



Principal's Message

Friday February 27, 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. 😊

Snow

The snow is an exciting time for our students to learn and explore outside. During snowy times, students build and create structures with their friends. We are noticing and interrupting play where students are destroying their friends' snow creations. We are providing strategies to share snow and to invite others to play. However, we need some support from home. If you could reinforce these messages that there is plenty of snow for everyone to play with as well as the importance of not destroying other people's creations.

NEW!! - Black History Month Assembly

We hosted an assembly for Black History Month on Wednesday February 25th. Students learned about the contributions of Black Canadians to the world. A special thank you to Ms. Slack and Mr. Hogg for organizing as well as our students for their presentations.

Grade 8 Graduation Photos

Graduation Photos will be Wednesday March 11th, 2026. More information to come from Gr.8 teachers.

Upcoming March Break

March Break will be from Monday March 16th to Friday March 20th. Ontario schools will be closed and they will reopen on Monday March 23rd.

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 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!

Snow Removal

As we progress into winter there will be times of snow fall and ice at George Syme. Our custodial staff is following the approved snow removal plan of the TDSB. However, there will still be ice and snow on our property during the upcoming winter months. We are teaching our students to dress properly as well as to walk with caution where there is snow and ice.

For parents during drop-offs and pick-ups, be sure to follow the shoveled pathways as they will be salted and cleared.

If you know of a child who needs warm winter clothing, please contact the school and we will arrange winter clothes for them.

Student Athletics

The gym has been active as students continue to develop their movement skills, fitness, and game understanding across a range of programs. Both the Grade 7 and Grade 8 Boys' Basketball teams as well as the Grade 6 and Grade 8 Girls' Volleyball teams, are practicing with an emphasis on fundamental skills, positioning, and communication. Students are engaged in purposeful physical activity that supports lifelong healthy, active living.

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.

Winter Weather Is Here

As the winter weather is coming, be sure to check the TDSB website and the morning news to see if buses are cancelled or if schools are closed. If school buses are cancelled, parents are welcome to bring their children to school and if school is cancelled due to a Snow Day, then George Syme as well as other TDSB sites

will be closed. Be sure to check TDSB websites and the news for updated information first thing in the morning!

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. 😊