



## **Principal's Message**

Friday May 22nd, 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!! -Junior/Intermediate Spring Concert**

There will be a Junior Concert on Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 2 pm in the gym. Students in grades 4 – 8 will be performing. If parents and guardians are interested in attending, please enter through door 1 or 8 and make your way to the gym. We look forward to hearing the wonderful performances from our students.

### **NEW!! - Professional Activity Day – June 5**

On June 5, 2026, elementary teachers will focus on assessment and reporting duties. This provides an opportunity to evaluate progress to date, finalize report cards, and plan upcoming lessons based on current student needs. Consequently, there will be no school for students on this day.

### **NEW!! - 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.

In the past at this time of year, some schools have shared their models and allocations, however, the direction of the TDSB is as enrolment continues to fluctuate right up to the beginning of the school year, we will not be sharing these tentative staffing numbers/models until they are finalized on September 4, 2026.

All parents and guardians of George Syme students are welcome!

### **Monitoring of Student Social Media Use**

In the past 2 weeks, we have had concerns emerge from the unmonitored use of social media in the evenings and weekends. Do supervise your children online and monitor their conversations as these issues are overflowing into the instructional day and impacting their learning. At school, students do not use devices for social media purposes. Cell phones are turned off and put away.

### **Students Moving**

If you know your child is moving to another school in September, please let our office know. We are in the midst of planning for our 2026-2027 school year and need to finalize our student numbers.

### **September 2026 Class Placements**

As we are preparing for the upcoming 2026-2027 school year, we are building our classes. There are many learning needs and dynamics we consider to appropriately balance the classes. We will try to accommodate placement requests; however, at times, we may be unable to guarantee all placement requests. Students and families will know their teacher in September as there are still

adjustments as new students register. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

### **HDSH Exemptions from Mr. Grogan**

Parents/guardians of students in select classes will now be able to access the Human Development and Sexual Health (HDSH) exemption forms online at [hdsh.tdsb.on.ca](http://hdsh.tdsb.on.ca). The portal is active and ready for use, allowing families to review scheduled lessons and submit any exemption requests directly for applicable classes. We encourage families to visit the site and complete any necessary selections ahead of instruction.

### **Run Club is Back in May! – From Mr. Grogan**

Students in Grades 1 to 8 are invited to join Run Club on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the first part of lunch in May. They will eat their lunch outside on these days. It's a fun and supportive way to stay active, build fitness, and enjoy time with friends.

Students should come prepared with outdoor running shoes, a litterless lunch, a water bottle, and a positive attitude. Let's get moving, cheer each other on, and make every run a great one!

### **EQAO Dates**

Our Grade 3 and 6 students will be writing their EQAO tests in the next few weeks. Gr.3 will be writing May 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> and Gr.6 will be writing May 25<sup>th</sup>, 28, 29 and June 2. Please book student appointments around these dates to allow enough time for students to complete their tests. Information letters will follow!

### **Math Website**

Here is a website to practice math. Students and families are invited to use this link for additional practice.

<https://mathify.tvolearn.com/>

## **Grade 8 Graduation**

Do mark your calendars! Our Grade 8 students will be participating in an end of year excursion to Canada's Wonderland on Friday June 19<sup>th</sup>. There will also have a graduation lunch on Wednesday June 17<sup>th</sup> and their graduation will be Wednesday June 24<sup>th</sup>. More information to come from the Gr.8 teachers!!

## **Junior Kindergarten Registration**

We are accepting new registrations for Junior Kindergarten for the 2026-2027 school year. Please register online with the TDSB and visit our George Syme website for school information. If your child has special education needs, do visit the office and let us know. We would like to meet with you and your child in a transition meeting. If you have any questions, call our school office at 416-394-2340. We are looking forward to teaching and learning with you and your children next year.

## [Junior Kindergarten Registration](#)

## **George Syme Athletics**

Our Badminton season is finishing! We had many students attend the lunch practices and learn about this sport. This week our Track and Field and Run Club is starting. Students are encouraged to sign up for practices and various events. These events will be posted on the daily announcements.

## **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.

## **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.

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**

#### **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. 😊