



3000 Don Mills Rd. E., North York ON M2J 3B6

Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 11 (November 15, 2024)

Dear Vanier Family,

Even though this week was a short one for students, as Friday was our professional learning day, it was still packed with activities both in and out of the classroom. We began the week with our Remembrance Day Activity, a significant event where our students played a crucial role. Huge thanks to Mr. Sproul and the students on the Remembrance Day committee for preparing a wonderful video highlighting the different groups who have served and continue to serve in the Canadian Armed Forces. We will remember you!



On Tuesday night Vanier was host to a parent Forum held by our school's trustee, James Li. Thank you so much to all the parents and guardians who came out to this very important meet and greet.





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November is Indigenous Education Month, and Vanier has been offering 2-3 sections of the NAC1O1 course each year. This course explores Aboriginal cultures in Canada through art forms like painting, sculpture, storytelling, dance, and music created by Aboriginal artists. Students learn to identify these art forms and their connections to Aboriginal traditions, philosophy, and culture, while also creating their own art to express their understanding of identity, relationships, and sovereignty. This past Thursday, NAC1O1 students spent the day at Forest Valley (TDSB's Outdoor Education Centre), where they learned about trees, their medicinal properties, and uses, as well as how to make a fire, enjoy cedar tea, and roast marshmallows (see pictures below).



On Thursday, some of Vanier's students received a special treat - they got to participate in a poetry workshop led by Patrick de Belen. Patrick de Belen is a Toronto-based Filipino-Canadian spoken word poet, performer, host, and educator. Patrick is known for his deep commitment to his community and his status as an enduring source of insight, energy, and mentorship for young poets across North America. He has performed on platforms such as CBC, TED Talk, NEXE, and others. Patrick is also the first-ever recipient of the Spoken Word Poet of Honour award at YouthCanSlam—Canada's national youth poetry festival. We are honoured to partner with Patrick this school year as he works with our students to develop and express their voices through slam poetry at least once a month.

This past Friday, as mentioned above, was our professional learning day. Hugh thanks to Ellen Walton, one of the coaches from the Centre of Excellence for Black Students Success, for facilitating a wonderful learning session aimed at developing our staff's confidence and awareness of how to design instruction and use supporting resources to promote inclusion from an anti-oppressive lens within daily programming with an *intentional* focus on FNMI and Anti-Black Racism perspectives.

While most students had a day off, nearly forty of our Vanier students participated in the annual Regional DECA competitions this past Friday. DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) is a not-for-profit career and technical student organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. We look forward to learning how our students perform.

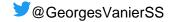
Have a fantastic weekend, Vanier!

Karen Johnson

Daniel Muttiah

Susan Tsin

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







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Students from our NAC1O1 course on Fieldtrip to Forest Valley Outdoor Education Cente

Thurs, Nov. 14, 2024







Principal: K. Johnson Vice Principals: D. Muttiah & S. Tsin "Scholarship, Spirit and Social Responsibility - We believe It! We Live It!"





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News from the Trustee's Office

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)
Stephanie Hennaoui (Co-Chair)
Danielle Ferguson-Shivrattan (Secretary)
Cordelia Ramses (Treasurer)
Mohammad Rashed Ahmazai

Ivy Chi
Helen Huang
Amit Koul
Sachida Tiwari
Susanna Scocchia (

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. Click here for more information and how to register





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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)	Date: November 28 Evening (PM)
Time: 10:00am - 11:30am	Time: 6:30pm - 8:00pm

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.

<u>CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE MEETING</u> 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 <u>information letter</u> which includes the link for registration form. The registration period will remain open until Friday, November 15, 2024.

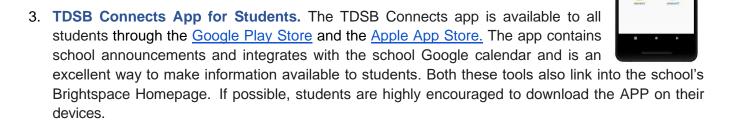




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General Information & News

- 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/gvsssac/home
- 2. 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 <u>School Messenger</u> 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.



4. **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.

5. 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.

6. 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).





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It's GRAD PHOTO Time!!!!

Graduation Portrait sessions will take from Monday, November 25th to Wednesday, November 28th in room 120

Grade 12 students who are graduating at the end of this school year MUST pre-book a portrait sitting at www.bookmygrad.ca using the **code GVR** to be part of the grade 12 composite and/or order photos.

The school has negotiated a \$35.00 sitting fee. Students will have to pay the photo company (Edge Imaging) this fee before their photos are taken. This fee will:

- 1) Ensure student receives the proofs of all their photos.
- 2) Ensure student receives a composite photo of all their graduating class in a hard vinyl case on graduation day (June 26th, 2025). This is also the composite that will hang on the walls of Vanier for decades to come.
- Ensure that their photo is included in the GRAD pages of our yearbook.



If students/families like their proofs, they will be able to order and pay for photo packages of their choosing. Click here for information on how to book your grad photo session.

