



Message from the Admin

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

If you are the parent/ guardian of a student who is currently taking Grade 9 math, please be sure to join our Grade 9 Math - EQAO session on Thursday, November 28th at 6:00p.m. Details are listed below.

Also on Thursday is our third Pause and Pace day of the semester. Students will be provided with the opportunity to consolidate their thinking and work on incomplete term activities. This initiative is a part of this year’s Credit Rescue Plan to support students in their success this semester. Please [click here](#) to carefully review our full plan.

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)

Marlena.Rivett@tdsb.on.ca

Reporting Student Absences:

Student absences must be reported to the school, not individual teachers.

To report a student absence, please 416 393 8240 or email TDSBVirtualSecSchool@tdsb.on.ca.

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, November 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stress Management - Gr 9/10 Student Workshops (Lunch)
Wednesday, November 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Late Start - Staff Meeting
Thursday, November 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pause and Pace Day Stress Management - Gr 11/12 Student Workshops (Lunch) Grade 9 Math, EQAO Info Session - 6:00p.m.
Friday, November 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PA Day - No classes

Celebrating Our Amazing Students! [VSS Awards Committee]

At Virtual Secondary School, we love recognizing the amazing things our students do every week! Every Friday, we choose Students of the Week based on their academic achievements, positive attitude, kindness, involvement in activities, hard work, or any other standout qualities. We share their names during our morning announcements, and now we’re excited to include them in our weekly updates so families and the whole VSS community can celebrate with us. Keep an eye out each week to see the incredible things our students are up to! We have already recognized more than 25 students through our morning announcements since the start



of school. Starting this week, we will share 5 names each week until we get caught up with the names being shared every Friday. This week's names are listed below.

Students of the Week		
Name	Teacher Nominator	Description
Iman S.	Ms. Agha	Iman comes to class prepared and ready to learn with a positive attitude! Her support and encouragement towards her peers adds warmth to our class' learning community. Today, she is recognised for her persistent efforts to connect, engage, and learn with her peers!
David S.	Ms. Agha	David pushes the boundaries of what we learn in Math class! For a project in Advanced Functions he learned that Desmos has a way to insert an image to travel along the shape of a graph but also STEER along the shape of the graph (an impressive feat that stretches beyond the scope of the curriculum as it involves Calculus)! David, you are recognised for taking a deep interest in your learning!
Arielle M.	Ms. Gao	When we take breaks during our math class, we play background music requested by students. Last month, Arielle (pronounced air-e-yell) volunteered to sing for the class during the break. She performed a song from The Little Mermaid and also a song she wrote herself! The class applauded and cheered after the surprise, in-class concert. Arielle demonstrates that frequent, positive participation in class strengthens our school community!
Zion M.	Ms. Rivett	Zion is making great strides in adapting in his first few weeks at VSS. This is a big change and we can't wait to see what he does with this opportunity!
Messiahana N.	Ms. Ferguson	Messiahana consistently contributes to the drama classroom and has a wonderful work ethic. She not only works hard for herself but has demonstrated wonderful leadership skills and works not only for her own success but also for the success of her peers. This demonstrates not only her leadership but also her kindness. Messi is also a talented and dynamic performer and I feel very lucky to have her in my class!

Grade 9 Math - EQAO Info Session

Parents/ Guardians of students who are enrolled in Grade 9 math this semester are welcome to join our EQAO Info Night. This session will provide you with an overview of the Grade 9 EQAO assessment as well as an opportunity for you to ask questions.

Date: Thursday, November 28, 2024

Time: 6:00 pm

Where: Online ([Join the meeting now](#))

Club Hub

Looking to join a club? Looking for opportunities for homework or tutoring support? Just a reminder that our VSS Club Hub is a one-stop-shop for all this information. [Click here](#) to learn more!

The Club Hub @ VSS 4.0



Stress Management - Student Workshops

Dorraine (Social Worker) and Bola (CYW) have created stress management workshops, specifically for our VSS students. These workshops will be presented during lunch on the dates listed below.

November 26th (Gr 9 and 10)

November 28th (Gr 11 and 12).

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

VSS Social Event - Sharing our love of Books/ Movies/ TV Programs

Our VSS School Council and our VSS Wellness Committee are partnering together to create an exciting series of social events with the goal of building an even stronger VSS community.

How? By providing both parents and students the opportunity to build connections through sharing their enthusiasm for books/ movies/ TV programs.

How can you participate?

Step 1: Complete [this Google Form](#) by Monday, December 2nd.

Step 2: Attend our first event on Wednesday, December 18th. Details to follow!

Professional Activity Day (Friday, November 29th)

During the school year, TDSB school staff participate in a number of Professional Activity (PA) Days. On these dates, students remain at home and schools are open for staff to engage in professional learning.

