

Vanier Community Newsletter – Week 9 (November 1, 2024)

Dear Vanier Family,

Whew...today, we wrapped up another hectic but fun week at Vanier! We began our week on Monday with our semester 1 parent-teacher interviews. It was so lovely to see so many parents out on that night. Please continue to encourage and support your child to do their absolute best. If they have fallen behind in their school work, please encourage them to attend our REACH sessions next Monday and Tuesday (more info about REACH is further in this newsletter). Also, please do not hesitate to contact us or your child's teachers with any concerns.

This past week was a blast with our Halloween activities. Our Prom committee hosted a lively Halloween photobooth in the Cafetorium during each lunch hour, and many of our clubs ran exciting "spooky" games. On Thursday, our student council brought the "scare" with their haunted house tour (a decorated backstage). Students in our PEEL program also had a great time. They and their peers from Lester B Pearson Academy and George S Henry CI were treated to a fantastic Halloween party in our gymnasium. Huge thanks to our PEEL staff for all their hard work putting on this party, not only for our special students but for those from our neighbouring schools. (Below are a few pics from Vanier's Halloween activities).

Another major highlight from this week was the outstanding performance of our Girls' Ultimate Frisbee Team. For the 5th consecutive year, they were crowned Regional Champions on Thursday. Since the inception of the Girls Ultimate League in 2018, Vanier has consistently brought home the championship. This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the team and their coaches, Mr. Milligan and Ms. Lam. We are incredibly proud of their achievements, and we know you are too!



Next week promises to be another full week. On Tuesday (Nov 5), we will be hosting our Grade 8 Information Night so grade 8 parents and their families can learn about the diverse programs that our school offers. Next Wednesday (Nov 6) will be **Take Our Kids to Work Day (TOKTWD)**. This day provides grade 9 students with 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.

Also happening next Wednesday will be our parent council meeting. As part of the agenda, I will share Vanier students' impressive strides on the Grade 9 EQAO Math and OSSLT exams over the past few years. You don't want to miss it.

Next Thursday (Nov 7) will be our photo RETAKE day. This is an opportunity for students who have not yet taken their school photo to do so. Students will be called down to room 120 based on their grades for photo retakes.

Last but not least, I want to take this opportunity to extend my warmest wishes to all those celebrating Diwali. May this season bring you love, laughter, and joy.



Have a great weekend, Vanier! Don't forget to turn back your clocks by **1-hour on Sunday, November 3, 2024.**

Karen Johnson

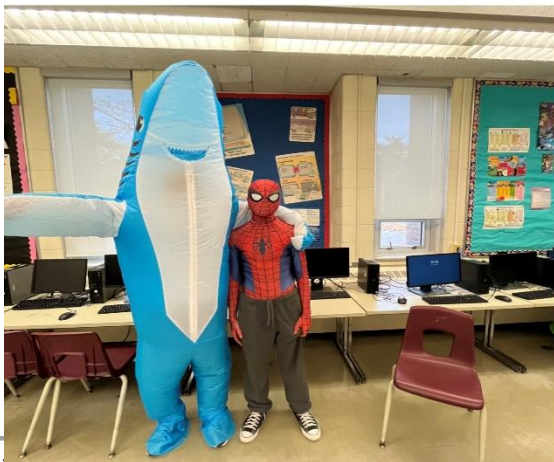
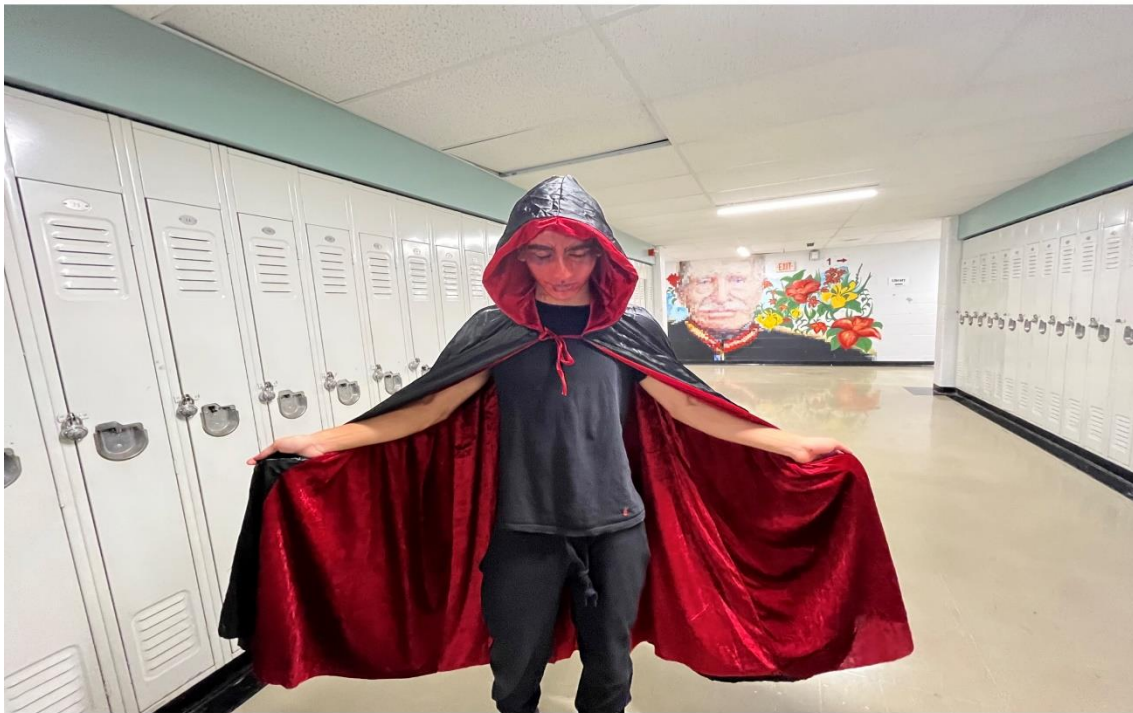
Principal, Georges Vanier SS
416-395-3250, Ext 20010

