



General Vanier Public School

1025 Harkness Avenue, Ottawa Ontario, K1V 6N9 Phone: (613) 731-3631 Fax: (613) 521-5597

Principal: Jeremy Nowiski
Superintendent: Nadia Towajj

Office Administrator: Peggy Manion
Trustee: Shirley Seward

A great place to learn.



OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

This newsletter contains important information. If you don't understand it, please have it interpreted. Thank you.

Cette lettre contient des informations importantes. Si vous ne la comprenez pas, faites la traduire, s'il vous plait. Merci.

Warsidehan aad ayuu muhlim u yahay, hadii aad fahmi waydo turjubaan la raadso. Aad ayaad u Mahadsantahay.

مجلة المدرسة الشهرية تحوي على معلومات مهمة جدا تخص مسيرة تعليم اولادكم . يمكنكم الاتصال بالمدرسة لغرض مساعدتكم في ترجمتها لكم ولكم منا جزيل الشكر و الاحترام.

Check out our website at <https://generalvanierps.ocdsb.ca/Pages/home.aspx>

September 2017



@generalvanier1

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Monday, September 18
Sunday, September 24
Thursday, September 28
Thursday, September 29

School Council Elections and Meeting- 6:30 PM in the Library
OSTA Bus Safety Presentations for students new to busing (see below)
Meet the Staff- 6:30-7:30 PM
Terry Fox Run- 1:00 PM

Tuesday, October 24

Photo Day – bring your smiles!

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2017-18 school year! The staff and I hope that you and your family enjoyed the summer holidays and that you have been enjoying the beautiful fall weather we have been experiencing!

I am very excited to be returning as the principal at General Vanier, because it is such an amazing environment for social, emotional and academic growth. I would like to thank our educators who worked very hard over the summer and especially during the last few weeks before school started, getting their classrooms ready for the first day of school. I would also like to thank Mr. Brady, our Chief Custodian, for making our school sparkling clean, as well as our office staff, Miss Manion and Miss Amal, for getting everything ready for our opening.

Our staff is here to provide support to all families. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher. As well, my door is always open. Please do not hesitate to stop by and say hello when you are in the school. You can also give me a call or send me an email. I can be reached at 613-731-3631, or at jeremy.nowiski@ocdsb.ca I look forward to working with you to make this the best year yet for your child!

Sincerely,
Jeremy Nowiski

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

Kindergarten Educators	Laurie Burns, Emma Edgar, Christina Malloy, Courtney McNally, Rabia Mustafa and Jessica Timpson
Grade 1	Linda Eastwood
Grades 1/2	Samantha Haines
Grades 2	Amy Pereira
Grade 3	Sylvia Ingruber
Grade 3	Carly Davey
Core French	Victoria Porter
ESL	Marcia Stephens, Erica Tratch and Sonya Monaghan
Music and Drama Teacher	Marcia Stephens
Learning Support Teacher	Marion Manzo
Learning Resource Teachers	Erica Tratch, Marcia Stephens and Sonya Monaghan
Education Assistant	Kim Dagenais and Wrenna Prest
Library Technician	Elizabeth Gabriel
Extended Day Program	Emma Edgar and Courtney McNally (7:00-9:00am) Christina Malloy and Rabia Mustafa (3:45-6:00pm)
Lunch Monitor	Imad Al Saadi and Faten Fawaz
Breakfast Monitor	Christina Malloy
Principal	Jeremy Nowiski
Office Administrator	Peggy Manion
Office Assistant	Amal Gtannesh
Chief Custodian	Dan Brady
Evening Custodian	Ismanhan (Izzy) Omar
Superintendent	Nadia Towaij
School Trustee	Shirley Seward

GENERAL VANIER SCHOOL – BELL TIMES

9:00 a.m.	Supervision begins on yard
9:15 a.m.	Start of School
11:15-11:45	First Recess
11:45-12:05	Nutrition Break
2:05 p.m. - 2:35 p.m.	Recess
2:35 p.m.-2:45 p.m.	Second Snack
3:45 p.m.	Dismissal

INFORMATION SENT HOME ELECTRONICALLY

In an attempt to get you important information as quickly and efficiently as possible, please make sure that the office has your up-to-date email address. **Future monthly newsletters will only be sent home electronically, unless requested by the family.**

MEET THE STAFF- THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28th from 6:30-7:30 PM

We would like to invite all families to our Meet the Staff. This is opportunity to hear a message from Mr. Nowiski that will focus on our goals and expectations for the year; and then families will get to tour the school and meet all of your child's teachers. It is often an opportunity to meet other families as well. We hope that you are able to join us!

BECOME INVOLVED! JOIN OUR SCHOOL COUNCIL!

I am hopeful that many parents will participate as members of our School Council and I encourage you to attend our first **School Council Meeting/Elections on Monday, September 18 at 6:30 PM in the Library**. We truly want you to feel that you are partners with the school in educating your child. Research has shown that children do better at school when their parents are involved. Come to the meeting and you will find out just how friendly we are! You will learn what is happening in the school. Monthly meetings will be held one Monday of each month. We value your input greatly! If you are not available for the meeting date, consider volunteering in the school, reading, assisting with mathematics, or sharing a talent such as art! We value and encourage all volunteers. If you are interested in running for an executive position, please fill out the attached form and return it to the Principal. Our School Council runs monthly Pizza and Popcorn Days which are a highlight for the children.

