

**September  
2025**



**Principal**

D. Birkenbergs

**Head Secretary**

M. Iqbal

**School Council  
Chair**

M. Burns

**Superintendent  
of Schools,  
Brampton  
Northeast**

B. Diogo  
B: 905-890-1221

**Chair of the  
Board**

L. del Rosario

**Trustee**

S. Xaviour  
(Brampton Wards  
7, 8, 9 & 10)

**Parish**

St. John Fisher  
B: 905-793-6610  
Fr. Liborio Amaral -  
*Pastor*

# GEORGES VANIER CATHOLIC SCHOOL



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X [Twitter]: [@GVanierDPCDSB](https://twitter.com/GVanierDPCDSB)

## A STUDENT'S PRAYER FOR A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

LOVING GOD, WE THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF THIS NEW SCHOOL YEAR.

HELP US ALWAYS TO APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND THE  
GIFT OF GATHERING AT A CATHOLIC SCHOOL, A GIFT NOT AVAILABLE TO  
EVERY CHILD.

MAY WE NEVER TAKE OUR EDUCATION FOR GRANTED AND ALWAYS TRY OUR  
BEST EACH AND EVERY DAY

HELP US, GUIDE US AND TEACH US THIS YEAR AS WE STRIVE TO BECOME  
BETTER STUDENTS AND DISCIPLES OF YOU.

WE ASK THIS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD, WHO IS OUR GREATEST  
TEACHER.

AMEN.

### Principal's Greetings

As this new school year begins, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new families who have joined our school community. Also, a sincere welcome back to those returning to Georges Vanier Catholic School.

For staff, students and families that have left our community I wish them well in their new journeys. We are excited to welcome new staff members to our school team and together we look forward to another successful year. I would especially like to welcome our new Head Secretary, Ms. Iqbal, to our school and look forward to working with her.

As our school population changes, so too will the make-up of the classrooms and programs offered. Please be patient as we finalize class placement and school organization. Thank you to all parents and guardians for attending to the various forms that need to be completed and signed at the beginning of each year. Please return all forms as soon as possible.

As a school community we will continue to strive for excellence in all areas, as supported by our school motto "Go Make a Difference."

I look forward to working with all of you this year and wish to extend an invitation to all parents and guardians to attend our Open House on **September 24<sup>th</sup>**. This will be an excellent opportunity to develop and strengthen the important connection between home and school which will lead to positive gains for our students.

Finally, my door is always open to our community. Please do stop by to say "hello" and share many of the exciting and "great things" about your family throughout the school year. Thank you for your continued support and best wishes for a successful and faith-filled school year!

D. Birkenbergs

**REMINDER!**  
September 15<sup>th</sup> –  
P. A. Day

**NO SCHOOL FOR  
STUDENTS**



## FAITH COMMUNITY

### Opening School Mass / Pastoral Plan

Our first school mass will be scheduled with the Pastoral Team at St. John Fisher Parish shortly. As always, throughout the school year, we welcome all parents/guardians to please join us in prayer and worship as we celebrate and give thanks for all of the wonderful blessings we will receive this school year. Once dates are confirmed regarding masses and celebrations, a Pastoral Plan for 2025-2026 will be sent home to all families.

### Pastoral Care from Father Liborio

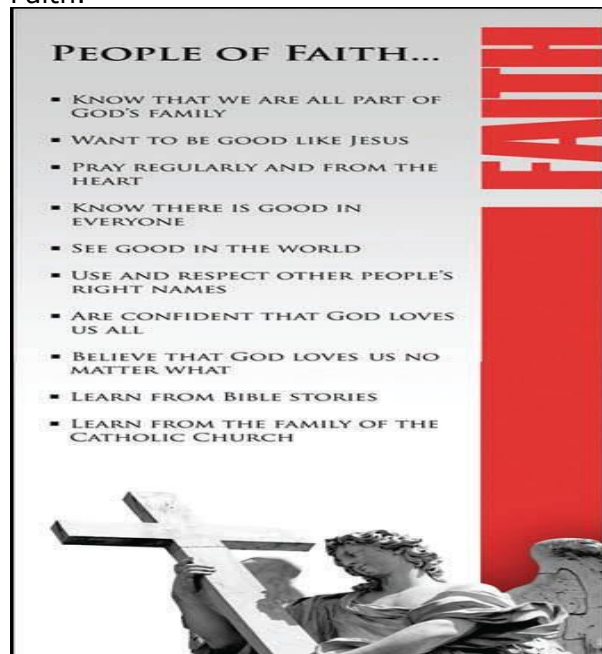
Our school community is pleased to have Father Liborio Amaral at St. John Fisher Parish. We appreciate his ministry to our school and larger community and continue to enjoy his presence in our #VanierVikings family.

