



November 30 – December 4

Gatestone Elementary School 2020-2021

Monday, December 7	Day 3	
Tuesday, December 8	Day 4	
Wednesday, December 9	Day 5	
Thursday, December 10	Day 1	
Friday, December 11	Day 2	

Gatestone Community Updates

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. Time to fill up the snowflakes!



Student Verification Forms, Media Consent & Device Readiness

We are still missing several parent responses for our Student Verification forms, Media Consent, and Device Readiness. **Please access our Parent Portal to complete Student Verification forms and Media Consent.** Attached in our Community Weekly post is the Device Readiness form. If you did not complete the survey when it was open a few weeks ago, this form must be filled out and sent to Gatestone with your child by Friday, December 11. The office will collect these forms next week. If you are unable to print a copy, please contact our office and we can send a hard copy home. It is important we have all of this information to best support our students needs and safety.

Bingo, Trivia & Riddles for December

Student leaders engaged all students in a game of Bingo with positive words this Friday to continue to lift school spirit. Throughout the month of December students will also continue to share riddles for some laughter and deep thinking in the morning. Finally, we have a COVID-19 & Holiday Trivia game ready for Friday, December 18th that again will be delivered by students in Grade 8.

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.

Virtual Holiday Assembly & Spirit Days

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.

Spirit Day countdown to the holidays will begin Monday, Dec. 14th and continue until Friday, Dec. 18th.

Spirit Day Countdown December 14-18

Dec. 14th: Holiday hat or head gear

Dec. 15th: Dress as favourite winter character

Dec. 16th: Holiday Socks and Scarves

Dec. 17th: Candy Cane colours

Dec. 18th: Holiday Sweater

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 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.

Previous Updates

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 over the last two weeks 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 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.