



November 16 – November 20

Gatestone Elementary School 2020-2021

Monday, November 16	Day 4	<p>Parent Portal Please complete Student Verification forms and Media Consent forms in our Parent Portal.</p> <p>Bully Awareness & Prevention Week</p>
Tuesday, November 17	Day 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30AM Lockdown Drill (Students remain in their classroom/area with cohort for the drill) • Parent Council Meeting 6:00PM <i>Parents wishing to attend that did not receive an invite on MS Teams, please e-mail kreillys@hwdsb.on.ca so we can invite you to the meeting.</i>
Wednesday, November 18	Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessorize with Pink to support Bully Prevention & Awareness Today (e.g., pink socks, shirt, hat, hair, pants)
Thursday, November 19	Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30AM Bully Prevention & Awareness Virtual Assembly
Friday, November 20	Day 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fun Friday – Name that Tune Class Contests (led by our Grade 8 leaders)

Gatestone Community Updates

Parent Portal & Technology Updates

Please complete your child’s verification form and media consent form if you haven’t already. These forms can be accessed in the Parent Portal. Due to the re-organization our IIT department is working to set up new classes or add/change staff on our HUB

and MS Teams platforms. We are hoping to have these up and running by the end of next week. Thank you for your patience here.

Bully Prevention & Intervention Week

During Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week – November 15-21, 2020 – Ontario students, school staff and parents are encouraged to learn more about bullying and its effect on student learning and well-being.

Bullying is defined as a form of repeated, persistent and aggressive behaviour directed at an individual or individuals that is intended to cause (or should be known to cause) fear and distress and/or harm to another person's body, feelings, self-esteem or reputation. Bullying occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance.

At Gatestone we will explain the different forms bullying can take and strategies to support students (e.g., talking to a caring adult, sharing information with parents, HWDSBHelps, Kids Help line, BullyingCanada).

Forms of Bullying:

- **Physical** – hitting, shoving, stealing or damaging property
- **Verbal** – name calling, mocking, or making sexist, racist or homophobic comments
- **Social** – excluding others from a group or spreading gossip or rumours about them
- **Electronic** (commonly known as **cyberbullying**) – spreading rumours and hurtful comments through the use of cellphones, e-mail, text messaging and through social media.

To educate and recognize this week Gatestone will be participating in a series of activities.

- ***Classroom instruction/activities around Bully Awareness and Prevention***
- ***Spirit Day – Accessorize in Pink on Wednesday***
- ***Virtual School Wide Assembly on Thursday led by our Grade 8 students***
- ***Fun Friday – Team work for Name that Tune Game***

Lockdown Drill – Tuesday, November 17

Gatestone staff and students will engage in a Lockdown drill on Tuesday, November 17 at 9:30AM. Staff will discuss procedures for the lockdown with their students. A Lockdown is defined by police as the restriction of movement during the time of a potentially serious violent threat or violent incident that would endanger the lives of students and staff. It is used only when there is a major incident or threat of serious violence within the school, or in relation to the school. The threat is inside the school, or is on school property, and poses an immediate threat to the students and staff. All movement within the school is restricted and traffic into and out of the school is restricted. The exterior doors remain open to permit police only.

During the drill students will remain in their classrooms and at their arranged seats to meet COVID-19 safety measures.

Jokes for the Community

Students have been preparing appropriate but fun jokes to share over the announcements. Here are some of our favourite jokes this week.

Q: How many sides does a circle have?

A: The inside and outside

Q: Why is Cinderella struggle in soccer?

A: Because she is always running from the ball.

Q: What did the pen say to the pencil?

A: What's your point.

Q: What do you call a train made of gum?

A: Chew Chew Train

Previous Updates

Recess Routines and Outdoor Education/Activities

To meet expectations of physical distancing and safety on our playground as the colder weather is fast approaching, our nutrition break routines have slight revisions.

Students will continue to eat lunch and snacks during the first and second break and break times will remain the same. Grade 1-8 classes will be on a rotating outdoor schedule throughout the day. One rotation will be during one of the breaks and a second rotation with their classroom teacher during the day. Students will be outside for at least a minimum of 40 minutes a day (weather permitting) as per our regular routines. With rain, snow and sleet, our blacktop and field become very icy or damp during the next few months. We are adjusting our schedule to ensure students are outside as much as possible with appropriate physical distancing and supervision.

Students will continue to enjoy outdoor time in their assigned classroom zones that are 2 metres apart from other cohorts. Physical Education and DPA (Daily Physical Activity) will continue to be outside as much as possible. **Please make sure your child is dressed for the weather (e.g., hats, mittens, warm coats, boots).**

Indoor recesses will occur when our wind chill is between -15 to -20 degrees Celsius. In the event of indoor breaks throughout the day, teachers will provide opportunities for students to engage in movement activities within their classroom with appropriate physical distancing.

Preparing for Colder Weather

Although this week is quite warm, we will be expecting colder weather soon. During entry time students will go directly to their classroom and sanitize/wash hands upon entry to their classroom so they are not removing gloves outside of the building. Although we remind and communicate the importance of hand washing to our students, please also remind your child to sanitize prior to entering and exiting the classroom throughout the day. We will continue to do so as well.

We will be opening up lockers for most of our junior/intermediate classrooms to store winter items. Classrooms that have more space to store winter gear will receive baskets for students. Our primary students will receive an assigned cubby area apart

from others or an individual basket. Lockers and baskets **will not be shared** and we will use a colour coded system to allow for appropriate spacing when students are retrieving or dropping off items.

We have currently assigned over 300 lockers or cubby spaces to classes and are in the process of purchasing baskets to accommodate the remainder of storage needed to ensure appropriate distancing of items for all of our students in the building.

Students must bring all items home from lockers and cubby areas each evening so these areas can be properly cleaned and sanitized. Please remind your child to clear their locker or basket daily. Backpacks will continue to be stored in classrooms so lunches and other materials are easily accessed.