



***Welcome Back!***

## **Gatestone Elementary School 2019-2020**

### **Principal Message:**

Welcome everyone to a new school year at Gatestone! We are kicking off the year with the excitement that we are all members of this wonderful Gatestone community. This year we will continue to learn, implement, and celebrate the 6 Core Values at Gatestone. Respect, positivity, engagement, teamwork, community, and feeling safe and supported. These core values were co-created last year with staff and students when determining what we value at Gatestone Elementary School.

I would like to welcome Mrs. S. Del Mastro, our Vice-Principal, new to Gatestone this year. We are both thoroughly excited to be part of the Gatestone community this year. It is our goal to ensure every child is feeling safe, connected and engaged in the learning at Gatestone.

Communication with families will occur through our school website and twitter account. Weekly community updates will be posted on our website and events at Gatestone will be shared through our ***Gatestone Weekly Updates*** post and twitter. Please subscribe to the Gatestone Website (<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/gatestone/>). You can subscribe by clicking “subscribe” on the bottom left of the home page. Our Twitter account is Gatestone School @GatestoneSchool.

If you ever need to connect with me please feel free to contact me at the school or through e-mail [kreillys@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:kreillys@hwdsb.on.ca).

Respectfully,

Kelly Reilly-Scott  
Principal

## *Weekly Update September 3-6*

Monday, September 2	Day 0	
Tuesday, September 3	Day 1	Welcome Back!  Staff will be on the black top during entry time to welcome your child to a new school year and class.
Wednesday, September 4	Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Year 2 Kindergarten Begins</li><li>• Intermediate September Start Up Assembly (Review of school routines/procedures)</li></ul>
Thursday, September 5	Day 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Primary and Junior Start Up Assembly (Review of school routines/procedures)</li></ul>
Friday, September 6	Day 4	***Please make sure you have returned September Start Up Packages sent home September 3.

### **GATESTONE CORE VALUES**

**RESPECT** –REGARD AND CONSIDERATION FOR THE FEELINGS, BELIEFS, AND TRADITIONS OF OTHERS. BEING KIND TO OTHERS.

**POSITIVITY** – OPTOMISTIC OUTLOOK. POSITIVE INTENTIONS.

**ENGAGEMENT** – TRULY CARE ABOUT OUR LEARNING. FOCUSED IN THE LEARNING.

**TEAMWORK** – WORKING TOGETHER IN EFFECTIVE WAYS TO ACHIEVE A COMMON GOAL.

**COMMUNITY** – GATESTONE FAMILIES AND STAFF WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE AND MEET THE NEEDS OF GATESTONE SCHOOL. STUDENT, STAFF, AND COMMUNITY VOICE VALUED.

**SAFE & SUPPORTED** – SEEK TO UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER. CHOOSE TO CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER.

## SEPTEMBER START UP DETAILS

### WELCOME TO THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR



Staff have enjoyed their summer vacations, as have the students, and now we are all ready to return to school. Many thanks to our custodian team who have spent the summer working hard to get our school ready so we have a super clean learning and working environment.

### *Welcome New Staff Members to our Gatestone Community*

Mrs. S. Del Mastro	Vice-Principal
Ms. Mathieson	Kindergarten (Mrs. Nighswander is currently on leave)
Ms. S. Bass	Class 6A
Ms. Boeckh	Class 6B (Mrs. Taylor is currently on leave)
Ms. T. Caco	Class 7B
Ms. M. Silvestri	Class 8B
Ms. J. Gerster	Educational Assistant

## COMMUNICATION

This year we will continue to support students in treating everyone equally and with respect and taking pride in themselves, the school, and their learning. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher through the agenda or the telephone with any questions you may have. Please subscribe to our website for weekly community updates and HWDSB important updates throughout the year.

### COMMUNITY WEEKLY UPDATES ON WEBSITE!



Beginning September 9, all school updates will be posted on our School Website only. Paper copies will no longer be sent home. Please subscribe to our School Website at <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/gatestone/>.

Click SUBSCRIBE bottom left side of homepage.



