

Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 18 (January 17, 2025)

Dear Vanier Family,

Today, we completed our last FULL week of regular classes for semester 1, which was another busy one as students engaged in completing their culminating tasks. One notable culminating task was done by students in HSE4M (Equity and Social Justice: From Theory to Practice). This course enables students to develop an understanding of the theoretical, social, and historical underpinnings of various equity and social justice issues and to analyze strategies for bringing about positive social change. Students will learn about historical and contemporary equity and social justice issues in Canada and globally. They will explore power relations and the impact of a variety of factors on equity and social justice. Students will develop and apply research skills and will design and implement a social action initiative relating to an equity or social justice issue.

For their culminating tasks, students in the HSE4M course prepared and delivered engaging and interactive workshops to some of our grade 9 and 10 classes on a variety of topics, including Antisemitism, Anti-Black Racism, Anti-Asian Hate, Islamophobia, Gender and Sexuality, and Systemic Oppression. It was truly inspiring to see our senior students engaging in these rich culminating tasks where they got to put into practice what they learned in their class to help widen the equity lens of our Vanier students. Please see the next page for a few pictures from some of the workshops.



Next week, students will continue to attend classes as per our regular day schedule on Monday and Tuesday. Formal exams commence on Wednesday, January 22, and run until January 27; more information about exam schedules and procedures is shared further down in this newsletter under the **achievement section**. Students will only attend school on these days IF they have an exam. Good luck, students, on your exams.

Exam/Culminating Review Day will be on **Wednesday, January 29, 2025**. For students celebrating the Lunar New Year, Exam Review Day will also occur from 2:15-3:15 p.m. on **Friday, January 31, 2025**, the first day of semester 2. On both days, students will follow a special schedule, which is included further down in this newsletter under the achievement section. All students are encouraged to come in to review their exams and marks.

Please note that January 30, 2025, is a Professional Activity (PA) Day for our staff. Students will have the day off. Please click here for more details about our professional day activities.

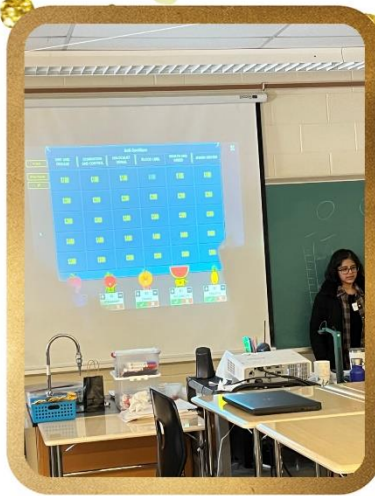
Have a fantastic weekend, Vanier!

Karen Johnson

Daniel Muttiah

Susan Tsin

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



Huge thanks to the students in the HSE4M course and their teacher Ms. Emily Lam, for planning and delivering various Anti-Hate workshops to our junior students.



This is our third year delivering these Anti-Hate workshops.

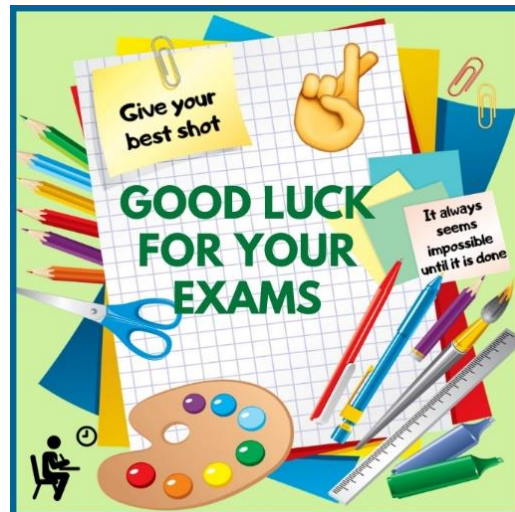


The goal of these Anti-Hate workshops is to make our Vanier community a more welcoming, supportive, and more tolerant place to learn and work.

Achievement

Semester 1 Final Exams. As part of their summative (final) evaluations, some of our Semester 1 courses will have exams. **Exams Dates: January 22 – January 28, 2025.** An exam schedule and instructions can be found [here](#).

Please note there are no exemptions for culminating tasks and exams. As such, all students must participate in these activities to earn their credit. If a student is not able to write an exam during the allotted time, a medical note is required, and the student will write the exam on another day. You may find more information about our [GVSS Assessment & Evaluation Policy](#) around examinations and culminating tasks in the Georges Vanier [Student Handbook](#)



Preparing for Exams and Culminating Assignments – January is the time of year when secondary students are working on course culminating assignments and preparing for Semester 1 exams. **For some tips and resources to help, check out the [Exam and Course Culminating Fact Sheet](#).**

Exam/Culminating Review Day

Exam/Culminating Review Day will be on Wednesday, January 29, 2025. For students celebrating the Lunar New Year, Exam Review Day will be from 2:15-3:15 pm on Friday, January 31, 2025. We will follow a special schedule on both days (schedules below). You must come in to review your exam and review your marks.



