



# FEBRUARY NEWS

## EMAIL Communication

All parents/guardians will be receiving an electronic copy of all newsletters/school wide communication. 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 School website and Twitter.

We are currently in the process of adding important information on our school website. Visit <http://hol.scdsb.on.ca/> to view upcoming current events, newsletters, school council information, classroom blogs, etc. We also encourage you to follow us on Twitter @medows\_es.

### Holly Meadows Staff 2015-2016

We would like to wish warm goodbyes to Mrs. Brown and Ms. Beribakovski. We welcome Ms. Toffen to our staff in the role of an educational assistant and the return of Mr. McDonald.

### Mark Your Calendar

February 1	School Council Meeting 7-9 pm (Library)
February 2	Grade 8 Graduation Photos
February 2, 4, 9, 11	Moving Arts: Drama and Dance Program: Pioneer Life; Ms. Mackinnon's and Ms. Semsch Dance Program: Hip Hop and Jazz; Mrs. Crawford and Mrs. Henneberry
February 2, 11, 25	Presentation on Drones; grades 4, 5, 6
February 3, 10, 17, 24	VIP; grade 6 classes
February 4, 11, 18	Swim to Survive; Ms. Mackinnon's and Ms. Semsch
February 5, 12, 19	Swim to Survive; Mrs. Henneberry and Mrs. Crawford
February 12	Grades 6-8 School Dance
February 15	Family Day (no school) Family Day Skate at Holly Recreation Centre
February 17	Operations Appreciation Day
February 19	Grade 8 Bear Creek Guidance Presentation Report Cards distributed
February 24	Joe Roberts presentation @ 2 pm for students & 7 pm for general public
February 26	Star Student Assembly "Inclusiveness" Pr. 9:30, Jr. 11:35, Int. 2:00
February 29	Dental Screening begins; JK, SK, grades 2, 8

### PA Day added on April 15

An additional Professional Activity (PA) day has been added to the 2015-16 school year calendar for Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) elementary and secondary schools. This PA day is scheduled for April 15, 2016. The school year calendar for 2015-16 now includes 187 instructional days and seven professional activity days. The additional PA Day is part of the settlements that were centrally negotiated with the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO) and the Ontario Secondary Schools Teachers' Federation (OSSTF). View the updated school calendar at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) and click on 'Schools' and then 'School Year Calendars.'



### Reminder about Our School Parking Lot

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.

Designated **bus loading zones are out-of-bounds** during arrival and dismissal times, with the only exception being Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium buses. Private childcare providers will be asked not to use these areas. Parents are also not allowed to drop off or pick up in the bus zones. Traffic must be in constant flow in this area at all times, meaning no parked vehicles are permitted in this area.

### Reminder about our school parking lot

A friendly reminder to take extra care in our school parking lot now that snow has finally arrived! Drivers: please be mindful of pulling out of parking spaces as large piles of snow can decrease visibility. School board property is private property, and in some cases (e.g. after hours) vehicles could be towed from parking lots to facilitate snow removal. Unauthorized parking in school lots overnight and/or weekends is at the sole risk of the vehicle owner.

### Is your child turning four this year? It's time to register for Kindergarten!

Do you or someone you know have a child who was born in 2012? If so, it's time to register them for Kindergarten in the SCDSB! Our school is now registering children for Kindergarten for the 2016-17 school year. Required registration documents include birthdate documentation, proof of address and record of immunization. For more information and to watch our new Kindergarten video featuring local students, visit [www.scdsb.on.ca/Kindergarten](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/Kindergarten).

### Doodle 4 SCDSB contest open to all students

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) is holding a Doodle 4 SCDSB contest, inviting students of all ages to create a 'doodle' using the letters SCDSB, and telling the world "What makes me unique." This exciting contest is modelled after the Doodle 4 Google competition, but is designed specifically for our students! There will be one winner from each grade grouping: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-10 and 11-12/Continuing Education. The grand prize includes a 3D Doodler EduBundle (\$1400 value) for the winner's class, and their artwork will be featured on the SCDSB website and next year's student agenda. A runner up from each grade category will win art supply bundles from Brault & Bouthillier Canada and Baldwin School Supply. Find out more at [www.doodle4scdsb.blogspot.ca/](http://www.doodle4scdsb.blogspot.ca/). The deadline to submit a Doodle is Feb. 26, so students -- get your creative on!

### 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.schoolcashionline.com](http://simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com). Please contact the school office with any questions.

### Top 8 snow day questions

Bus cancellations and snow days are inevitable in Simcoe County. Each time buses are (or aren't!) cancelled, the SCDSB and the Transportation Consortium receive many questions from students, parents and community members. Check out the *Sharing Simcoe* blog for the top eight questions we receive and our responses: visit [www.sharingsimcoe.com](http://www.sharingsimcoe.com) and search for 'snow'.

### **Supporting Transitions to Secondary School**

As students' progress from elementary school to secondary school, important personal student information is shared which eases each student's transition to secondary school. Sharing this information also improves our ability to program effectively to benefit all students. Select student information will be shared at different times as appropriate. The collection and use of personal student information for such purposes is authorized under sections 170, 171, 190 Part X and Part XIII of the Education Act.

