

Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 5 (Oct. 4, 2024)

Dear Vanier Family,

I hope you have enjoyed the summer-like weather this past week! The weather was perfect for all the amazing fun and activities taking place at Vanier, which included Truth & Reconciliation & Orange Shirt Day on Monday (see pic below), Colour War Day on Tuesday - where each grade came dressed in a specific colour, our Club Fair on Wednesday - where students got to see and sign up for the numerous clubs that are up and running this school year, Teacher Twin Day on Thursday – where students came dressed liked their favourite teacher, and a plethora of sporting events including soccer matches, cross-county meets, and basketball games scattered throughout the week.



Another big highlight from this past week was our parent council meeting on Tuesday night, with over thirty parents in attendance. It was so lovely to see everyone there, especially those parents/caregivers who are new to Vanier. Special thanks to those parents/guardians who have volunteered to serve on the 2024-2025 as executive member of our parent council (see list below).

At the end of each month, staff nominate students who have demonstrated exemplary character, school Spirit, and academic excellence. This past week Friday, we recognized the following students of the month for September: Shabir Hashemi (grade 9), Sohail Matin (grade 9), Johnny Kozman (grade 12), Robin Stephenson (Grade 11), Elham Hakimi (grade 10), Luqman Malim (grade 12), Susanna Yang (grade 9), and Cairo La Guardia-Cuda (grade 9).

Have a fantastic weekend, Vanier!

Karen Johnson

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

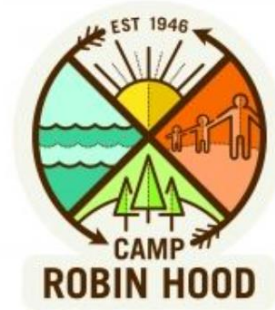
<https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/georgesvanier>

Daniel Muttiah

Susan Tsin

Grade 9 Day at Camp Robin Hood – NEXT TUESDAY, OCT. 8, 2024

Next Tuesday (Oct 8) will be our **Grade 9 Day!** On this day, all grade 9 students will be bussed to Camp Robin Hood for a day of team building and leadership development. This trip will be free of charge to students, so all grade 9s are expected to attend. Parents/Guardians, please be sure to complete the permission form as soon as possible.



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 Che
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 **Wednesday, November 6th, 2024, from 6:30 – 8:00.** All parents/caregivers are welcome and encouraged to attend. At this meeting we will share the amazing strides Vanier students have made on the Grade 9 EQAO Math and OSSLT exams over the past few years. You don't want to miss it.

Parents and Caregivers as Partners Conference...**SAVE THE DATE!!**

The 2024-2025 Virtual Parents and Caregivers as Partners Conference (PCasP) will take place on Saturday, November 16, 2024, from 10:00 am – 1:15 pm! This year's theme is: *"Journey to Joy, Wellness, and Wholeness."*

Participants will explore Equity and Truth and Reconciliation, how to break down barriers, and to build inclusive communities. They will also learn from experts and discover how every student, parent/guardian/caregiver can experience joy, wellness, and wholeness in education. Registration details will follow soon.

If you are interested in being a presenter at this conference, you may submit proposals for virtual workshops, micro-sessions, and panel presentations. To apply as a presenter, please complete the [application form](#) no later than, October 1, 2024.

Accident Insurance

The Toronto District School Board does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school premises or during school sponsored activities. We recently noticed an increase in student injuries, in particular, dental injuries which are costly and could extend over several years.

Parents/ guardians are responsible for deciding whether to purchase student accident insurance. The insurance program options range from \$17 to \$33 per year. Please click on the links below to learn more.

Letter: [TDSB Student Accident Insurance Letter](#)

Flyer: [Student Accident Plan Flyer](#)

Website: [Student Accident Plan](#)

If you require further information about the above including the policy or purchasing details, please visit www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com or call 1-833-560-0527 (toll-free) or 416-916-1588 (local).

Online Interpreter Training - Opportunity for Parents/Caregivers

The TDSB will be offering the opportunity to 85 TDSB parents/caregivers to receive online interpreter training in TDSB's most requested languages **on October 21, 2024, at 6:30 pm.**

Are you a parent/caregiver with a child registered in the TDSB who:

- has full proficiency in English and another language (i.e., Pashto, Farsi, Roma, Ukrainian);
- is interested in being trained as an interpreter to work with the TDSB;
- is comfortable with virtual/online learning.
- has access to a computer, and the internet and has, at minimum, intermediate computer fluency;
- has a recording device, headphones, and dictionaries (hard copy and/or online).

