



September 9 - 13

Monday, September 9	Day 5	***Please make sure you have returned September Start Up Packages sent home September 3.
Tuesday, September 10	Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9:30AM Fire Drill
Wednesday, September 11	Day 2	
Thursday, September 12	Day 3	
Friday, September 13	Day 4	

Important Updates

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING



Our 1st 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.



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!**

ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST SIGN THE DECLARATION FORM ONCE A YEAR AT OUR MAIN OFFICE

Volunteers that have submitted a vulnerable sector screening, must still sign a declaration with the office once a year (September) to verify the information in the screening is still accurate. If you would like to continue to volunteer in our school and your vulnerable sector screening is less than three years, please sign the declaration form at our main office.

STUDENTS ATTENDING AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS AT GATESTONE (e.g., Umbrella, Scientist in School)

Please communicate with your child's homeroom teacher if your child is attending any after school programs at Gatestone. Please clarify the days as well. This will help ensure a smooth transition during our dismissal time. If your child is not attending school the same day they are scheduled to participate in an after school program at Gatestone, please make sure to also connect with the program coordinator of your child's absence.

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 only 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 closing our school front drive way this year due to an increase in bus and taxi transportation. We appreciate

your support and flexibility to ensure the safe arrival and departure of our Gatestone student community.

BUSING

Year 1 or Year 2 Kindergarten students that are assigned to a bus should be riding the bus to and from school. If your child is participating in morning or after school care with Umbrella Day Care, please notify transportation immediately of the times your child will be attending Umbrella. Transportation will then notify the school of the updated busing information for your child. Parents/guardians are still advised to also notify your child's homeroom teacher and main office of any changes to busing transportation. This provides the school with an accurate list of when your child should be riding the bus to and from school.

Busing is only provided for our Year 1 and Year 2 Kindergarten students.

Let's have another fabulous week Gatestone!!!