



Gatestone Newsletter

May 2013

Key Events in May

- Open House, May 2nd
- Sr. Swim Meet, May 13th
- Gauss Math Contest, May 15th
- Victoria Day, May 20th
- Special Olympics, May 22nd
- EQAO Begins, May 27th

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

April at Gatestone

Despite the wet weather, we had a great month in April. The whole school participated in the Tim Horton's Clean-Up throughout our community and we had great participation in the Day of Pink anti-bullying day. Intramural sports and Band re-started which provides outlets for our students at Nutrition Break. Also, we began our Learning Partners program with Saltfleet High School.

School Effectiveness Framework (SEF) Support Visit

On April 18th, we had our SEF visit. The support team, led by our Superintendent Manny

Figueiredo, broke into four teams and visited all classrooms to make observations.

Those observations were collected and analyzed by the team to uncover patterns, which were then shared with Staff. More details are available on Page Two.

Looking ahead to May

May will be a busy month at Gatestone. Here's a sample of what is happening: Grade 8 Student Voice Forum and Open House; a Swim Meet; Gauss Math Contest; Special Olympics; Boys and Girls Volleyball Tournaments; and EQAO Assessments beginning May 27th. A number of

Field Trips, including Wanakita for the Grade 6s, have been planned for June as well.

Open House, May 2nd

We hope that everyone can join us for this year's Open House. The Open House is an opportunity to tour the school, visit your child's class and to celebrate another wonderful year at Gatestone. Here are a few things to look out for this year:

- Grade 8 Student Voice Artifacts in the Library;
- Student work and student art on the walls;
- Learning goals and success criteria in every classroom.

CLASS BUILDING FOR 2013-2014

The staffing process and class building begins in May,

Please trust our teaching staff works to create strong, balanced classes intended to meet the needs of all learners.

Information regarding next year's class placement (Teacher and Class) will be provided with each child's final report card in June.

Once classes are set, the only opportunity for change will be September reorganization.

Every year, some parents make specific requests regarding their child's teacher for next year.

Only requests, made in writing to Bill Torrens, that provide specific educational rationale will be considered.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION FOR 2013-2014

In April, our school organization was provided, based on enrollment projections. We are one class smaller than we were last year and will start the year with:

2 JK Classes

2 JK/SK Classes

2 SK Classes

3 Grade One Classes

1 Grade One/Two Class

2 Grade Two Classes

3 Grade Three Classes

1 Grade Three/Four Class

2 Grade Four Classes

2 Grade Five Classes

1 Grade Five/Six Class

2 Grade Six Classes

2 Grade Seven Classes

1 Grade Seven/Eight Class

2 Grade Eight Classes

1 Intermediate Comprehensive Intellectual Class



SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS FRAMEWORK CELEBRATIONS

The SEF Support Team shared the following “celebrations” with our Staff. They observed:

- Welcoming Staff and Students;
- Clear teacher expectations;
- On-task students;
- Positive conditions for

student learning;

- Evidence of Tribes;
- A safe and positive school climate;
- Group work, discussion and accountable talk;
- Classrooms environments that help students learn.

It was clear that we have successfully implemented using learning goals and success criteria to provide feedback. Our challenge, now, is to build on our strengths by reflecting on the data shared by the Support Team and identifying our future direction as a school.

“KEEP YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME” WITH LEARNING ADVANTAGE

To support learning in the Summer, Gatestone will be making available a summer activity workbook called “Learning Advantage” later in the month of May.

“Learning Advantage” is a fully coloured 192 page, activity book designed to reinforce and maintain Kindergarten to Grade 7 students' academic learning skills over the summer months. There is one activity book per grade level from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 7.

All major units and 3 summer fun units in each book are aligned with the Ontario curriculum expectations.

In addition to the summer months, the books can be used all year long from September to June. All books have parent information pages, evaluation forms; follow up activities and a family focus.

The cost of each book is \$19.05 plus GST (\$20 total). You can visit www.learningadvantage.ca

to download a free unit of the book you would like to order for further review.

An order form and information sheet with more details about the “Learning Advantage” program will be sent home to all parents within the next few weeks. Orders are due back to the school **June 6th**. The books ordered will be delivered to the school **before** the last week of school.

Back Field

The back field continues to be closed due to health and safety concerns.

Unfortunately, the latest information for Facilities Management indicates that repairs will occur in the Summer and we'll be fully functional for the start of the 2013-2014 school year.

