



## Vanier Vipers Newsletter

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gpvanier.ednet.ns.ca



### Principal's Message

Welcome to the 2019-20 school year! I am pleased to announce that I will be returning as acting Principal for the 2019-2020 school year. Staff are very excited to welcome new and returning students. We look forward to getting to know all the students, parents/guardians, community members and staff. I encourage students to get involved in extracurricular activities and get to know their teachers. Please do not hesitate to contact our Vice Principal, Ms. Murray, with any questions relating to your son or daughter. We look forward to seeing everyone at Curriculum Night September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 6:30 – 8:00pm. This is a great opportunity to meet your child's teachers. I believe communication is a key asset in education. Please feel free to contact me with any issues, concerns or questions at (902) 860-4184 or (902)860-4182 or by email [lamaral@hrce.ca](mailto:lamaral@hrce.ca).

I look forward to a successful year.

Lee Anne Amaral  
Principal, Georges P. Vanier Junior High

### Welcome New Staff:

Alex Arsenault – Gr. 8 Immersion Math and Healthy Living  
Julie Ferguson – Learning Centre Teacher  
Stephanie Haines – Educational Program Assistant  
Sophia Myers – Gr. 8 Science  
Tyler MacIntosh – Grade 7 Social Studies, Gr. 8 Science, Gr. 7 & 8 Healthy Living  
Michelle Richards – Gr. 8 English, Social Studies and Healthy Living

**School Website:** Please visit our website for current and upcoming events as well as our monthly newsletters. We can be found at <https://gpv.hrce.ca/>

**Student Fees:** Student fees are \$20 per child. We accept cash or cheque. Please make cheques payable to Georges P. Vanier.

**School Supplies:** A complete list of school supplies can be found on the school website.

**Early Dismissal:** Parents/guardians are expected to come into the school to sign out their child.



**No Idling Zone:** Please make sure that your vehicle is turned off while waiting to pick up your child as fumes enter the school and disrupt students and staff. This is also a health and safety issue. We thank you in advance for your co-operation

**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. If you know in advance that your child will be missing school, please email the secretary at [cmeek@hrce.ca](mailto:cmeek@hrce.ca).

**Curriculum Night:** Join us on Wednesday, September 25 from 6:30-8:00 for an opportunity to meet your child's teachers and learn about the expected learning outcomes, assessment and evaluation strategies for each subject. Doors will open at 6:15 for a 6:30 start. The evening will begin in the gymnasium. This is an information session only and individual students will not be discussed.



### Student Transportation:

Information on bus schedules can be found by logging into BusPlanner.

Parents/Guardians, if you haven't already, you can subscribe to BusPlanner at [hrce.mybusplanner.ca](http://hrce.mybusplanner.ca).

For information on registering for BusPlanner, visit the HRCE website at <https://www.hrce.ca/about-our-schools/student-transportation/student-transportation-frequently-asked-questions>

Please remember that stop times are estimates. Times can vary for many reasons, weather, traffic, etc. Students are requested to be at the bus stop 5 minutes prior to the listed time. It is also suggested that parents/guardians who meet their children at the p.m. bus stop be there 5 minutes prior to the listed time.

**Students are no longer allowed to travel on a bus that they are not registered for. This includes going to a friend's house after school. Other arrangements will need to be made.**

**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.

#### Bell Schedule:

Entry Bell	8:35
Homeroom (am)	8:50 – 9:00
Block 1	9:00 – 10:00
Block 2	10:00 – 11:00
Block 3	11:00 – 12:00
Lunch	12:00 – 12:40
Homeroom (pm)	12:40 – 12:50
Block 4	12:50 – 1:50
Block 5	1:50 – 2:50

Students are **not** permitted to leave the grounds at lunch unless they are with a parent/guardian and have been signed out.

**School busses are on time if they arrive five minutes prior to the start of classes. In our school this would be 8:55am.**

**Cell Phones/Electronic Devices:** Please remind your child that cell phones may only be used during lunch time in the cafeteria, outside or upon a teacher request for educational purposes. Cell phones should be kept in their locker. We are not responsible for lost or damaged phones. Parents/guardians are to contact the office should they need a message relayed to their child during class.

**Lockers and desks:** Lockers and desks are property of HRCE and there is no expectation of privacy.

**Lunch Monitors:** We are looking for lunch monitors. If you or someone you know is interested, please call the office at (902)860-4182.

**SAC –** The school advisory committee will be meeting on Thursday, September 19th from 6-7:30. We are still looking for a parent/guardian from Holland Road Elementary and Oldfield Consolidated community. If you are interested, please contact the school at (902)860-4182.

**Emergency Management Plan –** September is a busy month ensuring students are prepared in case of an emergency. We will be holding several drills this month including fire, hold and secure and lockdown. These drills are to ensure that students know the procedures and expectations.

**No Child Without:** For more information on Medic Alert please visit the following website: <http://www.nochildwithout.ca>



**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.



## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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);
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### 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
- Each school will alter morning schedules to best address their time tables.
- Lunchtime will not change – the cafeteria will **not** be open.
- Afternoon class schedules will not change.
- Dismissal time will not change.

