



Gatestone Community Updates

December 14 – December 18

Gatestone Elementary School 2020-2021

Monday, December 14	Day 3	<i>Spirit Day: Holiday hat or head gear</i>
Tuesday, December 15	Day 4	<i>Spirit Day: Dress as favourite winter character</i>
Wednesday, December 16	Day 5	<i>Spirit Day: Holiday Socks and Scarves</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Holiday Virtual Assembly 2:00PM
Thursday, December 17	Day 1	<i>Spirit Day Candy Cane colours</i>
Friday, December 18	Day 2	<i>Spirit Day Holiday Sweater</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Morning School Wide Trivia

Holiday Break No School: December 19 – January 3rd. School returns January 4th, 2021

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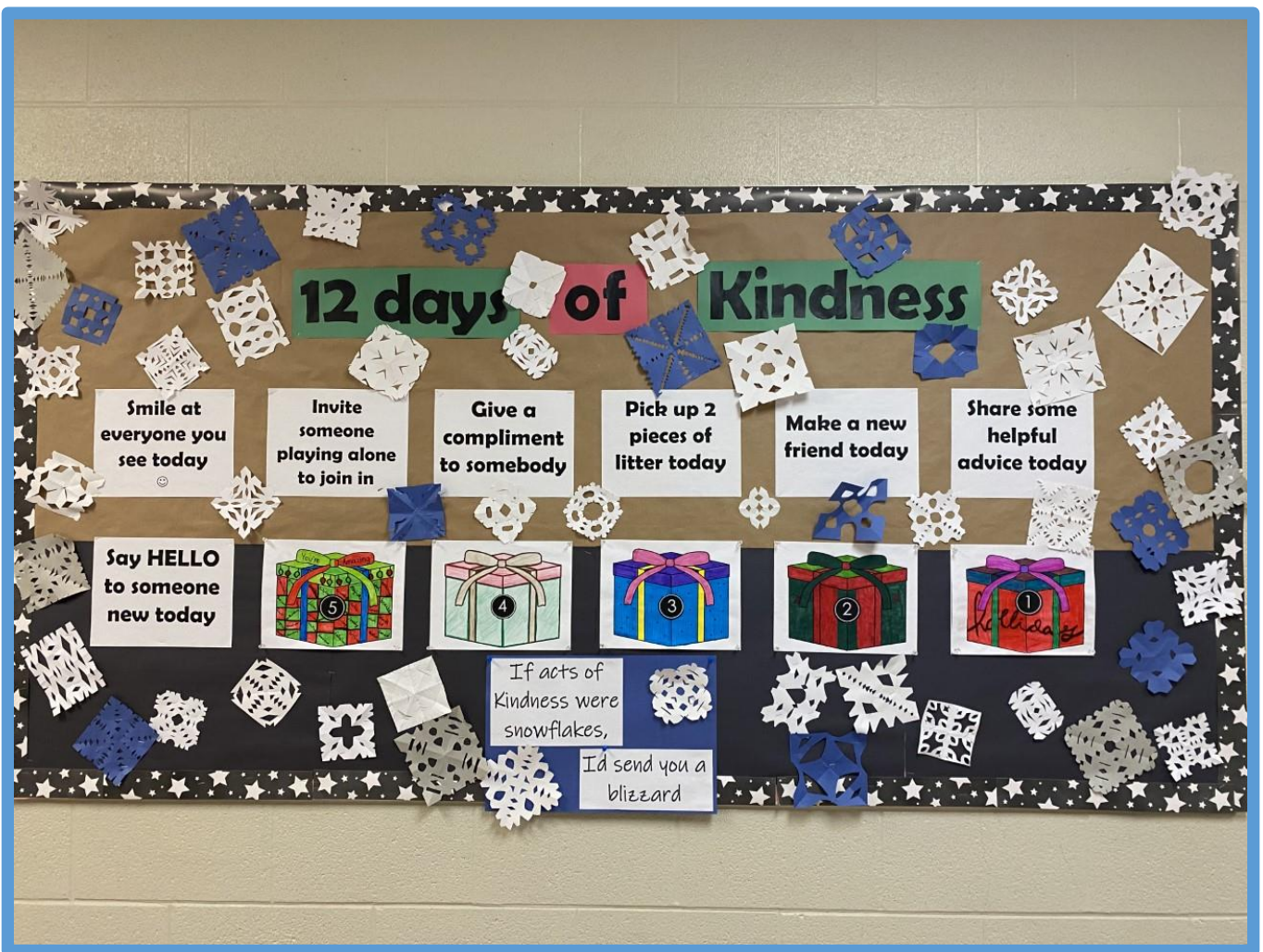
Student Verification Forms, Media Consent & Device Readiness

