

Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 12 (November 22, 2024)

Dear Vanier Family,

We hope you have had a spectacular week. We had a great week at Vanier as we celebrated the amazing feats of our business students at last weekend's DECA competition, which saw over 17,000 students across Ontario compete in various topics and understanding of business principles. Congratulations to all our Vanier students who participated in the competition. You did yourself and the school proud and should continue to learn and discover. Special congratulations to Baneet Sarna, Mark Chen, George Georgiou, and the team of Ethan Xu, and Skyler Yang, who qualified for the Provincial Competitions. A super big congratulations to our grand champion, Aneri Chevli, who finished in **FIRST PLACE** in the entire region in her category in both the written and Oral components for all grade 9's in the region! You all did an amazing job and should be proud of your efforts.



Another highlight from this past week was our Open Mic session in the Music Studio on Friday at lunch. Our Open mic sessions, where our students showcase their musical talents in a fun and relaxed way, have a profound positive impact on their well-being. These events, among many others, are part of our collective effort to promote student mental health.

On the topic of de-stressing...next week will be "Trouble a Teacher Week – Our Student Council will be running fundraising activities where students get to make fun of/with teachers. There will be pie-throwing, hair waxing, hair decorations, and much more. All funds raised will go to Mental Health Research Canada. Please remember that next week is also a short week with no school for students on Friday, November 29th.

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



**Awards Ceremony
for our PEEL
students who
participated in the
2024-2025 TDSB
Cross Country
Competitions for
Students with
Developmental
Disabilities
on
Wed., Nov. 19, 2024**



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.
- 3) 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.

Updates from our Guidance Office...NEW!!

College application Workshop. On Wednesday, December 11th, during periods 1 and 2, Guidance will host college application workshops for college-bound students in room 202. The deadline to submit college applications for equal consideration is **Saturday, February 1st, 2025**. For more information visit <https://www.ontariocolleges.ca/en>

OUAC Applications. This a reminder that the OUAC application deadline for university-bound students is **Wednesday, January 15th, 2025**. We suggest students aim to have their OUAC applications done and submitted on or before the holiday break. The OUAC site sees peak volumes of traffic over the Christmas holidays. This is when OUAC support staff are working reduced hours. Support may be limited. Be sure to plan your post-secondary application timelines accordingly! For more information visit <https://www.ouac.on.ca/>

MyBlueprint. All students who are new to Vanier are required to activate their myBlueprint accounts. myBlueprint is an online application tool that all TDSB students use to complete their course selections for next year. Course selection for September 2025 will begin in February 2025. The activation process is very quick and easy. New myBlueprint accounts should be activated no later than Monday, December 16th, 2024. For instructions on how to activate a new myBlueprint account, [click here](#).

Google Classrooms. All students should be connected to the Guidance Google Classrooms. This is how we communicate important information with students. Please ensure your child is connected with Guidance! Use the following codes to join: **Vanier Guidance - i5wekc6**
Vanier Graduates 2025 - mz23ybh

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)	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.

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

1. **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/qvssac/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 [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.
3. **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.
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).

Achievement

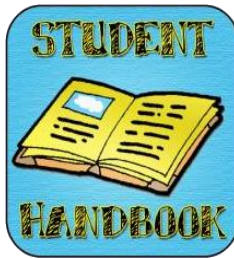
Semester 2 e-Learning Course Registration

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](#).

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

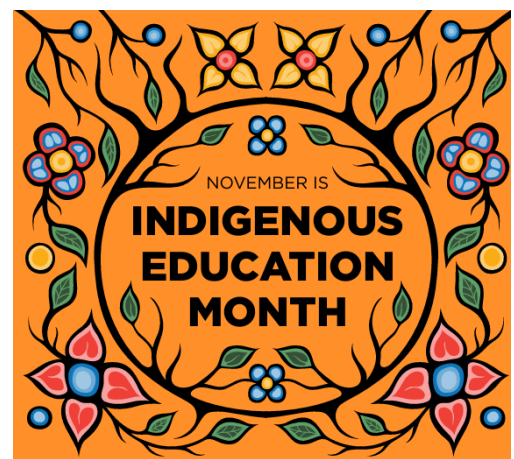
November is Indigenous Education Month at the Toronto District School Board. Throughout the month, students, staff, and community members honour a number of important days to deepen knowledge, to learn from our shared histories, and to strengthen relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples.

