



### *Gatestone Weekly Updates*

***May 10 – May 14***

## **Gatestone Elementary School 2020-2021**

Monday, May 10	Day 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Daily Class Schedules will be Posted on your Child's Classroom Platform (HUB or MS Teams)</i></li><li>• <i>Mental Health Awareness Month Gatestone will continue to share awareness through the month of May</i></li></ul>
Tuesday, May 11	Day 4
Wednesday, May 12	Day 5
Thursday, May 13	Day 1
Friday, May 14	Day 2

### **Upcoming Important Dates:**

***Kindergarten Grad Photos – May 17,18 (if school is open and no restrictions)***

***Virtual Kindergarten Orientation – May 19***

## **Mental Health Awareness in May**

Gatestone will continue to recognize Mental Health and strategies on how to take care of ourselves through the month of May. Check out our Staff Video below that was shared with our students this week.

<https://hwdsb.tv/media/gatestone-school-take-a-moment/>

## Census Survey



At HWDSB, we are committed to identifying and removing barriers so we can offer all students supportive, inclusive, and respectful learning environments. If we are serious about student achievement and well-being, then we must not only celebrate students who are successful, we must have the courage to acknowledge which students are not succeeding – and why!

To learn more about our students, HWDSB schools are conducting a voluntary and confidential census. The survey, *We All Count: HWDSB Student Census 2021*, opened on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and asks questions about student identities (e.g., race, gender, etc.) to identify and address systemic barriers.

Many school boards have conducted a student census. In fact, the [Anti-Racism Act, 2017](#) and [Ontario's Education Equity Action Plan](#) require school boards to gather and report this data. It is also a priority project in HWDSB's Equity Action Plan.

Parents of students in Kindergarten to Grade 4 should have received a link to complete for your child. We encourage families to complete this survey by the end of this week. Students in Grades 5-8 will complete the survey during school hours with their classroom teacher. Should you have further questions, please connect with our main office.

## Attention: Gatestone Mothers



## *Jump Rope for Heart*

**There is still time to donate for our school. We have so far raised \$362.00. \$1.00 per student can get us to our goal of \$1000.00**

[https://secure-support.heartandstroke.ca/site/TR/Jump2021/Jump2021?team\\_id=83557&pg=team&fr\\_id=7673&consID=1366746&s\\_locale=en\\_CA](https://secure-support.heartandstroke.ca/site/TR/Jump2021/Jump2021?team_id=83557&pg=team&fr_id=7673&consID=1366746&s_locale=en_CA)

## *2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR*

### *Requests for Specific Learning Environment for Your Children*

It's understandable that although we are currently faced with school closures, September class placements are on families' minds. The HWDSB will be sharing information with families regarding remote learning opportunities for students for the 2021-2022 soon. For students returning to in-person learning, Gatestone Elementary School does not accept parental requests for a specific class placement. We have checked with our area schools and the majority of schools do not accept these requests either. The practice of selecting a specific teacher is contrary to all that we believe in terms of respecting all members of the Gatestone community and learning to work together.

With our current focus on grade team planning and implementation of our instructional program, all classes of the same grade will have a similar curriculum focus and delivery. Given that the curriculum will be aligned across the classes in the same grade, parents can be assured that the instructional program their child receives will be of equal caliber across the grade team. While we know that parents sometimes have a preference for a specific teacher, we believe it is important for our students to learn how to cooperate and function in an environment with a wide range of personalities and educational philosophies, which is a life-long skill that is imperative to meeting with success in any group or workplace. For these reasons we will not accept requests naming specific teachers and/or students.

At Gatestone we have developed a comprehensive process of assigning students to classes based on combinations of students, the learning needs of each student, the balance of male/female ratios, students who present with challenges, as well as independent workers versus students who require greater teacher support. All of this information is important in developing classes that are balanced

and effective and can only be done by staff who work directly, in the school, with all of the students being considered.

Another common request from parents is that their child not be placed in a “split” or a combined class. We cannot accept these requests. Split or combined classes are a reality in education today. Instruction in these classrooms is differentiated to meet the needs of all learners. We take the entire student profile into account before making decisions about placement. Just because a child was in a combined class one year does not guarantee that they will not be in a combined class the following year.

Should you feel the need to share parental input into the type of learning environment that would best meet the specific needs of your child, you are welcome to share this information through e-mail to [kreillys@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:kreillys@hwdsb.on.ca) by May 14<sup>th</sup>. I hope this has helped you to understand the complexity of allocating classes in a fair, responsible and equitable manner and helps to assure you that great attention is given to the placement of each and every child.

Respectfully,

Kelly Reilly-Scott  
Principal