Please [click here](#) for more information about the November 29, 2024, PA Day.

Canadian Disability Hall of Fame

VSS teacher, Captain Bruce Forsyth/Dr. Forsyth was honoured to attend a charity gala luncheon for the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame with members of the CAF Primary Reserve Force. This event featured several inductions of athletes with physical disabilities into the Hall of Fame. Dr. Forsyth was inspired by this organization that makes incredible contributions towards improving the lives of Canadians with disabilities. [Click here](#) to see the article about this event by the Toronto Star.



By **George Pimentel** Special to the Star

At a ceremony on Oct. 16, the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame welcomed three new inductees: Penny Bennett, Tim Rose and Francis Roussel. The event, presented by CIBC, included a tribute by Ben Mulroney to his late father, Brian Mulroney, who was inducted in 2018 for helping to improve the lives of people with disabilities. It was hosted by award-winning CBC Sports broadcaster Rob Snoek.



John Im, Ruben Garcia, Dean Henley, Bruce Forsyth, Weisheng Si and Hari Panday.

George Pimentel



Registration for Semester 2 e-Learning Day School Courses is OPEN

Registration for Semester 2 e-Learning Day School courses began on Tuesday, November 12, 2024. A list of courses being offered can be found [here](#).

Students should connect with our guidance team (VSSGuidance@tdsb.on.ca) registering for an e-Learning course on the e-Reg system in order for counsellors to approve the student's request.

1. Late registration will continue until Thursday, February 13, 2025 with final Guidance approvals completed no later than Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.
2. Please see [information flyer](#) and [poster](#) for more details.

Tamil Heritage Month: Poster Challenge

The month of January is recognized by the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) as Tamil Heritage Month (THM). This year's theme for Tamil Heritage Month in the TDSB is:

Kinship:

யாதும் ஊரே யாவரும் கேரீளி // Yaadhum Oore Yaavarum Kelir

To us, all towns are one, and all people are our kin

This is a quotation by an influential Tamil philosopher named Kaniyan Pungundranar who lived around the 6th century B.C.E.

The quotation represents a theme that is very important to Tamil people and Tamil culture - the theme of kinship and interconnectedness of all 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.

We invite all interested TDSB students to take part in this year's Tamil Heritage Month poster challenge. The challenge is an opportunity to create one of three posters that will be shared with TDSB schools and the public to represent this year's theme. Please use the above description and reflective prompts to guide you in creating an original design that will be considered to represent Tamil Heritage Month 2025.

Deadline: All entries must be received by NOON (12:00 p.m.) on Friday, November 29th, 2024, and sent to the Tamil Heritage Month Planning Committee at tdsbTamilHeritageMonth@gmail.com. Late submissions will not be considered.

[Click here](#) for more information.

TDSB Black Student Post-Secondary Engagement Symposium

The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement invites Black students, educators and their families to the [TDSB Black Student Post-Secondary Engagement Symposium](#).

The TDSB Black Student Post-Secondary Engagement Symposium is an opportunity for Post Secondary institutions to connect with Black TDSB students and families. Institutional representatives will share culturally relevant programs, resources, opportunities, and services that positively affirm Black students' sense of belonging in post-secondary spaces.



Date: November 27, 2024

Time: 7 – 9 p.m.

Location: John Polanyi Collegiate Institute

Register [here](#) or at bit.ly/TDSB_ENGAGE2024

For more information contact, jeffrey.caton@tdsb.on.ca, Centrally Assigned Principal, or rukiya.mohamed@tdsb.on.ca, Program Co-ordinator, Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement

Chinese Heritage Month at the TDSB: Chinese Poster Challenge

The TDSB proudly recognizes Chinese Heritage Month in February each year. During this month, several learning resources and educational opportunities will be provided to our students and staff to further enhance their knowledge of Chinese heritage.

The Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is one of the most significant holidays of the Chinese heritage. The date is determined by the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar and the celebration lasts 16 days. This year, the first day begins on Wednesday, January 29, 2025. Currently we are inviting all students from Kindergarten to grade 12 to participate in a Poster Challenge to celebrate the Lunar New Year.

This year we celebrate the Year of the Snake: Tenacious and Transformative.

We hope to encourage our students, staff and the TDSB community to make impactful changes amidst challenges.

Please see the [attached](#) for full details of the Poster Challenge.

Deadline: Friday, January 10, 2025, by 11:59 pm.

Special Education and Inclusion Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Sessions

Special Education and Inclusion is pleased to offer a variety of drop-in and topic-specific sessions for parents, guardians, and caregivers throughout the 2024-2025 school year. These sessions provide valuable information, resources, and support to help families navigate special education programs and services.

Please share the links below with families through your regular school communication (email blast, blog, newsletter, etc.).

[Drop-In Sessions-Families](#)

[Parent Engagement Sessions-Families](#)