



February 2018 News

<http://hol.scdsb.on.ca>

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From the Desk of Mr Dobson

It takes a village. This is a common phrase used to describe the effort it takes to raise a child. During your child's educational career, they will work with hundreds of caring adults who will attend to their academic, physical, mental and emotional growth. With the support of parents and guardians, your child should grow up and become a caring, kind and contributing citizen. It is no easy task and, at times, may feel overwhelming. For this, we would like to thank our wonderful staff, volunteers, community supports and our parents/guardians for everything you do to help our kids grow and thrive.



From the Desk of Mrs Golding

Did You Know...?

- Patterns of attendance are established during the early years of schooling
- There is a direct relationship between attendance and achievement. Research shows that students who are in school the majority of the time do better on standardized tests. Studies also show that students who are absent more often score lower.
- Being late for school also affects student learning. If a child is just 10 minutes late for class every day, they will miss over 30 hours of instruction over the course of the school year.
- Poor attendance makes it difficult for students to form positive peer relationships.
- Many students are able to copy notes and catch up on homework but they can never get back what is most important: the discussion that goes on in class that gives meaning to their learning.
- Students that have learning difficulties are put at even greater risk when they miss school frequently.
- Children in their early school years who miss out on learning basic skills often experience school difficulties later on.

What Can Parents Do...?

- Talk with your child about why it is important to attend school regularly; give specific examples of how education can help them in their life.
- As much as possible, try to avoid scheduling appointments and trips during school hours.
- Make sure that your child stays healthy by eating properly, exercising and getting enough sleep.
- If your child is having a specific issue at school that is causing them to not want to attend, be sure to speak to school staff as soon as possible so they can work with you to solve the problem. As Mr Dobson said...it takes a village!

Remember, Attendance Matters!

Important Dates

- Jan 30- Red Maple Author Lorna Schultz Nicholson visiting- Junior and Intermediate
- Feb 1- Excellence Assembly in Gym- Group A - 9:05; Group B - 11:25
- Feb 1 and 2- Grade 7 Swim to Survive
- Feb 5- School Council 6pm- library. New participants always welcome
- Feb 7- Operations appreciation day
- Feb 8- Grade 3 Swim to Survive
- Feb 9- Grade 7 swim to survive
- Feb 9- Dufflebag theatre for Gr 1-3
- Feb 9- Grade 8 Grad photos
- Feb 15- Grade 3 Swim to Survive
- Feb 16- Grade 7 Swim to Survive
- Feb 16- Primary Play Day
- Feb 16- Report Cards go Home
- Feb 18 (Saturday)- Barrie Colts game!
- Feb 19- Family Day (holiday)
- Feb 23- Gr 7 Swim to Survive
- Feb 27- Dairy presentations
- Feb 28- Pink Shirt Day



2017/2018 HMES Parent Survey Results

Thank you to our families who completed the survey that was shared in January. The survey link was shared in our January newsletter and also shared via social media. 50 of the 428 families at HMES responded, a 12% response rate. Responses have been tallied below. These will be shared with staff and school council taken into consideration when planning for the future at HMES.

Statement	Strongly Agree / Agree	Neutral	Disagree / Strongly Disagree
My child has a positive attitude about coming to school.	78%	14%	8%
I am pleased with communication between home and school administration.	82%	12%	6%
I am pleased with communication between home and classroom teachers.	74%	14%	12%
I read the school newsletter regularly.	92%	2%	6%
I reference the school website regularly.	38%	38%	24%
I subscribe to the mailing list for school website updates.	76%	10%	14%
I reference the school Twitter feed regularly.	34%	8%	58%
I reference the school Facebook page regularly.	76%	4%	20%
I reference the school Instagram account regularly.	24%	10%	66%
I feel welcome when I visit the school.	82%	12%	6%
That there are opportunities for parents & family members to be involved in the school.	72%	22%	6%
My child has opportunities to participate in learning experiences that interest them.	72%	24%	4%

