

Vanier Vipers Newsletter

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February 2020



Georges P. Vanier would like to welcome Hope Gendron who is filling in for Valerie Wilson. We would also like to welcome back Ms. Peverill who will be returning in February from parental leave. A big thank you to Mr. Arsenault who was filling in. We wish Mr. Arsenault all the best.

February is Registration Month

Will your child be 5 years old on or before December 31, 2020?

It's time to register for school!

Visit your neighbourhood school this February with:

Your child's proof of age & legal name (as listed on birth certificate, passport, immigration papers, legal name change certificate or adoption documents)

Your child's proof of residency (a current utility bill or lease agreement, etc.)

Your child's Nova Scotia Health Card (MSI) number & expiry date at the time of registration

For more information: www.hrce.ca/registration

If your child will be 4 years old on or before December 31, 2020, there is a *Provincial Pre-Primary Program* in your area: <https://www.hrce.ca/about-our-schools/parents/pre-primary-program>

Georges P. Vanier will be holding an ***Incoming Grade 7 Information Session on Thursday, February 6th from 7-8:30.*** This is a great opportunity for parents and students to visit the school, learn about the different programs offered at Georges P. Vanier and ask questions.

Current Grade 7's : Registration Forms for current grade 7's will be distributed the week of February 3rd. We are requesting that all forms be returned by Friday, February 14th.

Current Grade 8's: Guidance Counselor's from Lockview will be at the school Tuesday, February 11th to speak to the grade 8 classes and have them register for courses. They will be registering through Powerschool and the portal will be open for approximately 2 weeks for you to review. An information night will be held late April/early May. It would be helpful to have a conversation with your child in regards to their program (English/French Immersion) and elective (Band/Art).

Athletic News

Hello Viper fans:

A lot has happened since our last sports update. Both boys and girls volleyball programs had successful seasons on the court. The boys finished by capturing the Mariner Central banner and eventually losing to Rocky Lake in the Mariner Zone Challenge game. The girls played a tough game in the semi-final versus Sackville Heights but came up short to advance to the final. The girls' volleyball program had a 'B' squad that participated in a few mini tournaments. They held their own showing strong efforts and developing their skills along the way. Thank you to Coach Patterson (Girls A coach) and Coach Jeans (Boys coach) for lending their time and skills!

Basketball playoffs are coming next week! Coach Nugent will be leading the boy's team in the semi-final game versus Bedford Academy; hoping the boys can get revenge from an exciting OT loss in the regular season! The girls team finished with a 4 - 0 record and are gearing up to defend home court in a semi-final game against AJ Smeltzer. Best of luck to both squads and their coaches: Coach Nugent (Boys), Coach Hanlon and Coach Sangster (Girls). Special thanks to Coach Mercer and Coach Mike Gareau who took on a 'B' team for the boys. They developed the boys' skills and gave them an opportunity to play in a few exhibition games over the past few weeks.

Coach Tim Hilton has returned to lead the Vanier Ski Race team once again this year. The team has been practicing, waxing their skis and getting ready to hit the slopes. Looking forward to another strong showing in 2020!

Ski Club is up and running. Two groups of 48 students have enjoyed great conditions at Martock so far. Thank you to all teachers and community members who have volunteered to help out! We have four more dates coming up in February (Wednesday – February 12 & 26, Thursday – February 6 & 20)

Spring is just around the corner and we have a few sports/programs that will be up and running soon. Students are encouraged to listen to announcements, follow Twitter and read the PE whiteboard for updates and general information. Watch for news related to badminton, track and field, flag football and flag rugby.

A few reminders:

- Follow Mary Veinotte at HRCE @HRCE_PhysEd - coordinator of junior high sports and P-12 Physical Education <https://www.hrce.ca/about-our-schools/students/junior-high-sports>
- Please have drives arranged for your son/daughter after school for practices/games. Most practices will end between 4:15 – 4:30. Teachers/Coaches cannot leave until all students have left the school property.
- All students leaving the school before dismissal must be signed out at the office.