Please note that all information used for the transition process is limited, secure and protected at all times.

Please contact Jackie Kavanagh, Superintendent of Education for this area, if you would like more information about the transition process at Holly Meadows Elementary School.

### **Nominations invited for Character Recognition Evening on May 18**

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) recognizes students, staff and volunteers who demonstrate good character in their daily lives at the annual *Character Recognition Awards Evening*, taking place on May 18 this year.

Each year, nominations from schools and the Education Centre are received highlighting the good character of our students, staff and volunteers. Nominees are invited to the Education Centre on May 18 to celebrate those who exemplify the SCDSB Commit to Character attributes. The nomination process opens on Feb. 8 and ends on Feb. 26, 2016. Recommendations can be made by email or fax. More information and the Character Recognition nomination form is available at [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca) under 'About Us' and then click on 'Commit to Character.'

### **OTIP Teaching Awards - nominations due by March 31**

Want to recognize a teacher who does great work at our school? For many years, the Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan (OTIP) awards have recognized the excellence of teachers in publicly funded education. There are three categories of awards: elementary school teacher, secondary school teacher and beginning teacher in the first five years of teaching. Winning teachers attend a fall awards ceremony in Toronto where they are presented with a personal award of \$1,000 and a Certificate of Recognition. Their schools are also recognized with a \$1,000 prize and a Certificate of Recognition. Visit [www.teachingawards.ca](http://www.teachingawards.ca) for details. The deadline for submitting nominations is March 31.

### **Operations Appreciation Day a chance to say 'thank you'**

Feb. 17 is Operations Appreciation Day in the Simcoe County District School Board. On that day, school communities across the county will celebrate the positive impact custodians and operations maintenance employees make. The work they do to keep our schools safe and clean affects each of us—they help to create the positive environments for learning and working we all enjoy.

We're grateful to Mrs. Harvey, Ms. Franssen, Ms. Cochrane and Ms. Black

Please take a moment to thank the SCDSB operations team on Feb. 17. Share your support on social media using #props2ops.

### **Messages from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit:**

#### **Stressful mornings trying to get out the door - sound familiar?**

The key is organization! Try these tips to help get the whole family out the door on time:

1. Plan ahead: try packing lunches and picking clothes out the night before.
2. Go to bed at a reasonable hour so you wake up rested and ready for the day.

3. Wake up and get yourself ready first, before your child.
4. Keep the TV and electronics off. These can be disruptive first thing in the morning.
5. Give clear instructions and be realistic about what your child can do for themselves. Praise them when they do something well to help them learn new skills.

Finally, remember to have patience. Your child learns from watching you! In time your child will learn to plan ahead, be organized and develop patience too. For more tips, visit [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org) or [www.tripleontario.ca](http://www.tripleontario.ca).

### **Limit your child's screen time to two hours a day**

Cutting back on the time kids spend in front of the TV, playing video games, or online can open up a world of discovery for them to learn new skills. Turning off screens also encourages kids to get up and move, which can help keep them at a healthy body weight and build their self-confidence. So what are you waiting for? Try unplugging and discover something new! For tips to help you get active as a family, visit [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org) or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 to speak with a public health nurse.

### **Protect yourself and others from the health hazards of secondhand smoke**

Remember, it is against the law to smoke ANYWHERE on school property at ANY TIME. This includes smoking in your vehicle on school property. It's also against the law to smoke or hold lit tobacco in a vehicle carrying anyone under age 16. Fines for smoking on school property while in a vehicle with children under 16 years of age could total \$460. For more information or help with quitting, visit [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org) or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.

### **Update on Barrie South high school: School board will submit new site plan to city**

Simcoe County District School Board staff members are preparing a new site plan package to submit to the City of Barrie in February for the planned secondary school in south Barrie. The revised plan includes an additional board-owned building constructed on the corner of Maplevue Dr. and Prince William Way that may be home to a Newcomer Welcome Centre and Learning Centre for adult and continuing education.

The City of Barrie denied the original site plan for the south Barrie secondary school in late 2015. The City said the design did not meet its planning policies and Urban Design Guidelines, specifically because the school building was not positioned on the north edge of the property, near the intersection of Maplevue Dr. and Prince William Way.

The school board's design has the building at the south side of the property, further from the main arterial road. The board believes locating the school on the south side is the right choice for three main reasons:

- It's safer. Locating a school directly next to a busy intersection and arterial road creates unnecessary risks.
- Site preparation and construction costs are reduced. The school design works with the natural landscape by acting as a retaining wall. Savings will be used to enhance classrooms and other student spaces.
- It is environmentally responsible. Building the school into the hillside provides passive heating and cooling. The design also maximizes natural light.

The hope is this revised site plan will satisfy the City's requests and approval will take place as quickly as possible. Facilities Services staff believe the site plan package will be ready to submit in February. If the site plan is approved and work can start this spring, it is still possible to have the school constructed by September 2018.