### St. John Fisher Parish

St. John Fisher Parish will be hosting registration nights for Grade 2 & Grade 7 students receiving the Sacraments of First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion (Grade 2) and Confirmation (Grade 7) in the near future. Further information will be distributed to students shortly.

### Virtue of the Month: FAITH

In September, we celebrate the virtue of Faith.



## SCHOOL INFORMATION

### \*NEW\* Daily Schedule

Parents/guardians to please note our **NEW** daily school schedule below. **Please be reminded supervision starts at 8:45am daily. Students should not be dropped-off at school earlier than 8:45am!** We appreciate your attention to this in the interest of student safety. For those using Kiss 'n' Ride, please adhere to all signage, stay alert for students crossing our driveways and proceed as per signage and direction.

8:45am – Supervision begins

9:00am – Classes begin

10:40 -10:55am – Morning Recess

11:45am -12:05pm – Lunch

12:05 -12:45pm – Lunch Recess

2:25 -2:40pm – Afternoon Recess

3:30pm – Dismissal

Please ensure your son/daughter knows how he/she is to get home daily. Should the plan change, please send a note with your son/daughter to your child's teacher.

### Agendas

All students will receive an agenda this year. This will serve as the primary communication tool between home and school. **Please take a moment to review the information in the agenda with your son/daughter, including our Catholic Code of Conduct.** On a daily basis, please review your son/daughter's agenda to stay apprised of upcoming classroom events and activities. Parents/Guardians of Kindergarten students can expect a communication folder to use in a similar fashion.

### Opening Packages

All students will have received an opening package this week. **Please ensure you review ALL information contained within the package and return the required forms promptly.** After reorganization, parents/guardians will receive the **Student Verification Form (blue)**. Please ensure student information is accurate and updated accordingly. Your cooperation in this regard is greatly appreciated.

## Student Absences and Arrival

We ask that parents continue to call to notify the school **each day** their child will be absent and/or late. The **School Messenger** tool is fast and convenient and can be used on any device platform. **Please use this method to report absences.**

**Students who are late must report to the office and sign in. School staff is on duty at 8:45 a.m. in the morning. There is no supervision for students before 8:45 a.m. and students should not be dropped off prior for safety reasons. Students should arrive by 8:55 a.m. each day to enter the school with the rest of their class and avoid being late.**

## Visitors to our School / Criminal Reference Checks (CRC)

All visitors and parents are asked to enter the building through the front door and report to the office. Please sign in and obtain a visitor's sticker if you plan to remain in the building, for any reason, during school hours. Please also be reminded ALL volunteers MUST have a valid CRC on file at the school. Each volunteer must sign an annual offence declaration if you are continuing to volunteer with the school. **Further information is available in the main office.**

## Storage and Administration of Medication

Parents are responsible for ensuring that all medication and forms are updated annually for any student who requires medication to be administered at school. If your child requires medication please have the necessary forms completed and return them, along with any medication, to the office as soon as possible. Forms are available at the school office. **Please note that medication forms may require a doctor's signature.**

## Custody of Children



On rare occasions, we are faced with difficult situations in which non-custodial parents arrive at school asking to visit their child or to take their child home after school. We are best able to serve and protect students when we are made aware of legal custody arrangements, visitation rights and other special instructions. If legal custody matters affect your family, please ensure that the main office is aware of any custodial arrangements that may affect your child during school hours.

## Single-Use Plastics Restrictions

Aligning with new federal restrictions on single-use plastics, the school is unable to provide plastic cups, forks, spoons, etc. to students for their lunches/snacks. **Please ensure students have needed utensils and water bottles with them to eat their lunch each day.**

## Medical Alerts – Severe Allergies

This year we will continue to have students with severe life-threatening food allergies. This is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to certain allergens and can result in death within minutes. **Although this may not affect your child directly, please send lunches and snacks to school with your children that are FREE of peanut, tree nut and shellfish products.** Please refer to the Allergy Aware letter in the opening package for further information. We ask that you **do not send** in food products for the whole class to celebrate birthdays or social occasions. A donation of stickers, pencils, book or a game to the classroom is a safe alternative to food products and will be enjoyed so much longer by the children. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher if you have any concerns or questions. We thank you for your co-operation and attention to this important health matter.

## WOW Butter

We have received many inquiries regarding WOW Butter. Please note that due to an inability to differentiate between WOW Butter and real Peanut Butter, **parents/guardians are requested to NOT send this product to school as a part of your son/daughter's lunch and/or daily snacks.** We thank you for your cooperation!

## Third-Party Lunch Deliveries Not Permitted

Please note that for safety and security reasons we are not able to accept third-party lunch delivery services for students (e.g., Uber Eats, Door Dash, etc.). Lunches are to be sent with students upon arrival in the morning or dropped off for 11:45am at the school lunch hour. We thank you for your cooperation.