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

Daniel Muttiah

Susan Tsin

Halloween @ Vanier



Principal: K. Johnson

Vice Principals: D. Muttiah & S. I sin

"Scholarship, Spirit and Social Responsibility - We believe It! We Live It!"



Principal: K. Johnson

Vice Principals: D. Muttiah & S. Tsin

“Scholarship, Spirit and Social Responsibility - We believe It! We Live It!”

News from the Trustee's Office, Ward 13...NEW INFO!!!

TDSB Trustee James Li will be holding the first in-person Ward Forum for the 2024-2025 school year. Please see details below:

Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Time: 6:30pm -8:30pm

Topic: Ward 13 Ward Forum - Meet the Superintendents of Education and Introduction to New School Year

Location: Georges Vanier Secondary School, 3000 Don Mills Rd, North York, ON, M2J 3B6

Please [click](#) here for a flyer about his upcoming event.

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.

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.

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: November 27 Day (AM) Time: 10:00am - 11:30am	Date: November 28 Evening (PM) 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 or call 1-833-560-0527 (toll-free) or 416-916-1588 (local).

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/qvssac/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: Our Remedial, Enrichment, And Change Help (R.E.A.C.H) days will be held on Monday, Nov. 4th and Tuesday, Nov. 5th. A special schedule for these two days is shared below. All students will come to classes on those days, but the last block of the day (2:00 -3:15) will be for those students who need to make up any missed assignments/class work and get extra assistance from their teachers to improve their marks, before mid-term report cards are generated.

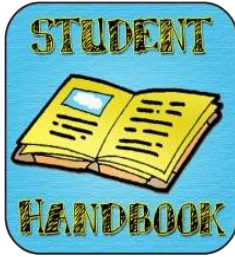
Period 1:	9:00 – 10:00
Period 2:	10:00 – 11:00
Lunch:	11:00 – 12:00
Period 3:	12:00 - 1:00
Period 4:	1:00 – 2:00
REACH:	2:00 – 3:15

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. 18th to Wednesday, Nov. 20th**. 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	Mon & Wed 3:30 – 4:30 pm	Room 211
	Mr. Hussain	Tues & Thursday 3:30 – 4:30 pm	Room 203
Numeracy Support	Ms. Li	Mon & Wed 3:30 – 4:30 pm	Room 316

Indigenous Education

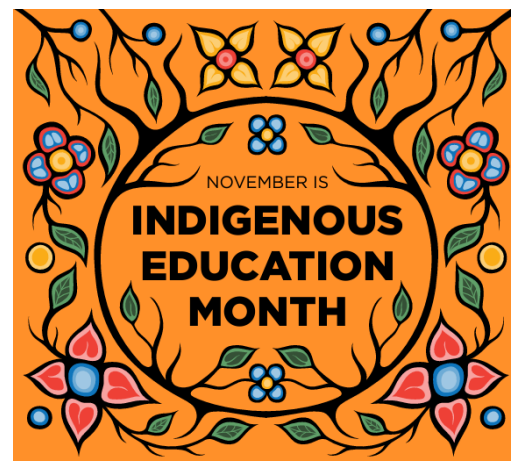
November is Indigenous Education Month at the Toronto District School Board. Throughout the month, students, staff, and community members honour a number of important days to deepen knowledge, to learn from our shared histories, and to strengthen relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples.

It is important that we remember to centre First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives, voices, histories, and contemporary realities across the TDSB every day. This month places emphasis on creating opportunities to learn from Indigenous perspectives on treaties, leadership, achievements, resurgence, futurities, and creativity.

The TDSB is committed to the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action (TRC) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Below is a list of significant dates throughout the month of November:

- **November 3-9** is Treaties Recognition Week
- **November 7** is International Inuit Day
- **November 8** is National Indigenous Veterans Day
- **November 16** is Louis Riel Day in Ontario



Equity

Hindu Heritage Month

The TDSB is proud to recognize Hindu Heritage Month during the month of November. This heritage has been celebrated by our students, staff, and the community since April 2018 because of a motion passed by the Board of Trustees.

