



**Community Weekly Update May 9 - 13**

Monday, May 9	Day 2	
Tuesday, May 10	Day 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gatestone Spirit Day Spirit Wear Orders are Back – See Messaging Below</li> <li>• Lunch Box</li> </ul>
Wednesday, May 11	Day 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6:30PM Ann Douglas Presentation via Zoom Link has been sent through SchoolMessenger</li> </ul>
Thursday, May 12	Day 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pizza Lunch</li> </ul>
Friday, May 13	Day 1	

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

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

***\*\*Track & Field June 6, 13 (Tentative)***

***\*\*EQAO May 30 – June 10 - IPADS will be borrowed from our Tech Tubs.***

***\*\*Commencement June 21<sup>st</sup> beginning at 5PM***

**Happy Mother's Day this weekend to all our Fabulous Gatestone Moms!**



## Open House (May 4<sup>th</sup>)

Thank you Gatestone families and friends for your support!  
What a wonderful evening visiting with our community!



## May 11 – Ann Douglas Parent Presentation

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

Our School Council was approved for a parent grant this year. Our council has selected Ann Douglas, author of best-selling books such as Happy Parents, Happy Kids, to present to our parent community regarding post-pandemic parenting topics. Ann will be presenting virtually to our community May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM. The link has been shared through SchoolMessenger.

Here is some information below;

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.

**See Zoom link in School Messenger email.**

## ***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.

## ***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