

**Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 8 (Oct. 25, 2024)**

Dear Vanier Family,

I hope you've enjoyed the summer-like conditions from this past week. The students in our PEEL (Practical Experiential Educational Learning) program certainly did! On Tuesday (Oct. 22), they participated in the TDSB's Cross-Country meet for students at Sunnybrook Park. Our students did amazingly well. Though tired, all of them completed their respective races. Special congratulations to Reisha Abdullah who finished 3rd in his race.



Huge thanks to our guidance counsellors for facilitating the post-secondary application sessions for our grade 11 & 12 students and their parents/caregivers on Thursday (Oct. 24). The information shared was invaluable, and we hope you walked away feeling more informed and supported. Parents and students who were not able to participate in this session may access it through this QR code.



**SCAN ME**

Also, on Thursday, we welcomed Filipino slam poet Patrick de Belen, who is facilitating a monthly creative writing group for interested Vanier students. We are so delighted for this new opportunity for our students.

I listed some of the clubs that were up and running last week during last week's newsletter. This week, I'm pleased to announce that this past Friday (Oct 25), we saw the launch of the Asian Student Union (ASU) club. The ASU's mission is to raise awareness of Asian culture in our school community by hosting a variety of unique workshops and school-wide events. We are so pleased to see the birth of this club and look forward to it helping to provide an inclusive and welcoming space for our Asian students.

While on the topic of clubs, I want to take this opportunity to highlight another of our clubs – our Vanier Vikings Robotics Club, which was formed last school year. The team racked up an impressive season last school year, including being crowned rookie team of the year at the First Robotics Competition, which won them a spot at the world competition in Houston, Texas! The team is at it again this year and looks forward to competing and winning even more competitions, but they need your financial support. Please consider being one of their sponsors. Please click [here](#) to learn more about the team and how you can become a sponsor.



Next week, The Prom Committee will be hosting a Halloween Carnival happening from Tuesday, Oct. 29, to Thursday, Oct. 31 during lunch in the cafeteria! Students will enjoy spooky games, win exciting prizes, and snap Halloween-themed photos with their friends at a photo booth for a small cost. We look forward to a fun time next week as we celebrate Halloween. As such, we want to take this opportunity to remind students that costumes viewed as offensive, inappropriate, or discriminatory to different cultures/peoples are not permitted. As well, please be aware of

the potential negative and triggering impact, violent images, props, costumes, or scenarios can have on students and families with varying lived experiences and backgrounds. As such, props resembling any weapons are also not permitted.

As you can see from the title of this newsletter, it's been 8 weeks since the new school year began. This means we are almost halfway through semester one, and mid-term grades will be generated in a few weeks. We want to ensure students are on track with their learning and achievement. To this end, we are encouraging all our parents/caregivers to connect with their child's teacher during our upcoming parent-teacher interviews, which takes place next **Monday, October 28, 2024**. The portal to book your teacher interviews opened this past Tuesday (Oct. 22) and will remain open until Sunday at midnight. The details for booking are shared further down in this newsletter. Spots are limited, so sign up soon. If you cannot make it that day or the interview spots are full, please don't hesitate to request an alternate meeting time with your child's teacher. And if you are having difficulties accessing the booking site, please contact our Main Office.

Have a great weekend, Vanier!

**Karen Johnson**

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

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

**Daniel Muttiah**

**Susan Tsin**

## Semester 1 – Parent-Teacher Interview Day

**DATE: Monday October 28, 2024**

- 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM *Virtual* Interview (Google Meet or MS Teams)
- 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Live In-Person Interviews (held at the school)

**Booking opens on Wednesday October 23, 2024 @ 8:30 AM**

## INSTRUCTIONS TO BOOK INTERVIEWS

### 1. ACCESS TO THE BOOKING WEBSITE

- Go to: [www.schoolinterviews.ca](http://www.schoolinterviews.ca) and enter the code **7zb3t**
- Or <https://schoolinterviews.ca/code/7zb3t>
- Or scan the QR Code on the right



## Take Our Kids to Work Day (TOKTWD) – Wednesday, November 6, 2024

**Take Our Kids to Work Day (TOKTWD)** will occur on **Wednesday, November 6, 2024**. Grade 9 students will have the opportunity to job shadow a parent/guardian, or another adult approved by their parents/guardians. On this day, students get the chance to see the world of work firsthand, explore a variety of careers and sectors, and look at what skills are important to thrive in the world of work. Parents/Guardians will need to inform the school that their child is absent due to their participation in TOKTWD. They may do so by submitting this [parent/guardian consent form](#) to the Main Office OR completing this [google form](#), by Tuesday, Nov 5, 2024.

## News from the Trustee's Office...Ward 13

Please click on the link below to access the October/November 2024 Newsletter from our school's trustee, Mr. James Li:

<https://t.e2ma.net/webview/8f0avi/933f217e700277ac808a8226e87c6832>

## 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) Stephanie Hennaoui (Co-Chair) Danielle Ferguson-Shivrattan (Secretary) Cordelia Ramses (Treasurer) Mohammad Rashed Ahmazai Fely Beck	Ivy Che Helen Huang Amit Koul Sachida Tiwari Susanna Scocchia (Teacher Rep) Neha Devineni (Student Rep)
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Our next parent council meeting will be on **Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 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.