Wednesday, January 29 Schedule: (Day 1, Sem 1)

- 9:00-9:40 – period 1
- 9:45-10:25 – period 2
- 10:30-11:10 – period 3
- 11:15-11:55 – period 4

Friday, January 31 Schedule: (Day 1, **Sem 2**)

- 9:00-10:00 – period 1
- 10:05-11:05 – period 2
- 12:05-1:05 – period 3
- 1:10-2:10 – period 4
- 2:15-3:15 – **Exam review**

Peer Tutoring at Vanier

If you're struggling with difficult concepts, preparing for exams, or need assistance with assignments, **peer tutoring is available** to help you achieve your goals. We're here to help with **Math, English, Science, and Computer Science**.

How to Access Peer Tutoring: Fill out the Peer Tutoring Google Form in the Peer Tutoring **Google Classroom**. Join with the code: **m7lxrlw**

If you have any questions, check out SAC's Instagram at @gvss_sac for more information.

Online Tutoring for TDSB Students - Online, on demand tutoring is available 24/7 for students. Secondary students can access tutoring for all courses and grades. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Extended Absence...Reminder!!!

Now that we're back from the Winter break, we have transitioned 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](#).



Update from our Trustee's Office

Please use the link below to access our Trustee's (James Li) January 2025 Newsletter:

<https://t.e2ma.net/webview/k10y2i/29c06660e12a0153e00d4f699bfcecae>

Update from our TPH...NEW!!!

Please click [here](#) to access a letter from Toronto Public Health (TPH) on how to reduce the spread of respiratory illnesses.

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/>

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR). PLAR is the formal evaluation and credit-granting process whereby students may obtain credits for prior learning. To learn more about how to apply for PLAR for your child, please click [here](#)....**Reminder!**

Virtual Secondary School (VSS). VSS will be accepting Semester 2 transfer requests for students who would like to make the switch due to extenuating circumstances....**Reminder!!!**

Please see below some important information about requesting VSS:

- The principal must complete the application request for VSS
- The transfer request will only be considered if there is space available at VSS.
- There is limited space and a limited selection of courses. Compulsory courses may not be available. An exact timetable match will likely not be possible.
- VSS follows a remote synchronous (live, interactive) learning model. Asynchronous learning options are not available.
- VSS students must have a working computer device and are expected to participate in all classes using a camera and microphone.
- The Ministry of Education requires that all students attending VSS reside in Ontario. There are no exceptions.
- Only Core French is available at VSS. French Immersion and Extended French are only offered in-person.
- Only virtual COOP placements are available at VSS.
- Students who are learning remotely cannot play team sports with their home school by address/former home school.
- Students in a graduating position will graduate from VSS, not their former school.

Students who are currently attending school In-Person can request Virtual/Remote Learning for the 2025-26 school year through the [Out-of-Area Admission process](#), beginning in **January 2025**.

While it is their goal to accommodate requests for Virtual/Remote Learning, VSS cannot guarantee that all requests will be met. Priorities for Out-of-Area Admission (as per [Out-of-Area Admissions Policy](#)) also apply to Virtual/Remote Learning.

Continuing Education Secondary Summer School (Remote/Synchronous & In-Person)

Dates: July 2 - July 25, 2025

Courses Offered: Remote Full Credit, Remote Adult, Remote Credit Recovery - Only Grade 9 and Grade 10 courses will be available through Continuing Education.

Gr. 8 to 9 Reach Ahead: In-Person Reach Ahead opportunity only: TAS101 - Exploring Technologies.

In-Person Sites: TBD. To ensure equitable access, the program will be available to all students across the city. However, the program's operation is subject to enrollment levels.

e-Summer July & August Summer School (Online)

Dates: July Session: July 2- July 25, 2025. & August Session: July 28 - August 22, 2025

Courses Offered: Only Grade 11 and Grade 12 courses will be available.



New Transitions Website for Families

The [TDSB Transition Support website for families](#) is a new resource designed to assist families in navigating key transitions throughout a student's educational journey, from Kindergarten to Post-21. These user-friendly platforms offer valuable tools, information, and support tailored to ensure smooth transitions for all students, including those with disabilities and special education needs. Whether transitioning to a new grade, moving to a different school, or preparing for life beyond secondary education, the website provides practical resources and guidance to help educators and families plan effectively and make informed decisions. Please click [here](#) to access the website. share these resources with staff and families.



