



MARCH NEWS

Holly Meadows School Website and Twitter.

Holly Meadows is working at becoming green.

We continuously add important information on our school website. Visit <http://hol.scdsb.on.ca/> to view upcoming current events, newsletters, school council information, classroom blogs, etc. Milk and Sub order forms are found on our website under the parent section.

We currently have 39 subscribers to our website. ***Our goal is to have 100 followers by March Break. Help us meet this challenge!***

Hard copies of newsletters and other information will only be distributed if there is no email address on file at the office or if you are not subscribed to our website. If you wish to add an email address to the list, please contact the school office. To subscribe to our website click on the word subscribe at the top of our home page.

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. Barrowman and Mrs. Black. We welcome Mrs. Chenette back in the kindergarten class and Mr. Woyce as part of our operation team.

Mark Your Calendar

March 1, 2	Dental Screening; JK, SK, grades 2, 8
March 1	Intermediate Boys Basketball Regional Tournament
March 2	Grade 6 VIP
March 3	Read and Feed (Chapters & McDonalds) 5-9 pm Intermediate Girls Volleyball Regional Tournament 12-4:30 pm
March 7	Crazy Sock Day School Council Meeting 7-9 pm
March 8	Crazy Hair Day Grade 5; International Student Visit Intermediate Girls Volleyball County Tournament Intermediate Boys Basketball County Tournament
March 9	Twin or Toque or Track Pant Day VIP Graduation
March 10	PJ Day
March 11	Gender Switch or Jersey Day Dance-A-Thon
March 14-18	March Break (no school)
March 23	Chess Tournament
March 25	Good Friday (no school)
March 28	Easter Monday (no school)
March 29	Yearbook sales begin
March 30	County Chess Tournament Grade 7 & 8; Immunization Clinic
March 31	Jr. Math Road Rally Star Student Assembly; Jr.9:30, Int. 11:35, Prim. 2:00 pm

Reminder: Safe Arrival on bus cancellations days

With the recent inclement weather days that have taken place over the past few weeks, we wanted to take a moment to remind you of a couple of processes with our Safe Arrival phone system:

- On days when buses are cancelled due to inclement weather, calls are NOT made to families whose children ride school transportation.
- Families of walking students should call the school if their children are not attending on an inclement weather day.

New Safe Schools tool to report bullying, drug use or vandalism

The SCDSB has developed a new online Safe Schools Reporting Tool, which is available on our school website homepage, <http://hol.scdsb.on.ca>, as a Quick Access button. Students and parents can use this tool to submit a report online if they witness a student engaged in inappropriate behaviour such as bullying, drug use or vandalism. Students are still encouraged to speak to a trusted adult at school or home if they have any concerns. This form isn't a substitute for having a discussion with your teacher or principal. Student safety and well-being is always our top priority. For more information please contact the school or visit <http://scdsb.on.ca/ReportAnIncident>.



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.

Full STEAM Ahead!

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) Integrated Learning

The goal of STEAM education is to give students an opportunity to build skills across subject areas while applying those skills to authentic tasks. Students at Holly Meadows will have several opportunities to engage in STEAM initiatives that are creative, innovative, and unique learning activities. STEAM supports inquiry-based hands-on learning that builds students' competence and confidence in the creative process, technological problem solving and scientific inquiry.

We are in need of different items for our STEAM initiative. We welcome donations such as puzzles, old board games, and building blocks (Lego, Duplo, Zacks, Meccano, Megabloks). If you have incomplete sets that you are looking to get rid of please send them to our school. Located outside of the library is a bin for our collection of donations. We are also collecting Rubbermaid bins with lids for storing these items.

We thank you in advance for your generous donations and your support in making a difference for students at Holly Meadows.

7 street proofing tips to keep kids safe

With warmer weather on the way and more of our students walking and biking to school soon, we'd like to remind parents to review safety tips with their kids:

- If your child walks to school or to the bus stop, try to arrange a walking buddy or group.
- If your child walks to school, make sure they go along main routes that are well-travelled, rather than taking shortcuts through deserted areas.

