Life at Vanier continues to be hectic. I know this week was especially so for our teachers as they were busy assessing the assignments submitted by students on our REACH days (this past Monday and Tuesday) before they submitted their mid-term marks on Thursday. We are so proud of the students who took advantage of this opportunity to complete those missed assignments. As we transition to the crucial second half of the semester, we encourage our students to continue putting forth their best effort in their courses so they will end up with the best results.

On the topic of “best,” this past Monday, we hosted one of our best information nights for grade 8 students and their families. We had a packed house of parents and students early to learn about our diverse and unique programs, such as the innovative STEM+ and our exciting aerospace SHSM. It is good to see that Vanier continues to be a well-sought-after school.

This past Wednesday was Take Our Kids to Work Day. Thanks to all the families who took this opportunity to attend work with their family members. We hope our kids enjoyed job shadowing you. Thank you to all the parents and caregivers who attended our Parent council meeting on Wednesday night. As usual, it was great connecting with you. One of the things we shared was the significant progress Vanier students have made on the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) over the past few years. We are pleased to report that 87.6% of our students were successful on the test last year, which is above the success rate of both TDSB (84.0%) and the province (84.5%). Vanier students have shown a whopping 12.2% increase in our success rate over the past three years on the test, in comparison to the TDSB’s and Province’s results, which have remained relatively the same over the past 3 years (see chart below)

Results by Achievement at School Level Over Time
of FP Students



Another highlight from our parent council meeting was the presentation made by some of the leaders of our school clubs. Our Robotic club demonstrated their robot and made a heartfelt appeal for sponsors. Please click [here](#) to learn more about our Robotics club and how you may support them. Our HOSA Club also shared about their club goals and needs. Please use the QR code shown here to learn more about our HOSA club and how you may support them. First Robotics and HOSA are large international ventures that aid significantly in the development of our students. However, they are very costly, so we need your support.



Next week will be another busy but short one. We'll begin on Monday, November 11th with our Remembrance Day activities. As per our new custom, rather than doing who school assemblies, we are becoming more intentional with our learning on these important events and engaging students at the classroom level. A special schedule will be followed to allow for all classes to participate in the learning that has been prepared by our student-led Remembrance Day team.



On Tuesday, mid-term report cards will be issued electronically to the email we have on file for parents/caregivers. If you do not receive your child's report card by end of that day, please contact our vice-principal, Mr. Muttiah, Daniel.Muttiah@tdsb.on.ca.

Next Tuesday (November 12, 2024), our school's Trustee, James Li will be hosting an in-person Ward Forum for the 2024-2025 school year. The forum will be held in our Learning Hub (Library) from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. This will be an opportunity to meet the trustee and the Superintendents of Education that serve ward 13, and to express your concerns. Childcare will be provided. I will be there; hope to see many of you there, as well. Please [click](#) here for a flyer about his upcoming event.

Next Wednesday, many of our students will be participating in the Canadian Senior and Intermediate Math Contests. Each year, we have multiple students earning top prizes (finishing in the top 5% across Canada). Good luck to all our student writers. We look forward to your successful results.

Last, but not least, next Friday (Nov 15) will be a professional activity (PA) day so there will be no school for students. More information on the professional learning activities that are planned for our upcoming PA days (Friday, November 15, 2024, and Friday, November 29th), can be found on this [flyer](#).



Have a fantastic weekend, Vanier!

