



# GATESTONE APRIL NEWSLETTER

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WWW.HWDSB.ON.CA/GATESTONE

## Day of Pink

On Wednesday, April 12th, 2017, staff and students across HWDSB will join millions of people worldwide who wear pink for the Day of Pink. We do this because we want to make a statement that we stand against all forms of bullying. It also reminds us that when we stand up and speak out, we can make a difference. The Day of Pink began in Nova Scotia when two high school students saw a classmate being bullied for wearing a pink shirt. The two students intervened, but wanted to do more. A few days later they were able to get their entire school to wear pink. That school sent a message that together we can stop bullying. We know that bullying is a problem in our schools and in our wider community. Bullying can happen to anyone, anywhere. Collectively, we can stand up and speak out against bullying. We will continue to support anti-bullying efforts that make our schools safe and welcoming places for all of our students. Please wear pink on Wednesday, April 13th You can learn more at [dayofpink.org](http://dayofpink.org)

Gatestone Newsletter

April 2017

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Spring, hopefully we will continue to see rising temperatures and more sun. We are excited about our new field. It appears to have wintered well. I'm told early spring is a critical time for the new grass. We will remain off the field during wet conditions. This will ensure a good start to the growing season. April is a busy month with school trips, school events and the Easter long weekend. We have our Boston Pizza Family Dinner Fundraiser April 10-11. Check out the website for more details. The final touches to our gym upgrades are being made. The sound system is just finishing being installed. We had our Cricket teams highlighted in the Spectator, with Harrison, Maddy and Samantha having pictures on the front page of the sports section. Our Girls Senior Basketball team scored the trifecta by winning the City Championships three years in a row. Exciting times here at Gatestone!!

### School Organization 2017-18

We will have a number of combined classes next year. There are a number of myths related to combined classes, such as the students in the lower grades are the strong academically and the students in the higher grade are not. We will not create classes that reflect this myth. We create classes that are diverse and balanced.

For parents concerned about the impact of having their child in a combined class, here are some key research findings (Lataille-Démoré, 2007) related to combined classes:

- ◆ *Students in combined grade classrooms achieve as well academically as those in single grade classrooms.*
- ◆ *Students appear to benefit from the spirit of co-operation and mutual help that exists in these settings.*
- ◆ *Whole-class strategies such as explicit instruction, co-operative learning and subject integration support improved learning in combined grade classrooms.*

Parents interested in learning more about the research related to learning in combined grade classes can find a monograph provided by the Ministry of Education here: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/inspire/research/Demore.pdf>

**Any requests regarding your child's placement must be made in writing to Mr.Castellani. Please do so before April 30th 2017 for it to be considered. No guarantees that requests will be accommodated.**

We will post the organization with classes and staff in June once the staffing process is complete.

# APRIL CALENDAR

**GATESTONE  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL**

**MICHAEL  
CASTELLANI  
PRINCIPAL**

**MARISSA TURNER  
VICE-PRINCIPAL**

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**[HTTPS://  
TWITTER.COM/  
GATESTONESCHOOL](https://TWITTER.COM/GATESTONESCHOOL)**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 World Autism Day	3	4	5	6 	7	8
9	10	11 Lock Down Drill	12 Pink Day	13 	14 Good Friday No School	15
16	17 Easter Monday No School	18	19	20 	21	22 Earth Day
23	24	25	26	27 	28	29
30						

**Key Dates in May**  
**May 1-5 Mental Health Awareness Week**  
**May 3 Violin Concert 11:40**  
**May 9 FDK Grad Photos**  
**May 9-16 Scholastic Book Fair**  
**May 11 Open House**  
**May 22 Victoria Day**  
**May 18 FDK Parent Night**  
**May 23rd EQAO starts**