- Develop a "what if" game for your child to get them thinking about how they would respond if they felt threatened or afraid.
- Know who your child plays with and where they go. This includes keeping a list of their friend's addresses and phone numbers.
- Do not leave your child in unsupervised locations, such as cars, parks, public washrooms, arenas, malls and plazas, etc.
- Teach your children where and how to get help. Go with them on their regularly travelled routes and identify safe places to go for help.

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

The SchoolCash Online program is available at our school. Parents have the option to pay online for lunch days 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 make 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 <https://simcoecounty.schoolcashonline.com/>. Please contact the school office with any questions.

Ensure your child's immunization record is up to date

All families are required to provide the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) with a record of their child's immunization information. This is required by law under the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA). The SMDHU can suspend students whose immunization records are not up to date.

You can update your child's immunization record in one of the following ways:

- Online at:
www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/immsonline
- Fax: 705-726-3962
- Call: 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 ext. 8807

The health unit hours of operation are Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Free parenting programs this spring

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB)'s Learning Centres offer parenting programs to all parents who currently have a child in school. The spring schedule begins in April. These free 'Parents as Partners' programs help parents develop understanding, knowledge, skills and specific techniques that can be used at home to support and encourage the healthy development of their child. For more information and to register, contact Sue Learmonth at 705-325-9279 x45632.

Student Film Festival - Students invited to submit films by April 13

The SCDSB is holding its first-ever student Film Festival. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 are asked to submit short videos around the theme "What does belonging look like?" by April 13. Visit www.scdsbfilmfest.blogspot.ca/ for more information and to submit your film! Artists and their families will be invited to view the Film Festival submissions on the evening of May 17 at the SCDSB Education Centre.

Reminder: School playground safety in the spring

The sun is warming things up, days are getting longer and many students are itching to get back on the school playground equipment. While it's hard to say 'no' to those eager faces, it's important to make sure the equipment is safe and ready to be played on.

Over the winter, school play structures have to be closed. The closure is for many reasons. The main reason is that snow and

ice change the surface of the ground surrounding the play structure, packing the sand/gravel/mulch into a hard, packed surface, which can be a significant fall hazard. Inspections are done on equipment daily by the school principal or designate during the school year starting on April 1 and ending on October 31. These inspections are to ensure that there are no obvious hazards, broken equipment, vandalism, graffiti, litter, dangerous items or play items left behind. There is also an annually inspection by a professional company employing Canadian Certified Playground Inspectors (CCPI).

Each spring, a designated contractor travels to all schools with playground equipment to till the surface to ensure that the sand is no longer compacted before opening the equipment for student use. In some cases, the wear and tear, rain or winter may have washed some sand away and it will need to be replaced.

Playgrounds can be fun learning opportunities for students, so let's all make them safe spaces – we look forward to spring and getting students back on our school playground structures soon!

- Teach your child to talk to you immediately when someone does anything that makes them feel strange or uncomfortable. Listen when your child is trying to tell you about something that bothers them and provide them with support and understanding.

Message from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit: Building resiliency

Every child needs skills and supportive people in their lives to help them deal with life's challenges. Resilience is the ability to adapt to life's difficulties and be able to move forward with hope and optimism.

Here are some tips on how to raise resilient children:

- Treat them with warmth, care and sensitivity
- Expose them to a wide variety of learning environments
- Talk about how family members feel
- Help them manage difficult emotions
- Let them know they are loved and appreciated
- Teach them to have more positive thoughts about themselves
- Encourage positive peer relationships
- Teach them to be flexible, how to make decisions, solve problems, set appropriate goals and work to attain them

For more information, call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 and speak with a public health nurse or visit the health unit's website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org. For information and tips on parenting, visit www.tripleontario.ca.

Message from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit: School lunch ideas

Are your children tired of the traditional bread sandwich? Stock up on a variety of whole wheat and multi-grain wraps, pitas or tortilla shells – then let your imagination go! Tasty fillings include:

- Beans, salsa and shredded mozzarella cheese
- Hummus and grated carrot
- Egg salad made with chopped celery and green onion
- Salmon salad topped with shredded lettuce
- Sliced turkey with honey mustard
- Chopped chicken salad made with grated apple

For more information, call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-5720 and speak with a public health nurse or visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.