

Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 15 (December 13, 2024)

Dear Vanier Family,

This week at Vanier was another busy one! We wrapped up our **4th Annual Fall Chess Tournament**—thanks to Mr. Blazina for organizing and all the students who participated. We also held our **annual charity drive**, gathering toys, hygiene products, clothing, and non-perishable food for the Toronto Fire Fighters Drive. A big thank you to everyone who has contributed so far. Donations are a bit low, so we're extending the drive until **December 17**. Parents, if you can, please send an item with your child to drop off in the front foyer before school or lunch.

On Wednesday, December 11, our guidance team hosted **college application workshops** to support students planning for post-secondary programs. We're grateful for their support of our students as they move on to the next chapter in their educational journey!

Despite the chilly weather, **Thursday's Open Mic** session warmed our hearts with the amazing musical talents of our students. Special thanks to Ms. Park for making these events fun and inspiring throughout the year.



Next week promises to be exciting as we head into the final week before the holidays. Tuesday and Wednesday, our ESL students will enjoy their **second annual skate day**—a highlight for many as they step on the ice for the first time.

Our semi-formal will take place **Wednesday, December 18, from 6:00–10:00 pm** at the Japanese Cultural Centre in the Luxury Hall. We can't wait to see students dressed up and celebrating the season! See poster below for more details. **On Thursday, December 19**, we'll host a **Holiday Concert during Period 2**, featuring performances from both the regular program and DD classrooms.

Have a fantastic weekend, Vanier! Don't forget—next Wednesday (December 18) will be a **late start day**, with classes beginning at **9:55 am**. Please plan accordingly!

Karen Johnson

Daniel Muttiah

Susan Tsin

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

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

Prom committee presents....

SEMI FORMAL

UNDER THE STARS

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

Tickets: \$40.00 early bird!

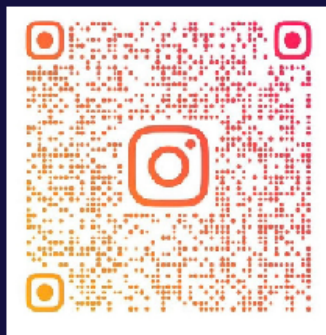
\$45.00 regular

Japanese Culture Centre

Semi Formal attire is appreciated

Food, drinks, and music are Included

Follow us for more information!



Gvss prom25

Updates from our Guidance Office

College Application Deadline. 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

2024-2025 Vanier School Advisory Council Members

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 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, March 4th, 2025, from 6:30 – 8:00**. Thanks to all the parents who have come out to our council meetings so far. We appreciate you making the time.

News from the Trustee's Office

Please click [here](#) for the December 2024 newsletter from Trustee Li's office

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=zvXKxODRuh6GCza1hVFINtdGaxj1UQ.1>

Meeting ID: 940 1581 5609

Passcode: 445164

Phone In: +16475580588 Or +16473744685 – Canada

[DOWNLOAD ZOOM](#)

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/qvsssac/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

Extended Absence....NEW!!!

TDSB schools will be heading into the Winter break in another two weeks. We will return from the Winter break on January 6th and will transition into a very crucial part of the semester – our evaluation season – where students will be engaging in summative tasks (culminating projects and exams). I want to take this opportunity to remind students that daily attendance is crucial to their success. Extended absences may jeopardize a student's credit-earning opportunities. As such, students should avoid taking vacations during school time, especially during the summative evaluation season in January. If students will be away from school for more than 5 days, parents and students must complete our extended absence form, which can be accessed [here](#).

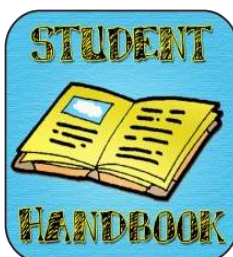


Semester 2 e-Learning Course Registration

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 |

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.

Visionary Voices: Career Connections For Students - Somali Heritage Month

Join us for a Somali Heritage Month event!

Event Description:

As part of a Somali Heritage Month in the TDSB, we invite students in grade 9 - 12 to an exciting "Visionary Voices: Career Connections for Students" event! This event is an incredible opportunity for students to connect with professionals from diverse fields, including the arts, technology, medicine, filmmaking, and more. Our goal is to inspire students by showcasing various careers paths and the success stories of Somali professionals in these industries. This event is in collaboration with Say Somaali.



Please use this google form to register if you would like to attend: [Google Forms](#)

Event Highlights:

- **Keynote Speaker:** An inspiring address from a prominent Somali professional.
- **Panel Discussions:** Insights and experiences shared by professionals in different fields.
- **Networking Lunch:** An opportunity for informal networking and building connections between students and professionals.
- **Workshops:** Practical workshops led by professionals to provide hands-on insights.

This event will take place on:

Saturday, December 14, 2024, 11:30 am - 5:00 pm

Location of Event:

West Humber Collegiate Institute
1675 Martin Grove Road, Etobicoke, ON M9V 3S3

Should additional information be required, please contact Somali Heritage Month Committee Member Leads:

- Hotho Farah @ hotho.farah@tdsb.on.ca
- Asha Yusuf @ asha.yusuf@tdsb.on.ca

Black Student Summer Leadership Program

The [Black Student Summer Leadership Program](#) (BSSLP) offers Black high school students a transformative, paid opportunity to gain hands-on experience, develop professional skills, engage in Youth Participatory Action Research, and expand their networks in a variety of fields. Students are paired with mentors and organizations that match their passions, fostering growth in a supportive environment. ([See flyer](#))

Program Features:

- **Mentorship & Training:** Receive guidance from experienced professionals and gain skills for future careers.
- **Career Pathways:** Explore industries where Black individuals are underrepresented, including arts, communications, tech, public health, skilled trades, and more.
- **Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR):** Build critical thinking and advocacy skills while addressing issues affecting your community and school.
- **Career Development:** Grow professional networks and develop transferable skills to set you up for success.

