



GATESTONE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

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Class 6A has been reading the book, A Long Walk to Water. Did you know many young girls walk 4-8 hours a day to get water for their family? Also, many parents and children are suffering because of polluted and contaminated water. We have decided to make a difference by raising money towards building a well in a community in Africa. We are fundraising by selling (peanut free - healthier) cookies on **Tuesdays** and **Fridays**. Each cookie will be sold for \$1. Thank you!
Students in Class 6A

Gatestone Newsletter

December 2017

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hello all,

The Holiday Season is upon us again, with it comes the spirit of giving and helping others at this time of year. We at Gatestone are blessed to have a community full of the spirit of sharing. The United Way campaign brought in \$300.00. The Holiday Hampers will support families who are struggling to provide a Christmas for their kids, our grade 6 classes have been going to help at the Salvation Army sorting toys (pictures can be found on our website) and our Movie Night on Thursday includes a canned food donation. The generosity of this community is wonderful. I can tell you having personal contact with those families and organizations we support the gratitude expressed is overwhelming. Thank you.

Our Holiday Concert is set for Dec. 20. Listening to feedback from Parent Council and other parents, we have moved the concert to the last block of the day from 1:45 - 3:20. Many parents asked as it was easier to get time away from work later instead of mid-day. We had feedback from the kids as well. All our students and staff work hard to prepare and are super excited to present. Some students have expressed their disappointment at seeing audience members get up and leave during performances, and later in the performance where only a handful of audience members were left. We understand that people might need to leave, however out of respect we would ask that the audience plan on attending the whole concert.

I would again like to plead with the community to consider walking or if driving is an absolute necessity to use extreme caution. Last week a parent and her child were almost hit in the parking lot. The driver didn't stop at the stop sign at the end of the roundabout. I have witnessed parents speeding out as well. We also have cars going Northbound on Gatestone that drop off their children on the street sidewalk, and then use our roundabout to turn around to go Southbound on Gatestone. This adds more cars and congestion to our limited space, please do not do this. We are a walking community, schools are not designed to have extra parking for the purpose of dropping off and picking up students. The safety of all is our primary concern, especially our children. I am hoping that I see an improvement to these behaviours. As I continue to look for solutions, closing the roundabout during the beginning of the day and end of day to ensure the safety of the children may be our only option.

We have numerous Holiday events planned this coming month. Please look to the website, the school sign and flyers going home for the most up to date info. If you are unsure please call the school.

This is my favourite time of year, time spent with family, the excitement of my own kids during this season and the food of course is what I cherish most. We are a school of many cultures and traditions. Many of them use this time of year for celebrating as well. It is within my tradition and culture to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. A message of peace and spending time with family.

See you all in 2018!

M.Castellani

DECEMBER CALENDAR

**GATESTONE
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

**MICHAEL
CASTELLANI
PRINCIPAL**

**GORD COOK
VICE-PRINCIPAL**

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 PD Day	2
3	4	5 Bath Bombs Order Due Pita Pit Lunch	6	7	8 Ugly Sweater Day	9
10	11 Candy- Grams On Sale	12 Candy- Grams On Sale	13 Candy- Grams On Sale	14 Candy- Grams On Sale	15 Candy- Grams On Sale	16
17	18 Movie Trip	19	20 Bath Bomb Pickup Holiday Concert 1:45 - 3:20	21	22 Last Day of School Red, White, Green Day FDK	23
24	25 Winter Break	26 Winter Break	27 Winter Break	28 Winter Break	29 Winter Break	30
31						

Upcoming Dates:

Jan. 8, 2018 - Return to School
Jan. 26, 2018– PD Day