



Gatestone October Newsletter

KEY EVENTS IN OCTOBER

- Monday October 6th, Lockdown drill @ 10:10am
- Tuesday October 7th, Fire drill
- Monday October 13th, Thanksgiving
- Friday October 17th, Photo Day
- Friday, October 31st, Halloween Parade @ 1:50pm

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

LOOKING AHEAD TO OCTOBER

October will be a busy month at Gatestone. We have a number of activities for students happening in October; Cross-country Running, 3-Pitch, Touch Rugby, Yearbook, Jr. and Sr. Boys and Girls Volleyball, Intramurals at Lunch and Jr. Swimming. As well, we have a number of field trips and assemblies planned throughout the month.

PIZZA AND MILK SALES

Pizza and milk sales, thanks to Mrs. Guyatt and Mrs. Maerz respectively, will be in full swing in the second week of October.

Milk tickets and pizza forms are available from classroom teachers or the office.

These sales do raise funds for the school (used to e.g. reduce costs for trips, assemblies or purchase computers) but they are truly intended as a service to parents.

GREAT START TO SCHOOL COUNCIL

At the September 29th School Council Meeting, a new executive was set for the year. Lori Taylor and Heather Pearson are our Co-Chairs, with Jennifer Sarkis as Secretary and a team of Heather Eastman and Jennifer Periard as Fundraising Chairs.

Thank you to Lee Austin for his service as Chair over the past six years.

TRIBES UPDATE

Last year Gatestone started a new initiative to promote a positive school culture amongst students from JK to Grade 8.

It was a great success with McMaster House being Gatestone's first winners and getting their name on the new Gatestone Cup trophy. We will continue with this initiative in the hopes of making it even bigger and better this year.

Here is a brief overview of the Tribes program.

Every student has been assigned to a "House." that becomes like a team or family that works together to develop character and practice necessary learning skills in a fun atmosphere.

House meetings occur once a month however, students can earn tokens throughout the month for demonstrating exemplary skills in that month's character focus or for behavior or academic skills.

Our first house meeting was Thursday September 25th and the focus for the meeting was introducing October's character focus of Independent work and a series of ice-breaker activities to promote teamwork and getting to know new students.

Victoria House is in the lead so far, but that may change in the month ahead!

FINAL WORDS

We're off to a great start to the school year. Thank you for your support!

Bill Torrens, Principal

Independent work is the character trait for October

EQAO RESULTS

Our 2013-14 EQAO Results have been released and we have had another successful year.

Our success is a credit to our students' abilities and the hard work of last year's school teams: **Ms. Flis, Mr. MacNab and Mrs. Woolvett** in Grade Three and **Mr. A. Lane, Mrs. Taylor and Ms.**

Whittle in Grade Six as well as our support teachers **Mrs. Dunstall** and **Ms. Vandooren**.

Special mention needs to be made of **Ms. Cetnik, Mr. A. Lane** and **Mrs. Gould** who ran the After-school Scholars Program through the winter to help prepare our students.

Here are the results for those students who wrote the assessment. Percentage of students working at the provincial standard or higher:

Grade Three: Reading 80, Writing 90, Mathematics 72

Grade Six: Reading 69 Writing 71, Mathematics 51

ATTENDANCE CALLS

This is a quick reminder to please leave the teacher's name as well as your child's name when phoning in an absence

INDIGO ADOPT-A-SCHOOL

Thank you to everyone who has support us so far in this fundraiser.

Please support Gatestone by adopting or donating at <http://adoption-school.indigo.ca/eng/schools/329>

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES DRILLS: FIRE DRILLS & LOCKDOWN

We are committed to keeping your children safe while they are in our care. One of the ways we keep them safe is to practice our emergency procedures.

We will practice two full school evacuations (Fire Drill) in Sept & October and we will undertake

one of our Emergency Procedures Drills (Lockdown) on October 6th at 10:10 am.

During our Lockdown Drill we simulate an emergency within the school that would require the school to be "locked down". Staff will secure the students in their class

rooms and wait until we are "all clear".

The Hamilton Police Service will be on-site to support our drill and share their feedback and suggestions.

3 PITCH

This September we had 4 teams compete in the HWDSB 3-pitch tournaments.

Fortunately, the weather cooperated and all teams had terrific weather for play. Special thanks to Mr. Lane and Mr. Lamarre for coaching the teams.

Thanks too to those parents who volunteered to drive players to the tournaments.



P I Z Z A THURSDAYS BEGINNING OCTOBER 9TH

Monthly order sheets to be returned to classroom teachers



KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE FIVE HALLOWEEN TOUR: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31ST, 1:50 PM



All students are welcome to wear costumes on Halloween and our students in Kindergarten to Grade Five will tour the school during Periods Five and Six.