TDSB is the largest school board in Canada and one of the most diverse. 23% of our students were born outside of Canada and there are over 120 languages spoken by TDSB students and their parents/caregivers. Research also identifies communication between the home and the school as essential to student success. Ensuring equitable engagement opportunities for our multi-lingual parents/caregivers, while maximizing their language assets, will enable the TDSB to improve communication between parents/caregivers and the school/Board. If interested in working for the TDSB as an online interpreter, please click [here](#) to register for the training on October 21, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.



TDSB Online Interpreter Training Program

Chromebooks arriving Next Week for Grade 9 Students

By the end of next week, Chromebooks for families who signed up for TDSB's 1:1 Device Program, as of Sept 15th, 2024, will be shipped to our school. Only 40% of our families have completed the agreement form to receive a Chromebook. If you would like your child to receive a Chromebook, please complete the start-up forms (which include this agreement) that have been emailed to you so they can receive one in the second shipment. Alternatively, you may print and complete the [form](#) and have your child submit it to our Main Office ASAP.

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> **NEW!!**
2. **Student Activity:** Please note that a \$35.00 student activity fee (SAF) will be collected from each student within the first three weeks of the school year. This SAF fee pays for a Yearbook, Vanier Athletic Association, Student ID card, and Student Council activities. Parents/guardians/caregivers are encouraged to use School Cash Online to pay the student activity fee.

Please use this link, <https://tdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>, to register for Cash Online if you have not already done so.

If needed, financial assistance is available to offset the activity fee. You may contact the principal, karen.johnson@tdsb.on.ca to provide/obtain more information.

3. **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.
4. **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.



5. **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.



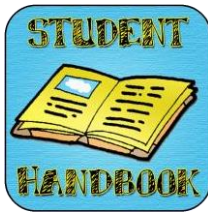
6. **TDSB Disconnecting from work Policy.** Please be aware that, as outlined in this policy, TDSB staff will not be available to make or respond to any work-related communications (emails, telephone, texts, etc.) between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. Monday to Thursday; after 6 p.m. on Friday; Saturday; Sunday; and on statutory holidays.
7. **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.
8. **TTC Tickets:** Students in Grades 9 to 12 may be eligible to receive TTC tickets. Please note transportation is **not provided for students attending our school under Optional Attendance**. Applications are accepted year-round. Information on Eligibility and the application form can be accessed from this site: **NEW!!**
<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Going-to-High-School/Transportation>
9. **Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS):** Settlement Workers deliver individual/family services or group programs that help new immigrants understand and successfully transition into life in Canada. We have settlement workers on site to support our Vanier community. They work out of room 201 on Mondays – Fridays and will be able to provide support in Fasi & Dari, Arabic, Mandarin & Cantonese, Hindi & Urdu, and Russian & Ukrainian. Please click [here](#) to learn about their services. **NEW!!**

Achievement

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](#)

Indigenous Education

Compulsory Grade 11 English Course (NBE): Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis and Inuit Voices

As of September 2024, Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Voices NBE3U/C/E will be the compulsory Grade 11 English course for TDSB students. This aligns with the Board's strategic direction and commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls To Action (TRC) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Contemporary First Nations, Métis and Inuit Voices, created by the Ministry of Education, has been taught in the TDSB with great success for many years and is supported by the Elders' Council, the Urban Indigenous Community Advisory Committee, the TDSB's Urban Indigenous Education Centre, and Indigenous writers, poets, and artists.

The NBE curriculum is organized into five strands shown below: (Four of which are the same as the current Grade 11 English course)

- A. First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Perspectives and Text Forms in Canada (**NEW**)
- B. Oral Communication
- C. Reading and Literature Studies
- D. Writing
- E. Media Studies

Equity

The TDSB's core commitment is to improve well-being and achievement for all our students through engaging, equitable learning environments, inclusive curriculum, and culturally rich learning opportunities, to ensure that all our students and staff gain knowledge and appreciation of the heritages, histories, and achievements of the Board's many diverse communities. While there are designated History/Heritage Months (H/HM) in the TDSB, our city, and at times our nation, learning about our students' cultures and history is not to be limited to one month but is intended to be embedded within every classroom, across every curriculum, and throughout the school year.

