



# GATESTONE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

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**Gatestone Newsletter**

**February 2018**

## **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

Hello all,

January flew by and hopefully we have only one more month of Winter. With that in mind our lost and found has become full of items once again. Please drop by the office if you notice your child coming home missing things.

February is Report Card month. They will be handed out to students on Feb. 13th. As staff prepare reports here there are a few messages that we give from the office. "Be honest and direct about achievement." Do not confuse this being mean or negative. Staff are asked to report on exactly how your child is doing. It's not about good or bad. Remember that we are trying to summarize 5 months of work into a few sentences and in some cases only 1-2 sentences. "Pay attention to the learning skill section" I believe this is the most important area of the report card. It details how your child is progressing as a learner. These are the skills that create life long learners. They are also vital to successfully navigating the unprecedented volume of information that's readily available via the internet and all its sources. "What next steps could be taken?" This is expected for students who are achieving below the provincial standard of a "B". Staff are trying to give feedback in a sentence or two. This is not all of what we are doing. Please contact your child's teacher if you want further help. More homework (worksheets) is not the answer. Your child's teacher will have excellent suggestions of how you can support your learner. As always, after contacting your child's teacher first, if you still have concerns please do not hesitate to connect with myself or Mrs. Boshier.

We have many events planned for February. The 14th is a Red, White and Pink spirit day and school dance. Feb 19th is Family Day to enjoy some time with your family. Feb 20th is our ski trip. Feb 5th is the beginning of FDK registration for September 2018. If you have little ones at home ready to start school please drop by to register. A FDK Orientation night is being planned so please stay tuned for more information. We could use your help as well, If you know of any families who are starting school for the first time please relay them this message.

My last message is a highly complimentary one. Three grade 7 students, (Teagan, Kyla, Anastasia) wrote me a letter asking for permission to begin a student club. We get requests all the time from student leaders who want to try new things. What struck me about this request was not only the manner in which the letter was written (by themselves) but the work they had put in to it to convince me that this was a good idea. This is what we want from our students, become leaders, have a vision, set goals and put the work into it necessary for it to be successful. They are just starting out with this, I have no idea how it will go. But I did challenge them to collect data, to create conditions for the room and to track usage. They didn't complain about what I asked but took it up as a challenge. Well done! The letter will be posted online with the newsletter.

M.Castellani

# FEBRUARY CALENDAR

GATESTONE  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL

MR. M. CASTELLANI  
PRINCIPAL

MRS. S. BOSHER  
VICE-PRINCIPAL

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	 2	3
4	5 FDK Reg Opens Parent Council Meeting	6	7	8	 9	10
11	12	13 Reports Go Home  Pita Pit Lunch	14 Red, White Pink Day  MS Dance	15 Dance Fest 	16	17
18	19 Family Day	20 Ski Trip  Subway Lunch	21	22 	23	24
25	26 Parent Council Meeting	27 Quesada Lunch	28	1 	2	3

Upcoming Dates:  
Mar 8— Appetite and Applause Lunch  
Mar 10— 18 March Break  
Mar 26— Parent Council Meeting  
Mar 30— Good Friday