We are still missing several parent responses for our Student Verification forms and Media Consent. **Please access our Parent Portal to complete Student Verification forms and Media Consent if you have not already completed these forms.** We have also sent home copies of the Media Consent form for parents that have not accessed the portal. In order for staff to post classroom videos, student pictures or class work on their HWDSB classroom platform, consent is required. We do remind families that student information shared on our Gatestone Website, MS Teams or HWDSB HUB and other HWDSB platforms should not be downloaded, recorded or posted on other social

media platforms (e.g., twitter, tik tok, google etc.). We appreciate your understanding here to respect the privacy for our student community.

12 Days of Kindness

Class 6A has created 12 Days of Kindness for Gatestone. The 12 Days of Kindness began on December 3rd and will run until the holiday break. Students are encouraged each day to show an act of kindness while still following safety protocols of COVID-19. Each time a class member is showing kindness, a snowflake will be added to the 12 Days of Kindness Board. Check out all the snowflakes already! Well done Gatestone!



Virtual Assembly

Students will participate in a virtual holiday assembly on December 16th. Many of our students will share with the school some of their traditions throughout the year and several classes will create a short video presentation to share how they enjoy celebrating the holidays. **Homeroom classes may share their video on their classroom platform for families if all students in the class have media consent.**

Classroom Celebrations and Gifts for Staff

It is hard to believe the holiday break is almost here! Every year at this time our families are incredibly generous in giving gifts to staff. We appreciate this thoughtfulness, although no gifts are ever necessary. As you are already aware, we encourage a limited amount of parent traffic on the school property due to COVID-19 safety. If you can't resist the urge to send a gift, please make sure your child can bring the item with them to school to limit congestion during entry and dismissal time. Items should not be dropped off at the main office as we are limiting the amount of physical items brought into the school and the amount of people contacting items. We appreciate your understanding here.

Classrooms may choose to have a celebration before the holiday break. Students are not permitted to share food or other items from home with classmates due to COVID-19 protocols.

Previous Updates

Supporting our Hamilton Community over the Holidays

Although we were unable to keep with our Holiday Hamper tradition this year due to COVID-19 protocols in schools, Gatestone was able to support many Hamilton families

in need this holiday season with gift donations. We are happy we were able to continue with the spirit of giving in these challenging times.

Parking Across from the School at Drop Off/Pick Up

With the cooler weather approaching, we have noticed quite an increase in students being driven to school. Where possible, the school encourages families and students to walk to school to limit high traffic during entry/dismissal time. If you must drive your child to school, please park on adjacent streets near the school and walk your child to the entrance way. Parents should avoid parking directly across the street during entry and dismissal time as our buses are trying to enter and exit Gatestone's front driveway. Students needing to cross the street in front of our school should be using the Crossing Guard access.

Please help keep our Gatestone children safe by following these routines.

School Photos/Grad Photos

School photos are scheduled on February 11th and 12th this school year and our Graduation photos are scheduled on February 24th and 25th. More details regarding photos and procedures will be shared in the new year. Students in remote learning will also have the opportunity to be photographed. Students will only be photographed separate from one another with appropriate distancing from the photographer. Photographers in the school must follow appropriate COVID-19 procedures (e.g., hand washing, appropriate distancing, cleaning equipment, wearing a mask). There will not be any group photos, but since photography is magical, separate pictures can come together to appear as a class photo. More information to follow in the new year.