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

Semester 2 e-Learning Course Registration

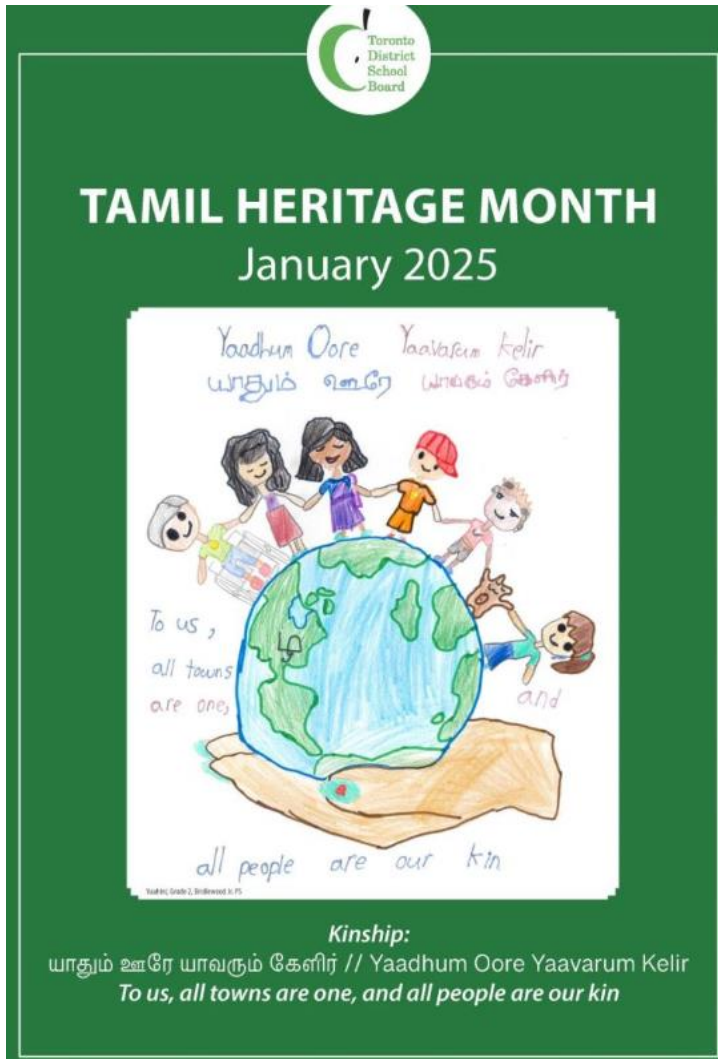
Semester 2 e-Learning Day School course offerings were added to the [e-Learning Day School website](#) on October 16, 2024. Students and families are encouraged to review these offerings before registration opens to students on November 12, 2024 at 10 a.m. through the [e-REG system](#).

Equity

Tamil Heritage Month - January 2025

Tamil Heritage Month is proudly recognized during the month of January at Toronto District School Board (TDSB) since January 2016. It has also been marked across the province of Ontario since March 2004 with the implementation of the [Tamil Heritage Month Act, 2014](#). Further, Tamil Heritage Month is also formally recognized nationally since January 2016 by the passing of a motion which reads:

That, in the opinion of the House, the government should recognize the contributions that Tamil-Canadians have made to Canadian society, the richness of the Tamil language and culture, and the importance of educating and reflecting upon Tamil heritage for future generations by declaring January, every year, Tamil Heritage Month.



This year, the theme for Tamil Heritage Month is from a quotation by an influential Tamil philosopher named Kaniyan Pungundranar: **Kinship**

யாதும் ஊரே யாவரும் கேளிர் //
Yaadhum Oore Yaavarum Kelir

To us, all towns are one, and all people are our kin. The theme of kinship and interconnectedness of all people is important to Tamil people. It emphasizes the idea that regardless of where we come from, we are all part of a larger family. This theme encourages us to celebrate diversity and foster unity within communities, highlighting that our differences enrich our shared human experience.

Toronto has the largest Tamil population outside of the South Asian subcontinent with thousands of TDSB students and staff members who identify as Tamil. To mark Tamil Heritage Month at the TDSB various educational opportunities will be offered to students to further learn about the history, customs, and traditions.

Please visit the Tamil Heritage Month webpage

(<https://tdsweb.tdsb.on.ca/equity/Heritage-History-Months/2024-2025>) for more information.

Health & Well-being

TDSB Mental Health and Well Being Virtual Session

Join the Virtual Office Hours -Pathway To Care For Mental Health with the TDSB Mental Health and Well Being Parent Committee for an engaging presentation titled "What Is Mental Health?" designed specifically for parents, guardians, and caregivers. This session will provide a comprehensive overview of mental health, helping participants better understand its importance, recognize signs of mental well-being, and learn practical strategies to support children and youth. The presentation will be co-facilitated by members of the TDSB Mental Health and Well-Being Parent Committee, alongside TDSB Professional Support Staff and TDSB Mental Health Leads. Together, they will share valuable insights, resources, and tools to empower families in fostering positive mental health and resilience. A flyer for this event is [attached](#) and click here for future [Virtual Office events](#).

Date: January 15th, 2025 | **Time:** 7:00pm - 8:00pm

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 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: [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.](#)

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 this service.
<https://onestoptalk.ca/aboutpage/>

Upcoming Dates & Events

Jan 13 – 14 Grade 9 EQAO Exam
Jan 15 Late Start Day; classes begin @ 9:55 am
Jan 22 – 28 Exams
Jan 29/31 Exam Review Day (special Schedule)
Jan 30 PA day – No school for students
Jan 31 Semester 2 starts/Sem 1 exam review (special schedule)

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