



January 31 – February 4

Gatestone Elementary School 2021-2022

Week at a Glance

Monday, January 31	Day 1	Please complete daily screener for your child
Tuesday, February 1	Day 2	Black History Month – A Walk Through Time Families may Join 12PM -1PM. Families may view using this link. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= ZnrOMymIH8
Wednesday, February 2	Day 3	
Thursday, February 3	Day 4	
Friday, February 4	Day 5	

Weekly Updates Colder Weather

Please make sure your child bundles up for colder weather. Students participate in outdoor nutrition break for 20 minutes in the morning and 20 minutes in the afternoon. Changes to this schedule will only occur on inclement weather days or days in which the field is not accessible for safety reasons or weather conditions. Students will remain indoors when the temperature is colder than -20 degrees Celsius with the windchill (or sometimes wavering near this temperature if harsh winds). Students should wear warm coats, hats, boots, mittens, neck protection (if able) to help prepare for colder days and enjoy outdoor play. Colder weather will continue through the month of February so please dress warm and enjoy winter fun outside!

Walking to School

Help improve the safety on the streets near our school during entry and dismissal time. Please walk with your child to school if your child is not assigned to one of our bus routes. This will help to eliminate unnecessary vehicle traffic around the school area. A friendly reminder that students should be utilizing cross walks and crossing Gatestone Drive with our assigned city crossing guards. Make your walk to school a fun family experience:

-read/count signs on route

-play "I spy"

-count steps or timing the walk

Kindergarten Registration

Our Kindergarten registration opens February 7, 2022.

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten/>

School Council Update

Our School Council met virtually on Wednesday, January 26. The powerpoint is shared in the Community Weekly Post. Please visit our School Council Page on the website for further information as well.

Important Notes:

- Council is currently applying for a parent out reach grant to support mental health initiatives and mental health education for our families
- FlipGive, a wonderful way to support our Gatestone council (see below)
- New Council Twitter @GatestoneCouncil1 (check out this Twitter account for council postings)

A blue poster for a Gatestone Fundraiser. On the left side, there are four megaphones (two green and two white) arranged vertically, with white stars and green dots scattered around them. The text on the right is in white and yellow. The title 'GATESTONE FUNDRAISER' is in large, bold, yellow letters. Below it, the text says 'Gatestone is using FlipGive!' in white, followed by 'Join us now and you'll earn us a \$5 bonus the first time you shop! Download the app and enter this code: 6XQY92'. Then it says 'Invite aunts, cousins, friends, all family members! Every purchase helps us raise money!'. Next is 'Check out this 2 minute video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vT0_Qg4n80'. Finally, it says 'Due to covid restrictions we are unable to do regular fundraising - Gatestone needs your support now more than ever!' and 'Thank you Parent Council - gatestonesc@hwdsb.on.ca' at the bottom.

GATESTONE FUNDRAISER

Gatestone is using FlipGive!
Join us now and you'll earn us a \$5 bonus the first time you shop!
Download the app and enter this code: **6XQY92**

Invite aunts, cousins, friends, all family members!
Every purchase helps us raise money!

Check out this 2 minute video:
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Thank you Parent Council - gatestonesc@hwdsb.on.ca

Black History Month

A Walk Through Time

All members of the HWDSB community are invited to attend this year's official kick-off of Hamilton Black History Month hosted by Hamilton Black History Council, in partnership with Afro Canadian Caribbean Association. The online event, aptly themed "A Walk Through Time" will be a unique opportunity to experience the launch of Hamilton's Black History Database, highlighting key historical themes within this resource. This is a wonderful opportunity for all students, staff and our Gatestone community to witness the unveiling of the rich and vibrant history of the Black community here in Hamilton.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Znr0MymiH8>

https://hwdsb.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/721/?rm=BLACK+HISTORY+1%7C%7C%7C1%7C%7C%7C2%7C%7C%7Ctrue

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month.html>

Spirit Wear Coming Soon

Spirit Wear will be available for sale soon. The school will share the link for family purchases. Orders will be purchased through Breakaway, however clothing will be sent directly to the school. Once delivered, the school will notify families and send spirit wear home with students. Support Gatestone student funding as the school will receive a small kick back (approx. \$5.00 per item sold) to support student initiatives at Gatestone (e.g., busing, grad, technology repair and equipment).

