

G.P. VANIER

JANUARY NEWSLETTER



Important Dates

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Jan 5 | First Day Back |
| Jan 12 – 23 | Assessments |
| Jan 14 | FLEX Day |
| Jan 20 | PAC Meeting 6:30 pm |
| Jan 23 | Quarter 2 Ends/Semester 1 Ends |
| Jan 26 | Non-Instructional Day – No Classes |
| Jan 27 | Quarter 3 Begins/Semester 2 Begins |

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Feb 4 – 6 | Grad Photo Retakes |
| Feb 16 | Family Day – No Classes |
| Feb 17 | Non-Instructional Day – No Classes |
| Feb 24 | PAC Meeting 6:30 pm |
| Feb 25 | Immunizations |
| Feb 27 | Bursary Applications Due |

NEWSLETTER CONTENT



Grad 2026.....Grad Info

Grad Attire Program.....Appointment Dates

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Counselling OfficePost Secondary Info

Parent Volunteers..... Form Info

My Education BC.....Account Info





IMPORTANT DATES

- * **Jan 8 – Bursary Information Meeting – all grads**
C Block 10:40
- * **Jan 8 – Early grad meeting 11:55 am**
- * **Feb 4, 5, 6 – Grad photo retakes**
- * **May 7 – Grad BBQ 5:00pm**
- * **June 3 – Grad softball game at lunch**
- * **June 15 – Grad pancake breakfast**
Grad rehearsal to follow at 9:30am



Thank You!

Thank you from the GP Vanier Class of 2026 for the valued and generous community support to put on their annual Winterfest pre-grad celebration. We offer sincere and profound thanks to our parents who helped with decorations, set up / clean up, rounding up of donations and prizes, sharing of food, running of gaming tables and presence at our event. Attendance was full of joyful parents re-connecting with others. Grads were working hard at the gaming tables to win tickets for the fabulous prizes that were donated. If not at the gaming tables, they were in the photo booth, on the dance floor or taking another trip to the buffet. What a fun-filled evening!

Parents and families purchased many small prizes for this event. As well, thank you to our donors and sponsors: Brown's Social House, Bumper to Bumper, Mudsharks, Plates, Early Bird Café, Foundation Hair Salon, Wip Climbing, Hot Chocolates, Freya, Big Foot Donuts, Great Canadian Oil Change, North Island Creations, Edo Japan, Thrifty Foods, Garden Works, Fountain Tire, Milano Coffee, Waypoint Insurance, Dairy Queen, Rhodos Coffee & Bistro, Hens Den Yoga, Kitty Coleman Campground & Boat Launch, Bosley's Courtenay, Bosley's Comox, High Tide Dental, Petite Nail Spa, Church St. Bakery, Blue Toque, Design Therapy, Old Farm Market, Canadian Tire, Chrystal Clear Photography, Tayco Paving, Rexall Comox, Foveo Running, Front Runners, Coastal Marine, Black Creek Community Center, Caterpilar Inc., Hart of the Matter Heating & Cooling, Above & Beyond Tree Service, Maade With Love Hornby Tie Dye, Briar Rose Beauty Boutique, Your Nooks & Crannies, Clinic 5 Laser & Beauty, Jonathan Ellerby books, House of Colour, Always Be Strong, Aiki Electrical Contracting, Balanced Paw Veterinary Care, Tower Fencing, Ski Tak Hut, Uranus, Westview Ford, I-Hos, Curse the Darkness Candles, Syren Ocean Solutions, The Party Hub, Oyster River Fire Department, Broken Squirrell Wellness, Crown Isle Golf Club

Grad Attire Program Begins First Fittings of the School Year



Comox Valley Schools is excited to share that the first Grad Attire fitting sessions for the 2025-2026 school year are now underway, with several students already outfitted in formal wear as they prepare for this important milestone. These sessions are the first of many planned throughout the year, ensuring every student has access to high-quality grad clothing at no cost.

This work would not be possible without the incredible support of the Comox Valley community. We extend our heartfelt thanks for the many generous donations, hours of volunteer time, and ongoing support that allows this initiative to thrive year after year.

