



GATESTONE NEWSLETTER

Key Events this Month

- Tuesday , January 13th, Grade 8 Montreal Trip Parent Meeting
- Friday, January 23rd, Professional Activity Day
- Monday, January 26th, School Council

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Gatestone Newsletter

January 2015

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome back!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season with friends and family.

For many in our school community, January is also a month of celebration with Orthodox Christmas, Buddhist New Year, the Sikh celebration of the Birth of Guru Gobind Singh and Mid-Winter for our aboriginal families. On behalf of our Staff, I send best wishes to all of these communities.

Holiday Gift Shop

Thank you to all the volunteers that made for another successful Holiday Gift Shop last month.

Special thanks to Jennifer Periard and Heather Eastman for their time and effort!

School Council

School Council re-convenes on **Monday, January 26th from 6:30 to 8:00**. Agenda items include planning for Spring events and an information session on School Generated Funds and the new School Cash System. All are welcome to attend.

Final Words

At the end of January, I will have completed four years as Principal. I feel immensely privileged to work with a such an excellent staff in such a wonderful school community.

Bill Torrens, OCT

OUR MONTHLY SKILL: GOAL SETTING

Goal Setting to improve both academic and social skills is the focus for January. Students may earn tokens for demonstrating any of the following characteristics:

- identifies specific steps or actions needed to reach goals or to make
- evaluates own success in reaching goals
- identifies strengths and areas for improvement in own work
- shows perseverance to achieve goals
- revises goals or steps and strategies

House Race Update:
McMaster—1101

Victoria—1071

Wentworth—901

Dundurn—939

Griffin—950

Alexander—922

VISITOR SIGN-IN AND STUDENT SIGN OUT

Gatestone strives to balance its commitment to be both a welcoming school and a safe school.

We ask our community and visitors to follow a number of procedures to control and track access to the school.

All parents, caregivers and all visitors are kindly required to sign-in and out and wear a visitors badge if they are visiting the school during school hours.

We also ask that you please drop off your children outside with their peers rather than walking them into school.



when necessary

With the arrival of the cold weather, please ensure that your child (ren) has hats, coats, mitts/gloves and boots/ warm shoes for going outside for Nutrition Breaks.

We strive to get our students outside as much as possible throughout the Winter,

but we will keep them inside when it is raining or if we feel the weather conditions are unsafe like extreme cold or high winds.

-15degrees Celsius, without the windchill, is the temperature at which we keep our students indoors.



SAFE ARRIVAL AND LATES

Please contact the school at **905-573-7731**, before 9:00 am, if your child will be late or absent. All students arriving after O Canada must report to the Office to check in.

If your child is to be excused before the end of the school day, please report to the Office to sign them out, or contact the Office via telephone or a note to provide permission to leave.

To ensure good communications with parents, students arriving to their class later than 9:10 will be marked late and their agenda will be stamped.

Being late more than three times in a month will result in a detention.

FOLLOW GATESTONE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

If you have a Twitter Account, please consider following **@gatestoneschool** and your child's class accounts, if they have one, to see all of the great things happening at the school.

As well, many excellent class blogs have been created. A tremendous amount of time and effort has been put into these blogs, both to build and to keep up to date. They provide unique insight into what is happening at in the classroom.

There is a School blog: Gatestone.common.s.hwdsb.on.ca/. The Principal's Blog can be found on this site.



CLEARING SNOW AND ICE

Outdoor safety is an important concern in the winter. According to HWDSB policy, Staff will clear, salt and/or sand the following areas:

- The walkways from the City sidewalk to the school;
- The school steps and portable steps;
- Walkways to the portables;
- Ramps to schools and portables;
- An area outside of entrances and Fire Exit Doors;
- Fire Exit stairs and ramps.

Playgrounds will not be plowed or otherwise cleared.

When there is more than 5 cm of snow, parking lots are plowed by HWDSB approved contractors (who also sand and/or salt as needed).

Caretakers will check the condition of the grounds throughout the day to sand and/or salt isolated slippery areas that may occur.

Everyone should take extra caution when walking onto and leaving from school grounds. Caution must also be taken when playing on school grounds when conditions are slippery. Students may be kept inside at Nutrition Break if the playground is iced over.

SCHOOL CASH ON-LINE

Gatestone is excited to be one of the first schools within the HWDSB to move to on-line collection of monies for items such as pizza, trips, fundraising, etc.

With the support of School Cash On-line, we're making paying for school related expenses easier. Beginning in mid-January, parents will be able to make online payments through the school website.

This is a win-win by making it safer and more efficient for everyone by reducing the amount of cash and cheques coming into our school.

Parents will still have the option to send cash or cheque for school related expenses, but encourage all parents to use the new service.

How to register

In January, you'll receive a customized PIN code from your child's teacher. Once you receive your PIN code, it's as easy as 1, 2, 3!

Step 1:

Go to the link on our school website or by visiting <https://hwdsb.schoolcashonline.com>

Step 2:

Register by selecting the "Get Started Now" and following the steps

Step 3:

After you receive the confirmation email, please select the 'click here' option, sign in and add each of your children to your household account. In order to complete this step, please have the personal PIN code labels for each student provided by your school on hand.

If there are any challenges with the registration process, the parent help desk is available 24/7 by calling 1-866-961-1803 (toll-free) or by email at parenthelp@schoolcashonline.com.

THE SCHOOL BUDGET AND THE 21ST CENTURY CLASSROOM

Annually, schools are provided with a budget for learning supplies, books, photocopying, paper, etc., based on student enrollment.

The challenge is to manage these funds in order to provide as resource-rich learning

environment as possible.

Over the past 4 years, our focus as a school has been to equip every classroom with 21st Century learning tools: computers, iPads, whiteboards and data projectors. To meet

this goal, we have reduced our paper and photocopying use by approx. 50% last year and re-invested the savings into technology and whiteboards. As a result, we have been able to add 20 laptops and 40 iPad Minis to the school this year.

JANUARY 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**



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
5th First Day Back	6th JK/SK Dental Screening	7th Orthodox Christmas JK/SK Dental Screening	8th Pizza day Dance Fest	9th
12th	13th Montreal Trip Parent Meeting @ 7:00pm Library	14th	15th Pizza Day	16th
19th Martin Luther King Day	20th	21st Grade 5/6 Ski Trip	22nd Pizza Day Grade 7/8 Ski Trip	23rd Professional Activity Day
26th Parent Council Meeting 6:30pm Library All Welcome	27th	28th	29th Pizza Day	30th