



# DECEMBER AND JANUARY NEWS

## EMAIL Communication

All parents/guardians will be receiving an electronic copy of all newsletters/school wide communication commencing November 9, 2015. Hard copies will only be distributed if there is no email address on file at the office. If you wish to add an email address to the list, please contact the school office.

## Holly Meadows Staff 2015-2016

We would like to wish warm goodbyes to Mrs. Penfold-Shaw, Mrs. Noble, and Mrs. Guthrie. We welcome Cynthia Wright and Meredith Fleming to our staff in the role of FSL teachers, Katherine Mackinnon to our staff in the role of Grade 3-4 teacher and Amy Furch in the role of Grade 5 teacher.

## Mark Your Calendar

December 7	School Council Meeting 7-9 pm (Library)
December 14	Grade 8 visit to Bear Creek
December 17	Star Student Assembly "Courage and Empathy" Jr. 9:30, Int. 11:35, Pr. 2:00
January 4	School Council Meeting 7-9 pm (Library)
January 5, 8, 11, 26	Dairy Presentations
January 6	EFSL Ardagh Bluff Info Night 6 pm
January 7	Grade 8 Information night at Bear Creek 6:30 pm
January 7	Popcorn sales each Thursday \$1 a bag
January 12	FI Ferndale Info Night 6 pm
January 18-19	FI application 9 am to 9 pm
January 20-21	EFSL application 9 am to 9 pm
January 25	Kindergarten registration opens
January 28	Star Student Assembly "Honesty" Int. 9:30, Pr. 11:35, Jr. 2:00
January 29	PA Day



## Parking Lot Safety

Please make sure that you are using the designated spots in our parking lot for pick up and drop off. There are far too many vehicles moving for students to walk through the lot to get to a car. If your child is meeting you at the Holly Recreation parking lot, they are to walk behind the pylons and the school yard fence as this is a no drive zone at the end of the day.

## OUR GOAL IS TO BE A CASHLESS SCHOOL

### **Pay for field trips, lunch days, etc. with SchoolCash Online**

Holly Meadows is trying to make ordering easier by encouraging all families to use the SchoolCash online. The SchoolCash Online program is available at our school, offering parents the option to pay online for special lunches, milk, pizza, field trips and other items. Parents who sign up will receive a notification when a new item becomes available for purchase. Items are personalized to each student. Parents use a secure online account to process payments, and can either make a one-time payment for each item as it occurs, or load money to carry

a balance in the online account to make payments in the future. To create an online

account, go to [simcoecounty.schoolcashonline.com](http://simcoecounty.schoolcashonline.com). Please contact the school office with any questions.

## French Immersion and Extended French info nights and registration info

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) offers French Immersion (FI) and Extended French as a Second Language (EFSL) at select schools throughout the county. FI begins in Grade 1 and EFSL begins in Grade 5. These programs give students a bilingual education and the opportunity to become fluent in another language.

Information sessions will be held in January for parents of Kindergarten and Grade 4 students. A letter will be sent home to those parents with more details. Information session dates will be posted at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) under Programs, French as a Second Language.

To apply for these programs, you must complete the online application form in January at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) under Programs, French as a Second Language. The FI application form will be available from 9 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 18, until 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2016. The EFSL application form will be available from 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 20, until 9 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016.

While every effort will be made to accommodate all FI applications, available space and staffing will determine how many students can be registered in the program. Applications will be processed in the order they are received electronically.

EFSL is an open access program. This means that any student starting Grade 5 in September 2016 will be eligible for the EFSL program, and all online applications will be processed. **It is important to note that January 2016 is the last time students can register for the EFSL program in the SCDSB, as the EFSL program is being phased out.** Parents who do not have Internet access at home, or who require other assistance accessing the online application, should contact the school.

## High School information nights coming soon to a high school near you

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information nights happen in January and February!

Bear Creek info night will be held on January 7, 2016 at 6:30 pm. Information nights give an overview of what's new and what to expect, and are a chance to ask questions.

High school is an exciting time—there are so many programs, clubs and activities for students to try. Attend an information night to find out what's offered at your local high school. See the info night schedule and more information on the SCDSB's website at [www.scdsb.on.ca/highschool](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/highschool).

## Kindergarten Registration opens in January

Do you (or someone you know) have a child who was born in 2012? If so, it's almost time to register them for Kindergarten in the SCDSB! Beginning on January 25, 2016, Simcoe County's public schools will be registering children for Kindergarten for the 2016-2017 school year. Required registration documents include birthdate documentation, proof of address and record of immunization. For more information, visit [www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/kindergarten).