A special thank-you to our location sponsor, Comox Valley Dodge, for providing an accessible and welcoming space for fittings. This partnership truly makes a difference.

Current Donation Needs

To continue supporting students throughout the year, the program is currently seeking donations of:

- * Small suits**
- * Dress shoes**
- * Medium and large dress shirts**

Drop off

GP Vanier Secondary – During school hours.

Comox Valley Dodge – Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m

Fitting dates: <https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/grad-attire-program/>

This program helps provide the opportunity for every student to celebrate their graduation in their preferred style. Last year, more than 150 students were fully suited or dressed for their graduation ceremonies through the Grad Attire Program.

For more Information

Contact the Grad Attire Committee: Stephanie, Susan, Monique & Kelley

PH: 250-338-2110 or Kelley.giorgianni@sd71.bc.ca

PH: 250-338-9262 or Susan.quinton@sd71.bc.ca



Vanier Sports

The volleyball season wrapped up with our senior boys finishing 12th at Provincials, proudly representing Vancouver Island. Basketball season is now in full swing, with games happening almost every day after school in the gym.



Vanier is fielding eight teams competing in league play, where our athletes continue to showcase skill, determination, and teamwork. Both senior teams have travelled off the Island to compete in tournaments in the Lower Mainland, while our junior teams have taken part in several tournaments throughout the Greater Victoria area. Our Grade 8 and 9 teams are competing in local league play, with several Valley tournaments coming up in the near future.



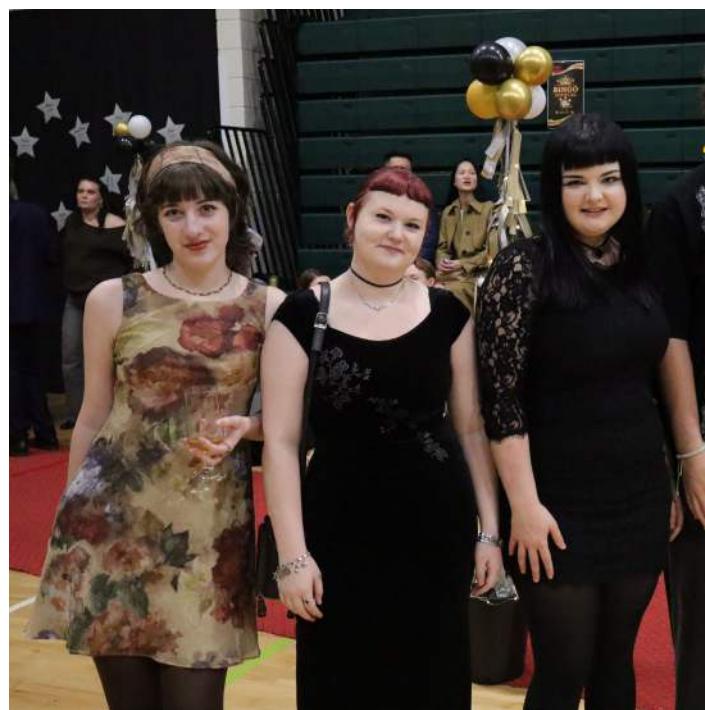
Beyond basketball, Vanier's athletic excellence shines in wrestling as well. We're proud to partner with district schools as part of the SD71 wrestling team, which hosted its first tournament at Highland in December.

And for those who prefer the slopes, ski and snowboard season is ready to roll, with more than 40 students signed up for weekly mountain sessions – now we're just waiting on the weather to cooperate and for the snow to start falling!

Winterfest 2025









News From the Careers Office



November Careers Week was a great success and thank you to all the community partners that attended!

Upcoming dates:

VIU Baking and Hairdressing Tour – Jan 13th

District Dual Credit/Trade Sampler Parent Meeting – Jan 8th



INTRODUCING A NEW NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY FOCUSED ON INDIGENOUS LEARNING

A new Non-Instructional Day focused on Indigenous Learning will take place on Friday, May 15, 2026. On this day, teachers and staff will engage in professional learning centred on Indigenous histories, cultures, and ways of knowing.

