



April 4 – April 8

Gatestone Elementary School 2021-2022

Week at a Glance

Monday, April 4	Day 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct Entry starts by 9:10AM
Tuesday, April 5	Day 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gatestone Spirit Day
Wednesday, April 6	Day 1	
Thursday, April 7	Day 2	Lockdown Drill
Friday, April 8	Day 3	Fire Drill Weather Permitting

Grad Photos April 11th

Weekly Update

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 11th 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.

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.

@GatestoneCouncil1

Classroom Environments

With the lifting of Public Health Measures, our educators and caretaking staff have been working hard to provide valuable learning spaces in classrooms for our students. Our students have been excited to be part of these changes in their classroom.



Safe School Procedures

We will continue to practice safe school procedures this year. We have practiced three fire drills already this year and will continue to practice 3 more this spring. We will also practice one more Lockdown drill this week. Our school has completed the practicing of our Hold and Secure procedure, Shelter in Place procedure, and Evacuation drill also.

Gatestone will be holding our second Lockdown drill this school year on Thursday, April 7, 2022. The term “Lockdown” is used when there is an incident or threat of serious violence or injury within the school. During a Lockdown students will hear an announcement as follows: “This is a Lockdown”. During this time, students remain in their class away from doors and windows and remain quiet until further notice.

An announcement will be made to students the day of the Lockdown drill and the office will review important safety procedures for students and staff prior to beginning the drill.

You can learn more about HWDSB’s secure schools protocol at <https://hwdsb.info/secschools>

Previous Updates

Entry and Dismissal

Entry

Our direct entry will begin at 9:10AM starting April 4th. Supervision at the school begins at 9AM. Please do not send your child to school before 9AM as our playground/field area is closed and supervision is not available before 9AM. We want to ensure safety for all.

Our entry bell will ring at 9:10AM in which students will line up and begin entering the building at their regular assigned entry doors (Where students currently enter in the morning).

Students should be arriving at school between 9AM and 9:15AM so they are on time for class. We will begin entering the school by 9:10AM to limit traffic on the blacktop area.

Parents with students in Grades 3 and up, we request your “goodbyes” for the morning are shared at any of the main gates or front sidewalk to limit morning traffic in the school ground area. Parents with children in Kindergarten to Grade 2, please continue to drop your child off at the gate/walkways/on blacktop. Due to bus traffic in the front Kindergarten area and student traffic on blacktop and walkways, we ask that after drop off parents please say “goodbyes” and leave school grounds. We always welcome our families, however there is high traffic during entry so this process will help keep our school grounds safe for traffic flow as families arrive at different times between

9AM-9:15AM. Supervision is assigned to all areas of our school grounds at entry and dismissal for student safety.

We understand all families have special circumstances arriving to school. When able, we appreciate if families can have their children ready to enter our school no later than 9:15AM. This helps prepare our students and staff to start the day off ready for learning and limits students missing out on any important instruction during our first instructional period of the day.

Dismissal

Our dismissal routines continue to remain the same. We appreciate parents of older students waiting near gates or walkways for pick up to limit traffic.

We ask parents do not pick up their children at our **parking lot gate**. Our parking lot is closed for parent traffic during 3:35PM-3:50PM due to bus, taxi and Umbrella Care traffic. We do not encourage students to be walking through our parking lot during these high traffic times. Parents that can only drive should park on adjacent streets near the school and meet their child at one of our front walkways or on our blacktop for our younger students. We appreciate your support here to help maintain safe and smooth dismissals for all.



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- 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=5vTO_Qg4n80

Brought to you by Parent Council
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🐦 [gatestonecounc1](https://twitter.com/gatestonecounc1)