Follow Mr Hanlon on Twitter @VanierSports or follow Pat Healy (@ReprtrPatHealey), who is great at re-tweeting any information he receives.

We will do our best through Twitter, e-mail, announcements and whiteboard in the main foyer to update on practice and game schedules. In the junior high world – things can change in an instant!

Skills Canada



We had Skills Canada visit our school and it was a huge success. The students participated in a presentation about future careers and skilled trades in Canada. Thank you Chris Gallant for the engaging presentation.

Here's "Le SCOOP"

"Le SCOOP, est Le Scoop", Mr. Crawford always says.

It is that time of the year, for Mr. Crawford's Early French Immersion students, to create "Le SCOOP". So, what's "Le SCOOP" anyway, you might ask? "Le SCOOP" is an opportunity to work on a satirical news broadcast, which the students then present in class. This writer's workshop activity is always a popular event at GPV. Students write and create all of the fake news, and then present them to the class. Sports, world news and entertainment are popular categories that get much attention during this engaging classroom activity. Not only is the writing hilarious but costumes and acting skills are on full display. It is always a good time in French class when you are writing and presenting "Le SCOOP"!

SHOWCASE, SCHOOWCASE, SHOWCASE 2020!

In six weeks the students at GPV will presenting a Showcase. After auditioning for a spot, singers, instrumentalists, bands, dancers, and other talents will be on display for this over 2 hour presentation of talent. If they make the cut, the participants then adhere to a practice schedule for the up and coming concert. Full audio, stage and light production, brought in to the school, will bring this spectacle to life.

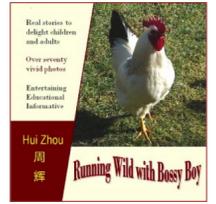
"The talent looks amazing this year; tryouts have already started, now the fun part, the hard work begins!" Mr. Crawford, the Showcase organizer commented.

"This is their time to shine in the spotlight and <<SHOWCASE>> their talent. It is my favorite time of year", Mr. Hanlon reflected.

GPV is looking forward to this even happening March 13, 2020!

Library News and Events

Our second of four authors Hui Zhou, was enthusiastically received by 4 science classes in December. As a relatively new immigrant from China, she was born, educated, worked, married, a mother and a respected senior scientist in her home city of Beijing. Hui writes in two languages - Mandarin Chinese and English; she enjoys interpreting and translating for the Justice System and public/community services as a member of the Association of Translators and Interpreters of Nova Scotia (ATINS). Hui spoke about her life - as a person from China, a woman in Science, and an author of a self-published book *Running Wild with Bossy Boy*.



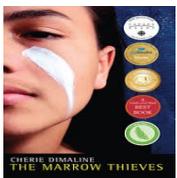
We also welcomed Danielle Dey to the Library in December to celebrate Women in STEM. A past GPV student, she is now a 3rd year Engineering student at Dalhousie University. Following her lively STEM challenge, she spoke with several classes on learning and working in a predominantly male environment, and their role as future colleagues to support women in pursuing STEM professions. She also shared how viewing their passions with a STEM lens can result in a viable future career.

Philip Moscovitch visit our Library January 16th to share his experiences as a freelance writer, editor, and audio producer. Fluent in french, Philip spoke with enthusiastic immersion classes using Rory's Story Cubes to invite creative participation.



Our final author for this school year in Andre Fenton. He will be visiting the school library on Friday, February 7th. Andre is an award winning spoken word artist & filmmaker who has represented Halifax at 7 national poetry slams across Canada. He has also published 3 books to date, and sits on the Writers Federation of Nova Scotia Board.

Lunch hour in the library provides many activities .



Book Club selected their first title - *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt. Multiple interruptions resulted in a slow start-up. Our current title is *The Marrow Thieves* by Cherie Dimaline - a futuristic thriller set in Canada.

LEGO and coding robots (*Codey Rocky* and Sphero's) are now available every Monday in the library during the lunch hour. Already we have spirited regulars enjoying these library additions and I expect interest will continue to grow!

Every Friday during lunch hour needlecrafts (hand sewing, crochet, knit) and clay are available now. Students have the option to store their project in the library so that they may relax to this pastime any lunch hour.

