



Welcome Back! September 8-10

Gatestone Elementary School 2021-2022

Monday, September 13	Day 4	
Tuesday, September 14	Day 5	
Wednesday, September 15	Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">School Council Information Session 6PM on MS Teams (virtual meeting). Please e-mail gatestone@hwdsb.on.ca if you require an invite. All Gatestone families are encouraged to check out how council can support our students at Gatestone. We are looking for volunteers to take on some of our council positions such as chair, treasurer, fundraising, secretary. Parents not interested in working in a role may wish to volunteer to be a member at large to support with our council decisions.
Thursday, September 16	Day 2	
Friday, September 17	Day 3	

Community Updates

What a terrific first week back to school. Thank you to our families for working with staff and your children to ensure a safe entry and dismissal. As we continue to try and limit traffic on school grounds, we are requesting parents of children Grade 4 and up wait to receive your child at our back gates or front sidewalk (front of school). Parents of younger children, Grades Kindergarten-Grade 3 should continue to maintain appropriate distancing from other students and families and wear a mask on school property. Parents dropping off or picking their child up at the back of the school should wait at the edge of the blacktop and field or our side gate. We appreciate your understanding here.

In the morning students will continue to directly enter the building and head to their classroom. This helps to limit traffic on our blacktop and makes our morning transition

to class programs at 9:15AM much smoother and timely. At the end of the day students will continue to exit in their cohort and should leave the school grounds right at dismissal to avoid unnecessary traffic during this busy time of day.

Please review our Gatestone Site Plan if you have further questions of COVID-19 protocols and entry and dismissal routines. The Site Plan is located under Community Updates.

Daily COVID-19 Screening

HWDSB COVID-19 Student Screening Checklist is to be completed daily before arriving at school. This year students will need to present proof of completed screening daily. Parents were provided with a calendar. Many are attached in your child's agenda or some form of organizer the classroom teacher uses. Please initial each day to verify your child has passed the screener. Our Grade 7 & 8 students may complete the screener electronically to show they have passed the screener.

Terry Fox Run 2021

Our annual Terry Fox Run will not be a one-day event again this year, but a weeklong celebration from October 4th to October 8th. Instead of the whole school running at the same time, staff will choose a time during that week to complete the run with their class. Leading up to their run, classes will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of different activities to learn more about this great Canadian and his cause. Below you will find information about how you can support our run this year.

Buy a t-shirt

Terry Fox Run t-shirts will be available for purchase through school cash online starting on September 13th, children are \$15.00, and adult are \$20.00. All money raised through the sale of the t-shirts will go towards our fundraising goal for this year. T-shirts can be ordered until September 23rd.

Fundraise online

This year we will once again be collecting online donations only, unfortunately we are unable to accept cash or cheques. Using the link below you will be able to make a one-time donation or set up your own fundraising page so your friends and family can help you reach your own goal. Link: <http://www.terryfox.ca/GatestonePSStoneyCreek>

Our amazing Gatestone community has always come through for our Terry Fox Run, so we look forward to another successful fundraising event as we try to reach our goal of \$3000.00.

Ventilation Update at Gatestone

Ventilation is an important protective measure for safe school environments. Over the course of the summer, HWDSB has worked to improve ventilation in various locations ahead of the 2021-22 school year. These upgrades include projects funded through Canada and Ontario's CVRIS-EDU program and about 1,039 High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) units being shipped to classrooms and schools.

The HEPA units have been provided in accordance with Ministry of Education direction. This includes all Kindergarten spaces, schools without mechanical ventilation (Tier 3), and where there are active ventilation projects underway and not yet completed.

There are three tiers of ventilation as identified by the Ministry of Education. They are Tier 1 (supply, return, exhaust), Tier 2 (supply, exhaust) and Tier 3 (exhaust). Tier 3 schools are typically heated with radiators and have exhaust units for moving air. These schools will be receiving HEPA units to help improve ventilation.

Gatestone is a Tier 1 system school as defined by the Ministry of Education.

Visiting Schools

This year, our school must significantly continue to limit or even prohibit visitors to school, including parents, to support a safe and healthy learning environment. We ask families to call or email our school if they need to supply information or contact a staff member. Parents are asked to not drop off items during the school day to avoid unnecessary traffic and exposure on school grounds. Please contact the school first if you believe you need to bring an item to the school. We may be able to problem solve

to avoid the extra traffic on the school grounds. Students should come prepared for learning daily with a lunch, water bottle, appropriate clothing and learning materials.

School Council

Our 1st School Council Information session will take place on MS Teams in the evening of September 15. All families are welcome. We encourage our families you to attend this meeting to find out more about our school council and different ways our family community can help. Nominations forms for council will be sent home in early September and there will be another council meeting the evening of September 29th on MS Teams to determine council positions and voting members. Please see our website, School Council Page, for further details about Council.



A little more about School Councils

Every school in Ontario is required to have a School Council to work collaboratively with the Principal to improve student achievement and enhance accountability of the school with parents. Information about School Councils can be found here <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/council/guide.html>.

We welcome all parents/guardians who are willing to volunteer their time to participate on School Council for the 2020-2021 school year. Typically, School Council meets in person several times throughout the year to discuss school wide interests. This year due to Public Health regulations, School Council meetings will be held virtually using MS Teams.

School Councils must hold an election to identify voting members and various positions such as School Council Chair. Elected members vote on School Council matters and represent the groups' ideas. Please note you do not have to be an elected member of School Council to attend meetings.

The Week is Yours Gatestone. Own it!
This week make yourself proud!