Karen Johnson

Principal, Georges Vanier SS
416-395-3250, Ext 20010
<https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/georgesvanier>

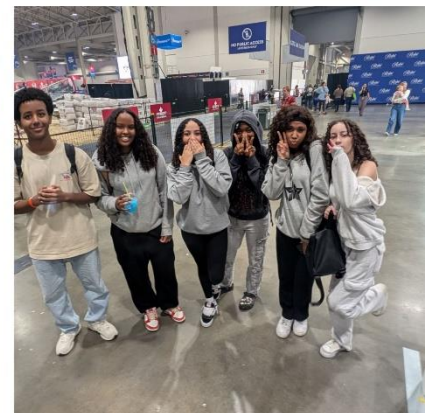
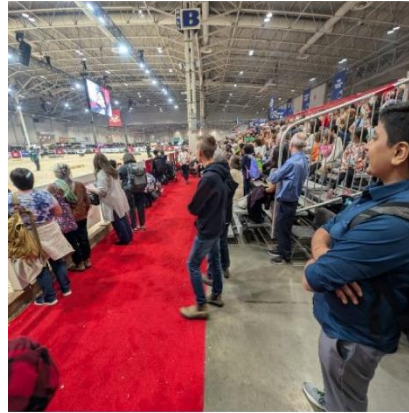
Daniel Muttiah

Susan Tsin



@GeorgesVanierSS

**Vanier Students on
Fieldtrip to the Royal
Canadian Agricultural
Winter fair
on
Wed, Nov. 6, 2024**



News from the Trustee's Office, Ward 13...Almost Here!!!

TDSB Trustee James Li will be holding the first in-person Ward Forum for the 2024-2025 school year. Please see details below:

Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Time: 6:30pm -8:30pm

Topic: Ward 13 Ward Forum - Meet the Superintendents of Education and Introduction to New School Year

Location: Georges Vanier Secondary School, 3000 Don Mills Rd, North York, ON, M2J 3B6

Please click [here](#) for the Trustee's November Newsletter.

2024-2025 Vanier School Advisory Council Members

Please help us congratulate and thank the following parents for their election to the 2024-2025 Parent Advisory Council.

Nalini Devineni (Co-Chair)	Ivy Chi
Stephanie Hennaoui (Co-Chair)	Helen Huang
Danielle Ferguson-Shivrattan (Secretary)	Amit Koul
Cordelia Ramses (Treasurer)	Sachida Tiwari
Mohammad Rashed Ahmazai	Susanna Scocchia (Teacher Rep)
Fely Beck	Neha Devineni (Student Rep)

Our next parent council meeting will be on **Tuesday, December 3rd, 2024, from 6:30 – 8:00.** All parents/caregivers are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Parents and Caregivers as Partners Conference...SAVE THE DATE!!

The 2024-2025 Virtual Parents and Caregivers as Partners Conference (PCasP) will take place on Saturday, November 16, 2024, from 10:00 am – 1:15 pm! This year's theme is: *"Journey to Joy, Wellness, and Wholeness."*

Participants will explore Equity and Truth and Reconciliation, how to break down barriers, and to build inclusive communities. They will also learn from experts and discover how every student, parent/guardian/caregiver can experience joy, wellness, and wholeness in education. Registration details will follow soon.

Upcoming Parent/Caregiver/Guardian Special Education and Inclusion Learning Sessions - Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

The following are the dates for the upcoming parent/caregiver/guardian Special Education and Inclusion Learning Session.

Date: November 27 Day (AM) Time: 10:00am - 11:30am	Date: November 28 Evening (PM) Time: 6:30pm - 8:00pm
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Please click on the following [flyer](#) to learn more about these sessions.

An Introduction to Lead Community Agencies Within the Developmental Disabilities Sector.

As part of the Developmental Disabilities Virtual Connect for Parents/Caregivers of Children, Youth and Young Adults with Developmental Disabilities and/or Complex Needs, come Meet with Lead Community Agencies and Learn About their Programs and Identify the best suited to support the needs of your child ([See Flyer](#)). Connect with TDSB Parent Community, who like you, are dedicated to nurturing children, youth, and young adults with Developmental Disabilities and/or Complex Needs.

Presenters: Surrey Place, Community Living Toronto, Holland Bloorview, and Geneva Centre.

When: **Monday, November 18th, 2024, from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon** and the same information will be repeated on Monday, November 25th, 2024, from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

This will be a ZOOM meeting. You may Join on your computer or mobile app.

