



January 2018 News

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From the Desk of Mrs Golding

Happy New Year! Welcome back to HMES and to what promises to be the continuation of a great school year filled with positive learning opportunities for all students!



Every January, many of us make New Year's Resolutions. Resolutions offer opportunities for improvement in whatever areas of life that we choose. We at HMES are no exception. Please join us as partners working together toward achievement for all students in a safe, healthy and happy learning environment!

You can do this by...

- Ensuring that your child arrives at school on time every day prepared to learn (well rested, homework completed, nutritious lunch and snacks and appropriate clothing and outerwear).
- Making sure that you check your child's agenda or class social media feed every day for homework and communication.
- Familiarizing yourself with the events at the school as outlined in our newsletters and on social media.
- Following all of our safety procedures with your child as outlines in previous newsletters.

*Together we can make a difference in the success of all
of our students at HMES!*

From the Desk of Mr Dobson

Happy New Year! I look forward to a happy, healthy and successful 2018. We are gearing up for lots of great learning opportunities this year, including schools trips, special activities, assemblies, guest speakers, movie nights (when the screen is installed!), etc.

For those who use the Kiss and Ride program - Please remember to pull up to the pylons to quickly drop off/pick up your child. Remember to remain in a single-file line around the perimeter of the parking lot and remain in your vehicles during drop off/pick up. Thank you.

Important Dates

- January 8- Welcome back to school. Pizza, pasta and milk open for online order
- January 10-12- Grade 6's to Camp Muskoka
- January 12 and 22- Dairy presentations in class (K-5)
- January 12 and 19- Grade 7 swim to survive (group 2)
- January 15- School Council- 6pm- school library
- January 15-18- Errol Lee dance workshops
- January 18 and 25- Grade 7 swim to survive (group 1)
- January 22- Grade 5's to Tiffin
- January 24- Gr 2 to Huronia Museum
- January 15, 16, 17- Dental Screenings
- January 26- PA Day



We are looking for feedback!

Please take a few moments to complete our online survey, located online at bit.ly/hmes2018 prior to Friday January 26th. Results will be posted in our upcoming newsletter and discussed with our School Council and staff to set direction for the school. Some of the topics include communication, fundraising and field trip costs, etc. We are also seeking feedback to create a school motto, focusing on the concept of "What is our why?" Thank you very much for participating in this survey, we value your feedback!

Changes to food Program for February

Based on feedback from our school community, this Fall we switched from Dominoes to Sicilian Gourmet for our pizza lunch provider. Based on continued feedback, we have made the decision to try a new pizza provider in February. Pizza Palace, the company who provides our pasta, will now be providing pizza as well. As part of this change, beginning in February, pizza will be on Mondays and pasta will be on Fridays. Pizza, pasta and milk are currently open for online order until the end of the day on January 21st. As always, paper forms are also available in the office.

Kindergarten registration starts this month

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, our elementary schools will register 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.

Provide input on proposed 2018-19 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. 2018 to June 2019). Starting Jan. 9, input can be provided by visiting 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. The deadline to submit input is Jan. 31.

High school information nights coming to a school near you!

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information nights are happening this 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: 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.

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.

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.

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. 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.

Changes to Ontario Early Years Centres effective Jan. 1

In February 2017, the Ontario government announced the transformation of the delivery of early years programs for children and families. Starting in January, Ontario Early Years Centres, Parenting and Family Literacy Centres, Child Care Resource Centres and Better Beginnings, Better Futures centres will collectively be known as EarlyON Child and Family Centres. These EarlyON Child and Family Centres will be open to all families across Ontario, and provide support, parenting programs, personal connections and a network of resources as well as play- and inquiry-based programs for young children.

Effective January 1, Child and Family Programs currently in schools will be relocated to the community. These four agencies will now manage EarlyON Child and Family Centres in Simcoe County:

- OEYC Simcoe North, www.oeycsimcoenorth.ca
- Simcoe Community Services, www.simcoecommunityservices.ca,
- E3 Community Services, www.e3.ca
- La Clé (Francophone), www.lacle.ca

For specific days and hours of operation, please contact your local lead agency. Information can be found by visiting www.scdsb.on.ca – 'Schools' – 'Before & After School Care.'

Attend a French Immersion information night; registration opens in January

The 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. Information session dates are 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, 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.

Questions about your child's health?

Health Connection offers free, confidential health information from nurses and health inspectors on:

- how your child is growing, parenting tips, fast and healthy meals, safe food and water, common illnesses, keeping kids safe, fun family activities
- health unit programs such as vaccinations and dental care
- community resources for parenting, mental health, addictions, quitting smoking or financial help

Contact Health Connection at 1-705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or <http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/>. If English is not your first language, we have a telephone interpretation service.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

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 and clicking on 'Staff', then 'SCDSB Stars.'

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*

Five healthy New Year's resolutions for your family

Some of the top New Year's resolutions across all age groups for 2017 were eating healthy, getting in shape and reducing stress. So, how do you set and achieve a resolution to be healthier? It's been proven that the key to success is setting small goals which require steps towards a larger goal. Here are some New Year's resolutions that families can work on together in 2018:

- spend 30 minutes outside playing together as often as possible, regardless of the weather
- find a place that provides opportunities for the entire family to be physically active together or offers child care and after-school programs
- add physical activity or play time to the calendar, such as scheduling an evening walk or fitness class, with the same commitment as other important meetings
- pick a fun run/walk or 5K to do as a family – sign up, train and participate together
- have more family dinners together and involve children in preparing meals as much as possible

For more information about programs offered at the Y for the whole family, please visit www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca.

