



**March 29 – April 2**

## Gatestone Elementary School 2020-2021

Monday, March 29	<p>Day 5</p> <p><b>World Autism Week</b></p> <p><i>World Autism Awareness Day is an internationally recognized day on April 2<sup>nd</sup> every year, encouraging Member States of the United Nations to take measures to raise awareness about people with autism. See Swag Bag Drive Through Flyer Attached in Post.</i></p>
Tuesday, March 30	Day 1
Wednesday, March 31	<p>Day 2</p> <p><i>On Wednesday March 31st, Hamilton Wentworth District School Board would like to empower and celebrate the Transgender, Non-Binary, Gender Fluid, and Gender Diverse students, families, and staff members that are a part of our school communities. Without awareness and raising visibility, we cannot hope to end discrimination in the form of Transphobia.</i></p>
Thursday, April 1	Day 3
Friday, April 2	<p>Day 0</p> <p>Good Friday – No School</p> <p>World Autism Day</p>

### Upcoming Important Dates:

*Virtual Jump Rope for Heart Assembly – April 8<sup>th</sup>*

*Whole School Photos – April 27<sup>th</sup>*

*Jump Rope for Heart Celebration – May 7 (in class cohorts)*

*Kindergarten Grad Photos – May 17,18*

*Virtual Kindergarten Orientation – May 19*

## Gatestone Community Updates

### School Bell Study

#### Bell Times

Gatestone's bell times will have a slight change for the 2021-2022 school year. This does not take effect until September of 2021. Bell times currently remain the same for the remainder of this year.

**Change in Start and End Time for 2021-2022: Start Time: 9:15AM End Time: 3:35PM**

The bell times study is supporting a more consistent and dependable transportation service. The change at our school represents a much broader change that's getting students to school on time. Many schools are seeing changes. This applies to our school board and the Catholic board. It will be an adjustment but we will get through it together. We are working with our child care partners as well. They will be adjusting and accommodating their program times to this change. This is about logistics and efficiency in service using the resources we have available.

#### Background of the Reason for Study and Change:

There has been a significant bus driver shortage in Hamilton for a number of years. The shortage impacts the timing of buses and has caused many late buses, even cancellations, in the current year. This has a significant impact on the learning environment in schools. In order to reduce the driver shortage, the Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services (HWSTS) consortium conducted a system-wide bell time study for both the HWDSB and HWCDSB. We anticipate an improvement to the bus driver shortage in the fall.

All school bell times will be posted on the school's website.

### Public Health Measures - Reminders

With the rise in COVID-19 cases, please take time to remind your child of the importance of staying physically distanced from others as much as possible. This is especially a challenge with our younger students so frequent reminders from home is

helpful as well. We use physical cues such as arms out wide (spread wings) or arms straight out front to help visualize spacing.

Parents and students are required to wear a mask on school property. Staff can assist if a parent/visitor has forgotten a mask. If you are unable to wear a mask, please wait for your child off the school property near our exits/entrances (e.g., front side walk, behind gates of field).

To avoid more traffic on our school grounds, we ask only parents of primary students (Grade JK-3), wait on the field or near the gates for pick up/entry time. Parents of older children (Grades 4-8), please drop off/pick up at public sidewalks near the school. We appreciate your understanding here.