**Head Lice:** This is common in schools where many students gather together. Please take a moment to review [How to Prevent, Find, and Treat Head Lice](#) from the link below and our website. Check your child’s head regularly, once a week as part of your routine, after every sleepover, every day during lice outbreaks at school. Keep long hair tied back or braided. Teach your child not to share personal items that are used on their head. This means things like brushes, combs, barrettes, headbands, elastics, towels, hats, helmets, toques, and scarves. Teach your child to put their hats and scarves in their coat sleeves or backpacks when they take them off at school. Please know that a child with head lice, may return to school after the first treatment outlined by NS Department of Health and Wellness.

<https://www.novascotia.ca/dhw/publications/public-health-education/07135-head-lice-pamphlet-en.pdf>

**Cafeteria:** Please remind your child that they are to remain seated while in the cafeteria and are expected to clean up after themselves. Your assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

**Zip Thru Card** - Just like a gift card, a balance is loaded on a card and declines as purchases are made. The online function of this program provides convenience for parents to purchase, reload and monitor spending as well as set up an account to protect the remaining funds. You can purchase an e-certificate on-line at [www.zipthru-card.ca](http://www.zipthru-card.ca). Present the printed e-certificate to the cafeteria and receive a zipthru card with the designated balance.



### SEPTEMBER CAFETERIA MENU

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3 <b>No School</b>	4 <b>No School</b>	5 <b>Pizza</b>	6 <b>Pizza</b>
9 <b>Cold Cut Subs</b>	10 <b>Chicken Caesar Salad</b>	11 <b>Sweet&amp; Sour Meatballs on rice</b>	12 <b>Nachos Supreme</b>	13 <b>Cheeseburgers</b>
16 <b>Chicken Alfredo Pasta</b>	17 <b>Sloppy Joes</b>	18 <b>Chicken Caesar Flatbread</b>	19 <b>Tacos</b>	20 <b>Buffalo chicken tornados</b>
23 <b>Mac’n’cheese</b>	24 <b>BLT Wrap</b>	25 <b>Pulled pork on a bun</b>	26 <b>Chili Cheese Nachos</b>	27 <b>No School</b>

All daily specials are \$5.00. Wraps, sandwiches, salads, fruit and yogurt are available on a daily basis.

4 varieties of homemade pizza made daily (Cheese, Pepperoni, Garlic, speciality).

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.....\$0.60 - \$1.50 Juice.....\$1.75 Milk \$0.40 - \$0.80

Choc. Milk \$1.75 - \$2.75 Water \$1.75

**Grade 7 Immunization:** Forms will be sent home the first week of school. We ask that they be completed and returned to the school as soon as possible. Immunizations will be administered on October 23.

**Athletics:** Welcome to another year of extra-curricular sports at Vanier. Our Fall sports are up soon: Soccer, Cross Country, and Volleyball. Students are encouraged to read the whiteboard outside the gymnasium, listen to announcements or see Mr. Hanlon for daily updates. Once the leagues are up and running, your son/daughter will receive a schedule, permission forms and information on athletic fees.

Cross Country Running Team will have its first practice Monday, September 9 starting after school and ending at 4pm. Please make sure arrangements are made to have your child picked up for 4pm. All students are welcome to join the team.

Soccer try outs will begin next week.

If there are parents interested in coaching a sport teams this year please contact Mr. Hanlon [shanlon@hrce.ca](mailto:shanlon@hrce.ca)

Parents can follow Mr Hanlon on Twitter **@VanierSports** or follow Pat Healy (**@Laker\_PatHealey**) of the Laker, who is great at re-tweeting any information he receives.

Below is the web address where you can find schedules, volunteer information/guidelines and general information on junior high sports.

<https://www.hrce.ca/about-our-schools/students/junior-high-sports>

## Georges P. Vanier 2019-2020 Calendar

September 2	Labour Day – No school
September 3	Organization Day P-12 (no classes)
September 4	Professional Development day P-12 (no classes)
September 5	First day of school for students
September 12	School pictures 9am
September 19	SAC meeting 6-7:30pm
September 25	Curriculum Night 6:30-8pm
September 27	PD day P-12 (no school)
October 14	Thanksgiving Day (no school)
October 17	School Dance 7-9pm ; SAC meeting 6-7pm
October 23	Grade 7 Immunizations
October 25	Provincial Conference day P-12 (no school)
November 8	Remembrance Day Ceremony
November 11	Remembrance Day (no school)
November 21	School dance 7-9pm; SAC meeting 6-7pm
November 22	Assessment & Evaluation Day Elem & Jr. High (no school)
November 27	Report Cards go home
November 28	P.D. am (no school); Parent Teacher meetings 1-3pm & 6-8pm
December 11	Band Holiday Concert 7-8pm
December 12	Snow date for the Holiday Band Concert
December 20	Last day of school for Christmas break
January 6	School re-opens
January 23	SAC Meeting 6-7:30pm
February 6	Parent Information Session regarding Grade 7 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 16-20	March Break
March 25	Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school)
April 1	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 25 – June 5	Gr. 8 Reading, Writing & Math Provincial Assessments
May 28	Spring Band concert 7-8:30pm; SAC meeting 6-7pm
June 4	Back up date for Band Concert
June 25	School Dance 7-9:30pm
June 29	Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school)
June 30	Last day of school – Report Cards go home