# GATESTONE STAFF



Staff Name	Room # Extension	Assignment
Marie Pliura	114	Kindergarten A
Lisa Mathieson LTO (Jennifer Nighswander)	110	Kindergarten B
Krysta Tortola	110	ECE Kinder B
Kylie Schmidt	111	Kindergarten C
Sharon Pauls	111	ECE Kinder C
Gillian Vinall	112	Kindergarten D
Brad Boutcher	112	ECE Kinder D
Katie Benedict	108	1A
Jessica Whittle	106	1B
Roseanna Cino	107	1/2A
Andrea Brown	104	2A
Corene O'Marra	105	2B
Amanda Flis	103	3A
Andrew Macnab	102	3A
Penny Johnson	213	3/4A
Brenda Gould	210	4A
Melissa Kuzcerepa	209	4B
Melissa Bartlett	214	5A
Colleen Nash	212	5B
David Pidberezny	211	5/6A
Stephanie Bass	208	6A
Kaitlyn Boeckh LTO (Jennifer Taylor)	207	6B
Jessica Penner	201	7A
Tammy Caco	205	7B
Laura Lamarre	202	78A
Suzy Graham	203	8A
Melissa Silvestri	206/215	8B
David Outhwaite	204	68
Melanie Barber	Library	Learning Commons & Coverage
Sabrina Batista	Library	Learning Commons & Coverage
Lisa Dunstall	109/101	LRT
Marlo Moore	122/101	LRT
Jamie Lamarre	Workroom 1	Int. Core French
Steve McCormack	Cart/Workroom 1	Music/French/Coverage
Amanda Verbeek	Workroom 2	Junior Core French
Dan Lane	142	Physical Education
Sandy Batenburg	Primary Wing	Reading Specialist
<b>Educational Assistants:</b> Jennifer Gerstser Katie Kersey Petina Barnett Tammy Maclean	101	
<b>Custodial Staff:</b> Leon Plevel (Daytime Caretaker) Gail Minshall (Evening Caretaker) Zorka Brdar (Evening Caretaker) TBD (Evening Caretaker)	113	
<b>Office Staff:</b>  Karen Ashton: Office Administrator Katy Mason: Office Administrator Kelly Reilly-Scott: Principal Sherry Del Mastro: Vice-Principal	Main Office	

# GATESTONE SCHOOL HOURS

## SCHOOL BELL TIMES 2019-2020

School Grounds Open	8:45
Entry Bell	9:00
1 <sup>st</sup> Nutritional Break	11:00 – 11:40
2 <sup>nd</sup> Nutritional Break	1:20 – 2:00
Dismissal	3:20
School Grounds Close	3:35



## SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING



Our 1<sup>st</sup> School Council Meeting is on Monday, September 30 at 6:30 p.m. All families are welcome. Please join us in the school library on the first floor. Nominations forms have been sent home with student Start Up Packages. If you are interested in participating on this year's school council please submit your council nomination form to the main office prior to the meeting on September 30. There are many ways to be part of council. Please see our website, School Council Page, for further details.

## MEET THE GATESTONE STAFF NIGHT!

Meet the Gatestone Staff event will take place on September 26, 5:00 – 7:00 pm. Our staff is looking forward to connecting with all Gatestone families.

## STUDENT AGENDA

Home-School Communication is essential for success. At Gatestone, the agenda is the key device used for communication between teachers and parents for our primary and junior students. Due to technology use, our intermediate teachers will organize a communication tool for our Intermediate students that suit their daily organization routines.

## SAFETY PROCEDURES

Gatestone Elementary School will be practicing our "Safe School Procedures" during this school year. Although one can never predict when a potentially harmful situation may arise, schools can prepare for responding to such an incident through intentional, scheduled practices. The goal of the practice is to minimize the risk for staff and students during a time of crisis. In the event of a "real" evacuation, the Hamilton Police/Fire Services will be responding to the situation.

All staff, students and volunteers who are regularly in the school building are required to know the procedures. The students will have the procedures explained to them ahead of time and the school will practice throughout the school year.

Along with this information being presented at school, we encourage parents to talk with their children about the need to always be safe and well prepared for an emergency situation. Thank you for your continued support.

## **VOLUNTEERS MUST HAVE POLICE CHECK: VULNERABLE SECTOR SCREENING**

Part of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board's Volunteer Policy is that any volunteers working with children must have obtained a Vulnerable Sector Screening Report. This is essentially a criminal record check and is put in place to protect our children. To obtain such a report, application forms are available at the Police Station or on-line. Complete the form and submit either in person at the Hamilton Police Services Headquarters on King William Street in Hamilton or on-line. There is a cost of approximately \$25.00 and is valid for 3 years with the HWDSB.

It could take up to 4-6 weeks for the report to be prepared. Once you have obtained the report, bring it to the school office for approval and complete Volunteer Forms for Gatestone Elementary School. If you are interested in volunteering, complete this process as soon as possible, so that you can take advantage of opportunities as they arise. **You will not be permitted to attend school trips without a Police Check!**

## **BUS TRANSPORTATION "ELIGIBILITY"**

Busing is only available to students who receive confirmation of transportation during the month of August each school year.



