



## Community Weekly Update May 16- 20

|                   |       |   |
|-------------------|-------|---|
| Monday, May 16    | Day 2 |   |
| Tuesday, May 17   | Day 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gatestone Spirit Day</li> <li>• Lunch Box</li> </ul> |
| Wednesday, May 18 | Day 4 |   |
| Thursday, May 19  | Day 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pizza Lunch</li> </ul>                               |
| Friday, May 20    | Day 1 |   |

***\*\*Kindergarten Orientation Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>***

***\*\*Elections in our Gymnasium June 2***

***\*\*Track & Field June 6 (Junior/Intermediate***

***\*\*Track & Field June 14 (Grade 3-5)***

***\*\*EQAO May 30 – June 10***

***\*\*Commencement (Grade 8) June 21<sup>st</sup> beginning at 5PM***

### Community Updates

#### ***Kindergarten Orientation***

Our students and families new to Kindergarten are invited to our Gatestone Kindergarten Orientation Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> 5PM-6PM. We will have several informational booths set up in our learning commons area and two demonstration classrooms for our families to view. Our Gatestone educators are excited to host this event and meet our new students entering school this Fall.

#### **Gatestone Technology Policy**

Our school's Technology Policy (following Ministry Guidelines), has been sent home with students Grade 4-8 for students and parents to review. The policy is also attached in our weekly update. We appreciate your support to ensure students are using technology in a safe and productive manner at school.

## Students Required to Go Home during Nutrition Break

Students may not leave Gatestone to go home for nutrition break without parent permission and parent communication to our main office. **We do not encourage students to go home for lunch unless there are special circumstances.** Students should also be going directly to their homes during this time, unless with a parent/guardian.

There is a form available on the Parent Portal that must be completed by the parent should your child need to leave the school grounds at nutrition break to return home.

Students that are required to leave the school at nutrition break must sign in and out at the main office and return **on time** for instructional learning. Our nutrition breaks are only 40 minutes in length. There should be a plan in place where your child has time to get home, eat, and return to the school on time. Students are not permitted to bring food items back into the school to eat during instructional time if leaving for nutrition break.

We appreciate your support and understanding here.

## 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

### *Requests for Specific Learning Environment for Your Children*

Gatestone Elementary School does not accept parental requests for a specific class placement. We have checked with our area schools and the majority of schools do not accept these requests either. The practice of selecting a specific educator is contrary to all that we believe in terms of respecting all members of the Gatestone community and learning to work together.

With our current focus on grade team planning and implementation of our instructional program, all classes of the same grade will have a similar curriculum focus and delivery. Given that the curriculum will be aligned across the classes in the same grade, parents can be assured that the instructional program their child receives will be of equal caliber across the grade team. While we know that parents sometimes have a preference for a specific teacher, we believe it is important for our students to learn how to cooperate and function in an environment with a wide range of personalities and educational philosophies, which is a life-long skill that is imperative to meeting with success in any group or workplace. For these reasons we will not accept requests naming specific teachers and/or students.

At Gatestone we have developed a comprehensive process of assigning students to classes based on combinations of students, the learning needs of each student, the balance of male/female ratios,

students who present with challenges, as well as independent workers versus students who require greater teacher support. All of this information is important in developing classes that are balanced and effective and can only be done by staff who work directly, in the school, with all of the students being considered.

Another common request from parents is that their child not be placed in a “split” or a combined class. We cannot accept these requests. Split or combined classes are a reality in education today. Instruction in these classrooms is differentiated to meet the needs of all learners. We take the entire student profile into account before making decisions about placement. Just because a child was in a combined class one year does not guarantee that they will not be in a combined class the following year.

Should you feel the need to share parental input into the type of learning environment that would best meet the specific needs of your child, you are welcome to share this information through e-mail to [kreillys@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:kreillys@hwdsb.on.ca) by May 20<sup>th</sup>. I hope this has helped you to understand the complexity of allocating classes in a fair, responsible and equitable manner and helps to assure you that great attention is given to the placement of each and every child.

Respectfully,

Kelly Reilly-Scott  
Principal

### Lost and Found

**Lost blanket. If this is your blanket, please connect with our main office.**

