



Message from the Admin

Dear Virtual Secondary School Students and Parents/ Guardians /Caregivers,

It is hard to believe that we have almost completed the first month of school. We had our first Pause and Pace today and we hope this day provided our students with the opportunity to get caught up on missed work. More information about this day can be found below.

On Monday, September 30th, VSS will honour the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation by providing students with opportunities for some meaningful discussion around the importance of this day. We encourage our staff and students to wear something orange to show their support!

Please note that Wednesday, October 2nd is a late start day. Classes will begin at 9:55 a.m.

If you have missed or would like to review our past *Weekly Updates*, please visit our [school website](#).

Wishing you a great weekend!

Sincerely,

Praveena Sivarajah
Principal
Praveena.Sivarajah@tdsb.on.ca

Zorica Prekajski
Vice Principal (A - L)
Zorica.Prekajski@tdsb.on.ca

Marlena Rivett
Vice Principal (M - Z)
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Upcoming Events:	
Monday, September 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day
Wednesday, October 2	Late Start (Professional Activities)
Week of October 7th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CALL HOME WEEK
Thursday, October 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commencement for 2023-2024 Grads
Friday, October 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P.A. Day - No Classes
Monday, October 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanksgiving - School Closed

Pause and Pace Day

VSS had its first Pause and Pace Day today – one of our early intervention initiatives to support student success. Students were provided with the opportunity, in each class, to consolidate their thinking and/or catch up on missed term work.

Please [click here](#) to carefully review our updated Term Deadlines and Credit Rescue plan.



Reminder of Important Dates

- Our **Semester 1, Call Home week** is the week of October 7th. Teachers will be contacting parents/guardians regarding student progress in their classes.
- The **Ultimate Deadline** for Semester 1, Term 1 work is Friday, November 8th. Any missed work from Term 1 will not be accepted after this date.

September 30th - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day

We encourage our staff and students to wear an orange t-shirt, sweater, hoodie, hat, or scarf to show their support during classes on Monday!

VSS will be honouring the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation with meaningful activities for our students during each period of the day. Please see below for more information.



Period 1 – Orange Shirt Day

Period 2 – Interactive Map Activity on Residential Schools

Period 3 – TRC + Impacts and Legacies of Residential Schools

Period 4 – Indigenous Voices, Joy through the Arts

Please be sure to connect with your student to talk about the important discussions they engaged in on this day.

VSS School Council

We had a very productive School Council meeting this week! Please email Ms. Sivarajah if you would like to join our next meeting on November 6th. We would happily welcome new members. Below are some highlights from our meeting this week.

VSS School Council Members

Chair - M. Salvatore

Parent Representative - R. Chen

Parent Representative - N. Craig

Parent Representative - A. Crocker

Parent Representative - J. Kyle

Staff Representative - A. Piercey

Priorities Identified

- Provide students with opportunities to engage in fun, social, community building activities
- Explore Peer Tutoring Initiatives
- Create opportunities to build students' advocacy skills
- Provide all students in all grades with information about post-secondary opportunities

School Council Meeting Dates

November 6 @ 6:30p.m.

January 8 @ 6:30p.m.

March 5 @ 6:30p.m.

May 7 @ 6:30p.m.

June 11 @ 6:30p.m.



Parent Drop-In

Our VSS Social Worker, Doraine Mitchell, will be hosting Parent Drop-In Sessions on the following dates:

- Wednesday, October 2nd - 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, October 16 - 1:00 - 2:00p.m.

This is an opportunity for your to meet Dorraine and learn about the supports she can provide to parents and students.

Please [click here](#) for more information.

The Scholarship Report

VSS subscribes to a newsletter called The Scholarship Report that we post on the VSS Student BrightSpace landing page. This resource provides helpful information as your student prepares for postsecondary education. The Scholarship Report posts information on postsecondary events and opportunities, application tips, advice from experts, campus Open House Schedules, career resources, and lists of curated scholarship and bursaries, and other ways to pay for school. Don't miss out on this relevant information!

Accessing The Scholarship Report:

1. To access The Scholarship Report, click [here](#)
2. The password you will need for access: **scholar678**
3. Keep track of new postings using the Posting Schedule [HERE](#).
4. Keep track of scholarship applications using the Scholarship Tracker [HERE](#).

A Message from the VSS Guidance Department - Post Secondary Events

Hello VSS Families,

We wanted to highlight the follow post-secondary events, please click on the hyperlinks for more information:

College

ONTARIO COLLEGE FAIR When: October 16, 5-9 p.m. and October 17, 9-2 p.m. See Information Sessions [HERE](#). Where: Enercare Centre Hall B, Exhibition Place, 100 Princes' Blvd #1, Toronto

University

ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES' FAIR (OUF) Learn about programs, campus life, and anything else that may help you decide which Ontario university to choose.

When: October 5-6, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. daily

Where: Metro Toronto Convention Centre (MTCC), South Building, 255 Front St. W.



ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES' INFORMATION SESSIONS Virtual university presentations and Q&A sessions.

- November 21, 5-7 p.m.

Click on the OUAC Events Website to register: <https://www.ouevents.ca/virtual/>

ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES' REGIONAL FAIRS

Can't make the OUF? The Regional Fairs travel across the province. Regions:

- Northwestern Ontario: September 16-19
- Northeastern Ontario: September 16-19
- Ottawa and Eastern Regions: September 23-26
- Southwestern Ontario: October 7-10
- Central Eastern Ontario: October 15-17

Confirm locations and dates before you go.

Study and Go Abroad Fair

TORONTO

When: • Fair: October 20, 1-5 p.m. Exhibitors [here](#).

- Seminars: 12-5 p.m.

Register [here](#).

Where: Metro Toronto Convention Centre, North Building, Constitution Halls 105/106, 255 Front Street West

*Scholarships are offered by Exhibitors at the Fall 2024 Fairs. Click [here](#) for more information.

Studying in the U.S.?

[CollegeBoard](#) is a good place to start!

Aboriginal Post-Secondary Information Program (APSIP) In-Person Tours

APSIP will be touring across Ontario from September through December 2024 offering students the opportunity to connect with Indigenous recruiters and explore opportunities. Tour dates [here](#).

If you have questions, please contact your Guidance Counselor by emailing vssguidance@tdsb.on.ca or attending the [guidance drop-in](#) at lunch.

Warm regards,
VSS Guidance Department