



## **Principal's Message**

Thursday April 2, 2026

Hello George Syme families,

Here are some key messages for this week. Do read this message until the end as there is important information regarding your children.

We look forward to continuing to teach and learn with you and your children. 😊

### **NEW!! – Family STEM Evening**

We will be hosting a Family STEM Evening on Thursday April 9<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 7:30pm. Come out to see learning math and science through robotics, Lego, games, creating and more! Logics Academy will be joining us to showcase Robotics learning in our gym! This is for students in Kindergarten to Grade 8! All families are invited!

### **NEW!! – Safety Practices**

During the springtime we practice our safety drills. This spring we will be reviewing our fire drills with our students and proceeding with 3 practices. We will also be reviewing our lockdown, hold and secure and visual scan (bomb threat) procedures. We hope we never need to use these procedures, however, our students and

staff will have opportunities to practice just in case they are needed.

In the case of an evacuation, we relocate to our back field where we take staff and student attendance. If there is an emergency in our building and need to relocate our students and staff, our primary relocation site is Runnymede CI and our second relocation site is Lampton Park Community School. In these cases, we will need to take student attendance at the relocation site. Parents can sign students out at our relocation site. Please do not take students home without signing them out as we much take account for every child during any emergency situations. Thank you for your support in this.

### **NEW!!- Pizza Day Friday April 24<sup>th</sup>**

Our next school-wide pizza day will be Friday April 24<sup>th</sup> and the ordering link on cash online will be open until Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup>. The proceeds from this fundraiser will be put towards technology, Gr.8 graduation, the arts and Health and Physical Education resources for our students.

### **Welcome to Junior Kindergarten**

We are hosting our **Welcome to Junior Kindergarten even on Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 6 pm.** Be sure to register your child online through the TDSB and follow up with your documents at the George Syme office. We hope to see you then!

### **Extended Absences**

If your child will be away from school, do visit the office and they will give you an extended vacation form to complete. This form needs to be completed as for safety reasons; we need to know where students are. This form may be used for extended vacations or medical.

## **Valuables**

Please remind students to leave all valuables at home. Students are to leave Pokeman cards at home as well. They are not to come to school. Thank you for your support in this.

## **School Council Volunteers Needed**

Our School Council is forming a **Fundraising Committee, Book Fair Committee as well as a STEM Committee**. If you are interested, please email [Karen.Naik@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Karen.Naik@tdsb.on.ca) and indicate where you would like to volunteer as well as your availability. Thank you for your support and contribution to our community.

## **School Council Meeting Time**

Our next School Council meeting will be Tuesday May 26th from 6 - 7 pm in the library. A light dinner and childcare will be provided. All parents and guardians of George Syme students are welcome!

## **Outdoor supervision and pickups**

Just a reminder that outdoor supervision starts at 9:00 am before school and the school day ends at 3:35 pm. All students must be picked up at 3:35 pm.

## **Beyond 3:30 Program**

The Beyond 3:30 program is available for Grade 6, 7, and 8 students here at George Syme. It offers homework help, academic activities, recreational opportunities, and nutritional learning. Our goal is to support students' academic growth, health and well-being, and overall development. The students receive snacks and dinner!

Families can register for this after-school program using this [LINK](#)

## **George Syme Code of Conduct**

As a school, we are focusing on our school-wide code of conduct.

Teachers are reviewing it in classrooms and students are reviewing it in circle times. This document is included in our student agenda as well as our website for students and families to reference. Please see the following [Code of Conduct](#) as it is a guideline for parents and all community members to follow as well.

### **Second Floor Reminder**

Parents and guardians are welcome at George Syme Community School! When you arrive, please start your visit to the office. If you need to drop something off for your child, do let a secretary know and she will contact the classroom teacher, and an arrangement will be made for the item to be delivered. If you need to visit your child's classroom due to a pre-arranged visit, do check in at the office and you will be given a visitor's badge. For everyone's safety, do not walk throughout the school, especially the second floor without first visiting the office.

### **Attendance**

Families are being asked to use the safe arrival system to phone their child's absence in daily when they are away. This information will go directly to our office staff and to teachers. **The number for safe arrival is 1-833-250-2290. Or you may call George Syme at 416-394-2340 and choose option 1 to report an absence.**

### **Start-Up Forms**

All families have received via email this year's Start Up Forms. The email was sent from TDSB - not George Syme. If you have not already done so, it is **very important** to ensure that you fill out these online or hard copy forms as soon as possible. The responses will be kept at the school. The forms include a Walking Excursion Permission form, Media Consent (to allow teachers and staff to take occasional pictures of the students doing activities),

Technology Code of Conduct and more. These need to be completed for students to participate in activities at school.

### **Student Cellphones**

When at school **students must turn their cellphones off and they need to be put away in their backpack.** They are not to be used in washrooms or during recess times. Students will be reminded, and, if needed, teachers will contact parents.

### **Medication**

If your child has any medication to take during the day, be sure to fill out the medical form, take the form to your doctor and meet with your child's teacher. For those who came to school last year, student medication and doctor forms were sent home on the last day of school. Be sure to check their expiry date and bring them back to the office right away. Designated staff are unable to administer any medication without a form signed by a doctor. Students must **always keep their medication on them and not in their backpack. A waist-pouch is an easy way to facilitate this.**

### **Cash online**

All school sales will be done with School Cash Online. Be sure to make sure you have an online account. Refer to this [LINK](#) to set up your account.

### **Important - Parking Lot Safety**

Please remember to avoid walking through the parking lot. We are asking that you use the walkways on school property to get to the sidewalks. This is for safety! It is **difficult for drivers to see small children when backing out of parking spaces.** Pass this message to childcare providers, babysitters, or anyone else who is dropping off or picking up your children.

On behalf of the staff and students of George Syme, we wish you a safe and healthy weekend. See you on Monday ready to learn. 😊