



Community Week at a Glance

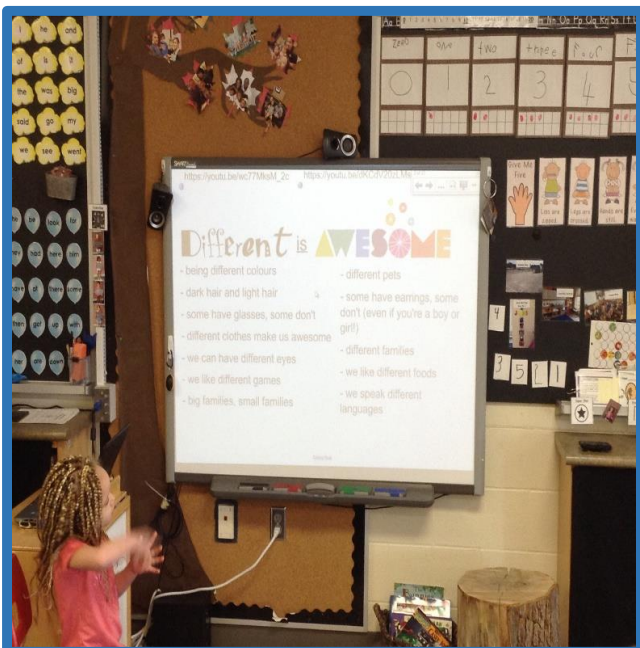
April 8, 2019 – April 12, 2019

Monday, April 1	Day 3	
Tuesday, April 2	Day 4	
Wednesday, April 3	Day 5	<i>International Day of Pink – Wear Pink</i> <i>Seek to Understand. Choose to Care. Let's celebrate Kindness & Respect</i>
Thursday, April 4	Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:00PM Community Coffee Chat – Raising Respectful Children, Presenter: Giocanda Marroquin • 6:00PM School Council Meeting
Friday, April 5	Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 7 & 8 Bandfest • 3:35 Robotics Club

Gatestone celebrated World Autism Awareness on Tuesday, April 2.

Ms. Vinall & Mr. Boutcher:

Today we tried explaining what it meant to wear blue and how it represents autism awareness day. We watched a video (Marvelous Max) and followed it up with Todd Parr's book - It's ok to be different. We talked how we wear blue because we are all different and being different is awesome. We made a list about the ways we may different and wrote in our journals what's awesome about each of us.





Gatestone's Community Coffee Chat

Raising Terrific Kids

Training kids to be emotionally successful.

Thursday, April 11, 2019.
5:00PM – 6:00 PM

Join us in Gatestone's Staff Room to learn more about

- *Clear, consistent routines*
- *Where responsibilities begin*
- *How to respond when your child challenges the rules*
- *Controlling emotions*

Presenter

Gioconda Marroquin Suarez
BSC. MDiv.

Requests for Specific Learning Environment for Your Children

Gatestone Elementary School does not accept parental requests for specific class placement. We have checked with our area schools and the majority of schools do not accept these requests either. The practice of selecting a specific teacher is contrary to all that we believe in terms of respecting all members of the Gatestone community and learning to work together.

With our current focus on grade team planning and implementation of our instructional program, all classes of the same grade will have a similar curriculum focus and delivery. Given that the curriculum will be aligned across the classes in the same grade, parents can be assured that the instructional program their child receives will be of equal caliber across the grade team. While we know that parents sometimes have a preference for a specific teacher, we believe it is important for our students to learn how to cooperate and function in an environment with a wide range of personalities and educational philosophies, which is a life-long skill that is imperative to meeting with success in any group or workplace. For these reasons we will not accept requests naming specific teachers and/or students. We would however welcome parental input into the type of learning environment that they feel would best meet the specific needs of their child.

We have developed a comprehensive process of assigning students to classes based on combinations of students who our staff believe should or should not be together, the learning needs of each student, the balance of male/female ratios, students who present with challenges, as well as independent workers versus students who require greater teacher support. All of this information is important in developing classes that are balanced and effective and can only be done by staff who work directly, in the school, with all of the students being considered.

Another common request from parents is that their child not be placed in a “split” or a combined class. We cannot accept these requests. Split or combined classes are a reality in education today. We take the entire student profile into account before making decisions about placement. Just because a child was in a combined class one year does not guarantee that they will not be in a combined class the following year.

I hope this has helped you to understand the complexity of allocating classes in a fair, responsible and equitable manner and helps to assure you that great attention is given to the placement of each and every child.

Respectfully,
Kelly Reilly-Scott
Principal