The BSSLP empowers students to build the skills and confidence needed for future academic and career success while making a positive impact in their communities.

Key Details:

- **Eligibility:** Black students in Grades 10-12, 16 years old by July 1, 2025
- **Info session on December 10, 2024** - Click [here](#) to register <https://bit.ly/BSSLPIS>
- **Application opens:** December 13, 2024
- **Application closes:** January 10, 2025
- **TDSB students can apply [here](#)** - <https://bit.ly/BSSLP2025>
- [Click here to view flyer](#)

Don't miss this exciting opportunity. Apply today and take the first step toward your future!

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 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.

Winter Well-Being Guide 2024-2025

The [Winter Well-Being Guide 2024-2025](#) is now available. The Guide is prepared by the Mental Health and Well-Being Committee, in collaboration with the Mental Health Leads and the System Leader for Mental Health and PSS. [The Winter Well-Being Guide 2024-2025](#) offers updated, culturally relevant, and responsive resources to support students and parents/caregivers/guardians in fostering mental and physical wellness during the winter months. It also includes specific supports tailored for students with disabilities and complex needs.

To ensure accessibility for our diverse community, the guide has been translated into the top spoken languages within the TDSB. You can access it here: [The Winter Well-Being Guide 2024-2025](#)

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:

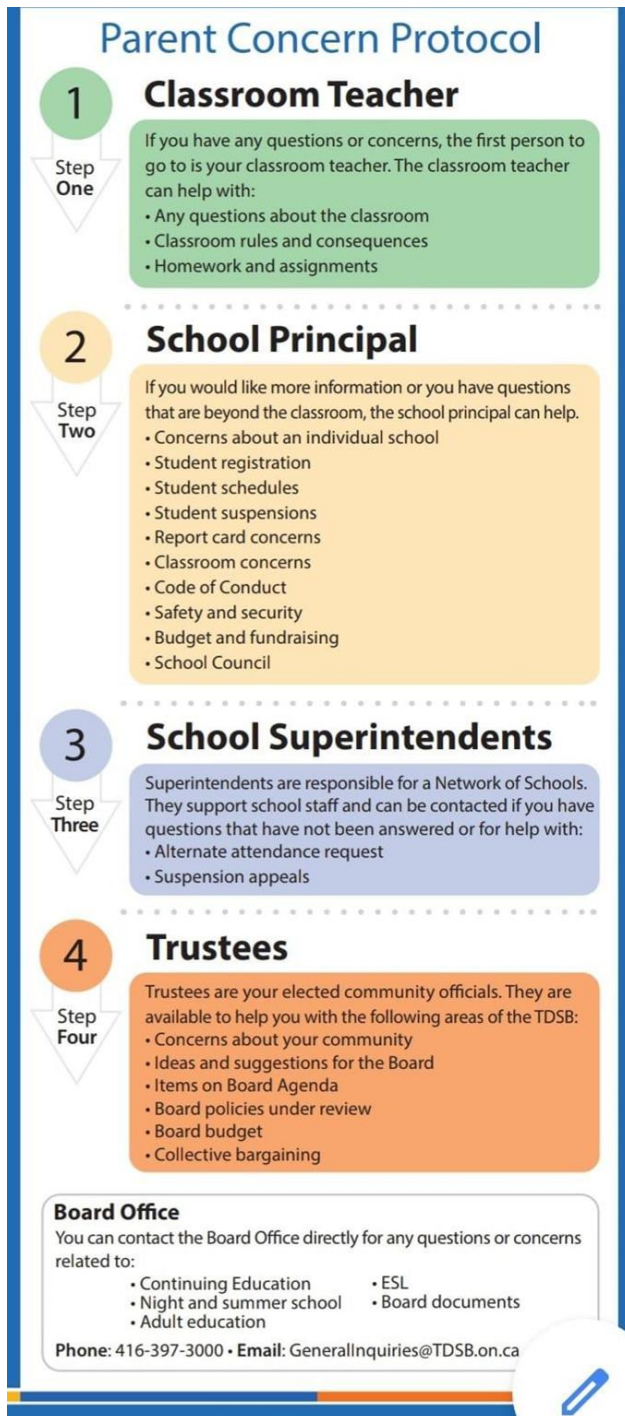
Help Ahead is the centralized resource and intake phone line for multiple trusted community-based mental health organizations in Toronto. Help Ahead has up-to-date information about the available programs and services and can find local supports to address the needs of your child and family.
<https://www.helpahead.ca/> **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

| | |
|---------|---|
| 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 |



School Information

School Phone #: (416) 395 – 3250

School's Twitter: @GeorgesVanierSS

School's Website:

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

ur 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

pecial Education:

Steven Maurer (Assistant Curriculum Leader)

steven.maurer@tdsb.on.ca

tudent 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

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