The field closure has been a challenge for us throughout the year but the risk of injury is too high for us to use it in its current state.

Baby Chicks in Kindergarten

Please be aware that the Kindergarten Classes are having their bi-annual hatching of baby chicks in May. If there are questions or concerns regarding allergies or safety, please contact the Principal.

FIRST NATION, MÉTIS, AND INUIT SELF-IDENTIFICATION:

In January 2012, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) approved the *First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy*. One aspect of this policy includes the implementation of a *Directive for Voluntary, Confidential First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Self-Identification*.

As part of implementing this directive, our students were sent home with a brochure that explains voluntary self-identification.

Parents, caregivers/guardians of students with First Nation, Métis,

or Inuit ancestry are asked to fill out the self-identification form and return it to the office at their child's school. We are requesting parents and guardians of students under 18 to identify if their child is of First Nation, Métis, or Inuit ancestry.

Self-identification is **voluntary and confidential**; and does not require parents, students or caregivers/guardians to produce any documentation, i.e. Indian Status/Métis card, etc.

While the self-identification process

does not impact all students and families across HWDSB, it will provide an opportunity to build awareness for everyone regarding the cultural and historic experiences of Canada's First Nation (Status and Non-Status), Métis, and Inuit peoples.

We will also invite staff, students, and the community to participate in several events to understand and appreciate the rich histories and culture of Aboriginal peoples. For more information, please contact Bill Torrens.

EQAO

Annually, the Education Quality and Accountability Office, EQAO, assesses Grade Three and Six Students in the areas of Reading, Writing and Mathematics to ensure that our education system is preparing students for success. It is based on the Ontario Curriculum and a grading format is used to ensure that children are scored in a consistent, fair manner. The information gathered in the assessments is provided to parents/caregivers and to the

school. It is used to assist in school planning in the following year. For example, the EQAO data can help us, as a Staff, identify where our students excel and where additional support and instruction is needed.

Our teachers have been working all year to prepare the students for the assessment and in May we will "bump up" our efforts and simulate the assessment (use old EQAO materials, use the same timeframe, provide no help, etc.) to help the

students get ready. If you are interested in learning more about EQAO, please go to our website, <http://schools.hwdsb.on.ca/gatestone/2011/04/22/learn-more-about-eqao-assessments/> for a YouTube video, powerpoint presentation and other publications.

If there are questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call the school and speak to your child's teacher or either the Vice Principal or Principal.

Zaina and Zarish Congratulations on the HWDSB Profiling Excellence Award

We congratulate Zaina and Zarish for receiving the prestigious HWDSB Profiling Excellence Award for their participation in the Word Education Games in the 8-10 and 10-12 year-old age groups. Well done!

Congratulations to Aleks for placing second overall in the HWDSB Junior Oral Communications Festival.

Aleks competed April 29th in the Board Finals with his speech on technology in education.

Congratulations
Aleks!

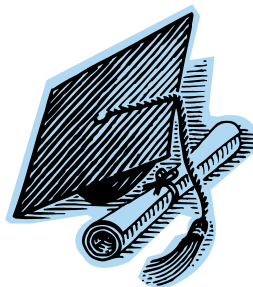
GRADE EIGHT: GRADUATION 2013, TRIP AND YEARBOOK

Preparations have begun for Graduation 2013. Here are some key details:

Ceremony/Reception
Wednesday June 26th 5:00
Saltfleet Secondary

Prom
Wednesday June 26th
from 7:00 to 10:00 pm
Marquis Gardens

More information will be coming home in the following weeks regarding ticketing, an end of year trip and a Graduation Yearbook.



Grade Seven Parents
We are looking to start a new tradition of the parents of Grade Seven students volunteering to set up the Graduation Ceremony and Reception. Interested parents are asked to contact Bill Torrens via phone or email.

ÉCOLE ÉLÉMENTAIRE MICHAËLLE JEAN

École Élémentaire Michaëlle Jean is having it's **First Annual Fun Fair** on **June 1st 11:00-2:00**.

École Élémentaire Michaëlle Jean is located at 2121 #56 Highway, Binbrook, ON

Come join us for
an afternoon of
food, fun, and
surprises!

École Élémentaire Michaëlle Jean is the French Immersion Program School for students in Gatestone's catchment area. Programming begins in Grade One. Students attend Gatestone for Kindergarten.