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE MEETING](#) or use the link below.

<https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/94015815609?pwd=zvXKxODRUh6GCza1hVFINTdGaxj1UQ.1>

Drop-in Sessions for Parents/Guardians/Caregivers

Special Education and Inclusion is pleased to once again offer a series of drop-in sessions designed for parents/guardians/caregivers on navigating special education resources and supports within the Toronto District School Board (TDSB). These informal gatherings provide a welcoming space for parents to learn about available services, ask questions, and connect with other families. Facilitators will guide discussions on topics such as supporting student transitions and exploring occupational therapy/physiotherapy strategies to use at home with students. All drop-in sessions for the 2024-2025 school year can be found [here](#).

ASD After School Skills Development Program – Fall 2024 Session

The Fall/Winter sessions of the ASD After School Leisure Program, available both in-person and virtually, will run from **November 26, 2024 to February 27, 2025**. The program is available to students in Grades 4-10 who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. This program provides an opportunity for students to develop, build and enhance their social communication skills through either weekly in-person or weekly virtual sessions. Please click on this [information letter](#) which includes the link for registration form. The registration period will remain open until Friday, November 15, 2024.

General Information & News

- Student Clubs and Activities:** There are numerous clubs for your child to participate in at Vanier. For a list of these clubs and other activities being hosted by our Student Council, please visit their website, <https://sites.google.com/tdsb.on.ca/qvsssac/home>
- Reporting an Absence:** TDSB is offering a more efficient way for parents and caregivers to report all student absences, late arrivals, or future absences by using the [School Messenger](#) app. You can also report by calling the school messenger portal at **1-833-250- 2290**. All attendance being reported before 9:00 a.m. must be done using School Messenger. You no longer need to call the school directly.
- TDSB Connects App for Students.** The TDSB Connects app is available to all students through the [Google Play Store](#) and the [Apple App Store](#). The app contains school announcements and integrates with the school Google calendar and is an excellent way to make information available to students. Both these tools also link into the school's Brightspace Homepage. If possible, students are highly encouraged to download the APP on their devices.
- TDSB Disconnecting from work Policy.** Please be aware that, as outlined in this policy, TDSB staff will not be available to make or respond to any work-related communications (emails, telephone, texts, etc.) between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. Monday to Thursday; after 6 p.m. on Friday; Saturday; Sunday; and on statutory holidays.
- Start of Year Forms**
The technology used for the Start of the Year forms is changing. The PowerSchool Enrollment Module will be used by families to complete these forms online. Parents/Guardians should have received an email on August 30, 2024, with instructions on how to register for this module. Please click [here](#) to get instructions on how to complete these on-line forms.
- Student Login and Password**



Returning students - Please note that student accounts remained active over the summer and their passwords did not expire. As a result, student account passwords will not be centrally reset for school opening.

Students in Grades 5-12 can reset their own passwords directly on the login page of many online tools, including Brightspace and Zoom. Once registered, students will be able to use security questions, email, phone, text message or an “authenticator” smartphone app, to validate their password reset requests. For additional information, please view this [infographic](#) or [demo video](#).

New students - Students new to TDSB will have their password set to the Shared Secret Password. This is a combination of the last 4 digits of the student number, followed by 2 digits for your day of

birth, and 2 digits for your month of birth, followed by “@Tdsb” (case sensitive and 13 characters in total).

The infographic below provides the formula to the Shared Secret Password.



Achievement

Semester 2 e-Learning Course Registration

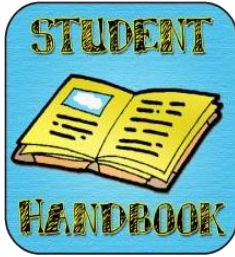
Semester 2 e-Learning Day School course offerings were added to the [e-Learning Day School website](#) on October 16, 2024. Students and families are encouraged to review these offerings before registration opens to students on November 12, 2024 at 10 a.m. through the [e-REG system](#).

