



September 20-24

Gatestone Elementary School 2021-2022

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| Monday, September 20 | Day 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intermediate Boys 3 Pitch Tournament <p>Location: Turner Park. Parents must drive and pick up their child. Students must bring a mask.</p> |
| Tuesday, September 21 | Day 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:35AM – Virtual School Wide Assembly |
| Wednesday, September 22 | Day 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Girls 3 Pitch Tournament <p>Location: Turner Park. Parents must drive and pick up their child. Students must bring a mask.</p> |
| Thursday, September 23 | Day 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:35AM Students will Practice their First Fire Drill |
| Friday, September 24 | Day 3 | |

Community Updates

Traffic Flow at Gatestone

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.

Direct Entry

Our school grounds open at 9AM. Please do not send your child earlier to school as we do not have supervision on the school grounds before 9AM. Students will enter directly into the building at their assigned door and go to their classrooms.

Kindergarten students enter at the front of the school (Kindergarten Pen). Grade 1-4 Students enter at the back doors and Grade 5-8 enter at the side doors, near side pathway and bike racks.

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.

Walk to School

Gatestone is a “walking school”. Students live within a walking distance from the school and therefore are encouraged to walk to school with parents or peers rather than be driven by vehicle. A school bus is the exemption here.

Benefits of Walking to and from School

- Improved safety on our community streets
- Less congestion and pollution near the school
- Walking provides time for mindfulness and self-reflection
- Walking with a peer provides time for peer connection
- Exercise – feeling healthier and energized for school
- Adding more steps to your day

This week while walking to and from school with a caregiver or peer, try playing a game of scavenger hunt. Create clues of something you see and have your partner guess what the object/landmark may be.

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.

School Council

Our 1st School Council meeting will take place on MS Teams in the evening of September 29th at 6PM. All families are welcome.



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.

See the School Council attachment which includes the presentation slides from our September 15th meeting led by our council chair, Krystal Legge.

Outdoor Nutrition Break

During outdoor nutrition break students may remove their masks when remaining 2metres apart from other students in their class. Please talk to your child regarding the importance of maintaining space if they are choosing to remove their mask.

Our younger students may use code words such as “arm’s length, “spread your wings” to help identify the distance.

Staff rotating outside during nutrition break will continue to encourage safe distancing or remind students to keep their mask on when unable to distance.

Safe School Procedures

We will continue to practice safe school procedures this year. Throughout the year, we will practice six Fire Drills (3 in Fall and 3 in Spring), one Lockdown, one Hold and Secure, one Shelter in Place, and one Evacuation Drill (Bomb Threat).

In actual emergencies students will evacuate the building quickly and orderly. To protect students during the Covid-19 pandemic, our fire drills, evacuation drill, and lockdown drill will be practiced differently to protect students and maintain physical distancing.

During our Fire Drill students will learn about the alarm sound, review their primary and secondary exits with their teacher, practice exiting the building at these exits, and practice lining up outside. Students will line up outside with physical distance (2 metres apart). Our Evacuation drill will follow a similar process as a Fire Drill. During our Lockdown Drill students will still remain in their classroom, but sit on the floor beside their desk rather than a separate area in the classroom. In the event of a real Lockdown, teachers will direct students away from any windows or open spaces.

Below are the processes staff and students follow during emergencies.

Fire (Evacuation) - Refer to HWDSB Fire Evacuation Procedures

Bomb Threat and Other Explosive Devices (Emergency Evacuation)

In the event that a bomb threat is received, an explosive device is discovered or reported, or an explosive incident takes place the school will evacuate.

- A person receiving a bomb threat by telephone should try to keep the caller on line;

- All bomb threats should be taken seriously and reported to the Principal or designate in the building;
- Principal or designate should contact Superintendent and Corporate Communications;
- Ensure main entrance is unlocked for police to enter.

Upon receiving a phone call regarding a BOMB THREAT:

1. Record exact wording of threat.
2. Record phone number
3. Ask questions. *What time will the bomb explode? Where is the bomb? What does it look like? Where are you calling from? Why did you place the bomb? What is your name? Identify characteristics (e.g., male, female, age, voice, emotion). Identify time of call and date.*

Lockdown Procedure

A procedure used in response to a major incident or threat of violence with the school, or in relation to the school. Defined by police as the restriction of movement during the time of a potentially serious violent threat or violent incident that would endanger the lives of students and staff.

- Used when there is a violent incident or thread of serious violence within the school, or in relation to the school;
- The threat is inside the school, or is on school property, and poses an immediate threat to the students and staff;
- Police will notify the school when Lockdown is ended.

Hold and Secure

A procedure used when the school is secured due to an ongoing situation outside and not related to the school that requires all persons to remain in the building, but continue with regular programming (e.g., bank robbery near the school).

- School continues to function as normal, but all persons must remain in the building;
- All movement in and out of the school is restricted;
- Exterior windows should be covered or blinds drawn, lights dimmed;
- Police will notify the school the Hold and Secure is done.

Shelter in Place

A procedure used when there is an environmental, or weather related situation, where it is necessary to keep all occupants within the school to protect them (e.g., chemical spill outside, extreme weather conditions).

- People remain in the building with doors and windows closed;
- Normal operations continue in the building. Fans including heating and air conditioning units, should be turned off to prevent outdoor air from entering the building.