I am happy with the amount of technology based learning activities in my child(ren's) class(es).	60%	30%	10%
I contribute to school fundraisers.	88%	8%	4%
I am pleased with school discipline policies, procedures, rules and guidelines for behaviour.	70%	26%	4%
I feel the total cost of field trips and other school events/activities for the year is reasonable.	82%	16%	2%
Overall, I am pleased with the education my child is receiving at HMES.	80%	14%	6%
I subscribe to the "Remind" App.	90%	0%	10%

General Feedback from the Survey

(Number in brackets indicates number of times a similar response was repeated)

Summary of responses related to the question, "What are we doing at Holly that you especially like"?

- All of the ways the school reaches out to communicate, inform and connect with parents (mentions of Remind, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) x21
- Office and admin staff are friendly (know my name, child's name, greet me, patient etc) x8
- Class dojo, remind/seesaw used by my child's teacher x5
- My child feels valued and important, staff care about our kids, staff make our child feel special x5
- Classes/atmosphere is fun/positive tone x4
- School cash online x4
- Visible P and VP presence in school and outside x3
- Addition of technology to the classrooms and built into daily learning x3
- Changes to make kiss and ride safer x3
- My child feels safe and at home x2
- Take the time to get to know student's needs and interests to help them learn x2
- Food drives and charity activities x2
- Community and character building activities x2
- Great teachers x2
- Teaching in creative ways that get kids actively involved x2
- Field trips / swimming programs x2
- Extra-curricular activities that include sports as well as non-athletic options (i.e. chess, choir) x2
- Staff and admin are easily accessible to talk about my child's learning and answer questions x2
- Taking behavioral concerns and bullying seriously x2
- Fun fair
- Reduced costs of field trips due to fundraising
- Buddy programs between older and younger students
- Home reading program in my child's class
- Admin are quick to respond to issues and take time to help the kids through those issues
- Child isn't treated as a "bad" kid if they make a mistake- opportunities to learn from mistakes
- Kindergarten concerts
- Play based learning in Kindergarten
- Everyone looks out for one another
- Holly Hero's
- Love some of the new fundraisers- Thanksgiving food orders and Snow Valley coupon books
- Openness to new developments and feedback
- Inclusive atmosphere
- Art programs
- Pasta day
- Choir

Summary of responses related to the question, “What would you like to see change at Holly”?

- First day was chaotic- teachers should line up in order of grade with bigger signs x3
- My child’s teacher does not use class Dojo or Remind. I would like to receive updates/photos from the class / more frequent communication of progress throughout the year x3
- More music programs / year-long choir / performances that parents can attend for all ages x3
- Would like more communication from planning time teachers x3
- More technology use (or more consistent between classes) x2
- More discussion about bullying x2
- More community involvement (i.e. Roberta’s Place) x2
- A hockey team
- More outdoor learning
- Would like to see more authentic tasks in classrooms
- Teachers showing parents how they can communicate online
- More education for teachers related to disabilities
- Kindergarten concerns should be in the classrooms, not in the gym with everyone
- Focus on strengthening academics
- More education for teachers on mental health
- Allow students to come inside when it is very cold out
- Encourage healthier food options
- Allow everyone that tries out to play on teams
- Pathways cleared better for stroller access
- If my child is being mean to someone, I would like to know
- More field trips for younger grades
- Special parking spots for parents with young children
- Larger play area outside for kindergarten
- More enrichment programs
- Don’t like the new ‘Kiss and Ride’
- Allow parents to volunteer in their child’s class
- Would like agenda to be reviewed and signed daily by teacher

One of our upcoming goals is to create a school motto, that answers the question, “what is our why?”. As part of this goal, we asked survey respondents to answer the following question, “What are 3 words that you feel best describe the school community we want to create at HMES?” The responses were tallied in the “Word Cloud” below, the size of the words in the image represent the words that were repeated most frequently in the survey. Our next step in this process is to have students and staff participate in activities to elicit feedback on the motto. Once this is done, we will look at the responses of parents, staff and students and come up with common themes that will inform our next steps.