## 2024-2025 Student Activity Fees - Now due!!!

Since the start of the school year, our student activity fee (SAF) has been a standard item in our newsletter. Many families have yet to pay their 2024-2025 school year fees. All students must pay their activity fees. The student activity fee is \$35.00/student. This fee not only covers the student's yearbook and student ID card but also plays a crucial role in supporting Vanier Athletics and Student Council activities. For instance, it helps with transportation (purchase of TTC presto cards to transport our team members to and from their sports events), purchasing team uniforms, and supporting school-wide mental health and well-being initiatives such as our Fun Fair and carnival.

Families are encouraged to pay their fees by November 1, 2024, through cash online. Please use this link, <https://tdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>, to register for Cash Online if you have not already done so. Your prompt action is greatly appreciated.

Please know that \$35 is extremely generous and only minimally covers all the items mentioned above. We understand that everyone's financial situation is different, so if you need some support to offset the activity fee, please don't hesitate to contact the principal, [karen.johnson@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:karen.johnson@tdsb.on.ca).

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## 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.

## **Upcoming Parent/Caregiver/Guardian Special Education and Inclusion Learning Sessions - Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)**

The following are the dates for the upcoming parent/caregiver/guardian Special Education and Inclusion Learning Session.

Date: <b>November 27 Day (AM)</b> Time: 10:00am - 11:30am	Date: <b>November 28 Evening (PM)</b> Time: 6:30pm - 8:00pm
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Please click on the following [flyer](#) to learn more about these sessions.

### **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 link below to learn more. Website: [Student Accident Plan](#)

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

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### **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. 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.



5. **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.

#### 6. 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.

## Achievement

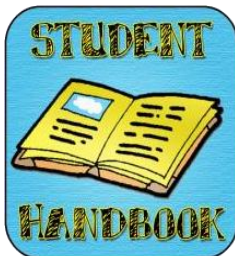
**R.E.A.C.H Days:** On Monday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, there will be a special schedule for students to make up any missed assignments/class work and get extra assistance from their teachers to improve their marks. More information will be provided soon. **NEW!!!**

**O.S.S.L.T.:** Grade 11 and 12 students who still need to fulfill their literacy requirement will be writing the fall OSSLT from Monday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>. The OSSLT is an online test and must be written in person on one of the dates mentioned above. Students will be writing all morning during both periods 1 and 2. Some students may need to use double-time and continue to write through lunch into period 3. Grade 10s will write their OSSLT during the Spring of 2025. **NEW!!!**

**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	<b>Mon &amp; Wed</b> 3:30 – 4:30 pm	Room 211
	Mr. Hussain	<b>Tues &amp; Thursday</b> 3:30 – 4:30 pm	Room 203
Numeracy Support	Ms. Li	<b>Mon &amp; Wed</b> 3:30 – 4:30 pm	Room 316

## 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.

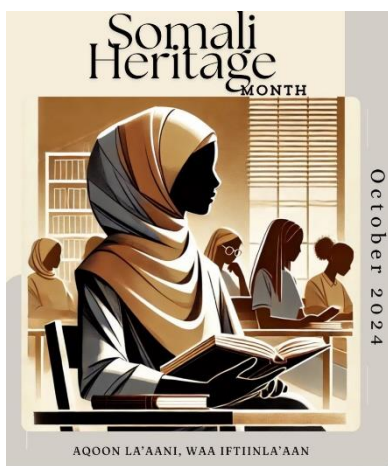
**Islamic Heritage Month (IHM)** is proudly recognized during the month of October at the Toronto District School Board. Islamic Heritage Month has been recognized across Canada in different ways since October 2007.

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](#)

### Inspiring Minds @ Vanier ....NEW!!!

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 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.

## 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](mailto:mentalhealthandwellbeing@tdsb.on.ca).





**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](mailto: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](http://www.kidshelpphone.ca) Phone: 1-800-668-6868 Text: 686868

**Black Youth Help Line** – available 9 AM – 10 PM [www.blackyouth.ca](http://www.blackyouth.ca) 416-285-9944

**LGBT Youth Line** – Sunday – Friday 4 PM – 9:30 PM – PEER SUPPORT\*

Live chat: [www.youthline.ca](http://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](http://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

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## Upcoming Dates & Events

Oct. 22	TDSB OYAB Presentation Day
Oct. 23	Late Start – PLC Day
Oct. 24	Virtual Post Secondary Application Session for Parents @ 6 pm
Oct. 28	Parent/Caregiver-Teacher Meeting
Oct. 30	Late Start – Staff Meeting Day
Oct. 31	Halloween Carnival

## 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

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### 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

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### 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](mailto: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](mailto:jennifer.hayward@tdsb.on.ca)

Margarita Leventis

Supporting Students with Surnames G - M

[margarite.leventis@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:margarite.leventis@tdsb.on.ca)

Loraine Chichester

Supporting Students with Surnames A - F

[loraine.chichester@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:loraine.chichester@tdsb.on.ca)

#### Special Education:

Steven Maurer (Assistant Curriculum Leader)

[steven.maurer@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:steven.maurer@tdsb.on.ca)

#### Student Success:

Paula Burgess (Assistant Curriculum Leader)

[paula.burgess@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:paula.burgess@tdsb.on.ca)

**Superintendent:** Kurt McIntosh (LC2|FOS13)

416-395-8808 • [Kurt.McIntosh@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Kurt.McIntosh@tdsb.on.ca)

**Trustee:** James Li • Ward 13

416-395-8787 • [James.Li@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:James.Li@tdsb.on.ca)