Achievement

Semester 2 e-Learning Course Registration

Semester 2 e-Learning Day School course offerings were added to the <u>e-Learning Day School website</u> 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.





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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.



After School Numeracy and Literacy Program. Staring 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	Ms. Gerstnerova	Mon & Wed	Room 211
Support		3:30 – 4:30 pm	
	Mr. Hussain	Tues & Thursday	Room 203
		3:30 – 4:30 pm	
Numeracy	Ms. Li	Mon & Wed	Room 316
Support		3:30 – 4:30 pm	

Indigenous Education

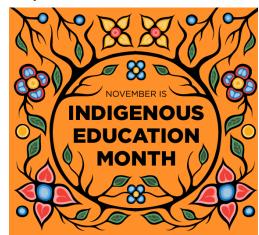
November is Indigenous Education Month at the Toronto District School Board. Throughout the month, students, staff, and community members honour a number of important days to deepen knowledge, to learn from our shared histories, and to strengthen relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples.

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







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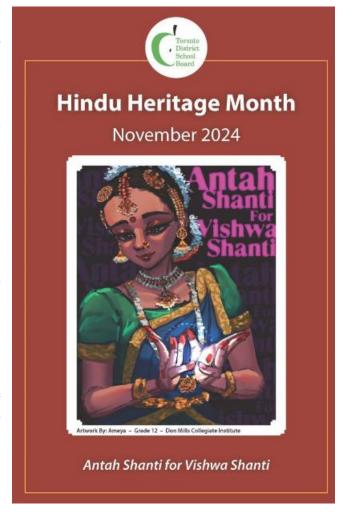
Equity

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.





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Webinar Wednesdays: Pathways to Post-Secondary Education and Skilled Trades

Join the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement for Webinar Wednesdays. This session explores <u>Pathways to Post-Secondary Education and Skilled Trades</u> options. Discover various educational trajectories, apprenticeship opportunities, and essential supports for a successful transition from high school. Equip your child with the tools for success!

Date: November 20, 2024 Time: **6:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

Location: Virtual (link will be provided upon registration)

Who Should Attend:

 Parents, families, and caregivers of Black students interested in exploring postsecondary education options.

Registration:

To register, please visit Registration Link or contact us at cebsa@tdsb.on.ca 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

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.





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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 @ Vanier

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 and Well Being Toolkit 2024/25 for Students, Staff, Parents, Caregivers, Guardians and School Communities

Professional Support Services (PSS) is excited to re-share the Mental Health and Well Being Toolkit 2024/25. The resources in the Toolkit are identity affirming to meet students' diverse needs. This Toolkit covers a wide range—from daily mental health and wellness activities for K-12, contacts to culturally relevant and responsive community agencies, daily wellness activities for students with disabilities and grief and loss resources available in multiple languages. Valuable information and resources on topics like anti-sex trafficking and addiction are also available, including the Vaping and Cannabis Toolkit, developed in collaboration Toronto Public Health.

Learn4Life Adult General Interest Program - Winter Registration Opens Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Registration for winter courses in the Learn4Life Adult General Interest Program opens on November 13 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. Some of the new courses this term include:

- 1. Making Your Home Smarter
- 2. Classics of Horror
- 3. Wood Carving Introduction
- 4. How to Minimize Cost of Living and Maximize your Purchasing Power
- 5. Strength for Life Full Body Fitness
- 6. Portugal's Iconic Pastel de Nata Workshop

Courses start January 11, 2025. Visit Learn4Life's program page for more information.





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"Scholarship, Spirit and Social Responsibility - We believe It! We Live It!"

targueta@cantraining.org





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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 <u>www.blackyouth.ca</u> 416-285-9944

LGBT Youth Line - Sunday - Friday 4 PM - 9:30 PM - PEER SUPPORT*

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. 18 – 21 OSSLT Days (regular school day schedule)

Nov. 20 Late Start – Professional Learning Day

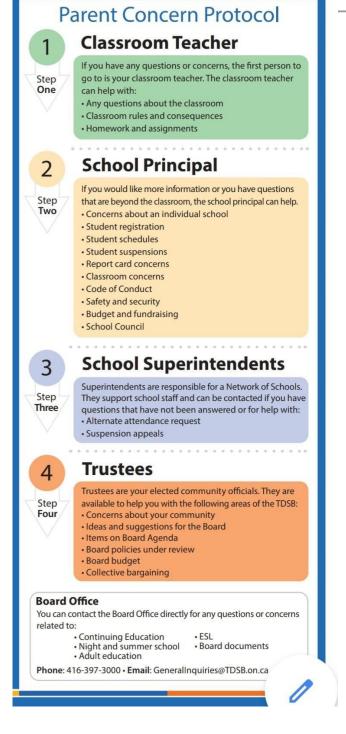
Nov. 25 – 28 Grad Photos

Nov. 27 Late Start – Staff Meeting Day Nov. 29 PA Day – No school for students





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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