Girls Who Code continue to meet weekly, Monday after school. This group is eagerly planning a community-based project using code to deliver it.



A new - student initiative, is a School Newspaper called *Twilight*. Holden MacKinnon is the driving force behind this little group of future writers and illustrators who meet on a regular basis at lunchtime. They have published a 3 editions already with sections for Sports, Current Events, Comics and a Short Story. It has been received with gratifying enthusiasm by the students of GPV.

Our December Book Fair was a successful learning experience for the many students who planned, set-up, staffed and then re-packed and returned the remaining product. Thank you to our student Chairperson Carmen Perez-Fragoso and her team of about 30 students! Sadly, we made about \$150.00 as a result of our unpredictable weather and the evening cancellation of the Parent/Teacher interviews. Many thanks to the parents and students who were able to come in the afternoon before the school closed. The money was used to purchase new fiction and Graphic novels!

Remember, I love to hear how the library is supporting you and your child. Reach out anytime.

Yours in the Library,
Mrs Dey

What is E-genda, Google Classroom and Power School?

E-Genda is *virtual homework notebook*. Teachers assign homework using the e-genda. Parents should check this daily and remind their child of homework. You can download the app from the Georges P. Vanier website.



The purpose of **Google Classroom** is to facilitate paperless communication between



teachers and students. The site allows teachers to create classrooms (codes are given to each class) and teachers can post **notes, worksheets, homework, and assignments**. Teachers can view work in real-time and work is automatically saved. Parents do not need to check Google Classroom however it is good for parents to look at assessments, review the expectations from the rubrics to support their child and provide feedback by asking their child to log into their account. Only students can connect to Google Classroom using their Google Nova Scotia Public Education System (GNSPES) account. In a Google Classroom teachers can have entire units, chapters or terms posted however only work that has been assigned needs to be completed.

Power School should be checked weekly. **Power School is where you can access attendance and check assessments**. Anything in blue is a hyperlink. Under view details click assessment for any course. This will bring you to a list of assessments for the course. On this page under codes it is important to see if any assessments are missing. If you click the assessment name it will break down the outcomes that were assessed on that assignment and the achievement level. There is a legend to assist you in understanding your child's level of understanding.



School Clothing: Class of 2020 clothing is now available on our school website. To see what clothing is available, please go to our website at <https://gpv.hrce.ca/> and click on our school. Look at the section Our School and scroll down to online clothing store to choose the category you would like to browse. When you find an article of clothing you like, choose the color and crest that is best suited for you!!

The screenshot shows a website navigation menu with three main columns: GENERAL INFORMATION, FOR STUDENTS, and FOR PARENTS. A blue arrow points to the 'School Clothing' link in the FOR PARENTS column.

GENERAL INFORMATION	FOR STUDENTS	FOR PARENTS
Bell Schedule	Vipers e-Genda	Head Lice
Bus Schedule	Google Apps for Education	MedicAlert
Newsletters	Powerschool	School Plan for Communication
Volunteering at GPV	Online Clothing Store	BusPlanner Website
Power Teacher	Student Handbook 2018-2019	School Supply Lists
Power Administrator	PowerSchool for Students	Vipers e-Genda
Sub Teacher Powerschool	SCHOOL RESOURCES	School Clothing
Guidelines For Inclement Weather - PDF	Cafeteria Menu	School Insurance Program
Provincial School Code of Conduct	School Library	PowerSchool for Parents
Provincial School Network Access and Use Policy	Think Critically About Fake News	ATHLETICS

Cell Phones / Electronic Devices: Cell phones can be a distraction within the learning environment. Students have been reminded that cell phones are to be left in their locker. If a teacher has an activity planned where students can utilize their phones then the teacher will provide time for students to retrieve their phones and time at the end of the class for them to return their phones to their lockers. Students are allowed to use their phones during lunch hour. Please have a conversation with your child to reiterate these expectations.



School Hours: Students will be admitted to the school at 8:35 am. Please do not drop your child off early as there is no supervision prior to 8:35.