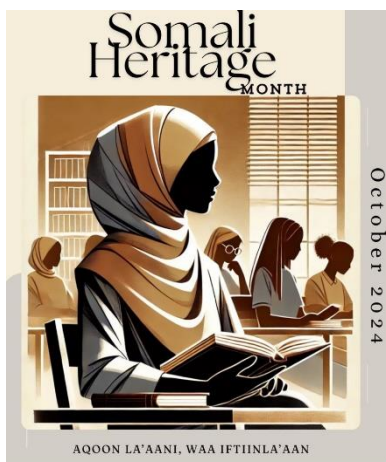
Islamic Heritage Month (IHM) is proudly recognized during the month of October at the Toronto District School Board. Islamic Heritage Month has been recognized across Canada in different ways since October 2007.

In November 2016, the Province of Ontario established October as Islamic History Month through the Islamic Heritage Month Act, and further stated that "proclaiming a month to be Islamic Heritage Month in Ontario will provide all Ontarians, both today and in future generations, with an opportunity to reflect, celebrate, and learn about the rich and longstanding Islamic history in the Province and the diverse roles and contributions of Muslim people in communities across Ontario. This new understanding will in turn help combat anti-Islamic sentiment."

(Link: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/16i20>)



The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) also proudly **recognizes October as Somali Heritage Month**. The TDSB has been marking Somali Heritage Month since June 2016. Somali Heritage is also marked across the province. In October 2020, the Government of Ontario proclaimed Somali Heritage Week Act, 2020 which took place on June 25 through July 1. Below is an excerpt from the government:



"By proclaiming the week of June 25 through July 1 as Somali Heritage Week, the Province of Ontario recognizes the economic, political, social and cultural achievements and contributions of Somali Canadians in all aspects of Ontario society. Like many refugees and immigrants who have made Ontario their home, Somali Canadians are proud to be part of diverse communities across the province. (Province of Ontario, 2020)

The theme of this year's TDSB's Somali Heritage Month is **Aqoon la'aani, waa iftiinla'aan** - *The absence of knowledge is the absence of light*. The saying highlights the fundamental value of knowledge and education.

THE ABSENCE OF KNOWLEDGE
IS THE ABSENCE OF LIGHT

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](#)

Mental Health Resources: The TDSB is committed to improving the mental health and well-being of student. Please click [here](#) to access mental health and well-being resources for students and guardians.

Back To School Resources:

Students: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Innovation/Welcome-Back-Students>

Parents: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Innovation/ForParents>

Toronto Community Crisis Services is now available, 24/7, to all Toronto neighbourhoods by calling 211

The Toronto Community Crisis Services (TCCS) provides a community-based, client-centred response to mental health crises and wellness checks, without police involvement. With a trauma-informed approach, the service prioritizes healing and recovery, considering everyone's unique life experiences. TCCS can support individuals and families facing urgent mental health or crisis situations who are 16 years and older.

By dialing 211, anyone in the city can access this free, confidential service 24 hour a day, 7 days a week. As the Service is now available across all neighbourhoods, delivered by mobile crisis teams, it provides individuals with access to timely assistance, regardless of location.

In addition to immediate support, TCCS also offers:

- Referrals and connections to additional services
- Information and resources
- Post-crisis follow-up care

For more information, please visit the [Toronto Community Crisis Services \(TCCS\) website](#). For any inquiries and questions, please email mentalhealthandwellbeing@tdsb.on.ca.



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

Oct. 5	World Teachers' Day
Oct. 8	All Grade 9s on Camp Robin Hood Trip
Oct. 10	Post Secondary Pathways Fair from 10:30 am -12 Noon
Oct. 10	World Mental Health Day
Oct. 11	PA Day - No school for students
Oct. 14	Thanksgiving Day - No school for students
Oct. 17	Ontario College Fair
Oct. 22	TDSB OYAB Presentation Day
Oct. 23	Late Start – PLC Day
Oct. 24	Virtual Post Secondary Application Session for Parents @ 6 pm

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