



Principal's Message

Friday May 8th, 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!! 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.

NEW!! Painting Lines in the Mariposa Parking Lot

On Monday May 4th the lines in the Mariposa Parking lot were repainted and as a result the parking lot was closed. We thank everyone for their patience.

NEW!! - 1:1 Devices and Chromebook Repairs

In previous years, our junior students had the option of a device from the Toronto District School Board, and these are now exiting their warranty time frame. From time to time these devices need repair. If this happens, parents will be notified of the cost to fix their child's device, and they can decide if they would like to move ahead with the repair or not. Please note that if the device is not repaired, it will not be replaced by the school. This year and moving forward, the Toronto District School Board has eliminated their 1:1 devices for incoming Junior students.

NEW!! 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.

NEW!! 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.

NEW!! – Bus Safety Information Sessions

All of our students in grades JK to Grade 8 will be participating in a bus safety seminar on Thursday May 14th. Here students will review expectations

NEW!! - 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. 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.

NEW!! – 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!

NEW!! – 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 19th to 22nd and Gr.6 will be writing May 25th, 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/>

Geese on George Syme Property

As spring is coming, we may see some geese return to our school grounds. Animal control is working with facilities to put some lights and noises around the school to prevent the geese from

staying. They are inspecting twice a week to put additional supports in place.

In the meantime, we are reminding our students to stay away from the geese. This means not to chase them or throw things at them. This is for all members of our community. Thank you for supporting us with this!

Construction in Stairwell #2

We are fixing the roof above stairwell #2 and this area will be closed until it is fixed for safety reasons. In the meantime, students in grades 1 – Ms. Chislett, Gr. 3/4 - Mr. Stoia, Gr.1/2FI – Ms. Lachapelle and Gr.2/3FI - Ms. Colin will be using door #5 to enter and exit the building until further notice.

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 19th. There will also have a graduation lunch on Wednesday June 17th and their graduation will be Wednesday June 24th. 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](#)

Welcome to Junior Kindergarten

We are hosting our **Welcome to Junior Kindergarten even on Thursday May 14th 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. Families will be receiving an invitation to the information evening and be sure to RSVP to salima.velji@tdsb.on.ca as we are organizing an informative evening for parents and students. There will be a welcome gift as well!

Special Education Supports for Families

Please visit the [following link](#) that will lead to special education supports for families.

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.

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.

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.

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. 😊