Safe Arrival: Should your child be absent from school call 860-4197 and leave a message. Please ensure that your contact information is up to date in case we need to contact you.

Early Dismissal of students for Appointments: Parents and guardians are expected to come into the school to sign their child out in the green folder.



Volunteers: A volunteer includes, but is not limited to, a coach, a driver, a classroom helper and a trip chaperone. Students will not be permitted to travel to or from a school sanctioned event with a parent (other than their own) unless the parent has a Criminal Records Check, Child Abuse Registry Search and a J-Form on file in the main office. If you have these checks done through another agency, school, or organization, you can request that they send a copy to Georges P. Vanier. Please see the link on our website under volunteers to access the current Child Abuse Registry form. Criminal Records Check can be done through the RCMP office. We appreciate the time, patience and understanding our parents have shown in ensuring our students are safely transported to extracurricular events.

Cold Weather is Here: Please make sure that your child is appropriately dressed as they are outside at noon and are exposed to the elements while waiting for the bus.



Employment Opportunity: HRCE is seeking Casual Custodial employment for local Communities. You must be over age 18, with or without experience. Must be able to pass a criminal & vulnerability check and have flexible hours and days of work. If interested please visit www.hrce.ca click on the icon "Employment".

Cafeteria: Please remind your child that they are to remain seated while in the cafeteria, refrain from throwing food and to clean up after themselves. Your assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated. Pre-paid cards may be purchased. Please see cafeteria staff if interested.



FEBRUARY CAFETERIA MENU

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Fettucine Alfredo with Salad	4 Taco's	5 Spaghetti & Meatballs	6 Grilled Cheese sandwiches	7 Chicken Burgers & Fries
10 Mac n'cheese	11 Taco's in a Bag	12 Sweet & Sour Meatballs & Rice	13 Perogy's	14 Poutine
17 NO SCHOOL	18 Taco's	19 Oven baked Subs	20 Nacho's Supreme	21 Chicken Strips & Wedges
24 Fettucine Alfredo	25 Taco's in a Bag	26 Loaded Potato Bowls	27 Pancakes	28 Chicken Burgers & Fries

- All daily specials are \$5.00.
- Wraps, sandwiches, salads, fruit and yogurt are available on a daily basis. Developing
- 4 varieties of homemade pizza made daily (Cheese, Pepperoni, Garlic, specialty).
- Fresh baked goods on a daily basis (low fat brownies, cinnamon buns, cookies and loaves).
- Pizza Wraps & Sandwiches.....\$3.50 Salads.....\$2.50 - \$3.75
- Baked Goods.....\$0.66 - \$1.50 Juice.....\$1.75
- Milk \$0.40 - \$0.80 Choc. Milk \$1.80 - \$2.80 Water \$1.75



School and/or Bus Cancellation Due to Inclement Weather:



School safety is the first priority of the Halifax Regional Centre for Education when making school cancellation decisions. Our schools will be kept open except under extreme circumstances to provide the option of attendance for all, but the decision to attend school during inclement weather conditions is the responsibility of each family.

Full Day Closures:

For full day closures of all schools or some schools, the decision will be announced as close to 6 AM as possible. Announcements will be:

- Posted on the HRCE's website (www.hrce.ca)
- Posted on the HRCE's Twitter account ([Twitter.com/HRCE_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS))
- Recorded on the HRCE's School Cancellation Information Line 464-INFO (4636);
- Shared with subscribers to the board's email and text notification system; and
- Communicated to local media outlets.

Early Closures:

If conditions deteriorate throughout the day, the Halifax Regional Centre for Education may close schools early when weather or road conditions are considered to be a threat to the safety of students and staff. Should this occur, principals will be notified by e-mail as close to 11 AM as possible regarding information about an early school closure. If forecasted inclement weather is imminent later in the day, at **6 AM** an announcement could be made to inform parents of an early school closure and / or to inform parents that a decision will be deferred until no later than **11 AM** following further examination of developing conditions.