## Head Injuries Procedures

As per Ministry of Education direction, our Board has a Concussion Protocol in place. All students who sustain a head injury during the school day, however minor, will be assessed in the office for a potential concussion. Parents/Guardians will be contacted and provided with more information should a concussion be suspected. As in previous years, all head injuries will be logged and reported to parents/guardians directly. We ask that you please inform the school as soon as possible if your son/daughter sustains a concussion as a result of a school incident or as a result of an activity outside of school. Questions or concerns regarding this policy should be directed to the Main Office. Your cooperation and assistance in this regard are appreciated.

## **Student Accident Insurance**

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board annually provides parents with information regarding cost-effective student accident insurance coverage. Although enrolment is voluntary, **the Board encourages parents to take advantage of this inexpensive insurance coverage, especially if your child(ren) participate in sports, excursions/field trips, other extra-curricular activities and/or if parents do not have dental insurance coverage.** Brochures for Reliable Life Insurance were sent home in the opening package. Enrolment in the program is required in writing. Please follow the instructions in the brochure. Further information regarding this insurance can be obtained by contacting Reliable Life Insurance at 1-800-463-KIDS (5437) or visiting [www.insuremykids.com](http://www.insuremykids.com)

## **Textbooks / School Materials for Learning**

Textbooks and other materials for learning (e.g., manipulatives) are provided to students to enhance the learning experience. Please be reminded these materials are the property of the school and each student is expected to maintain these materials in good condition. Teachers will track assigned materials to students. Replacement and/or repair costs will be the responsibility of the child's parents/guardians should any of these materials be damaged/misplaced.

## **Emergency Procedures Drills**

Each school within the DPCDSB is required to hold 9 emergency procedures drills over the course of the school year. These drills consist of three fire drill per term, 1 lockdown drill per term and 1 hold and secure/shelter in place drill per year. During these drills staff review all emergency procedures with students to ensure all children are safe in the event of a real emergency. Should you have any questions regarding our emergency procedures or drills, please do not hesitate to speak with the main office.

## **Arrival / Dismissal in the School Yard**

For the safety and security of all students, parents and guardians are requested to wait on the edge of the paved area during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal. Please ensure you do not crowd the exit doors to ensure the safe arrival and dismissal of all students. Please also be reminded that pets are prohibited on school property.

## **Kiss 'n' Ride**

Parents and guardians are cautioned to please ensure that they follow all signs and directions posted for Kiss 'n' Ride. The safety of all students is of great importance to us. Please be respectful of the rules and patient when dropping your children off at school.

## **Footwear in the School & School Yard**

For the safety of all students and to prevent injuries, students are asked to have a pair of BOTH indoor and outdoor footwear. **Please note that for safety purposes, footwear must be closed-toed (e.g., no sandals, flip-flops, etc.).**

## **Pictures/Video at School Events**

Pictures and videos are welcome to be taken at school events such as concerts, or sporting events. Parents/Guardians are reminded that due to confidentiality and privacy laws, these photos cannot be posted on any social media sites (e.g., Instagram, Facebook, etc.) You are requested to please take pictures of your own child(ren) during events. Please refrain from photography during liturgical celebrations. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

## **Toys & Personal Items for Students**

We would like to remind parents/guardians that personal items such as toys, trading cards, dolls, action figures etc., can become a distraction in the learning environment. Please do not allow children to bring these items to school. Further, the school will not be responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged items.

## **DPCDSB Student Dress Code**

The DPCDSB has adopted a new Dress Code for students that took effect in September 2024. Please note important highlights below.

- ANY/ALL attire which promotes hate, discrimination, violence, illicit/illegal activity, profanity and/or threatens the well-being and safety of our school community is strictly prohibited.
- ALL students MUST ensure that clothing covers their person completely from shoulders to mid-thigh.
- Hats/Hoods/Headgear MUST be removed upon entry into the school building. Exceptions will be made for religious and cultural practices via communication between the parent/guardians and the school.



## **Cell Phone Ban (KG to Grade 8)**

In alignment with PPM 128 from the Ontario Ministry of Education, cell phone use by students is strictly prohibited during school hours. Students are NOT permitted at any time to utilize their cell phone during the school day. Should a student bring a cell phone or other personal electronic device (PED) to school, they MUST remain turned off and out-of-sight while on school premises.

## **SCHOOL ORGANIZATION**

September 2025 school organization is based on projected enrolment established in conjunction with the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. As in previous years, Grades 1, 2 and 3 classes are subject to a cap of 20 students as per the Ministry of Education direction. Please be aware that combined grades are a reality and will be the norm for many schools, including Georges Vanier Catholic School. Be assured that a combined class will provide the same quality education as any other placement. **Please remember that all class placements are TENTATIVE until reorganization. Should your child's placement change you will be notified by September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Please also note that Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup> is a P.A. Day!** The school will do its utmost to minimize change in placements, however some movement may be inevitable.

