

Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 13 (November 29, 2024)

Dear Vanier Family,



This past week was another packed one at Vanier! Over ninety of our grades 11 and 12, students wrote their Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) this past Monday and Tuesday. Passing the OSSLT is one of the requirements for earning a secondary school diploma in Ontario, so we look forward to a high success rate for our students.

On Tuesday, eight of our Vanier had the privilege to attend the 8th Annual Black Brilliance Conference at Downsview Secondary School. This conference is led by Black students for Black students and, celebrates the accomplishments of Black Youth and acknowledges the challenges they face. Students had the opportunity to engage in student-led workshops on a variety of topics relevant to Black students and heard from an aspirational keynote [Dr. Chika Stacy Oriuwa](#), who is currently a resident doctor in psychiatry at the University of Toronto where she earned her medical degree and was the first Black woman to be named sole valedictorian of her department. Special thanks to Downsview SS for providing this rich experience for our students.

From Monday to Thursday of this past week, our students got to have some fun at the expense of our teachers! They got to pie a teacher in the face, tape a teacher to a wall, wax a teacher, and bedazzle the bald head of a teacher—all to raise funds for Mental Health Research Canada. Huge thanks to our student council for organizing these events and to the “brave” teachers who participated in each of them. Please enjoy some pictures from these events on the next page.

As you know, this past Friday was a professional activity day. On this day, our staff had the distinct honour of hearing from **Virginia Barter**, a Toronto-based historical writer and filmmaker whose body of work spotlights the contributions of Indigenous peoples on this land. We appreciate the opportunity to deepen our knowledge of Metis history and way of life. We also deeply appreciate all the artifacts she brought along to bring to life this rich history.

Since this was the last week in November, we took some time on Thursday to recognize our students of the month. Please help me congratulate the following students, who were nominated by our staff for their exemplary character, academic achievement, and citizenship.



CHARACTER TRAITS:

Alina Kazimi

CITIZENSHIP:

Kian Ramezanpourashkvari

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE:

Deana Al-Zuhary	Sehee Go
Lili Nagy	Hussain Eshan
Toprak Kaya	Romina Makarem
Ala Shamsavani	Sammy Lee
Gina Nguyen	Farwa Wafa
Jingyi Bella Zhao	Dushyant Prabhakar

As we welcome in the month of December next week, we'll be gearing up for numerous holiday celebrations. One of these will be our semi-formal which will be held on December 18th from 6:00 - 10:00 pm. Cost is \$45.00 and is open to students in all grades. Please see poster below for more details.

Please don't forget that next **Tuesday (Dec. 3rd)** is our parent council meeting. The meeting will be held in our Learning Hub (library) **from 6:30 – 8:00 pm.** All parents/caregivers are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Last, but not least, special thanks to Ms. Wong and the Cross-Country Team for organizing our 2nd annual walk/run for Carter – one of our beloved students who passed away last November.



Karen Johnson

Daniel Muttiah

Susan Tsin



**Some pictures from
“Trouble a Teacher”
Week @ Vanier**





Prom committee presents....

SEMI FORMAL

UNDER THE STARS

December 18th, 2024 | 6:00-10:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$40.00 early bird!

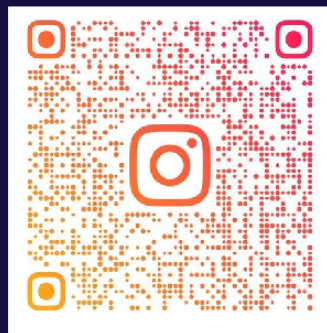
\$45.00 regular

Japanese Culture Centre

Semi Formal attire is appreciated

Food, drinks, and music are Included

Follow us for more information!



Gvss_prom25



**Vanier Staff on
Nov.29th PA Day –
Learning about the
Métis People from
the James Bay
Region**



Updates from our Guidance Office

SPECIALIZED OYAP OPEN HOUSE @ Central Technical School, Room 208 **On Thursday, December 12 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

The [Specialized OYAP at Central Technical School](#) provides students with the opportunity to develop deep career-related skills.

