



## November 9 – November 13

### Gatestone Elementary School 2020-2021

Monday, November 9	Day 4	<b>Parent Portal</b> <i>Please complete Student Verification forms and Media Consent forms in our Parent Portal.</i>
Tuesday, November 10	Day 5	
Wednesday, November 11	Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>10:20AM Virtual Remembrance Day Assembly</b></li></ul>
Thursday, November 12	Day 2	
Friday, November 13	Day 3	

### Gatestone Community Updates

#### ***Student Verification & Media Consent Forms in Parent Portal***

Please complete your child's verification form and media consent form. These forms can be accessed in the Parent Portal.

#### **Attestation Forms for Students Returning from Illness**

If your child was off from school due to an illness and is able to return to school after following appropriate COVID-19 procedures, the return to school Attestation form is now also available on the Parent Portal to complete for the day your child is returning. If you are not able to access the Parent Portal that day, please continue to send in a copy of the form signed. The form is available on our website under COVID-19 FORMS.

## *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.**

### **Safe Schools Survey Grades 4-8**

A message was sent to families on Thursday, October 29 for students in Grade 4 to Grade 8 to complete a survey regarding safe schools. At Gatestone we continue to work on making school a safe and inviting place for students to learn. Students are experts on school safety, so their voice is important. We would like to know about the things that happen at school that may affect how safe or unsafe students feel so that we can do a better job for all students.

Here is the survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/HWDSB>

Our school code is 22

Due to the current limited technology in our building and COVID-19 protocols around sharing devices, we are requesting parents to support their child in completing the survey from home using the following link. The survey is anonymous and voluntary.

Prior to starting the survey please share the following information regarding bullying.

***“There are a lot of different ways students get bullied. Bullying can be physical, verbal, social, or online. A student who bullies wants to hurt the other person (it’s not an accident), and they do it more than once and in an unfair way (the person bullying has some advantage over the person they are bullying). Sometimes a group of***

*students will bully another student. It is not bullying when two students of about the same strength or popularity have an argument or disagreement.”*

**The survey will close at the end of this weekend**