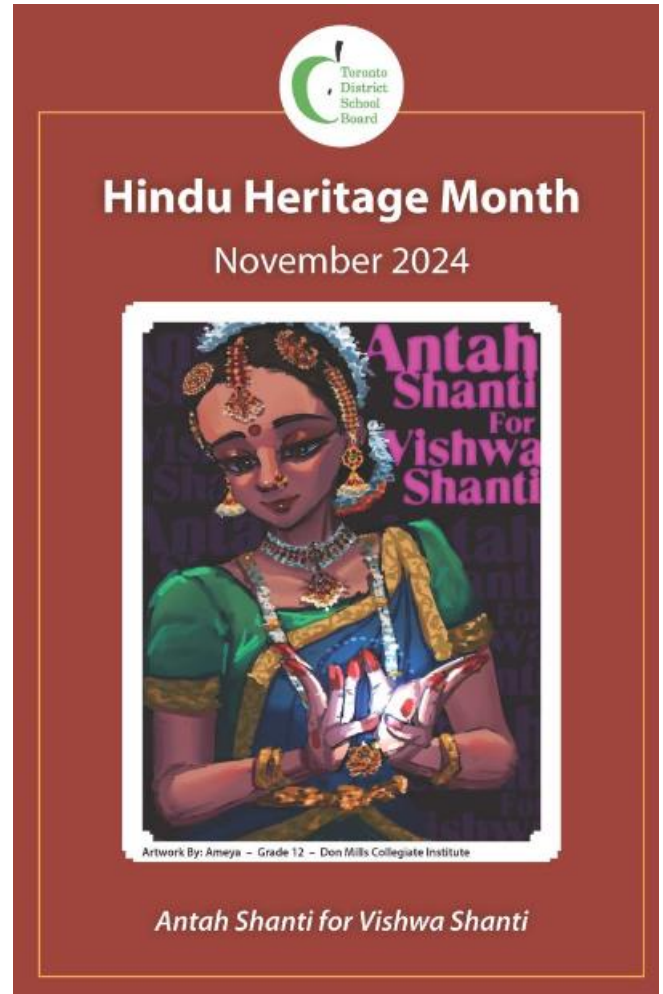
Further, Hindu Heritage Month is also recognized in the Province of Ontario since 2016 with the declaration of Hindu Heritage Month Act, 2016. This act states, Ontario is home to a large and vibrant Hindu community. Since the first Hindu immigrants arrived in Canada at the beginning of the 20th century, Hindu Canadians from across Ontario have made significant contributions across all fields: science, education, medicine, law, politics, business, culture, and sports. Hindu Canadians have helped build Ontario into the multicultural success story that it is and have helped to build this province into the best place to live, work and raise families. They continue to help foster growth, prosperity, and innovation throughout Ontario.

Hinduism is one of the oldest living religions which have flourished for over 10,000 years. It is an occasion to recognize and celebrate the rich tapestry of traditions, teachings and values that are integral to Hinduism and practiced by millions around the world today. November is an opportunity to celebrate the Hindu way of life, examine its impact and contributions to the world culture, and recognize values which promote compassion, tolerance, and inclusion.

This year's theme is ***Antah Shanti for Vishwa Shanti***. This Sanskrit phrase conveys that to foster World (Vishwa) Peace (Shanti) we need to have inner (Antah) Peace (Shanti).

Hindu dharma recognizes three levels of peace. The first level is inner peace - that in the mind of a person. The second level is peace in our immediate environment: in our family, neighbourhood, school, and community. The third level is peace in the world, between nations. That is why, at the end of prayers, Hindus chant OM Shanti, Shanti, Shanti. Inner peace is the foundation to build peace in our immediate environment. A peaceful state of mind is essential for the courage, confidence and compassion required to act for the greater good of humanity. When we feel peace within us, the journey towards Vishwa Shanti or World Peace has begun.

During the month of November several Hindu Heritage Month educational opportunities are being organized for all TDSB students to further learn about Hindu traditions. These offerings include students having an opportunity to engage in an author reading and various workshops. Students from the TDSB will have the opportunity to learn Chess. This board game originated in India in the early 1700 and continues to challenge participants' strategic skills.



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 @ VanierNEW!!!

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.





**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

Nov. 4 & 5	REACH Days
Nov 6	Take our Kids to Work Day & Parent Council Meeting (6:30 – 8:00 pm)
Nov. 7	Photo Retake Day
Nov 11	Remembrance Day (special schedule)
Nov. 12	Report Card Day (Electronic Distribution)
Nov. 15	PA Day – No school for students
Nov. 18 – 21	OSSLT Days (regular school day schedule)
Nov. 20	Late Start – Professional Learning Day
Nov. 25 – 28	Grad Photos
Nov. 27	Late Start – Staff Meeting Day
Nov. 29	PA Day – No school for students

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