HMES is on "Remind" Would you like to receive occasional reminders via text or email for events like due dates for food orders, picture day, spirit days, newsletters and other school events? If so...

To receive **text** reminders, text (705) 302-3415 and write @hollymes in the body of the text. You can opt out at any time by texting unsubscribe @hollymes to the same number.

OR

To receive **e-mail** reminders, send an e-mail to hollymes@remind.com

You can leave the subject blank

To unsubscribe, send an email to the same address with "unsubscribe" in the subject line

Keep connected with our school

It's important to get accurate information about what's going on at our school. In an effort to connect to as many people as possible, we use a variety of media outlets to connect with the community. Please note that each form of media features slightly different content:

- you can subscribe to our school's website by visiting the 'What's New' section at <http://hol.scdsb.on.ca>. You can sign up to receive emails about school news updates and information during emergency situations. It's easy to subscribe – visit our website and click the 'Subscribe' link at the very top of the page. When you fill out your email and click Subscribe, an email will be sent to your inbox with a link to click to confirm that you want to subscribe. You can unsubscribe at any time using the link at the bottom of each email.
- follow the Holly Meadows on Twitter @meadows_es
- follow us on Facebook [facebook.com/hollymeadowses](https://www.facebook.com/hollymeadowses)
- follow us on Instagram @hollymeadowses

Coffee Houses for HMES Parents

This Spring, we hope to begin to run a series of "coffee houses" where parents/family members can drop in during the day and listen to information/chat about topics of interest. These would be held shortly after the school bell in the morning or just prior to dismissal. The intent is that this format may appeal to some parents who may be unable to attend school events in the evening. We are looking for your feedback on topics that may be of interest to discuss. We are happy to lead discussion or bring in experts from the community to share their knowledge on topics of interest...the opportunities are endless! If you have a topic that you would like us to feature at a coffee house, please let us know by emailing agolding@scdsb.on.ca

Now accepting Kindergarten registrations

Do you (or someone you know) have a child who was born in 2014? If so, it's time to register them for Kindergarten! Elementary schools are now registering children for Kindergarten for the 2018-19 school year. Required registration documents include birthdate documentation, proof of address and immunization records. 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/guardians to learn about special education in the SCDSB, and how to support students with special education needs.

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.

National Engineering Month competition takes place March 3

Students in Grades 5 to 8 are invited to submit a model bridge, catapult or grabber for the National Engineering Month (NEM) event. Models will be tested for design, strength, quality of construction and functionality. Students of any age are invited to attend to check out 3D printers and robots, Raspberry Pi computer coding demos, crystal radio construction and CNC machine coding. The event takes place on March 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Eastview Secondary School (421 Grove St. E. in Barrie). Lunch will be provided. This event is jointly organized by the Georgian Bay Chapter of OACETT and Simcoe-Muskoka Chapter of PEO, under the banner of NEM Ontario. For more information and to register for this free event, visit <https://nemsimcoe.wixsite.com/nemsimcoe>.

Walking to school is great for students

Walking to school is a great way for your child to get the 60 minutes of daily physical activity that's needed for good mental and physical health. It also builds responsibility and independence, and helps them feel more connected to the community. More walkers means less traffic around our school, which helps keep students safe and improve outdoor air quality. Even one day a week of walking to school can make a big difference! To find out more about how to support active and safe routes to school through School Travel Planning, visit

www.saferoutestoschool.ca/school-travel-planning. *Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*

Update your child's immunization record

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is required to keep up-to-date immunization records for all students who attend elementary or secondary school in the County of Simcoe and the District of Muskoka. Parents are responsible for reporting immunizations to the health unit each time their child receives a vaccine from their health care provider. The immunizations that the health unit requires records for include: diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, meningococcal, pertussis and varicella (chickenpox) for those born in 2010 or later.

It's easy to update your child's immunization status. Go to www.smdhu.org/immsonline to update your child's record or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 (toll free). *Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*