



## **Principal's Message**

Friday March 28th, 2025

Hello George Syme families,

Here are some key messages for this week:

### **Student Nutrition Program**

We would like to thank Runnymede United Church for their generous produce donations to our nutrition program here at George Syme. We have been able to supply our students with daily, fruits, vegetables, hummus, and vegetable dip thanks to their donations.

We also had a generous grant donation for an industrial fridge and an industrial freezer to store our perishable foods for our nutrition program. We are very grateful for these donations to support our learners!

### **Pizza Lunch**

**Our next pizza lunch will be on Friday April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.** Look for the School Cash Online link that will be sent out this week. Orders are due by **Wednesday April 16<sup>th</sup>**. Late orders will not be accepted. Please be sure to make sure you order ahead of time. If you have any questions, please call the school office. Proceeds from this fundraising will be going towards the music, gym, technology, art, and extracurricular activities for our students.

### **Student Absences**

Parents and caregivers, we need assistance regarding student attendance. If your child is away, we need you to phone it into the

system at 416-394-2340 and follow the prompts to the safe arrival section. This can be done out of school hours and is helpful if you know your child will be away ahead of time! Do not email the principal student absences. The student absence reporting system must be used by parents and guardians to log all student absences.

### **Extended Student Absence/Vacations**

If your child will be away from school for an extended time (vacation or medical), do visit the office for an Extended Student Absence form. Parents and caregivers do need to fill this out to indicate student departure and return date. Without this form, students will be demitted from George Syme Community School after 15 days. This is an important safety step that needs to be completed.

### **Welcome to Kindergarten**

Every spring we welcome our upcoming First Year Kindergarten students to visit George Syme with their caregivers for an information session on how to prepare for Kindergarten. This session will be held on **Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup> from 6-7 pm.** Be sure to register your child online and you will receive an invite. Important information will be presented and student attendees will receive a welcome gift. After you register, we hope to see you there with your child(ren).

### **Badminton and Lunchtime Drop-In Sports**

We are pleased to offer lunchtime sports for students to drop in and participate in. We are currently offering Badminton drop-in sessions for students.

### **School Council Meeting Times**

Our next School Council meeting will be Tuesday May 6th from 6 -7 pm in the library. All are welcome! Stay tuned as we will have

sub-committees meeting throughout the year and parents who are interested may attend. A light pizza meal will be provided.

### **Athletics - Volleyball Team**

Our Volleyball Team represented George Syme at a local competition. Even though we didn't win, we played with heart, perseverance, and teamwork throughout the season. They faced tough competition but never backed down, always supporting one-another and demonstrating sportspersonship and school pride. This year we are teaching our students the importance of a proper Code of Conduct as we are students first and then athletes. We are proud of their dedication and commitment. Congratulations to all the players on a great season!

### **Early Pick Up Protocol**

Parents, when you need to pick up your children early, please come to the office and we will call your child's teacher to send them down. Please do not look for your child on the field during recess or walk throughout the school. We have a sign-in process for all school visitors. It is important that we have a log of everyone who visits our school.

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

Please remember to avoid walking through the parking lot. Please use the walkways on school property to get to the sidewalks. This is for safety! We have had extra snow, and it is **difficult for drivers to see small children**. Pass this message to childcare providers, babysitters, or anyone else who is dropping off or picking up your children.

### **Reading Bookmark**

We are reading, reading, reading! Please see the attached Reading Strategy Bookmark we are using throughout George Syme. Parents

are encouraged to use the strategies listed when reading with students. [Reading bookmark](#)

### **Big Problem Small Problem**

At George Syme, we are teaching students how to solve problems and here is a copy of a problem-solving strategy. Parents are encouraged to use this strategy at home as it is a valuable tool!

[Big Problem – Small Problem](#)

### **Kindergarten**

Our Kindergarten students are learning their letters, numbers, shapes, colours, and more! This resource was sent home with each Full Day Kindergarten student. Please see the attached resource and parents, you are encouraged to use this resource with your children. The more opportunities to learn increase student success!

[Kindergarten Resource](#)

### **Student Health**

We are in the middle of cold and flu season. Please send your child to school if they are well. If they are not well, consider keeping them at home. If students need a mask, they may wear one from home or one will be provided in the office. [Cover Your Cough – Handwashing and Reducing the Spread of Germs.](#)

### **Student and Classroom Concerns**

At times a concern may emerge. If there is a question or concern, please be sure to contact your child's teacher **first** to problem solve. Thank you for streamlining the communication as students are with their teachers for most of the day and therefore will be the best to help with problem solving. If it is still not solved after consulting the teacher, then contact the office.

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