This initiative reflects the district's Truth and Reconciliation Commitment and aligns with Design Principles in our Strategic Plan.

The addition follows a change to the provincial school calendar regulations, which now requires all school districts to dedicate one professional learning day each year to advancing Indigenous student success and strengthening understanding of Indigenous perspectives.

Read more and provide feedback [HERE](#)



Reminder to Review Safe Riding Rules

Please review the district's [Safe Riding Rules](#) for school bus transportation. Note: Parents/guardians are required to acknowledge this document during busing registration. We also reference it consistently in busing communications. The Safe Rider Rules can also be found on the district's [Student Transportation webpage](#). Bus supervisors are working with bus students how to safely approach the bus when it arrives.

Guest passes:

This continues to be a “no” due to full capacity of most buses for friends to ride along.

Bus conduct:

Bus service remains a privilege and requires explicit following of rules. Most recently, we have had to reinforce basic safety expectations such as

- * Waiting for the bus on time**
- * Not approaching the bus until it has fully stopped, and the door is open**
- * Treating the bus with respect and taking garbage with you, and leaving no debris or damage (or spit) behind**

Q – When will my bus arrive?

A – Schedules are posted outside all 150 classrooms (visible from the bus line if shades are still up)

A – If unusually late – most students/and or parents/guardians have reported success by using the [First View](#) app. Code – A2V4J



E-Bikes and E-Scooters at SD71 Schools

The Comox Valley Cycling Coalition ("CVCCo") has a mission to promote a safe environment so more people can choose active modes of transportation in the Comox Valley. We strive to do this through education of all ages with safe cycling lessons as well as advocating for improved infrastructure in our communities.

We have worked for many years with SD71 and provide a School Cycling Program for grade 4-5 students in every elementary school. This has always been a huge source of pride for our many volunteers and seeing happy kids learn cycling skills/safety is a great reward for all of us. We are always appreciative to see many SD71 schools embracing the effort to get kids traveling safely to/from school on a bike, scooter or by walking.

We also have volunteers who work with SD71 to perform "bike counts" three times per year at all the schools. This helps provide a baseline of historical data to show us how we are doing in our efforts to increase cycling amongst the student population.

During our recent Fall 2025 count, we noted that there were a number of e-bikes and e-scooters parked at schools during the daytime, including at elementary schools. We do certainly support e-bike usage (and provide specific lessons to adults) but we are also aware that it is illegal in BC for anyone under the age of 16 to operate a standard e-bike or e-scooter. With the increasing number of accidents involving e-devices interacting with cars, pedestrians and other bikes, we wanted to take the opportunity to ensure that parents, teachers and administration are all aware of the rules for their usage in BC. This is a recent and evolving topic and we are finding that even seasoned cyclists are not aware of the rules and regulations so we have done our best to provide them as a list attached to this note. The full range of information can be found on the BC Government website at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/driving-and-cycling/cycling>



Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Student drop-off and pick-up continues to be a problem on Vanier Drive, Glacier Drive and surrounding areas.

Please be mindful of students crossing the road, vehicles pulled over dropping off students and bike traffic. A reminder that the speed limit near schools is 30km/hr.

*** Please do not drive through the bus loop to pick up/drop off or cut through to the Sports Centre.**



News from the Counselling Office

**Post-Secondary Information for Vanier Parents and
Guardians can be found [HERE](#)**



The Vanier Scholarship, Bursary & Student Loan Newsletter
**is available on our school website for grade 12 students who
are starting to research ways to pay for their post-secondary
education. Click [HERE](#)**



[**Click Here**](#)

Our goal is to empower students toward positive change and to help them to have the most successful high school experience possible!