We want to have a fun day, but please remember that we need the day to be safe and respectful.

With that in mind, please be aware that any students wearing costumes that show disrespect (i.e. racist, sexist, etc.), or that pose a safety risk will be asked to change. Masks will only be allowed during the tour.

It is a wonderful tradition to bring treats for special occasions like Halloween

Celebrations, but we need parents to please ask their child's teacher prior to the event to ensure that there are no potential allergic reactions to nuts or other foods.

We remain a nut-safe school, even on Halloween.

We are using Information Technology to engage our students in their learning and to develop their higher-order thinking skills, critical thinking skills and problem-solving skills.

TRANSPORTATION

This year Gatestone received a larger than usual number of courtesy transportation requests. Unfortunately, we were unable to provide transportation for all families that requested it.

The school bus is for students in grades 1-8

that live 1.6km or farther from the school and for JK & SK students that live farther than 1.0km from the school. The Board of Education Transportation Department determines who meets this distance criteria.

These students take up the majority of the seats

on the bus. For the empty spaces we have left, the school **may** provide courtesy transportation for families in need.

Courtesy riders must remember that their seat is conditional on space available and behavior on the bus.

TERRY FOX RUN

This year's Terry Fox Run was an outstanding success.

Our entire school participated in the run and we raised approximately \$1800.00 for cancer research prior to the event.

The three classes that won the pizza parties for

raising the most donations were:

Primary:

Mrs. Maerz's grade 2/3

Junior:

Mrs. Kuczerepa's grade 5

Intermediate:

Mrs. Graham's grade 8 class.

Thank you to **Mr. MacNab, Mrs. Dunstall, Ms. Flis, and Mrs. Woolvett** for organizing this wonderful event.



LEARNING FOCUS FOR 2014-2015

This year, our focus is on building our students' skills in three areas:

- 1)Critical Thinking;
- 2)Higher Order Thinking; and,
- 3)Problem-Solving.

We consider these areas of "deep learning" that apply in all subject areas.

Development of these skills also supports the HWDSB's

Transforming Learning Everywhere initiative, which envisions students taking a more active role in their learning as they investigate new learning and create new knowledge.

Powering this vision is Information Technology, in the form of tablets and personal computers, as a tool to enhance and accelerate learning.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

School Council meets the last Monday of every month in the Library at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome to join.

During the Sept 29th Meeting, we discussed:

- School Directions 2014-2015
- Gym-Stage Rejuvenation Project,
- The results of the Parent Survey
- School Council Elections.

As mentioned, we have a new executive this year and the next meeting will focus on planning activities in the year ahead.

Please join us Monday, October 27th from 6:30 to 8:00 in the Library!

SOCIAL MEDIA: A WINDOW INTO GATESTONE

Increasingly, we are using social media tools like Twitter to communicate what is happening in the school.

Please remember to check our website <http://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).

There is also a Principal's Blog at <http://gatestone.commonshwdsb.on.ca/category/principals-blog/> that is used to provide information to parents about the school, Please check it out and subscribe.



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LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER

**Monday, November
3rd,** Fire Drill Practice

Tuesday November 4th-
Bulldogs Trip

**Thursday, November
20th,** primary assembly—
Cinderella Frog Prince

**Thursday, November
18st,** Picture Re-take Day

Friday, November 21st,
Professional Activity Day—
Parent-Teacher Interviews

**Thursday, November
27th-** Tribes meeting and
assembly @ 1:50pm

**GATESTONE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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

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Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 Bus Safety Assembly @ 9:30am	2	3 Pajama Day	4
			Jr. Swim Team practice @ 8-9am			
5	6 Lockdown Drill @ 10:10am With community police	7 Fire Drill Practice @ 2:30pm	8 Jr. Swim Team Practice @ 8-9am	9 Sr. Girls Volleyball Tournamen- t @ Dofasco	10 Remem- brance Day Assembly	11
			International Walk-to School Day	Pizza Day		
12	13 Holiday No School	14	15 Jr. Swim Team Practice @ 8-9am	16 Pizza Day	17 Photo Day Whole School	18
19	20	21	22 Jr. Swim Team Practice @ 8-9am	23 Pizza Day Mad Science begins 3:25- 4:25pm	24	25
26	27 Provincial Election	28	29	30 Pizza Day- Tribes House meeting & assembly @ 1:50pm	31 Halloween parade Jk-5 @ 1:50pm	
	Jr. Swim Practice 3-4pm					
	Parent					