



February 22 - 26

## Gatestone Elementary School 2020-2021

Monday, February 22	Day 1
Tuesday, February 23	Day 2
Wednesday, February 24	Day 3 Grad Photos
Thursday, February 25	Day 4 Grad Photos
Friday, February 26	Day 5

### Gatestone Community Updates



#### STUDENT SCREENER & HOUSEHOLD CONTACTS OF SYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUALS

There have been revisions made to the student screener. Please see the link below. Staff, students and children with any new or worsening symptom of COVID-19, as indicated in the school and child care screening tool, **even those with only ONE symptom must stay home** until the following;

- They receive a negative COVID-19 test result
- They receive an alternative diagnosis by a health care professional, or
- It has been 10 days since their symptom onset and they are feeling better.

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

As of February 12, the Ministry of Health has issued guidance to public health units regarding COVID-19 variants of concern. Public Health is applying this guidance to staff, students and children by requiring them to stay home from school or child care if

anyone in their household has new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19 and has been recommended for isolation and testing.

### **SAFE PRACTICES TRAVELLING TO/FROM SCHOOL**



We encourage our students to walk to school due to our boundaries and distance from home to school. With colder weather occurring our traffic around the school has increased and our road has become overcrowded with vehicles. Parents are encouraged to walk with their child to school as our boundary areas do not require vehicle transportation unless there are special circumstances.

Students are reminded when walking to school and home to continue to use safe practices such as being aware of their surroundings, not talking to strangers, walking with peers or siblings (while maintaining appropriate distance) as much as possible. Students being approached by a stranger should leave immediately, go to the nearest safe zone (e.g., house of someone they know, friend or parent near by) and always report this to an adult.



### **Masks on Property**

A friendly reminder that all parents/guardians are required to wear a mask on school property. This includes our walkways and pickup and drop off areas when outside a vehicle. Unless there is a special circumstance that the office is aware of, staff will approach parents/guardians not wearing masks on the property and request compliance with the HWDSB COVID-19 guidelines. Staff may ask a parent to leave the property if there is refusal to wear a mask on school grounds. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring the safety for all.

### **Social Networking Safety**

Paul Davis, expert in networking safety, virtually visited with our students Grades 4-8 on February 17<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of his work was to educate our students around safe

practices using social media and preparing them to make respectful and appropriate choices in this digital world. A parent presentation was provided during the evening with many valuable tips to support our children regarding safety using the internet and personal devices.

You may want to ask your child what they learned about the following;

- *Apps such as Snap Chat and Tik Tok*
- *Digital Footprints*
- *How to engage in social networking safely*
- *Websites – Why create one?*
- *Strategies for networking privacy (e.g., passwords, cameras on laptop etc.)*

**Parent Tips:**

- Read Terms of Service for any Apps (13 years of age and up for most apps)
- Technology out of bedrooms connected to internet (stay informed)
- Open communication with child (Do not judge or shame when a child makes a mistake with social media, rather support and educate)
- Technology evokes emotion. Support and encourage your child to communicate with you when they see or hear things on social media they are unsure about
- Parents should have access to passcodes for young children

Attached in our post this week are some resources around coding and blogging that was also shared with our staff.

Paul Davis TEDx Speaker - 2015  
[www.socialnetworkingsafety.net](http://www.socialnetworkingsafety.net)

See Feedback from Principals and Parents!  
<http://socialnetworkingsafety.net/feedback/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/pauldavisSNS>

Facebook: [facebook.com/pauldavistips](https://facebook.com/pauldavistips)

## Black History Month

Every February, Canadians are invited to participate in Black History Month festivities and events that honour the legacy of Black Canadians, past and present. The HWDSB

provides various resources (e.g., stories, videos, lessons for staff) for students to learn more about the importance of this commemoration and celebrate achievements of Black Canadians.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month/about.html>



## Learn.Disrupt.Rebuild

Students will engage in our Learn.Disrupt.Rebuild work through weekly lessons. Communication will be shared on our HWDSB website for families as well. **Learn. Disrupt. Rebuild@HWDSB: Building a Community of Care** is a K-12 curriculum resource that supports the HWDSB Equity Action Plan. This resource is intended to support HWDSB staff as they address and teach issues related to equity, mental health, and well-being within the context of the dual pandemics of Covid-19 and Anti-Black Racism with our students.

## Grad Photos

Graduation photos are scheduled for February 24 and 25. Families of students in Remote School will be contacted on Monday for their scheduled time on February 25<sup>th</sup>.