O.S.S.L.T.: Grade 11 and 12 students who still need to fulfill their literacy requirement will be writing the fall OSSLT from **Monday, Nov. 18th to Wednesday, Nov. 20th**. The OSSLT is an online test and must be written in person on one of the dates mentioned above. Students will be writing all morning during both periods 1 and 2. Some students may need to use double-time and continue to write through lunch into period 3. Grade 10s will write their OSSLT during the Spring of 2025. **NEW!!!**

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. You may also access the poster by clicking [here](#).





Student Handbook. Students are asked to take time to review the Georges Vanier [Student Handbook](#) as soon as possible so they become aware our school's policies and procedures.

Pay particular attention to the [GVSS Assessment & Evaluation Policy 2023](#) and our [Academic Eligibility Policy For Extracurricular Activities](#)

After School Numeracy and Literacy Program. Starting next week, students can receive extra help/support with their math and literacy from some of our teachers. This is not a casual drop-in session; students will be expected to sign up and attend these sessions over the course of the semester. Name of the teacher, days/times and location for these supports are shown below:

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 316

Indigenous Education

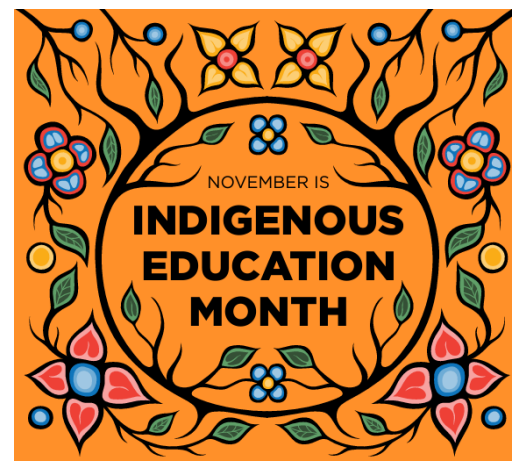
November is Indigenous Education Month at the Toronto District School Board. Throughout the month, students, staff, and community members honour a number of important days to deepen knowledge, to learn from our shared histories, and to strengthen relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples.

It is important that we remember to centre First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives, voices, histories, and contemporary realities across the TDSB every day. This month places emphasis on creating opportunities to learn from Indigenous perspectives on treaties, leadership, achievements, resurgence, futurities, and creativity.

The TDSB is committed to the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action (TRC) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Below is a list of significant dates throughout the month of November:

- **November 3-9** is Treaties Recognition Week
- **November 7** is International Inuit Day
- **November 8** is National Indigenous Veterans Day
- **November 16** is Louis Riel Day in Ontario



Equity

Hindu Heritage Month

The TDSB is proud to recognize Hindu Heritage Month during the month of November. This heritage has been celebrated by our students, staff, and the community since April 2018 because of a motion passed by the Board of Trustees.

