



December 2017 News

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From the Desk of Mrs. Golding

November was an exciting month full of wonderful events such as our Holly Day Bazaar, our first excellence assembly and our family Wendy's Night.



As the snow begins to fall we want to remind all of our students and their families about the importance of dressing appropriately for the weather. As well, the parking lot becomes more crowded in the morning and after school. If you must drive your child, please remember to enter the parking lot and proceed to the kiss and ride loop carefully. Alternatively, feel free to park your car if you plan on walking your child to the gate.

The holidays are a special time. Whatever you celebrate, we hope that you enjoy the Holiday Season with your children, family and friends. We have a great team of students, staff and parents working together here at Holly Meadows...we are fortunate indeed. If I don't see you in the upcoming few weeks, I look forward to seeing you in 2018!

From the Desk of Mr. Dobson

I like the month of December for many reasons. Routines are established and deeper learning is happening in our classrooms. Students and staff are eagerly anticipating the holiday season.

It is a natural time to reflect on the previous year and celebrate our many successes. It is a time to think about things that did not go as planned, and learn from our mistakes. It is also a time to look forward to a new year - full of possibilities and adventures.

I wish you and your family a rejuvenating break and look forward to a successful 2018!

Important Dates

- Dec 1- Christmas cheer drive begins
- Dec 4-midnight on the evening of the 17th- Milk, Pizza and Pasta online orders for January
- Dec 4- School council (6pm meeting at Simmering Kettle)
- Dec 11- K-Gr 3 Math Jam performance
- Dec 14- Kindergarten Concerts
- Dec 19- "Comfy cozy" day in kindergarten
- Dec 21-Whole school spirit day "Sparkle" day
- Dec 22- Last day before the winter break...see you on January 8th!



Pasta Tuesdays!

Beginning in the new year, we will be offering an additional lunch option for pasta on Tuesdays. Orders will be open on school cash online from December 4th to midnight on the evening of the 17th. Paper forms are also available by request at the office during those date. Thank you to the volunteers who make these programs possible!

Kindergarten registration opens in January

Do you (or someone you know) have a child who was born in 2014? If so, it's almost time to register them for Kindergarten in the SCDSB! Beginning Jan. 22, 2018, Simcoe County's public schools will register children for Kindergarten for the 2018-19 school year. Required registration documents include birthdate documentation, proof of address and record of immunization. Visit www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten for more information.

Parents invited to information sessions about special education

The SCDSB is hosting a series of information sessions for parents and guardians to learn about special education in the SCDSB, and how to support students with special education needs.

Dec. 18- Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) Information for Families

Jan. 22- Assessments in Special Education: Psych Ed and Other Assessments

Feb. 19- Transition Planning Grade 8 to 9

March 19- Accessing Supports in the Community

April 16- Understanding Alternative/Non-Academic IEP Goals

All sessions take place from 6 to 7 p.m. at the SCDSB Education Centre, located at 1170 Highway 26 in Midhurst. No registration required.

High school information nights coming to a school near you!

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information nights happen this fall and winter. This event gives an overview of what's new, what to expect, as well as a chance to check out the school and ask questions. Attend our local high school information night to find out what's offered at Bear Creek on January 11th from 6:30-8pm. Check out the full schedule of info nights and more information at www.scdsb.on.ca/highschool.

Land/territory acknowledgement introduced for SCDSB meetings, events and schools

Over the past few months, the SCDSB has worked with Indigenous partners, local elders and the First Nations Education Advisory Committee to develop a land/territory acknowledgement. A land/territory acknowledgement is an act of respect and reconciliation, based on the First Nations' tradition of acknowledging the land of others when they were guests in that territory. The statements will be used at SCDSB meetings and significant events, and daily in all schools to respectfully acknowledge the Indigenous people of this territory, their sharing of the territory and the benefits we have received, as settlers, from that sharing.

For school daily use:

"Simcoe County District School Board acknowledges that we are situated on the traditional land of the Anishnaabeg people. We acknowledge the enduring presence of First Nation, Métis and Inuit people on this land and are committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation and respect."

For more information, visit www.scdsb.on.ca – 'About Us'.

Eye See...Eye Learn program offers free glasses for Junior Kindergarten students

The *Eye See...Eye Learn* program provides comprehensive eye exams by local optometrists to Junior Kindergarten (JK) students. The eye exams are covered under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) when parents show their child's health card. There is no out-of-pocket cost for the eye exam and if the child requires a pair of glasses, they will receive them free of charge courtesy of a participating optometrist. For more information, visit www.Eyeseeyelearn.ca.

RVH Film Festival welcomes student submissions

Barrie's Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) has partnered with the Simcoe County District School Board, the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board and Unity Christian High School to offer students, classes and schools the opportunity to participate in RVH's annual Film Festival in two external categories:

- Kindergarten to Grade 6
- Grade 7 and up

This year's theme is "Making mental health matter - how are you making a difference?" Students and classes are invited to make a two-minute video showing how they promote mental health. The deadline for submissions is Feb. 5, 2018. Voting will take place from Feb. 16 to 26 and those with the winning entries will be invited to an awards ceremony on March 8. Find out more and submit your video at: www.rvh.on.ca/SitePages/rvhfilmfestival.aspx.

Attend a French Immersion information night, registration opens in January

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) offers French Immersion (FI) at select schools throughout Simcoe County beginning in Grade 1. The goal of the FI program is to enable students to communicate in French with a high level of proficiency, enabling them to function with ease in both French and English. Upon graduation from the program, students will communicate in French with confidence in a wide variety of real-life situations.

Information sessions take place in January for parents of students in Senior Kindergarten. A letter will be sent home to those parents with more details. Information session dates will be posted at www.scdsb.on.ca under Programs, French as a Second Language.

The FI online application form will be available from 9 a.m. on Mon. Jan. 22, until 9 p.m. on Wed. Jan. 24, 2018 at www.scdsb.on.ca under Programs, French as a Second Language. While every effort is made to accommodate all FI applications, available space and staffing will determine how many students can be registered. Applications will be processed in the order they are received electronically. Please contact the school if you do not have Internet access at home or require assistance accessing the online application.

Please note that the host sites for FI may change during your child's time in the program, and your child may need to move schools. This may also include splitting the program between two different sites.

OHIP+ provides free prescription drug coverage for children

Beginning Jan. 1, 2018, the province will provide free prescription drug coverage for children and youth aged 24 and under, regardless of family income. Under OHIP+, Ontario children and youth will have access to over 4,400 medications and other drug products. Enrolment in OHIP+ will be automatic, based on age. There are no upfront costs, no co-payment and no annual deductible. Those who are eligible for OHIP+ will only need their health card number and a valid prescription from their doctor or nurse practitioner when they visit their pharmacist. For more information, visit: www.ontario.ca/page/learn-about-ohip-plus.