

Vanier Vipers Newsletter

1410 Fall River Road
Fall River NS B2T1J1
(902) 860-4182 (Fax) (902) 860-4188
gpvanier.ednet.ns.ca
February 2019



Georges P. Vanier would like to welcome Tyler MacIntosh and Jarrett Erb. Mr. MacIntosh is replacing Ms. Woodrow and Mr. Erb is replacing Ms. MacAusland as both teachers are on a deferred leave for second semester. I would also like to wish Ms. Peverill best wishes as she awaits the arrival of her baby.



Lunch Monitors: We would like to take special mention of our lunch monitors - Cathy Young, Sandra Acacia and Paul Beaulieu! If you are interested in becoming a GPV lunch monitor, please send us an email at vanier@hrce.ca or stop in to the office.

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.



Stock Transportation: The Lockview Family of Schools had four new buses added to help with the transportation of students. Parents are reminded to check Bus Planner as many of our students have been affected.

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.



Supplies: Please ensure students have adequate supplies such as pencils, and paper at school for them to use. They often need to replenish what they have at school from home during the winter months. This will help ensure they start out 2019 ready for success!

Viper Athletics:



Another basketball season is in the books for the boys and girls basketball team. Both teams had very successful regular seasons and advanced to the semi-finals in their respective leagues! Unfortunately, both teams came up short in their semi-final games but represented Vanier with great effort, sportsmanship and teamwork. Special thanks goes out to our coaches; Mr. Nugent (boys) and Mr. Sangster/Mr. Hanlon (girls) who dedicated their time to our students-athletes!

Next up will be badminton try outs followed by track and field! Students are encouraged to listen to announcements, follow Twitter updates and read the PE board outside the gym!



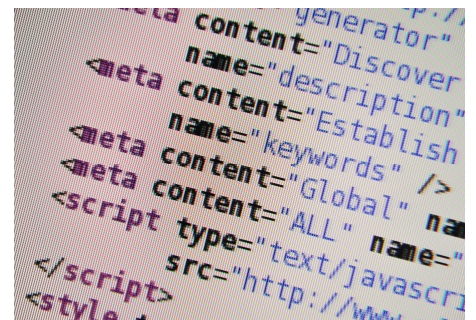
From Guidance:

Cannabis Use & Teens

We will be hosting Dr. Derek Fisher, from Mount St. Vincent University, on February 8 to talk with our students about the dangers of cannabis use in teens. Dr. Fisher is an Associate Professor at The Mount and has dedicated many hours to bringing awareness to teens and their families about the long term and short term effects on a teenager's health with cannabis use. Did you know that research shows that THC (the substance which gives the "high" in cannabis) affects the same machinery in the brain that directs brain development? The brain is not fully developed until around the age of 25. Therefore, it is significantly dangerous for an adolescent to use cannabis, as their brain is growing and creating pathways. For more information on this topic, check out <http://teenmentalhealth.org/cannabis/students/>

Coding Workshop:

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we will be hosting Dalhousie's Supernova to teach our students about coding. This will take place in our new computer lab on February 5. Students are very excited about this opportunity!



New Youth Space: The Den

The Den is a safe and inclusive space for youth. It is located in the lower level of the Acadia Centre at 636 Sackville Drive. This is for Fall River youth and youth from surrounding areas between the ages of 13-24. They will have staff members supervising this new space. The centre is home to several organizations that have programs for youth, including mental health programs and assistance in finding jobs. The centre is open Monday to Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., Friday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Skills Canada/My Blueprint

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. Along with this presentation, Grade 8 students learned about "My Blueprint" and gained access to their own Blueprint account where they can continue to explore various careers and paths that may be taken in their future. It was an exciting January at GPV!



Yearbook: Georges P. Vanier will be producing a yearbook this year. Yearbooks cost \$15 and can be ordered on line up to April 15th at the following link: <http://jostensyearbooks.com/?REF=A09721600>

Games Room:

GPV is going to start a games room at lunch time. If you have any games that you would like to donate please drop them off at the main office.



February is Registration Month

Will your child be 5 years old on or before December 31, 2019?

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, 2019, check to see if there is a *Provincial Pre-Primary Program* in your area: www.ednet.ns.ca/pre-primary

Georges P. Vanier will be holding an ***Incoming Grade 7 Information Session on Thursday, February 7th 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 11th. We are requesting that all forms be returned by Friday, February 22nd.

Current Grade 8's: Guidance Counselor's from Lockview will be at the school Tuesday, February 19 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.

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.

