



**April 11 – April 15**

## Gatestone Elementary School 2021-2022

Monday, April 11	Day 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grade 8 Graduation Photographs in Library</li> </ul> <p><u>Schedule by Class</u></p> <p>9:30AM-10:30 S. Graham            10:30AM-11:15 L. Lamarre            12:00PM - 1:00PM J. Penner &amp; M. Wunsche            1:30 - 3:00PM E. Haskell-Cowan</p>
Tuesday, April 12	Day 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gatestone Spirit Day</li> </ul>
Wednesday, April 13	Day 1	
Thursday, April 14	Day 2	12:00PM Spring Bingo – Whole School Activity
Friday, April 15	Day 0	<i>No School</i> <i>Statutory Holiday</i>

### Community Weekly Update

### Personal Devices at School

Students over the past few weeks have been inquiring about school and ministry policies regarding the use of personal devices at school. Below is a link to the Ministry Policy regarding Personal Mobile Devices for families to review when students are choosing to bring personal devices to school (e.g., cell phone, own ipad/lap top, gaming devices).

[When can my child use a personal mobile device in the classroom?](#)

The use of personal mobile devices is permitted during instructional time under the following circumstances:

- For educational purposes, as directed by the educator in the classroom
- For health and medical purposes
- To support special educational needs

**Link for further information:** <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/cellphone-mobile-devices.html#review9>

Circumstances and situations may look different for each individual student. Educators will collaborate with families and students to create any necessary plans when accommodations are required. This will ensure there is a common understanding of the regulations with all parties involved. Should you have further questions regarding the use of personal devices in schools, please connect with your child's homeroom teacher or our main office.

During our nutrition breaks, homeroom teachers are responsible for sharing guidelines of appropriate activities/games during this time. Should a student need to contact a parent during school hours, including nutrition breaks, we encourage students to use our main office phone. During outdoor time, we encourage our students to get active or enjoy this time socializing with their peers. Educators supervising may ask students to put their personal devices away (if outside with them) so they can enjoy more active play with peers or have more time to socialize with peers. Circumstances may look different depending on the individual student and their needs.

Students using a personal mobile device at school at any time (e.g., class time, nutrition break, before/after school) must adhere to HWDSB code of conduct. Educators and Administrators will follow progressive discipline if there are concerns students are not adhering to the HWDSB code of conduct.

[Code of Conduct](#)

[Code of Conduct Procedure](#)

### **Special Lunch Options**

Gatestone will be offering pizza days, Lunch Box (variety of menu selections), and some alternative treats for students in the upcoming months. We are currently working with our food providers to offer a variety of food selections for students as we understand there are many different food allergies, diets we need to consider. If you do have a family request, please feel free to notify our main office so we can take this into consideration when working with various food providers. Please also connect with our main office if you require any specific supports.

School Cash Online is open now to begin with Pizza Orders. Pizza option will begin at the end of April. Our school will share further options, once other food providers have set up opportunities for us as well. We are still in the works and reaching out to these providers to get started.

### **Mental Health Workshops, Groups, Resources**

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/elementary/supports/mental-health-and-well-being/treatment/>

## Staff Announcement

A special welcome to Ms. Edwards (Educational Assistant) and Ms. Karpuran (Early Childhood Educator) who will be supporting in our Kindergarten Classes until the end of the school year. Ms. Fleming (Early Childhood Educator) will also be supporting in Mr. McCormack's Kindergarten class until the end of April.

## Grade 8: Commencement

Commencement will take place on the evening of June 21<sup>st</sup>. The celebration will begin around 5PM in the school gymnasium for our Grade 8 students, families and Gatestone staff. There will be a 30min ceremony to honour our graduates and hear from our valedictorians. Then students and families will rotate through various interactive stations (e.g., family photographs, treats in library, viewing of video grad pages, picking up awards/composites etc.) before students head off to the Grand Olympia to celebrate with their friends. More details will be shared with our Grade 8 families in the upcoming weeks.

## May 11 – Ann Douglas Presenting Virtually for Gatestone Families

Our School Council was approved for a parent grant this year to support student well-being. Our council has connected with Ann Douglas, author of best-selling books such as *Happy Parents, Happy Kids*. Ann will be presenting virtually, ***Post-Pandemic Parenting*** to our community May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM. I will share the link with our families once the final presentation is ready to share. Please mark this date on your calendars.