We always welcome volunteers whether it is in the classroom reading with a child or being involved in fundraising activities such as Pizza Days, or with our Breakfast Program. If you have some free time, kindly call the school at 613-731-3631 to share your interest. When your child sees you involved in the life of the school, he/she receives a strong message that school is important.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

In line with the OCDSB Vision for the year, we wish to inspire educational excellence in our school. We are always looking for new ways in which we can improve student achievement. This year our staff will be continuing to focus on developing mathematical problem solving and literacy, and focus on parent engagement in our mathematics program. In this age of incredible change, children need to become critical thinkers. It is no longer enough to simply learn facts. Children need to be able to think critically when being provided with competing demands for their attention. We believe that by developing high levels of mathematical literacy in each child, our students will grow to be adults who will be prepared for the challenges of the demanding world in which they will live. We are committed to providing your child with a rich learning environment and we encourage you, as parents and guardians, to join us on this exciting adventure.

LET YOUR CHILDREN KNOW THEY ARE IMPORTANT

Ask about the highlights of your child's day and look at their agenda together. It is important to stop what we are doing, turn to your child and give them your undivided attention. These are precious moments that should not be missed. Take time at bedtime to look at books or pictures. It is a special time and will not only build your relationship with your child, but will also be a time of calm before turning off the lights.

SCHOOL AGENDAS

Children in Kindergarten will be receiving regular communication in their note tote. Children in grades 1 to 3 have been provided an agenda to bring home each evening. Please review the important information in the first few pages with your children. It will tell you about our school hours, school holidays, dress code, and code of conduct, student responsibilities, transportation policy, school traditions and other very important information. Please refer to this handbook often throughout the year. **If you wish to donate \$4.00 to offset the cost of the agendas and handbooks, we would truly appreciate it.**

DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE A LIFE-THREATENING ALLERGY?

If your child requires the use of an epi-pen or requires daily medication, you must provide documents from the doctor indicating what protocol must be followed. Forms can be picked up in the office to take to your doctor and then returned to our office. The child should have an epi-pen on them at all times, including their ride on the bus. The injector can be placed in a fanny pack so that it can be accessed at any time. A second epi-pen will be kept in the office.

ANAPHYLAXIS

We have students with life threatening nut allergies at our school. Procedures are in place should a reaction occur. However, our aim is to provide an environment that is safe for all students. **Please help us by NOT sending any nuts or nut-based products to school.** In some cases smelling or touching these products can trigger a life-threatening allergic reaction. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school safe.

STUDENT SAFETY AND CARE

Yard supervision will begin at 9:00 a.m. each school day. **Students being dropped off or walking to school must not arrive before 9:00 a.m.** The school cannot accept responsibility for children who are left on their own any earlier than 9:00 a.m. Parents who are picking up their children after school are asked to meet their child outside at the bus loading zone rather than coming into the school. When picking up your child at the end of the school day, please communicate with your child's teacher before you take your child home. Parents are reminded that **the bus zone is for drop off and pick up of bus students only.** If you are driving your children to school, please do not stop or park in this signed area. When parking across the street it is imperative that you must walk your child across the street. Also, if you are picking up or dropping off your child at school at any time during the school day, please park your vehicle in the school parking lot and walk your child into the school. We require you to sign your child in (or out) in the book located outside the main office.

The lane leading to the school's main entrance is a fire lane and stopping or parking in this lane is not allowed at any time. The safety and security of our students is our number one priority.

It is essential that every child feel that school is a safe place to be. We can achieve this by having rather strict standards regarding our behavior. Disrespectful behaviour will never be tolerated at school, on the playground or at bus stops or on school buses. If disrespectful or unsafe behavior occurs, students will be taught about the impact of their behaviour, and what we should do differently in the future. Parents will be notified and we will follow a progressive discipline plan.

For the security of the students of our school we ask all adults to report to the office upon arrival to the school so that we can assist you. All doors are locked during the school day. We have a buzzer system on the front door. We will ask you to sign in and an identification badge will be issued to all volunteers and visitors.

KINDERGARTEN BUS TRANSPORTATION

All Kindergarten students must be met at the bus drop-off stop by an adult caregiver. If no one is at the stop, the student will be returned to school for pick-up by parents.

School Bus and Pedestrian Safety Day

Is this your child's first time on the bus or walking to school? School Bus and Pedestrian Safety Awareness Day is a great opportunity for your child to learn about being safe on their way to school.



School Bus Safety

- *Check out the school bus*
- *Learn to get on and off bus safely*
- *Watch a school bus safety video*
- *Receive a Bus Safety Certificate*



Pedestrian Safety

- *Interactive crosswalk*
- *Lights and sounds*
- *Ottawa Safety Council Trainer*

School Bus Safety

Children can take a school bus ride while their families tag along, watch an interactive school bus safety video, and enjoy games! All children entering the school system for the first time in the fall, or new residents to the

area should plan to attend. The day's activities are suitable for all elementary school-age children and everyone is welcome.

