

# Gatestone November Newsletter

# **KEY EVENTS IN NOVEMBER:**

Remembrance Day Assembly @ 10:40am— November 11th

Progress Reports home on November 18th, 2014

Parent Interview Day on November 21st, 2014

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#### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

# OCTOBER AT GATESTONE

October was a whirlwind of activity at Gatestone in and out of the classroom.

Field trips, Swim meets, Rugby tournaments, Cross-country running meets, Volleyball teams, drama clubs, dance clubs and many other activities kept our students busy through the month.

We also continued to add new technology in the form of 20 new iPad minis and 20 laptops. These tools will help continue to create innovative and engaging learning experiences for our students.

# KEEPING GATESTONE SAFE

A number of procedures are in place to keep students and staff safe throughout the school day.

As per the HWDSB's Safe Welcome program, Gatestone is locked between 9:10 and 3:20 every day. All visitors (parents, board staff, contractors, etc.) to the school need to be buzzed by an adult and are required to sign-in at the Office.

We have visitor badges to

identify visitors to the school and Staff will ask people not wearing a badge to identify themselves and get a badge at the Office.

During Nutrition Breaks and before and after school, we have adults on supervision duty. We have at least two teachers, Educational Assistants and sometimes Principal/Vice-Principal on the back playground during Nutrition Breaks with usually four adults (a combination of teachers and designated early childhood educators) in the Kindergarten area each break.

# B U L L Y I N G AWARENESS

November 16th to 22nd is Bullying Awareness Week across Ontario.

At Gatestone our approach towards bullying is proactive. We believe that by building a caring and inclusive community through our Houses and by being a Tribes School, we are creating a school culture that does not tolerate bullying of any kind.

We also, whenever possible, educate our students about their behavior when it constitutes bullying and then applying consequences when that progressive approach is

unsuccessful. In persistent cases of bullying, we have asked our Police Liaison Officers to assist the school.

We encourage our students to make adults, such as their parents, teachers or the Principal and Vice-Principal, aware if they feel bullied so that we can stop the bullying and work to repair the harm. We even have the TipOff App where students can anonymously report bullying.

Please see page two for more information on bullying awareness.

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

Our next meeting is Monday, November 24th from 6:30 to 8:00. It's not too late to join. Our new co-chairs are setting an ambitious agenda for the year ahead!

#### **FINAL WORDS**

As always, I am appreciative of your support as a community. It is the partnership between home and school that makes Gatestone great! We look forward to having our parents join us for Parent-Teacher Interviews later this month.

Sincerely, Bill Torrens, OCT Gatestone Newsletter Page 2

#### **NOVEMBER PROGRESS REPORTS**

On November 18th, Progress Reports will be sent home with your child(ren).

The Elementary Progress Report is intended to Communicate your child's: development of learning skills and work habits thus far in the school year; and, progress in working towards the provincial expectations in their subject areas.

Early in November, your child(ren)'s teacher will communicate how to book an interview on Friday, November 21st

More information regarding the Progress Report is available at: <a href="http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/ReportCard\_En.pdf">http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/ReportCard\_En.pdf</a>.

This document is available in 22 languages at:

http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/ reportCard.html.



#### **TIPOFF: ANONYMOUS REPORTING APP**

In November of 2013, Gatestone became part of TipOff, an anti-bullying app that allows students to anonymously report bullying.

After a student uses the app, the report is shared with the school so action can be taken. Using TipOff is a great way for students to report bullying they have witnessed or any other activities that make them feel uncomfortable.

We plan to hold information sessions in classrooms to remind students to use this tool.

The app is available from Google Play or the Apple Store.



#### TRANSPORTATION CANCELLATIONS

Severe weather across the District or in any part of the District may result in the cancellation of transportation services to the entire District.

If the weather is severe enough, the General Manager of the Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation System will advise the Director or

Designate of the road conditions and weather conditions. The Director of Education or Designate will then decide whether or not to cancel all school and board administrative operations. If the conditions are determined to be unsafe, The Director of Education or Designate will inform Corporate then Communications who will inform the community by contacting the media, the City of Hamilton, school-based child care providers and by communicating cancellation information.