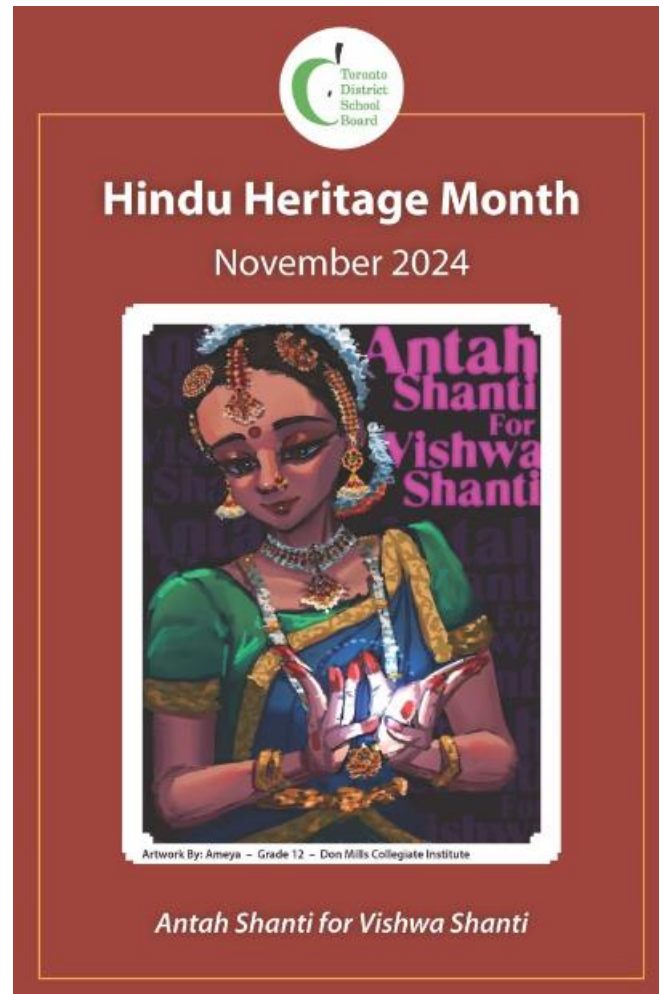
Further, Hindu Heritage Month is also recognized in the Province of Ontario since 2016 with the declaration of Hindu Heritage Month Act, 2016. This act states, Ontario is home to a large and vibrant Hindu community. Since the first Hindu immigrants arrived in Canada at the beginning of the 20th century, Hindu Canadians from across Ontario have made significant contributions across all fields: science, education, medicine, law, politics, business, culture, and sports. Hindu Canadians have helped build Ontario into the multicultural success story that it is and have helped to build this province into the best place to live, work and raise families. They continue to help foster growth, prosperity, and innovation throughout Ontario.

Hinduism is one of the oldest living religions which have flourished for over 10,000 years. It is an occasion to recognize and celebrate the rich tapestry of traditions, teachings and values that are integral to Hinduism and practiced by millions around the world today. November is an opportunity to celebrate the Hindu way of life, examine its impact and contributions to the world culture, and recognize values which promote compassion, tolerance, and inclusion.

This year's theme is ***Antah Shanti for Vishwa Shanti***. This Sanskrit phrase conveys that to foster World (Vishwa) Peace (Shanti) we need to have inner (Antah) Peace (Shanti).

Hindu dharma recognizes three levels of peace. The first level is inner peace - that in the mind of a person. The second level is peace in our immediate environment: in our family, neighbourhood, school, and community. The third level is peace in the world, between nations. That is why, at the end of prayers, Hindus chant OM Shanti, Shanti, Shanti. Inner peace is the foundation to build peace in our immediate environment. A peaceful state of mind is essential for the courage, confidence and compassion required to act for the greater good of humanity. When we feel peace within us, the journey towards Vishwa Shanti or World Peace has begun.

During the month of November several Hindu Heritage Month educational opportunities are being organized for all TDSB students to further learn about Hindu traditions. These offerings include students having an opportunity to engage in an author reading and various workshops. Students from the TDSB will have the opportunity to learn Chess. This board game originated in India in the early 1700 and continues to challenge participants' strategic skills.



The Black Girls' Book Club

The [Black Girls' Book Club](#) is back! Black girls (African, Afro-Caribbean and Black Diaspora) from Grades 9 to 12 are invited to register for this program. The Black Girls' Book Club provides students with an opportunity to explore new ideas, new stories, and new ways of self-expression. Throughout the program, student voice and the stories of Black women authors are celebrated.

Interested students should register for this program before November 8, 2024.

Virtual Information Session: November 13 | 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Program begins: November 20 at 4:30 p.m.