Each session takes approximately 45 minutes. The following activities are available at the school sites:

- Learn how to get on and off the bus safely
- Take a ride on the bus
- Bus safety information and hand-outs will be provided
- Watch a school bus safety video
- Participants will receive bus safety certificates and colouring books along with the information

Young Pedestrian Safety

With the Ottawa Safety Council's interactive pedestrian training, children practice on a make-believe crosswalk with real lights and sounds. The sessions take about 20 minutes and is facilitated by a safety specialist.

REGISTER NOW

September 24, 2017 St. Patrick's High School 2525 Alta Vista Dr.

RIDING THE BUS



At General Vanier School, staff is very careful to be certain that all students get on the correct bus in order to arrive at their respective destinations safely. Requests for bus changes for a bus other than their usual bus (to visit with a friend, go to a birthday party, etc.) will not be granted.

LOCKDOWN/FIRE DRILLS

A 'lockdown' is a procedure to ensure that everyone in the school is safely located in a room that can be secured by a staff member, should there ever be a safety concern in the school. An example that might require a lockdown to be called would be the presence of someone in the school who is perceived as unsafe. Once the lockdown signal is made, staff will secure the classroom by closing and locking the door. For those few students and staff not in their classrooms, they would proceed quickly to the closest supervised room. We will have two lockdowns drills this year.

A fire drill is a procedure to ensure that we can evacuate the building safely and quickly if necessary. We will hold three fire drills this fall and three fire drills in the spring.

EMPOWER READING PROGRAM

General Vanier is excited about our Reading program partnership with Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto. We will continue to offer a highly-respected reading program for struggling readers. This is part of a long-term research study at the hospital. It promises excellent results for students who experience serious challenges in learning to read. Mrs. Manzo will be delivering this program to two groups of grade 3 students. We are really looking forward to seeing those happy faces as they become skilled readers.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Once again this year we are fortunate to have received funds to run a Breakfast Program. The program is offered every day and is run by Miss Christina Malloy. Most, but not all of the funding for this program, is provided to us by the Ottawa Network for Education (ONFE) School Breakfast Program. The Breakfast Program is always looking for donations. Money or grocery gift certificates are always appreciated and donations. A healthy snack will be provided beginning soon for all students each morning. Food is fuel for learning. By starting each day with a nutritious breakfast or snack, students are able to approach their school day with energy and enthusiasm. Although most students are encouraged to eat breakfast at home, we recognize that there may be circumstances that make this difficult. The Breakfast Program is in place to assist a

small number of students in starting their day off right! All snacks are peanut-free and are respectful of cultural traditions such as gelatin-free products.

MILK PROGRAM

To improve your child's lunch nutrition, we will offer families a milk program again this year. Please return the form that was sent home earlier this week, by September 22.

PUBLICATION OF STUDENT NAMES AND PHOTOGRAPHS

We are proud of our students and our programs and activities. From time to time we note student's first names in our newsletter or videotape a student production. Occasionally the public media (newspapers, radio, and/or television) visits the school and wishes to publish photographs and first names. If you have any objection to your child being named or photographed, please let us know in writing. Media permission forms were sent home last week. Please complete and return.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Creating a caring and safe environment for our students is our top priority. Unfortunately, despite all reasonable precautions being taken, accidents can still happen. Some injuries may result in medical, dental or other expenses that are not covered by provincial health care or employer group plans. As a parent/guardian, you become responsible for these expenses.

Student accident insurance is available for purchase, on a voluntary basis, through Reliable Life Insurance Company. Forms can either be picked up from the school office or downloaded at www.binks.ca, or you may apply online at www.insuremykids.com.

The OCDSB encourages all parents/guardians to consider purchasing this insurance. If your child is involved in school related sports activities or is participating in any field trips out of the province you may wish to seriously consider the coverage options. This coverage is for the entire calendar year and also applies outside of school hours. If you have any questions, please call Binks Insurance Brokers directly at [613-226-1350](tel:613-226-1350).

ABSENCES

School hours are 9:15 a.m. to 3:45 pm. It is important that your child attend school regularly and arrive on time. If your child is going to be away, **please call the school at 731-3631**. Our answering machine is on from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. If you are picking up your child before the end of the school day for an appointment, please send a note informing the teacher. When you arrive at the school please report to the office to sign out your child who will be called to the office. If a child is arriving late because of an appointment, please sign the child in at the office.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Our dedicated staff continue to provide excellent opportunities outside of the classroom. Here are two that are starting right away:

Despacito Dance Club-Students in grade 2 and 3 will learn a group dance to the summer hit, 'Despacito'. Each week they will learn new dance moves, exercise and have fun! All part of a healthy lifestyle!

Pool Noodle Hockey- Students will develop teamwork skills and sportsmanship playing, General Vanier's version of Canada's favourite pastime. Each week students in grade 1-3, will use pool noodles to play hockey.

Robotics Club- For grade 3 students.