



December 13 – December 17

Gatestone Elementary School 2021-2022

Monday, December 13	Day 2	Snowman Day (Dress in your bright Whites 😊)
Tuesday, December 14	Day 3	Gatestone Gingerbread Day
Wednesday, December 15	Day 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking Wednesday Elf Day (Dress in Green)
Thursday, December 16	Day 5	Ugly Christmas Sweater Day or Creative Holiday Shirt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Census and MDI surveys completed Students Grades 5-8 (Census) Students Grades 4-8 (MDI)
Friday, December 17	Day 1	<i>Pajama Day or Dress in Favourite Cozies</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12PM School Wide Virtual Kahoot Game – Winter Celebrations

Holiday Break December 18 - January 2

Students return to class January 3rd. Daily Screening will begin again starting Jan. 3rd.

Rapid Antigen Tests

The week of December 13 the school staff will distribute one package of five rapid antigen tests to your child to take home. There is an important letter that will come home with the kits. Please read the letter to fully understand the when to use the rapid antigen screening kit.

Your child’s participation in this rapid antigen testing is **voluntary**.

A staff member marked that a child had received the testing kits. If your child will be absent on the delivery date, they can pick their kit up the following day.

Students are not required to participate in order to return to the classroom after the winter break.

Together, with Hamilton Public Health Services, we are supporting additional action to prevent the spread of Covid-19, giving parents another tool to access volunteer testing, and further protect in-person learning.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Public Health at 905-974-9848 or visit www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus.

Census Survey

At Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB), we are committed to identifying and removing barriers so we can offer all students supportive, inclusive, and respectful learning environments.

To learn more about our students, we conducted a confidential census in April 2021. *We All Count: HWDSB Student Census 2021* gathered identity-based student data so that we can identify and address systemic barriers by focusing our programming and resources. **The student census has been reintroduced in 2021-22, due to the challenges of conducting it during the remote learning period. The survey opened Monday, November 29th in the Parent Portal for students in Kindergarten to Grade 4. Students in Grade 5-8 will have completed the survey at school in their homeroom classes by December 16th.** Please support this important work and complete the survey in our Parent Portal if your child is in a younger grade.

Gatestone's Food Drive – Hamilton Food Share

Thank you to Ms. Wunsche and our Safe School Action Team - Community Relations Group for running this initiative!


GATESTONE'S Food Drive
December 1st to
December 16th

**One Can Make
A Difference!**

Please donate non-perishable food items, such as: soup, beans, vegetables, kraft dinner, pasta, pasta sauce, jam, pickles.



School Council Fundraising
FlipGive

Gatestone Fundraiser

Online Market

Holiday shopping left to do?

Already finished shopping?

These are the gifts that keep on giving

-- To Gatestone!--

THIS SEASON, FUNDRAISING FOR GATESTONE ELEMENTARY IS GOING TO BE SO MUCH EASIER WITH FLIPGIVE, A FREE FUNDING APP.

GATESTONE EARNS CASH BACK ON EVERY PURCHASE WE MAKE ALL YEAR LONG! ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SHOP ANYTIME WITH THE BRANDS YOU ALREADY LOVE, LIKE HOME DEPOT, WALMART, SPORT CHEK, INDIGO, OLD NAVY, APPLE, ESSO, AND LOBLAWS. NO MORE GOING DOOR-TO-DOOR SELLING CHOCOLATE BARS - IT'S COMPLETELY VIRTUAL AND CONTACTLESS.

JOIN OUR TEAM NOW AND YOU'LL EARN US A \$5 BONUS THE FIRST TIME YOU SHOP:

[HTTPS://FLIPGIVE.APP.LINK/TEAMS/JOIN?](https://flipgive.app.link/teams/join?)

OR ENTER THIS CODE: **6XQY92**

INVITE AUNTS, COUSINS, FRIENDS, ALL FAMILY MEMBERS!
EVERY PURCHASE HELPS US RAISE MONEY!

WANT TO LEARN MORE? CHECK OUT THIS 2 MINUTE VIDEO:

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=5VTO_QG4N80](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VTO_QG4N80)

DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS WE ARE UNABLE TO DO OUR REGULAR FUNDRAISING - GATESTONE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT NOW MORE THAN EVER!

THANK YOU

PARENT COUNCIL - [GATESTONESC@HWDSB.ON.CA](mailto:gatestonesc@hwdsb.on.ca)



Safe School Action Team

Message from Gatestone's Bully Prevention & Equity Action Team (BEAP Team)

The Gatestone BEAP Team is running a celebration poster contest. Students will need to create a poster featuring AT LEAST 2 celebrations during our Winter months. Please submit to Ms. Stewart by Monday, Decemberr 13th. The BEAP Team would like to display the posters during our last week of school before the winter break. This contest will apply for all interested students in any grade.

All students are invited to create a poster.

Student Daily Screening

Student daily screening will begin again starting January 3rd and continue until further notice. Our younger students will receive a calendar for the month of January. Parents will need to initial each day, once the screener has been completed, to verify their child has passed the screener. Please do not initial the days ahead on the screener as the purpose of this tool is to remind us to screen daily and work through the screener questions each day. Older students (typically Grade 6-8) that are able to read the screener and answer the questions may complete the screener in the morning with their classroom teacher. Students may also complete this on their device as well. The green check mark will determine if they have passed the screener and can attend school. Thank you for your support here!

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

Holiday Travels

A friendly reminder, following our Ministry of Education Student Screener, students that are not fully vaccinated and are travelling out of country with family or friends over the holiday break will need to quarantine for 14 days after returning to Canada.

Previous Updates

Dress for Weather

With the damp weather in December, our field area becomes quite wet with several muddy patches. We want to have students outside on our field area as much as possible to allow for appropriate distancing without masks outside. Please pack extra outdoor shoes or rain boots for your child to enjoy the field. Days when we are unable to access the field and need to implement a Blacktop only recess, students will follow an outdoor rotating schedule with their class to ensure appropriate physical distancing and removal of masks can occur. Both nutrition breaks still occur regardless and every class will have one outdoor scheduled time during one of the nutrition breaks. Educators will also plan for another time in their day where students can move around outside on our blacktop areas to receive some fresh air and more outdoor exercise.

Lately, we have endured more blacktop and indoor recesses than usual due to damp weather conditions. Our school will be implementing, Walking Wednesdays, as another opportunity to get outside for more exercise. During the morning, classes will have an assigned time to walk outside around our school pathways and blacktop area. Daily Physical Activity (20minutes) will continue to occur on days students do not have Physical Education as well.

Grade 7 & 8 Students

Attention Grade 7&8 Students

From your Student Trustees at Gatestone:

Student Trustees would like you to complete the form using the link below to share what you think about the Student Senate or just to get an understanding of what you already know about Student Senate. Students in Grade 7 & 8 would only complete this form. This form will also be shared by your classroom teacher.

[Student Senate Feedback Form](#)