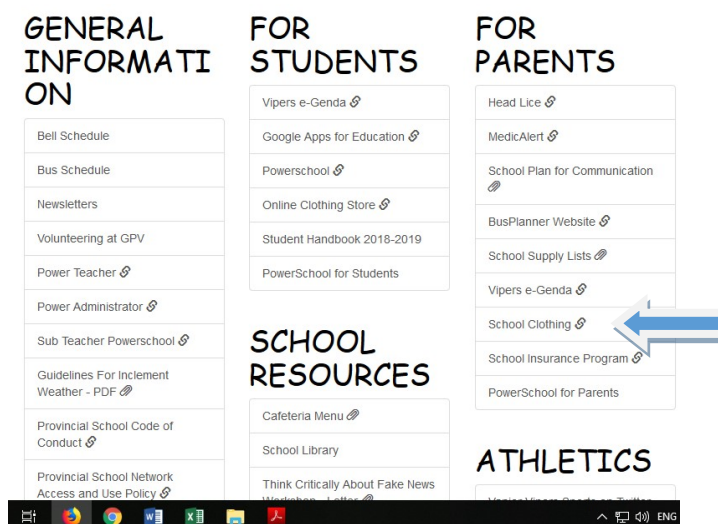
Parents do not need to check google classroom however it is good for parents to look at assessments, review the expectations from the rubrics to support their child and provide feedback by asking their child to log into their account. Only students can connect to

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 2019 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!!



Library News and Events:

In the Library, we have been busy learning about Overdrive. This is an app that links to over 2 million digital books (e and audio) and videos. The app itself is free, and all the digital resources are free to borrow as well. A Public Library card is needed, so students have been actively applying online to have their account number emailed to them. Ask your child about this valuable resource and how you can get started, if you are not a current user yourself. There is quite a lot of excitement about this app, so please join in!

Jocelyn Covert was in again in January to visit a couple classes for a lesson on recognizing Fake News. Feedback from staff is that students understand the information are applying the strategies has shared. Thank you to Jocelyn of the Bedford Public Library, for sharing this valuable lesson all students should have, to be able to complete valid information searches for school and personal use.

Bulletin boards and coloring sheets have changed to reflect our current themes of African Heritage Month (Feb.) and The Lunar New Year (Feb. 5-19th). New and current books reflecting these (and other relevant themes for students growing up in the world today) are on display, and have been making their way into the hands of the students. Yay!!

Finally, the puzzling, drawing, coloring and needlework activities continue to be popular pastimes for students during the lunch hour. How enjoyable it is to follow the progression of these various activities with the students.

Yours in the Library,
Michelle Dey

2019 Earth Day Art Contest: Offered by the United States Consulate General in Halifax. **All** students in grades P-9 in **all** public and private schools in Halifax. Students are asked to submit a piece of art (drawing, painting, sculpture, etc.) that conveys what Earth Day means to them. All entries must include the name, school and grade of the artist and must be received by 5:00 pm on April 10th

The entries may be submitted by mail to the U.S. Consulate's office: ATTN: Earth Day Art Contest
U.S. Consulate General – Halifax
1973 Upper Water Street
Halifax, NS B3J 0A9

Or the entry may be scanned or photographed and submitted by email to halifaxmedia@state.gov
There is a maximum of one work of art per artist.

Prizes will be awarded to one student in each of three age categories and will be age-appropriate items:

- *Grades Primary to Two* • *Grades Three to Five* • *Grades Six to Nine*

The winners will also receive a selection of Scholastic books for their school's library. For more information please email faulknerje@state.gov. **PLEASE NOTE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE RETURNED**



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
				1 Chicken strips & fries
4 Mac n' cheese with salad	5 Taco's in a bag	6 Pulled pork with veggies	7 Grilled Cheese	8 Chicken burgers with veggies
11 Chicken bacon ranch pasta with salad	12 Chicken Taco's	13 Lasagna with salad	14 BBQ chicken drumsticks with mashed potato &	15 Poutine
18 NO SCHOOL	19 Fettucine Alfredo with salad	20 Oven baked subs	21 Shepherd's pie with veggies	22 Chicken burgers & veggies
25 Mac n' cheese	26 Taco's	27 Chicken Tater Bowl	28 Spaghetti & Meatballs	Mar 1

- 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 superintendent 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.
- Afternoon class schedules will not change.
- Dismissal time will not change.

Important Dates for 2019

February 7	Parent Information Session regarding registration 7-8:30pm
February 18	Heritage Day – Maud Lewis (no school)
February 28	School Dance 7-9pm ; SAC Meeting 6-7pm
March 8	Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school)
March 14	Showcase
March 18-22	March Break
April 5	Report Cards go home
April 10	Parent Teacher meetings 6-8pm
April 11	P.D morning (no school); Parent Teacher meetings 1-3pm
April 18	Grade 7 Immunizations
April 19	Good Friday (no school)
April 22	Easter Monday (no school)
April 25	SAC meeting 6-7:30pm