Register [here!](#)

For more information contact, jeffrey.caton@tdsb.on.ca, Centrally Assigned Principal, or rukiya.mohamed@tdsb.on.ca, Program Coordinator, Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement



TDSB Black Student Post-Secondary Engagement Symposium

The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement invites Black students, educators and their families to the [TDSB Black Student Post-Secondary Engagement Symposium](#).

The TDSB Black Student Post-Secondary Engagement Symposium is an opportunity for Post Secondary institutions to connect with Black TDSB students and families. Institutional representatives will share culturally relevant programs, resources, opportunities, and services that positively affirm Black students' sense of belonging in post-secondary spaces.



Date: **November 27, 2024**

Time: 7 – 9 p.m.

Location: John Polanyi Collegiate Institute

Register [here](#) or at bit.ly/TDSB_ENGAGE2024

For more information contact, jeffrey.caton@tdsb.on.ca, Centrally Assigned Principal, or rukiya.mohamed@tdsb.on.ca, Program Coordinator, Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement.

Health & Well-being

Breakfast Club: The Vanier School Nutrition program serves breakfast between 8:00 – 9:00 am in front of room 208A each school day. Our students are welcome to grab breakfast before heading to their morning classes. Food for our breakfast program is made possible by the **Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS)**. They are looking for financial donations so they can continue to support our students. Please click on the live links below to donate if you can do so.

[Nutrition Donation form](#)

[TFSS Parent Donation Form Instructions](#)

Inspiring Minds @ VanierNEW!!!

Inspiring Minds is a program for youth to develop skills that lead to personal empowerment. Program runs Tuesday's at lunch in room 221 from October 17th - December 17th. Please see flyer on next page (QR code) for info on how to join/sign up.

Mental Health Resources: The TDSB is committed to improving the mental health and well-being of student. Please click [here](#) to access mental health and well-being resources for students and guardians.

Toronto Community Crisis Services is now available, 24/7, to all Toronto neighbourhoods by calling 211

The Toronto Community Crisis Services (TCCS) provides a community-based, client-centred response to mental health crises and wellness checks, without police involvement. With a trauma-informed approach, the service prioritizes healing and recovery, considering everyone's unique life experiences. TCCS can support individuals and families facing urgent mental health or crisis situations who are 16 years and older.

By dialing 211, anyone in the city can access this free, confidential service 24 hour a day, 7 days a week. As the Service is now available across all neighbourhoods, delivered by mobile crisis teams, it provides individuals with access to timely assistance, regardless of location.

In addition to immediate support, TCCS also offers:

- Referrals and connections to additional services
- Information and resources
- Post-crisis follow-up care

For more information, please visit the [Toronto Community Crisis Services \(TCCS\) website](#). For any inquiries and questions, please email mentalhealthandwellbeing@tdsb.on.ca.





**THE CANADIAN
TRAINING INSTITUTE**

Ontario

This initiative is funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

INSPIRING MINDS

YOUTH PROGRAM

WHY CHOOSE US?

Inspiring Minds is a program for youth to develop skills that lead to personal empowerment.

Open for Registration

Programming will take place at George Vanier Secondary School Tuesdays during lunch from October 15th to December 17th

Participants learn about topics such as:
Healthy Relationships
Managing Anger
Dealing with Stress
Leadership
And more!

JOIN US



targueta@cantraining.org



Kids' Helplines:

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 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

Upcoming Dates & Events

Nov 11	Remembrance Day (special schedule)
Nov. 12	Report Card Day (Electronic Distribution)
Nov. 15	PA Day – No school for students
Nov. 18 – 21	OSSLT Days (regular school day schedule)
Nov. 20	Late Start – Professional Learning Day
Nov. 25 – 28	Grad Photos
Nov. 27	Late Start – Staff Meeting Day
Nov. 29	PA Day – No school for students

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|FOS13)

416-395-8808 • Kurt.McIntosh@tdsb.on.ca

Trustee: James Li • Ward 13

416-395-8787 • James.Li@tdsb.on.ca