



# February 7 – February 11

## Gatestone Elementary School 2021-2022

### Week at a Glance

Monday, February 7	Day 1	Please complete daily screener for your child
Tuesday, February 8	Day 2	
Wednesday, February 9	Day 3	
Thursday, February 10	Day 4	
Friday, February 11	Day 5	Jersey Spirit Day  JERSEY DAY

#### **Weekly Updates**

#### Self-reported Covid-19 positive test result notice

Our Kindergarten registration opens February 7, 2022. <a href="https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten/">https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten/</a>

## Valentine's Day Celebrations (Monday, February 14)

Students may be celebrating Valentine's Day in their classroom this year. Our educators will determine appropriate classroom activities/games to celebrate this day with their students. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and various student medical allergies in our building, please do not send in materials (e.g. gifts, cards, candy) or food items that would be shared with other students to the school. Some classes may participate in "Valentine Celebration Bags" in which students bring in their own items to enjoy during the day. These items would not be shared with others. We will continue to celebrate this day in fun and educational ways while also following safe and healthy school protocols. Thank you for your understanding.

# School Council Update Council Fundraising: Introducing FlipGive

Using FlipGive will help council support some of our school initiatives this year (e.g., technology improvement, outdoor spaces, school equipment).



# Previous 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

#### **Black History Month**

#### A Walk Through Time

All members of the HWDSB community were 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" is 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. This was shared with students on February 1st. The link is posted below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= Znr0MymIH8

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).



#### **Public Health Guidance**

The Ministry of Health published <u>COVID-19: Interim Guidance for Schools and Child Care: Omicron Surge.</u> 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. <a href="https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/gatestone/">https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/gatestone/</a>. The subscribe button is located on the Gatestone website home page under the Gatestone school picture.

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