



**November 30 – December 4**

## Gatestone Elementary School 2020-2021

Monday, November 30	Day 3	
Tuesday, December 1	Day 4	
Wednesday, December 2	Day 5	
Thursday, December 3	Day 1	
Friday, December 4	Day 2	<b>2:00PM Fun Friday School Wide Bingo on MS Teams</b>

### 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.

#### Parent Communication

We understand the challenges presented when our parents are unable to access the inside of the school or visit their child's classroom. Communication with our families is important and our goal is to ensure all families are feeling connected with our school. Weekly Community updates posted on our website will continue from the school Principal and our educators will continue to communicate with families through virtual opportunities such as e-mail, HUB posts, MS Teams. Another way to connect with our school is join in on our School Council Virtual meetings. We will post the link and time for our January meeting in the new year.

Should you need to connect with your child's teacher our staff e-mails are updated on our website as well. On the HomePage click on "Gatestone Staff" to retrieve any necessary e-mails. Parents may also connect with our main office to leave a message if a phone call is required. Please always feel free to reach out to us if you have questions

or concerns. Although communication is virtual, we are always here to support or connect.

### **Masks – Entry/Dismissal**

A friendly reminder, masks are required to be worn by all parents when on school property. We understand a parent may have an underlying condition which can impact mask wearing. If this is the case, it is helpful to communicate this to the main office so staff is aware.

Gatestone staff would also like to recognize the support from our families during drop off and pick up times. We have appreciate the respect in demonstrating appropriate distancing, waiting at the gates for our older students, and the quick drop off and pick up of our primary students. Thank you for your help in ensuring safety in these busy times of the day.

Due to the high traffic at dismissal, we continue to request students wear their mask until off school property. This process has been going well, but support from parents in reminding their child in high traffic times to best protect with distancing and mask wearing is helpful.

### **Lockers, Cubbies, Baskets**

Students have received a basket, locker or cubby hook for their winter gear. So far this process is going well and we are using a colour coded system to ensure appropriate distancing. Please remind your child to bring all items home at the end of each day. With the extra winter gear it is easy for students to lose or misplace items. We currently do not have a Lost and Found at our office so it is important students carefully keep track of their winter items. If loose clothing is found on the field or in the hall we place it near the entry doorway at the end of break or on the ledge outside our office. These items are laid out for a few days due to spacing so please remind your child to have a look right away, with permission from their teacher, if they are missing an item.

## **Blacktop Recess**

As mentioned in previous communication regarding changes to nutrition break outdoor rotations, our field is not always available in damp or icy weather. It was nice that students could still get outside in their cohorts during break this week when our field was too wet for use. We will continue to divide our blacktop in 5 zones when we are unable to access our field so students are able to be outside in the fresh air on rotating schedules. Due to spacing and appropriate distancing for all cohorts, equipment is not permitted outside during blacktop only recess. Staff will allow the class to use equipment during their second 20 minute break outside and other times such as Daily Physical Fitness.

## **Bingo this Friday & Riddles for December**

Student leaders engaged students in a game of Name that Tune last week. This Friday, to continue to lift school spirit, classes will engage in a game of bingo with positive words reflecting kindness and appreciation. November jokes also helped with some morning smiles. We will continue this fun with riddles in December. Students can write a riddle during the indoor portion of nutrition break and share this with their teacher. Teachers will select a few riddles to share over our announcements each morning. We will also share a few of these fun riddles in our community updates as well.