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Parents of a child within the designated walking requirements have the primary duty of care to ensure the safe arrival of their child to school. If your child does not meet criteria for transportation to Gatestone School, a Courtesy Transportation Application form can be submitted to the school for possible approval around the first week of October, 2019. An application form can be picked up at the office in September. Please complete the form and return it to the school office as soon as possible. No courtesy riders will be allowed to ride the bus until October and only once approved with written permission from the Principal is granted. Courtesy transportation is not granted on a first-come, first-serve basis as many factors are taken into consideration.

*Important Message: Our school bus is reaching capacity already and only one bus will be assigned to Gatestone due to amount of approved riders through HWDSB transportation. Limited applications may be approved this school year.*

## **WHAT DISTANCE DO I HAVE TO LIVE FROM MY DESIGNATED SCHOOL TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR TRANSPORTATION?**

The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board believes in providing the best possible learning

environment for its students. This includes providing safe, secure and on-time transportation to and from school for eligible students that is cost effective and efficient. Students will be eligible for transportation services to their in-catchment school when the walking distance exceeds the following:

Elementary School  
Kindergarten Students: 1.0 km  
Grade 1 – 8 Students: 1.6 km

## **SAFE ARRIVAL ATTENDANCE CHECK – ABSENT OR LATE**

At HWDSB, one of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all students safely arrive at school every day.

SafeArrival, a student absence reporting system, makes it very easy for families to report student absences. It also allows school staff to respond quickly and thoroughly to all unexplained absences. Our goal is to continue to have all absences explained and all student accounted for each day, knowing that they are all safe.

With SafeArrival, families report a child’s absence in one of three ways:

1. Use the SafeArrival website, [go.schoolmessenger.ca](http://go.schoolmessenger.ca). The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.
2. Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store (or from links at [go.schoolmessenger.ca](http://go.schoolmessenger.ca)). The first time you use the app, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.
3. Call the toll-free number 1-844-506-4350 to report an absence using the automated phone system.



These options are available 24 hours/day, seven days a week. You can report a future absence any time.

In addition, we will use the SchoolMessenger Communicate automated notification system to contact parents whose elementary school child is absent when the absence was not reported in advance. The automated notification system will attempt to contact parents multiple times until parents confirm

and explain the absence. If this system cannot reach the designated contacts, elementary school office staff will follow up.

If you try to explain an absence using SafeArrival, but are then told that it is past the cut-off time, please contact the school directly.

There will not be a follow-up phone call for secondary students and their notification will occur, as it does now, in the evening of a day that had an absence.

If you report your child's absence in advance using either the SafeArrival toll-free number, the website or the mobile app, you will NOT receive these notifications.

***Learn more about SafeArrival at [bit.ly//safearrivalHWDSB](http://bit.ly/safearrivalHWDSB)***

### **ONLINE PAYMENT OPTION NOW AVAILABLE!**

With the support of School Cash Online, we're making payments for school related expenses easier. You will be able to make online payments through our school website. This is a win-win by making it safe and more efficient for everyone by reducing the amount of cash coming into our school. While parents will still have the option to send cash for school related expenses, we encourage you to get on board with our new service. This service will be available for School Trips and special lunch days. You can access Cash Online by going to Quick Links under the School Website and clicking on Cash Online.

### **GATESTONE ANNUAL TRAVEL PLAN**

Please support our Gatestone Travel Plan. Gatestone boundaries indicate we are within walking distance of the school. This means our population should arrive only by walking, bike/scooter. A bus for Kindergarten students living more than 1KM away only is assigned. Our Transportation Brochure is posted on the website and available at our main office to review parking policies. Currently 38% of our families are still driving their child/children to school. **Should you choose to drive your child to school, please do not use our school front drive way to drop your child off. This area is permitted for our buses and school assigned taxis only. Please park on adjacent streets near the school. We prefer families do not park right in front of the school due to safety when crossing. We encourage families to use our cross walk areas with crossing guards when walking your child to the school.** We will be limiting traffic in our school front drive way this year due to an increase in bus and taxi transportation. During our bus arrival time (8:45AM - 9:00AM) you may find our front entrance driveway closed to allow for safe entry and drop off of buses and HWDSB approved taxis. This is to adhere to travel safety guidelines. We appreciate your support and flexibility to ensure the safe arrival and departure of our Gatestone student community.

***Looking forward to an exciting and energized September!!!***

***"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."***