



GATESTONE NEWSLETTER

April 2014

KEY EVENTS THIS MONTH

World Autism Awareness Day

Wednesday, April 2nd

Day of Pink

Wednesday, April 9th

Good Friday

Friday April 18th

Easter Monday

Monday, April 22nd

Inside this issue:

French Immersion	2
EQAO in May	2
Day of Pink	2
FDK Registration and Program-	3
Summer Pro-grams for Grade	4
Grade Eight Graduation	4
Calendar	5

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

A GREAT MARCH AT GATESTONE

We had a great month of March in and out of the classroom. The weather made for a difficult month with limited time outside at Nutrition Breaks, but our students did well to adapt to the weather and be safe during indoor Nutrition Breaks.

SENIOR BOYS CITY CHAMPIONS

Once again, Gatestone is the home to a championship basketball team. Congratulations to Mr. Lane and the Senior Boys Basketball Team on winning the 2013-2014 city championship.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FESTIVAL AND CONCOURS D'ARTS ORATOIRES

In March, we held our annual Oral Communications Festival to choose our representatives for the Junior and Intermediate Cluster Finals (Simon B. and Natasa M.). They will compete at the Cluster Finals in April.

We also had two students, Laura B. and Zarish M. compete in the French *Concours d'arts oratoires*. Congratulations to Laura who placed third in the Junior Core French Division!

LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING

We are looking forward to Spring at Gatestone. It has been a long Winter and with Spring almost here, we're looking forward to an exciting last three months of the year.

Here are just a few of the events planned for the months ahead:

- Spring Athletics/Sports
- Spring Fling Dance for Grades Six to Eight on April 24th
- Open House May 1st
- Ottawa Grade Eight Trip in May for Grade Sevens and Eights
- Arts Night on May 15th
- FDK Open House on May 21st
- Gauss and Caribou Math Contests
- Wanakita Trip in June for Grade Sixes
- A number of Field Trips for other Grades.

MAY 1st OPEN HOUSE

Our annual Open House will be held on **Thursday, May 1st, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.** More information will be sent home closer to the event.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR OPEN HOUSE

School Council is looking for parent volunteers to support a Penny Sale during May's Open House. Volunteers would:

- Collect/request/donate items to be included in the Penny Sale;
- Assist with ticket sales during the event;
- Set-up the sale prior to Open House.

If you are interested in supporting this fundraising event, please email Bill Torrens at btorrens@hwdsb.on.ca and your name will be forwarded to School Council.

FINAL WORDS

Have a great April!

Bill Torrens, OCT

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 2014-15 school year. Gatestone is closed to out-of-catchment applications will be declined.

COMMUNICATIONS

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](https://twitter.com/GatestoneSchool).

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

FRENCH IMMERSION INFORMATION NIGHT AT ÉCOLE ÉLÉMENTAIRE MICHAËLLE JEAN

Did you know that Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board offers an Early French Immersion Program beginning in Grade 1 for the students in our school boundaries at **École Élémentaire Michaëlle Jean**? It is designed to provide English-speaking children with opportunities to become highly proficient in French as well as in English.

A French Immersion Information Night will be held at École Élémentaire Michaëlle Jean on Wednesday, April 23 at 6:30.

The school is located at 2121 Hwy #56 Binbrook.

If you are interested in registration, please drop by **École Élémentaire Michaëlle Jean** today to fill out a registration package for your spot in French Immersion for September of 2014!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call the school at **905-692-4536**.

EQAO FOR GRADES THREE AND SIX STUDENTS

Annually, the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) assesses our Grades Three and Six Students on their Reading, Writing and Mathematics skills.

The purpose of the assessment is 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.

Our teachers have been working all year to prepare the students for the assessment by using materials from previous assessments to ensure that the students are familiar with the expectations of the assessment and the format of the assessment. We also use assistive technology to support some students during the assessment.

This year the assessment is set for May 26th to June 6th.

APRIL 9TH: DAY OF PINK

On Wednesday, April 9th, 2014, staff and students across HWDSB will join millions of people worldwide who wear pink for the Day of Pink. We do this because we want to make a statement that we stand against all forms of bullying. It also reminds us that when we stand up and speak out, we can make a difference.

The Day of Pink began in Nova Scotia when two high school students saw a classmate being bullied for wearing a pink shirt. The two students intervened, but wanted to do more. A few days later they were able to get their entire school to wear pink. That school sent a message that together we can stop bullying.

We know that bullying is a problem in our schools and in our wider community. Bullying can happen to anyone, anywhere. Collectively, we can stand up and speak out against bullying.

We will continue to support anti-bullying efforts that make our schools safe and welcoming places for all of our students.

Please wear pink on **Wednesday, April 9**. You can learn more at dayofpink.org.

FULL DAY KINDERGATEN REGISTRATION

In September 2014, we will begin Full Day Kindergarten (FDK). FDK is five days-a- week, all day program.

Kindergarten Registration at Gatestone has been open since February. Please visit Mrs. Guyatt in the Office to register your child. When registering your child, please bring the following documents: Proof of birth; Health card; and Proof of address.