School Counsellor:

Katherine Brach (A-G) katherine.brach@sd71.bc.ca

Stephanie Morris (H-O) stephanie.morris@sd71.bc.ca

Jocelyn Schultz (P-Z) jocelyn.schultz@sd71.bc.ca

Youth and Family Support Worker:

Sherry Patterson – sherry.patterson@sd71.bc.ca

To Book an Appointment Click [Here](#)





If you are planning on volunteering for field trips or sporting events, drivers **MUST complete the following:**

Volunteer Driver Form [**Click Here**](#)

Criminal Record Check [**susan.quinton@sd71.bc.ca**](mailto:susan.quinton@sd71.bc.ca) **for info**

Code of Conduct Form [**Click Here**](#)

Driver's Abstract

Copy of Driver's License

Proof of Insurance (1 million 3rd party liability)

If you are planning on volunteering as a coach or chaperone, you **MUST complete a Criminal Records Check**

***Code of Conduct forms must be signed before participating in any sport.**

***Criminal Record Checks are held for 3 years in our database and may be accessed by other schools in the district.**



MYED PARENT PORTAL

Parents, are you on MYED?

Our student system, MyEducation BC, is a great resource for parents.

You can access:

Your child's schedule

Your child's assignments, completed and outstanding

Your child's attendance

Teacher email addresses

Your child's Learning Updates, Summary of Learning and Graduation Status Report

If you have not accessed your account before, please contact susan.quinton@sd71.bc.ca to help set up your account.

If you have an account, but have not used it for more than three months, you will need to request a new password.

Please note, as this is a Ministry of Education website containing confidential information, passwords need to be changed every 3 months.

If you have any concerns, please contact your child's Administrator. Administrators work on the last name alpha system:

A-G Brad St. Pierre brad.st.pierre@sd71.bc.ca

H-O Sherrie Martens sherrie.martens@sd71.bc.ca

P-Z Erica Black erica.black@sd71.bc.ca





**Georges P. Vanier
School Calendar**

January 5th - First Day Back

January 2026

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------|-----------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| | | | | 1 New Year's Day | 2 Winter Break | 3 |
| 4 | 5 Day 1 - ABCD | 6 Day 2 - CDAB | 7 Day 3 - BADC | 8 Day 4 - DCBA | 9 Day 4 - DCBA | 10 |
| Winter Break | First Day Back | School Nurse 11:30-12:30 | Earthquake Fire Drill 1:40 pm | Career 10 Interviews Early Grad Mtg 11:55 Dual Credit/Trade Sampler Info Night 6 pm & 7 pm | | |
| 11 | 12 Day 1 - ABCD | 13 Speak Out Reach Out Pref for Gr 8 and 9 MPR 9-10:25 School Nurse 11:30-12:30 | 14 Day 3 - BADC | 15 Day 4 - DCBA | 16 Day 1 ABCD | 17 |
| | | Assessments | FLEX DAY Assessments | Theatre Final Performances 6 pm | | Vanier Jazz with Kasperl Quintet Concert 3pm MPR |
| 18 | 19 Day 1 - ABCD | 20 Day 2 - CDAB | 21 Day 3 - BADC | 22 Day 4 - DCBA | 23 Day 2 - CDAB | 24 |
| | | School Nurse 11:30-12:30 PAC Meeting 6:30 | Dance Final Performances 6 pm | Lunch of Champions | Grad Quotes Due Careers 11/12 Due WEX 30 Hours Due Q2/Semester 1 Ends | Grad Attire 10:00 - 3:15 |
| 25 | 26 Day 1 - ABCD | 27 Day 2 - CDAB | 28 Day 3 - BADC | 29 Day 4 - DCBA | 30 Day 1 - ABCD | 31 |
| | NID Day No Classes | School Nurse 11:30-12:30 Demarest/Henry Lunch | Cultural Fair* | | Report Cards Due 9:00 AM | |
| | | Q3 Begins | | | | |
| | | | December '25 S M T W T F S | February '26 S M T W T F S | | |
| | | | 1 2 3 4 5 6 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | | |
| | | | 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 | 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 | | |
| | | | 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 | 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 | | |
| | | | 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 | 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 | | |
| | | | 28 29 30 31 | | | |