The one-year program combines multiple technological education credits in a specific trade with a cooperative education experience. Students learn from OCT teachers who are also journeypersons who hold a Certificate of Qualification in their trade. Students have the opportunity to become registered apprentices and work toward becoming certified journeypersons in a skilled trade while completing their secondary school diplomas.

Students participating in these special Programs have an edge when applying to university, college, apprenticeship, or work placements. Traditionally 86% of the students enrolled in the Specialized OYAP have been signed as apprentices in their desired trade. Upon completion of the program, students are eligible to write for Level 1 exemption. For more information see website below:
<https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/centraltechnicalschool/Programs/Specialized-Programs/OYAP-Programs>

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. At this meeting we will continue share the amazing strides Vanier students have made on the Grade 9 EQAO Math exams over the past few years. You will also have the opportunity to contribute to our school improvement plan.

International Day of Disabled Persons

On December 3rd, we observe annually, the International Day of Disabled Persons. The International Day of Disabled Persons was proclaimed in 1992 by [United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3](#).

It aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life. For further information, please visit the [United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities webpage](#)

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](#).

Autism Supports and Services Within the Developmental Disabilities Sector

As part of the Social Work Department, Social Workers facilitate the Developmental Disabilities Virtual Connect for Parents/Caregivers of Children, Youth and Young Adults with Developmental Disabilities and/or Complex Needs. For this event, please join us as we invite Community Agencies to Talk About Autism Supports and Services. Identify the best suited to support the needs of your child. Connect with TDSB Parent Community who just like you are dedicated to nurturing Children, Youth, and Young Adults with Developmental Disabilities and/or Complex Needs.

Presenters: Geneva Centre For Autism, Autism Ontario, Lumenus Community Services, Strides Toronto, and SAAC Autism Centre.

When: Monday, December 9th, 2024, from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon and the same information will be repeated on Monday, December 16th, 2024, from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Flyer is [attached](#).

THIS IS A ZOOM MEETING

JOIN ON YOUR COMPUTER OR MOBILE PHONE APP.

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

<https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/94015815609?pwd=ZvXKxODRuh6GCza1hVFINDGaxj1UQ.1>

Meeting ID: 940 1581 5609

Passcode: 445164

Phone In: +16475580588 Or +16473744685 – Canada

[DOWNLOAD ZOOM](#)

For more information send email to virtualfairinfo@tdsb.on.ca or call Larena Case at 416-570-3314 or Vanessa Wong at 647-229-0730.

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/qvssac/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.

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).

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



Achievement

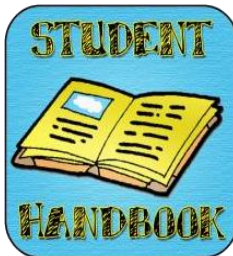
Semester 2 e-Learning Course Registration

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](#).

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

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Post-Secondary Pathways Mawiomo Gathering

The Urban Indigenous Education Centre is honoured to host a Post-Secondary & Trades Fair for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students across the Toronto District School Board. Indigenous students will have the opportunity to:

- Meet university, college and trades program representatives face-to-face, and engage with Indigenous representatives, mentors and alumni;
- Inquire about valuable information on programs, admissions, scholarships/bursaries, and support services;
- Learn how to access multiple options for postsecondary pathways;
- Find out about employment opportunities for summer and beyond.

Date: Wednesday, Dec 4, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Urban Indigenous Education Centre, 16 Phin Avenue, Toronto, ON, Entrance 5

Map: [view here](#) Poster: [available for download](#)

Registration: [available here](#) and for any questions, please contact Emerelle Sliwa-Julian: Emerelle.Sliwa-Julian@tdsb.on.ca

Equity

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.

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!

 targueta@cantraining.org

JOIN US



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

Dec 3	Indigenous Giant Map arrives at Vanier
Dec 3	Parent Council meeting @ 6:30 pm
Dec 11	Late Start Day – PLC Day
Dec 18	Late Start – Staff Meeting
Dec 18	Semi-Formal (6:00 -10:00 pm)
Dec 19	Holiday Concert, Assembly Day Schedule
Dec. 20	Final Day of School before the Winter Break

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