We are projected to have four FDK classes, which means that over the Summer a fourth classroom will be built on the south side of the building by the side entrance. We also expect to add four Designated Early Childhood Educators to support the learning in these classrooms.

FDK does mean that we are completely closed to out-of-catchment in the coming year.



Umbrella Family inside Gatestone School has child care available for ages 2.5yrs to 12yrs

Contact Cynthia Bradshaw at (905) 573-9268

THE NEW FDK PROGRAM

The Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) Program is grounded in a play-based learning model that features students exploring new ideas and learning through inquiry.



Working as a team, the FDK Teacher and Early Childhood Educator will develop and provide learning experiences that will enable children to be able to acquire literacy and numeracy skills.

More information is available from the Ministry of Education's FDK website

can be found here: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/kindergarten/>

Parents interested in learning more about research related to FDK Programming are encouraged to consult the Ministry of Education website at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/kindergarten/>

THE HWDSB HAS MOVED TO OFFICE 365

As an organization, the HWDSB has moved to Office 365 from First Class as our mail server. As a result, all employee email addresses have changed. For example, my address is now btorrems@hwdsb.on.ca.

For those parents who have subscribed to the Gatestone Email List, the Gatestone Principal's Blog on the HWDSB Commons will now be used for email messages.

Parents will be enrolled to subscribe to the blog and can un-enroll at any time. There is no action to take on your part.

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

Over the past few months the number of students arriving late has seemed to increase.

This is a reminder that students arriving at school after 9:10 are required to come to the Office for a late slip. Any student arriving late but before 9:10 should use their usual doors to enter to the school.

Punctuality is a key skill and practicing that habit now will lead to success at school and, later, in the workplace.

PARKING OUT FRONT OF SCHOOL

This is a quick reminder to parents to please use the visitor parking at the front of the school when coming into Gatestone to pick up or drop off your children.

To ensure safety, please do not leave your car running and unattended.

By-law enforcement officers will be visiting Gatestone and will issue tickets to vehicles in no parking or no stopping areas

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this matter.

SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR GRADE EIGHTS

Are you looking for a summer program for your child that will keep him/her off the couch and away from the TV?

How about our Summer Reach Ahead program? This exciting, free program offers Grade 8 students the opportunity to earn a high school credit before they head into Grade 9 in September. CCE's Reach Ahead programs allow your child to earn a credit in: the Arts, Green Industries, Physical Fitness or Communications Technology. We offer a central location, a physical activity component to each program, and FUN! And did we mention it's free? It's FREE!!

Where? Delta Secondary School

Date? July 2 – 26, 2014

Time? 8:30am – 2:30pm

Details? <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/cce/credit/reach-ahead/> or call **Community & Continuing Education at 905-561-2190** and press option 3 for the Main Office.



STEP PROGRAM FOR GRADE EIGHTS

CCE's Summer S.T.E.P. program gives your child the chance to explore his/her new high school and get a feel for life as a Grade 9 student. Help your child transition into Secondary School, meet new friends and gain valuable learning strategies. Our Summer S.T.E.P. program is offered at almost every high school across HWDSB and runs for 2 weeks in August. Think your child might be interested? See below for details.

Where? Your child's intended high school in September 2014 with the exception of Barton (held at Richard Beasley), **Saltfleet (held at Gatestone)** and Sir Allan MacNab (held at Chedoke)

Date? August 11 – 22, 2014

Time? 9:00am – 1:00pm

Details? <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/cce/student-improvement/> or call **Community & Continuing Education at 905-561-2190**

GRADUATION 2014

Gatestone will commemorate Grade Eight Graduation in our traditional manner with a ceremony followed by a Student Dinner and Dance.

Please mark the following dates in your calendar and note the new locations:

Graduation Rehearsal: Friday, June 20th at 2:00 p.m.

Graduation Ceremony & Family Reception Monday, June 23rd from 5:00 to 6:00 Gatestone Gym

Student Dinner/Dance: Monday, June 23rd from 7:00 to 10:00 pm Grand Olympia

APRIL CALENDAR

**GATESTONE
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

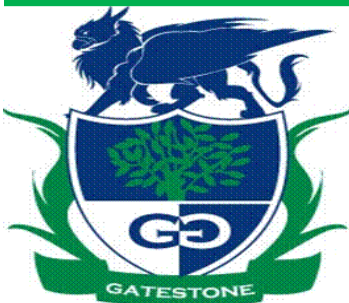
**BILL TORRENS
PRINCIPAL
KELLY SWEETING
VICE-PRINCIPAL**

**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 World Autism Aware- ness Day Caribou Math Contest	3 Pizza	4 Superin- tendent Visit	5
6	7	8 Sub Day	9 Day of Pink Tribes Assembly Day	10 Pizza	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Pizza Grade Three Trip to Battlefield Park Spirit Day: Twin Day	18 Good Friday (No School)	19
20	21 Easter Monday (No School)	22 Sub Day	23 Cluster Oral Commu- nications Festival	24 Pizza Spring Fling Dance 6:00 to 8:00 PM	25 Tim Hor- ton's Clean-Up Day	26
27	28	29	30	1 Open House 5:30 to 7:00	2	3