## **TRANSPORTATION – STOPR & Courtesy Seats**

All bus information for the current school year is posted on the front windows of the school. Transportation eligibility is determined via the DPCDSB transportation policy. Information regarding this policy as well as current route information is available through the STOPR website: [www.stopr.ca](http://www.stopr.ca). You may also contact STOPR via the following contact numbers

**905-890-6000**

To determine if your son or daughter is eligible for transportation, please visit <https://businfo.stopr.ca/>.

**Courtesy Seat requests will not be processed until October and are based on seat availability. Please pick-up a form in the main office and submit to Mr. Birkenbergs as soon as possible.**

## **ANTI-BULLYING INITIATIVES**

Our school continues to have a robust program to ensure the safety and well-being of all students. An integral part is our anti-bullying focus. Throughout the year our CCCCAT committee will plan and host events and activities to support this focus. Parents/Guardians and students are encouraged to join with us in this important work. For more information, and to learn about our SafeVoice tool, please visit: <https://www.dpcdsb.org/parent-hub/safe-accepting-schools>.

## **PIZZA PROGRAM**

Further information regarding the pizza program will follow shortly. We thank all parents/guardians in advance for their support of these initiatives!

## **HEALTHY SNACK PROGRAM**

We are once again proud to provide healthy snacks this year through funding from the YMCA. These programs will kick-off in the coming weeks and further information will be provided at that time. We sincerely thank Ms. Pizzani for spearheading this wonderful initiative.

## **PLASP**

PLASP is once again providing after school care for students attending Georges Vanier Catholic School. Please visit [www.plasp.com](http://www.plasp.com) or call 905-890-1711 for further information.

## **SCHOOL EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES**

### **\*Open House & BBQ – Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>**

Georges Vanier School staff are please to invite all parents/guardians and members of the community to join us at our annual **Open House & Community BBQ on Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 5:30pm!** Please mark this date on your calendars, participate actively in your child's education and meet your child's teacher. A BBQ order form will be sent home with your child. Please return it to the school ASAP. The evening will begin on the school yard with a BBQ at 5:30pm, followed by a "Meet & Greet" and classroom visits. We look forward to seeing everyone!

### **\*Annual Terry Fox Walk – Toonies for Terry**

Again this year, we will proudly participate in the Annual Terry Fox Walk benefitting cancer research. Each student will be asked to donate \$2.00 via School Cash Online, to participate in this event. Our walk will take place near the end of September. Further information will follow.

## **CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL CORNER**

### **2025-2026 Nominations and Elections**

Georges Vanier School is seeking new and enthusiastic parents/guardians who want to be involved to make our school an even better place to learn and grow!

During the first week of school, students will bring home a letter outlining the nomination and election process for this year's Catholic School Council. **Please review the letter and if you are able, please strongly consider getting involved as a CSC member.** Nominations will close on **Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> @ 12:00pm.** Please complete and return all nomination forms to the main office by this date/time.

The first meeting of the Catholic School Council will be held on **Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm.** Should elections be required, they will occur prior to the first meeting. All parents/guardians are encouraged and welcome to attend!

### **CSC Volunteers**

Throughout the school year, Catholic School Council seeks parents/guardians to assist with various special events. If you are able to volunteer with our council, please indicate your name, telephone number, e-mail address and availability in writing to your child's teacher. This information will be passed on to our council for future use. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support!

### **Fundraisers**

Annually, our Catholic School Council supports the learning community and environment in a variety of ways. One of the major components of this support is fundraising. Again this year, targeted fundraisers will be held to support the various programs and improvements that our students enjoy. **Please continue your generous support of these programs!** Specific information regarding the type of fundraiser and purpose will be provided as our fundraising initiatives begin. **Thank you sincerely for your support.**

## **BOARD INFORMATION**

**DPCDSB is on X [Twitter]! For the latest board news and information, follow [@DPCDSBSchools](https://twitter.com/DPCDSBSchools)**



### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

#### SEPTEMBER

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Classes begin for 2025-2026 @ 9:00am
- 15<sup>th</sup> – P.A. Day  
[No school for students]
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Pastoral Visit / Community BBQ & Open House with X Movement @ 5:00pm
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Opening of School/Feast Day Liturgy @ 1:00pm
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Bus Safety Presentations / Catholic School Council Elections & Meeting @ 6:00pm
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Orange Shirt Day  
[Further information to be distributed shortly]

#### OCTOBER

- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Picture Day
- 9<sup>th</sup> – BRAVE Workshops
- 10<sup>th</sup> – P.A. Day  
[No school for students]
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Day

**Please visit our website to stay up-to-date with current school events and information:**

<https://www.dpcdsb.org/gvani>

**AND**

**Follow us on X [Twitter]:**  
[@GVanierDPCDSB](https://twitter.com/GVanierDPCDSB)