Communication of an early school closure due to deteriorating weather conditions will be:

- Posted on the HRCE's website (www.hrce.ca)
- Posted on the HRCE's Twitter account ([Twitter.com/HRCE_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS))
- Recorded on the HRCE's School Cancellation Information Line 464-INFO (4636);
- Shared with subscribers to the board's email and text notification system; and
- Communicated to local media outlets.



In the event of an early school closure, school buses will be dispatched to schools **two hours** earlier than their normal regularly scheduled pick up for the afternoon dismissal. If the announcement is made at either **6 AM or 11 AM**, **walking students** will be dismissed at the start of the regular lunchtime. Due to changing weather conditions and early closure procedures, some school buses may be delayed.

Cancellation of Bus Runs - Schools Open:

On school days when conditions exist that it is not safe to operate buses there may be a decision to cancel bussing but keep schools open. A decision to cancel some or all bus runs will be announced by **6 AM**. The cancelled buses and impacted schools will be identified in the announcement. Communication of bus run cancellations will be:

- Posted on the HRCE's website (www.hrce.ca)
- Posted on the HRCE's Twitter account ([Twitter.com/HRCE_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS))
- Recorded on the HRCE's School Cancellation Information Line 464-INFO (4636);
- Shared with subscribers to the board's email and text notification system; and
- Communicated to local media outlets.

Delayed Opening of Schools:

On school days when conditions exist that it is not safe to open schools at the regularly scheduled time but it is predicted that conditions will improve, a **2 hour** delayed opening may be considered. Delayed openings would be considered when a severe weather event has concluded but snow clearing or other operations require additional time. Delayed openings would also be considered when the physical plant is experiencing an issue (power, water) and additional time is required to prepare the facility for opening. In the event of a delayed opening the following will apply:

- School opening will be delayed 2 hours
- School bus pick up times will be delayed 2 hours
- Excel childcare will be delayed opening by 2 hours
- Each school will alter morning schedules to best address their time tables.
- Lunchtime will not change; however, the cafeteria **will not** be open
- Afternoon class schedules will not change.
- Dismissal time will not change.

Important Dates for 2020



February 6	Parent Information Session regarding Registration 7-8:30pm
February 17	Heritage Day - Africville Day (no school)
February 27	School Dance 7-9pm ; SAC Meeting 6-7pm
March 12	Showcase
March 13	Snow date for Showcase
March 16-20	March Break
March 25	Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school)
April 1	Report Cards go home; Parent Teacher Meetings 6-8pm
April 2	P.D morning (no school); Parent Teacher meetings 1-3pm
April 10	Good Friday (no school)
April 13	Easter Monday (no school)
April 22	Grade 7 Immunizations
April 23	SAC meeting 6-7:30pm; School Dance 7-9pm
May 15	P.D. day (no school)
May 18	Victoria Day (no school)
May 28	SAC meeting 6-7pm
June 4	Spring Band concert 7-8:30pm
June 25	School Dance 7-9:30pm
June 29	Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school)
June 30	Last day of school - Report Cards go home



Hello GP Vanier Students and Families!

Happy February!

I just wanted to let families know that SchoolsPlus is a service available to students and families in your school.

Students and families have direct access to the SchoolsPlus Assistant Leader who can provide in-home support for parents/guardians in need of assistance with accessing food, housing, recreation, summer camps and other necessities; advocacy with Health, Educational, Justice and Community Services agencies; in-school programming for students as well as additional programming for parents/guardians of students – and everything in between.

Parents and students (12 and over) can make self-referrals to SchoolsPlus directly through email; phone; dropping in and speaking to school administrative staff.

If you have a need, a want or an ask, your SchoolsPlus team is a great place to start!

WHAT'S HAPPENING RIGHT NOW!

The SchoolsPlus Assistant Leader is offering a safe space for students to participate in board games during some lunch hours at the school.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us directly or ask a school administrator to contact us if you have questions and want to know more about SchoolsPlus and how we can offer support.

My contact information is as follows:

SchoolsPlus Assistant Leader: Kylie Hicklenton khicklenton@hrce.ca

Phone Number: 902-399-8321

Thank you