BOUNDARY REVIEW

On Tuesday, April 9th, a community meeting was held to review the proposed Boundary change between Gatestone and Mt. Albion.

Parents had an opportunity to listen to a presentation from HWDSB Staff on the

rationale for the change of boundaries and to ask questions.

A pressing concern was whether the families currently attending Gatestone could remain at the school or would be moved to Mt. Albion. A recommendation

"grandfather" those families to allow their children to remain at Gatestone will be made to the Board of Trustees.

The next step is for the recommendation to go to the Board of Trustees, in May, for final approval.

STAY IN TOUCH

Please remember to check our website <http://schools.hwdsb.on.ca/Gatestone> to keep up to date with everything happening in the school and follow us on Twitter @GatestoneSchool.

If you would like to join our email list and have school letters and newsletters delivered to your inbox, please email me at bill.torrens@hwdsb.on.ca.

Principal's Blog

May marks the first month of the Gatestone Principal's Blog at Gatestone.commons.hwdsb.on.ca/category/principals-blog. Unlike a newsletter which is a one-way communication, a blog allows for continuous posting and for responses by the readers. Hopefully, this will foster greater communication and engagement.

FAMILIES MOVING OUT-OF-CATCHMENT

The HWSBD Out-of-Catchment procedures dictates that families moving out of Gatestone's catchment area must leave Gatestone at the end of the school year and register at their new

home school for the 2013-14 school year.

Letters will be sent in May informing families of the need to register at their home school.

Gatestone is closed to out-of-catchment, so all out-of-catchment applications will be declined.

WARM WEATHER

We hope May and June brings lots of sunny days, but with the sun comes high UV days.

To keep your child safe, please apply sunscreen (spf 50 is recommended) before school and ensure that they have a hat to protect their faces from the sun.

It is also recommended that every student brings a refillable water bottle to school.

Sunny days also bring summer clothes. Please be mindful that our dress code remains in effect and we request that our students **do not wear:**

- ✓ Tops which have 'spaghetti straps' or expose undergarments or midriff sections and/or 'low cut' necklines;
- ✓ 'Muscle shirts' or pants that expose undergarments (worn low on the hips);

- ✓ Skirts or shorts which do not come to the ends of fingers of and flat hand while standing or 'pajamas'.

Our dress is outlined in full in the school agenda.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Traffic in front of the school is becoming a major concern.

Unfortunately, the school was not designed to have a drop-off area for passenger cars at the front. Only buses should use this area for drop-off and pick-up.

Please drop your children off on a side street or another safe place rather than in our laneway. Perhaps the most congested place is the parking area at the side of the school. It was not designed as a roundabout. Please do not drop off your child there and then precede to turnaround. As well,

please do not drop-off your children in the middle lane of our front lane. This increases the likelihood of a child being hit by car in the curb lane. **Please either walk your children to school or drop them off on a side street.**

MAY CALENDAR

**GATESTONE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**BILL TORRENS
PRINCIPAL
JENNY SETO-
VANDERLIP
VICE-PRINCIPAL**

**127 GATESTONE DR.
STONE CREEK, ON
L8J 3Z5
(905) 573-7731
(905) 573-3127**

**GATESTONE@
HWDSB.ON.CA**

**HTTP://
SCHOOLS.HWDSB.
ON.CA/GATESTONE.**

**HTTPS://
TWITTER.COM/
GATESTONESCHOOL**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Gr. 8 Forum Open House 5:30 to 7:00 Pizza	3 Class 68 Swimming	4
5	6	7 Medieval Feast	8	9 Pizza	10 Class 68 Swimming	11
12	13 Swim Meet	14 Denim Day for Breast Cancer	15 Gauss Math Contest Gr. 7&8 Book Fair 68 to Dundurn Castle	16 Pizza Book Fair Boys V-ball Tournamen- t	17 Class 68 Swimming Book Fair Girls V-ball Tournamen- t	18
19	20 Victoria Day	21	22 Special Olympics	23 Pizza	24 Class 68 Swimming Middle School Track Meet	25
26	27 Wanakita Parents Meeting 6:30 EQAO	28 School Council 6:30 EQAO Gr.2. Trip to HCA	29 EQAO	30 EQAO 68 Fortinos Trip Pizza	31 Class 68 Swimming 68 Battle- field Park Trip EQAO	