



October 4 – October 8

Gatestone Elementary School 2021-2022

Monday, October 4	Day 4	Terry Fox Recognition this Week <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Day of School Reorganization Staff will support our re-imagining wellness work during this week to help build on teacher/student and peer connections and ensure students are feeling included in their new or existing environments with new teachers or peers.
Tuesday, October 5	Day 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virtual Assemblies for K-8 students review of school routines, public health measures, Terry Fox recognition, and inspiring moments to support resiliency and courage
Wednesday, October 6	Day 1	
Thursday, October 7	Day 2	
Friday, October 8	Day 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School Wide Terry Fox Recognition – Wear your Terry Fox T-shirt today. Students can still wear their t-shirt other days in the week too 😊

Community Updates

Orange Shirt Day and National Day of Truth and Reconciliation Occurred September 30

The orange shirt is symbolic of how Indigenous children were forcibly removed from their homes, families and communities to attend state and church-led schools that stripped them of their culture, language and identity. Thank you to the many students that wore orange on Thursday to honour the children whose lives were lost and the survivors of Residential Schools.

<https://hwdsb.tv/media/orange-shirt-day-video/>



Gatestone School Reorganization – First Day October 4th

Each fall, HWDSB reviews elementary student enrolment in schools, and reorganizes staffing if actual enrolment differs from the spring projections. It is normal for student enrolment to fluctuate from spring to fall. This year, the fall reorganization is more widespread due to the in-person/remote option for students and the ongoing need to meet provincial class size requirements.

Students should have received a letter of their class placement and teacher on Friday, October 1st. Kindergarten students were not impacted in the reorganization and our Grade 7A, 7/8A, 8A, 8B classes remain the same with a few additional students. Students in these classes will not have received a letter.

Students that have experienced a change in teacher or class placement will begin in their new class on Monday, October 4th. Our educators will work with students through this change to ensure success.

Given the many protocols the school must adhere to when building classes during this reorganization, the school is not able to move students into different classrooms or with different educators than assigned. All of our classes are currently at full capacity.

We understand some students will have little to no worries about change while other students may need time to adjust. Many students have built connections with peers over this past month and it may be hard to part with some friends or a particular teacher. If your child is experiencing some worry or anxiety about change, I kindly request you give your child a chance to adjust to their new environment. Validate how your child is feeling and remind them that the educators will be supportive in their feelings about change. It is often the case that after a few weeks in a new classroom environment, students form valuable connections with peers and educators and begin to thrive.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

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.



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.

Fundraise online

A big shout out to all our students who purchased a Terry Fox Run t-shirt this year. Shirts have been delivered and we can't wait to see them all this week. All money raised from the sale of the shirts, goes towards our fundraising goal this year of \$3000.00. If you did not purchase a shirt, but would still like to support this worthy

cause, we will be collecting online donations for the next few weeks. You can use the link below to make a one-time donation or set up your own page to send to family and friends. Unfortunately, we are still unable to accept cash donations. Like last year, classes will choose a time this week to do their Terry Fox Run, as we can't do a whole school event as we have done in the past. Please check your child's agenda to see when their run will take place. As a staff, we would like to thank our Gatestone Community for their continued support of our first fundraiser of the year.

Gatestone School fundraising
link: <http://www.terryfox.ca/GatestonePSStoneyCreek>

School Council

Our 1st School Council meeting occurred on September 29th.

If you are looking to review minutes from our meeting please visit our School Council page on our Gatestone Website.



Thank you to our parent volunteers that will be supporting in a council position this year.

Krystal Legge – Chair of Council
Jennifer Sarkis – Secretary
Shannon Gould – Treasurer
Pamela Morcillo – Fundraising

Voting Members

Krystal Legge, Jennifer Sarkis, Shannon Gould, Pamela Morcillo, Billy Dhillon, Abigail Cukier, Saurabh Sharma

Our next meeting date is schedule for November 3 at 6PM on MS Teams.

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>.