 Client: Gatestone Gryphons
Job: School Apparel
Date: Jan 26, 2022

ATC EVERYDAY FLEECE HOODED SWEATSHIRT. ATCF2500
PRINTED FRONT WHITE ON FOREST GREEN OR DK GREEN ON SPORT GREY
13-OZ, 50/50 COTTON/POLYESTER FLEECE
COMPACTED YARNS TO MINIMIZE SHRINKAGE
DOUBLE LINED HOOD WITH DRAWSTRING
AVAILABLE SIZES: ADULT SM-4XL & YOUTH SM-XL
\$35.00EA

 
SPORT GREY FOREST GREEN

ATC EVERYDAY FLEECE SWEATPANTS. ATCF2800
PRINTED LEFT HIP DK GREEN ON SPORT GREY
13-OZ, 50/50 COTTON/POLYESTER FLEECE
COMPACTED YARNS TO MINIMIZE SHRINKAGE
FRONT POCKETS
ELASTIC CUFFS & WAISTBAND WITH DRAWSTRING
AVAILABLE SIZES: ADULT SM-4XL & YOUTH SM-XL (NO DRAWSTRING ON YOUTH PANTS)
\$35.00EA


SPORT GREY

ATC EVERYDAY COTTON TEE. ATC1000/ATC1015
PRINTED FRONT WHITE ON FOREST GREEN OR DK GREEN ON SPORT GREY
9.1-OZ, 100% COTTON ON FOREST GREEN
90/10 COTTON/POLYESTER ON SPORT GREY
COMPACTED YARNS TO MINIMIZE SHRINKAGE
AVAILABLE SIZES: ADULT SM-4XL & YOUTH XS-XL
SHORT SLEEVE: **\$15.00EA**
LONG SLEEVE **\$20.00EA**

 
FOREST GREEN SPORT GREY

 
FOREST GREEN SPORT GREY

This is a rough sketch of your artwork - sizes/colours may not be exactly as shown. Please review this artwork carefully. We are not responsible for any text, spelling, grammatical or graphical errors, nor any embroidered or printed materials or costs incurred due to those errors. Please inform us of any necessary changes.

Previous Updates

Public Health Guidance

The Ministry of Health published [COVID-19: Interim Guidance for Schools and Child Care: Omicron Surge](#). Also, please find two updated decision guides created by Hamilton Public Health Services schools will follow when a student is symptomatic.

- [Symptomatic Child At Home – Decision Guide](#)
- [Symptomatic Child at School or Child Care – Decision Guide](#)

When in doubt, please contact the school before sending your child to school. Any child with a symptom (common or less common) will not pass the screener and should follow the appropriate isolation guidelines. We appreciate families working together to keep schools safe and everyone healthy.

Student Daily Screening

A friendly reminder to please complete the student screener daily with your child. Our younger students will have received a calendar for the month of January and February. 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/>

School Reporting of Self Reported COVID-19 Cases

As the province and Public Health focus their efforts on vaccine, the practice of case management in school settings has stopped in Ontario. Given that our communities may have access to tests, (PCR, RAT), HWDSB has created the following process to communicate information on test results shared by staff or families. This process is voluntary for families that choose to self-report. Any information provided by the school to communities has not been confirmed by Public Health. Cohorts of students/staff will not be dismissed as a result of this data. The school will communicate self-reported cases on the school website. Please subscribe to our Gatestone Website to receive

notifications. <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/gatestone/>. The subscribe button is located on the Gatestone website home page under the Gatestone school picture.

Absentee Rates Reporting

- Principals will report absentee rates (staff and students) to the provincial government daily.
- This number will be shared with the Board as a percentage of students and staff and posted on the Board website. **Please note this will not include a class-by-class breakdown, only an overall number of absences or percentage of staff/student absences and will be noted for the *previous* day.**
- If a school's absence rate for students or staff reaches 30%, principals will report that to Public Health and will follow Public Health guidance.

Additional Measures

We will continue to reduce the number of contacts within our schools in any way possible. This includes:

- A pause on any in-person high-contact/high-intensity activities, as well as band and choir.
- There will be a pause on **all extra curricular activities** (except for those activities that run virtually) until further notice
- School Photographs are on pause
- Students will remain with their classroom cohorts during recesses and lunch breaks, even while outside.
- School boards are permitted to mix contacts if necessary to continue school operations due to staffing shortages. If this occurs, classrooms may be combined into larger areas (gyms, libraries) where they can be supervised by a teacher with physical distance between the cohorts. We are also using all of the resources available, including retired teachers and principals, occasional teachers, student teachers and emergency instructors to support keeping our schools open without having to mix cohorts.
- Closing a school due to an unsafe staffing level will be considered only as a last resort