### **English as a Second Language – Register now for winter sessions**

Do you or someone you know want to improve your English language skills? The SCDSB Learning Centres can help. English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for adults are offered at the Barrie and Bradford Learning Centres, and at the Allison Learning Centre (pending enrolment numbers). Please visit [www.thelearningcentres.com](http://www.thelearningcentres.com) or call for more information: Barrie 705-725-8360, Bradford: 905-775-4432 or Alliston: 705-435-7778.

### **Free International Languages program starting in January, limited spaces available**

Would your child like to learn a new language or maintain their native language? The International Languages program is open to any student in Grades 1 to 8. Classes run Saturday mornings from 9 to 11:30 a.m. There is currently space in the following classes: Spanish in Bradford; Beginner Mandarin, German, Spanish and Greek in Barrie. In-person registration at Barrie and Bradford Learning Centres takes place on Saturday, January 9, 2016 at 9 a.m. Registration will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis as there are limited spaces available. For more information, visit [www.thelearningcentres.com](http://www.thelearningcentres.com).

### **Recognize a STAR at your school!**

Our employee recognition program, SCDSB STARS, provides the opportunity for members of the school community to nominate an outstanding SCDSB teacher, custodian, educational assistant, early childhood educator, administrator, office staff person, etc. who has done something wonderful to support students in our system. Nominees will be informed of the nomination and the staff person will receive a personalized thank you and commemorative lapel pin from our Director of Education. It's just one way to recognize the shining stars in our education system who make a difference every day in our schools, facilities and classrooms. Nominate an outstanding staff person by visiting [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) and clicking on 'Staff', then 'SCDSB Stars.'

### **Provide input on proposed 2016-2017 school year calendar**

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) invites public school communities to submit input regarding the proposed school year calendar for next school year (Sept. 2016 to June 2017). Input can be provided by visiting [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca), then clicking the link on the 'School Year Calendars' page under the 'Schools' menu. All stakeholders including staff, school council members, parents/guardians, students and members of the school community are invited to provide input. **Feedback is invited until Jan. 15, 2016** to ensure the SCDSB meets school year calendar development timelines set by the Ministry of Education.

### **Message from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit: Healthy Celebrations**

Healthy classroom/school celebrations are great opportunities for children to practice the healthy eating habits they learn in the classroom. Make it easier for students to choose healthy foods and provide a healthier option for your child's next classroom celebration – here are some ideas:

- Send a tray of watermelon slices, a box of clementine oranges or fruit kabobs.
- Make homemade mini muffins with whole wheat flour and grated carrots or apples.

- Send a tray of whole grain crackers, cubes of lower fat cheese and grapes.
- Prepare chocolate-dipped strawberries for Valentine's day!

For more information you can call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-5720 and speak with a public health nurse or visit the health unit's website at [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org).

### **Message from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit: Blast off with breakfast!**

Eating breakfast is one of the surest ways to get your family off to a positive start to their day. Both researchers and educators think breakfast is both important and necessary to support the learning potential of children. Breakfast does not have to be complicated – here are some quick breakfast fixes:

- Whole wheat tortilla wrap with cheese and salsa
- Rice cakes, cheese sticks and canned peaches
- Smoothie shake made with fruit, yogurt and milk
- Cereal trail mix, banana and yogurt
- Whole wheat pita spread with light cream cheese and wrapped around a banana

With these breakfast ideas the whole family will rise, shine and save time! For more information, you can call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-5720 and speak with a public health nurse or visit the health unit's website at [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org).

### **Message from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit: What's the deal on sleep?**

Getting enough sleep is a big deal for children. Sleep is important for normal brain development, physical growth and development and emotional control. Children 3 to 12 years of age should get 10 to 12 hours of quality sleep.

A lack of sleep can lead to:

- Behavioural problems, hyperactivity, poor memory and attention
- Irritability, frustration and even aggression
- Weight gain due to an increased appetite.

Here are some tips to help develop healthy sleeping habits:

- Set up a consistent bedtime routine
- Limit screen time (i.e. TV, laptops, iPod) or collect devices before bedtime
- If your child has difficulties staying asleep, speak with your healthcare provider.

For more information visit: <http://www.aboutkidshealth.ca/En/HealthAZ/HealthandWellness/Sleep/Pages/default.aspx>

### **Need a last minute holiday gift idea?**

GIVE THE GIFT OF READING THIS YEAR!

Order a magazine subscription for someone special this holiday season!

Simply go to [www.QSP.ca](http://www.QSP.ca) and start shopping. Use the Account Finder to find our Group ID to support our school.

Remember, you can order a magazine for anyone who lives in Canada. No line ups, no wrapping and one size fits all. It's the gift that lasts all year long!

Many magazines ordered will begin to arrive in the next several weeks, but some subscriptions may take longer to start due to publishing schedules. If you have questions, please contact QSP Customer Service at 1-800-667-2536. 100% Satisfaction Guarantee!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN!

**Wishing you and your family a happy, safe and restful holiday season!**