Please see <a href="http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/schools/inclement-weather/">http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/schools/inclement-weather/</a> for more details.

## NOVEMBER 16-22, BULLYING AWARENESS WEEK

According to the Ministry o f Education, bullying is defined as a form of repeated, persistent aggressive behavior directed at individual individuals that is intended to cause (or should be known to cause) fear and distress and/or harm to another person's body, feelings, selfesteem reputation. Types of bullying include:

**Physical**: hitting, shoving, stealing or damaging property

Verbal: name calling, mocking, or making sexist, racist & homophobic comments

Social: excluding others from a group or spreading gossip or rumours about them

Electronic:
(cyberbullying)
spreading rumours
and hurtful
comments through
the use of
cellphones, e-mail,
texting and social
networking sites.



### **TRIBES UPDATE:**

On October 30th Gatestone had its second House Meeting. Students from JK to 8 gathered together into their houses to discuss the character trait of Responsibility.

Several activities were planned for the students including creating a Responsibili-TREE, pumpkin carving, and team-building activities. Each house is also brainstorming ideas for

developing a crest that best represents their house.

Don't forget about Tribes Tuesdays! Wear your House colours for a token!

**Token Race Update:** 

Wentworth-348 Dundurn-363 Alexander-355 Griffin-387 McMaster-43 I Victoria-44 I Remembrance
Day Assembly
November 11th

10:40-11:20am

Parents Welcome

Our focus on using
Information
Technology is to engage our students in their learning and to develop their higher-order thinking skills

#### FUNDRAISING EVENT: MACMILLAN"S AND HOLIDAY GIFT SHOP

School Council is leading two fundraisers in the fall and early winter.

The Fall fundraising campaign will be MacMillan Products. Students will be bringing home information and order sheets on Monday November 3rd. The fundraising campaign will generate money for technology and class trips.

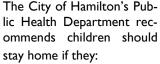
Order forms and payment must be returned no later than Tuesday November 18th, 2014.



Once again School Council will be running the **Holiday Gift Shop**.

This is an event where students can purchase Holiday gifts for family and friends. The dates for the Holiday Gift Shop will be **December 10th**, **11th**, **and 12th**. More details will follow in the December Newsletter.

## WHEN SHOULD I KEEP MY CHILD HOME?



- vomit or have diarrhea through the night or in the morning;
- have a temperature of 38°
   C (100.4° F) or higher;
- have any discharge from the ear or an earache;
- have pink eyes or yellow discharge from the eyes;

- have a runny nose with thick mucus, a night cough, or any continuous cough;
- have a stomach-ache or headache;
- have a sore throat:
- have a toothache. have a skin rash of unknown cause.

For more information visit the Public Health Department website <a href="https://www.hamilton.ca/">www.hamilton.ca/</a> HealthandSocialServices





NOVEMBER NEWSLETTTER	GATESTONE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER						
LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DECEMBER 18TH, NEXT HOUSE DAY  DECEMBER 19TH, LAST DAY BEFORE WINTER BREAK	2	3	4 Hamilton Bulldogs Trips	5 Grade 8's Day in the life of Saltfleet	6 Pizza Day	7	8
	9	Vestmount Option Sheet Presentation 1:45	Remem- brance Day Assembly 10:40- 11:20am	12	I3 Pizza Day	14	15
Gatestone Elementary School  Bill Torrens Principal Kelly Sweeting Vice-Principal	16	17	I8 Reports Go Home Photo Re- take Day MacMillan Orders Due	19	20 Pizza Day Cinderella and The Frog Prince Anti- bullying Assembly	21 PA Day: Parent Interviews	22
127 Gatestone Dr. Stoney Creek, ON L8J 3Z5 (905) 573-7731 905) 573-3127  Email: gatestone@hwdsb.on.ca  Website: http://schools.hwdsb.	23	24 School Council 6:30 Grade Eight IPRCs	25 Grade Eight IPRCs	26 Kindergar- ten/ Class 68 Crock-A- Doodle Grade Eight IPRCs	27 Pizza Day House Day & Assembly 2:45	28	29
on.ca/Gatestone.  Twitter: https:// twitter.com/ GatestoneSchool  Blogs: Gatestone.commons hwdsb.on.ca	30						