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.

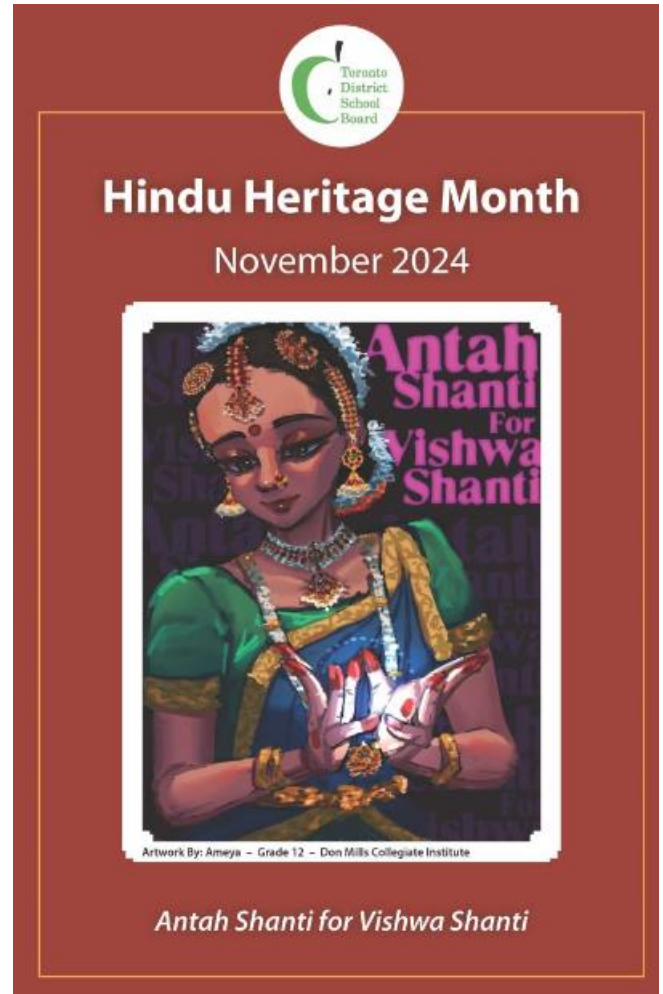
Further, Hindu Heritage Month is also recognized in the Province of Ontario since 2016 with the declaration of Hindu Heritage Month Act, 2016. This act states, Ontario is home to a large and vibrant Hindu community. Since the first Hindu immigrants arrived in Canada at the beginning of the 20th century, 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.



Chinese Heritage Month at the TDSB: Chinese Poster Challenge

The TDSB proudly recognizes Chinese Heritage Month in February each year. During this month, several learning resources and educational opportunities will be provided to our students and staff to further enhance their knowledge of Chinese heritage.

The Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is one of the most significant holidays of the Chinese heritage. The date is determined by the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar and the celebration lasts 16 days. This year, the first day begins on Wednesday, January 29, 2025. Currently we are inviting all students from Kindergarten to grade 12 to participate in a Poster Challenge to celebrate the Lunar New Year.

This year we celebrate the Year of the Snake: ***Tenacious and Transformative***. We hope to encourage our students, staff and the TDSB community to make impactful changes amidst challenges.

Please see the [attached](#) for full details of the Poster Challenge.
Deadline: Friday, January 10, 2025, by 11:59 pm.

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 @ 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.](#)



**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. 25 – 28	Grad Photos
Nov. 25 - 28	Trouble a Teacher Week
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