### ***Post-Pandemic Parenting***

What will our lives be like once we begin to emerge from the pandemic? How can we support our children in preparing for that post-pandemic world? And how can we begin to process everything that our families and our communities have experienced during this strange and uncertain time? In this thought-provoking presentation, you'll be encouraged to reflect on your family's pandemic experiences: to acknowledge all the learning and growth that you have witnessed in yourself and your children over the past year-and-a-half. You'll also have an opportunity to consider your hopes and dreams for your family moving forward, and to zero in on parenting strategies that can help you to achieve your big-picture parenting goals. This is your opportunity to dare to imagine life in a post-pandemic world for yourself, your family, and your community.

## Ramadan

This year, the Month of Ramadan begins on the evening of April 2 and ends on the evening of May 1, 2022. This is the holiest month in the Islamic year and begins at the sighting of the new moon.

During Ramadan, the school will provide appropriate accommodations for students that may include exemption from physical activities, spaces for prayer, flexibility in test and assignment schedules and other related items. All families and students have a right to request accommodations based on their individual needs. Please connect with our main office if there are questions or further information that needs to be shared to help us best accommodate individual needs.

### NYA: WEH Program Grade 6-8

Enjoying Learning about and creating Corn Husk Dolls this week



## Follow Council Twitter

School Council Twitter account is set up. Follow our School council to receive updates about parent involvement, fundraising, school event/information at Gatestone.

@GatestoneCounc1

**GATESTONE  
FLIPGIVE  
FUNDRAISER**

Download the [FlipGive](#) app:

- shop online to earn cash back on every purchase for Gatestone!
- Enter [Gatestone](#) code: **6XQY92**
- **Earn Gatestone a \$5 bonus the first time you shop**
- Invite friends and family!

Due to Covid we are unable to do regular fundraising - Gatestone needs your support now more than ever!

Check out this 2 minute video:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vT0\\_Qg4n80](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vT0_Qg4n80)

Brought to you by Parent Council  
✉ [gatestonesc@hwsb.on.ca](mailto:gatestonesc@hwsb.on.ca)  
🐦 [gatestonecounc1](https://twitter.com/gatestonecounc1)

## Continuing Education – Summer Series

### 1. Reach Ahead CREDIT program – Grade 8 Students

**Current** Grade 8's transitioning to Grade 9 can earn a half credit or a full credit before starting High School. We are offering Civics and Careers courses to all Grade 8's who will transition to Grade 9 in the fall. These open level half-credit courses can be taken individually (9 days) or in combination (18 days). This is the **only credit program available to students reaching ahead before grade 9**. These courses will be offered On-Line.

For more information, program offering details and to register, please visit:

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/cce/summer/summer-credit-programs/reach-ahead/>

## 2. Summer Literacy and Numeracy Skill Builder Programs

The non-credit programs are available to students **currently** in Grades 6 & 7 (Elementary) and Grades 8-12 (Secondary). The purpose of these programs is to enrich and develop Literacy and Numeracy skills. In 2022, we are excited to offer a variety of programs, some In-Person and some On-line including:

- Skill Builder Literacy Programs (fully on-line)
- Skill Builder Math Programs (fully on-line)
- Fractions Program (fully on-line)
- Art & Literacy (both in-person and on-line options available)
- Coding & Literacy (or Numeracy) (fully on-line)
- Basketball and Literacy (in-person)
- Soccer and Literacy (in-person)

On-Line programs will include a 2-hour real time/synchronous online lesson each day and fun activities for the students to complete beyond the lesson time. In-Person programs will be 3 hours long.

For more information, program offering details and to register, please visit:

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/cce/summer/summer-non-credit/>

## 3. International Languages Elementary (IILE) Program

Students currently in Grades Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 are eligible to participate. The IILE program exists to educate our students with a new language and/or strengthen their skills in the language(s) of their choice. Students will learn to speak, listen, read, and write in these lessons, as well as have assigned homework, and opportunity to participate in class. IILE Classes include:

- On-line programs - 1.5-hour synchronous lesson per day (over MS Teams) in addition to assigned work **or**
- In-Person programs - 2.5 hours of In-Person instruction per day

The summer program runs from July 4 to 29 (Mon-Fri). Learning a language is a valuable skill and experience that our students can carry with them as they continue with their education for years to come.

For more information, program offering details and to register, please visit:

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/cce/summer/summer-ile/>

**We will have additional information available over the coming days about our ESL Literacy and Learning Strategies programs** - registration for ESL Literacy and Learning Strategies is supported by school staff to ensure participants meet eligibility requirements.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *Students may only attend one program at a time, ex. Reach Ahead in July and a Skill Builder July program cannot be taken together, however students can take Reach Ahead in July and a Skill Builder Program in August.*

