



NOVEMBER 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 welcome Sara Domianczuk to our staff in the role of Educational Assistant.

Care with Food Preparation

There are a number of foods that are a choking hazard for young students. It is suggested that certain foods are cut up prior to serving. Some of the main ones include: Grapes, hotdogs, popcorn, carrots, apples, hard candy. If you send any of these items to school with your child(ren), please make sure they are cut in small pieces.

Mark Your Calendar

November 2	School Council Meeting in Library 7-9 pm
November 5	Errol Lee presentation for Grades 1 to 4 "Buddy Bench"
November 6	Movie Night – "The Lego Movie" from 7-9 pm  Scientist in the Schools – Davies and Rogerson
November 13	PA Day – Conferences
November 17	Picture Retake Day
November 18, 19	Anti-Bullying Presentations Intermediate classes
November 20	Math Jam- K-3 Presentation
November 27	Star Student Assembly "Caring and Cooperation" P-9:30, J-11:35, I- 2:00
December 7	School Council Meeting 7-9 pm (Library)
December 17	Star Student Assembly "Courage and Empathy" Jr. 9:30, Int. 11:35, Pr. 2:00



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

Holly Meadows is trying to make ordering special lunches, milk, pizza and field trips easier by encouraging all families

to use the SchoolCash online. You receive notification of events and activities that involve your child (ren). Get all the information that you require.

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

The SchoolCash Online program is available at our school, offering parents 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 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. Please contact the school office with any questions.

Bus cancellation information in case of inclement weather

Winter is just around the corner in Simcoe County, and with it comes the possibility of severe weather, challenging winter driving conditions and, as a result, possible bus and school event cancellations. All information regarding cancelled buses in Simcoe County is posted on the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's bus information website at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Our school is in the Central zone. When buses are cancelled, please remember that schools are still open (unless otherwise noted) for student learning.

The Consortium, in conjunction with bus operators, will make the decision to cancel school buses before 6 a.m. and as such, will make every effort to post announcements between 6 and 7 a.m. Parents should also note that inclement weather cancellations are effective for the whole day and buses cancelled in the morning will not run at the end of the day.

You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions> and you can follow the Consortium on Twitter @SCSTC_SchoolBus.

Update on Progress Reports

As you may be aware, the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO) is currently engaged in provincial work-to-rule job action. As a result, the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB), along with most other affected school boards in the province, is postponing elementary Progress Reports and Kindergarten Conference Forms. In addition, on the November 13 PA Day, teachers will be holding interviews with parents of children whose progress they wish to discuss. Teachers will contact the parents/guardians of those students to arrange the interviews. As always, if you have questions about your child's progress, you can contact his or her teacher for information.

November is Financial Literacy Month

Each November, Canadians celebrate Financial Literacy Month. Take control of your financial future, learn how you can increase your financial literacy skills and discover new ways to become more savvy with your money – and show your kids how to be financially smart as well! Learn more with ABC Life Literacy's Financial Literacy tools: abclifeliteracy.ca/financial-literacy.

We need your help to keep students safe at arrival and dismissal

The safety of our students is our top priority. Arrival and dismissal are busy times at our school. We need to work together with parents/guardians and childcare providers to make sure students are safe.

Here are key points to be aware of when planning pick up and/or drop off of students:

- Supervision starts fifteen (15) minutes before bell time and ends fifteen (15) minutes after bell time. School staff will contact the parent/guardian, followed by emergency contact, for any student who is not picked up within this time. If late pickup happens often, additional support services may be involved.
- If parents/guardians arrange for other people to pick up their children, like a private childcare provider, the parent/guardian is responsible to ensure the alternate person/program is picking up on time.
- 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.
- Once buses have departed and the loading zone has been opened up by school staff, vehicle traffic may begin to flow through the area to pick students up. Traffic must be in constant flow in this area at all times, meaning no unattended parked vehicles in this area.
- Unattended vehicles must be parked in an approved parking space, outside of the kiss and ride area, with the engine turned off.

A full description of the Supervision, Arrival and Dismissal Procedures is available at www.scdsb.on.ca – Parents – Safe and Healthy Schools – Procedures

A message from the Health Unit: Updating your child's immunization record

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is required by law to keep up-to-date immunization records on file for every student who attends elementary or secondary school in Simcoe County. Parents need to provide the health unit with the updated status each time students receive a vaccine from their health care provider.

The immunization requirements for attending school have recently changed and you will need to ensure that your child's immunization status is up-to-date. Children need to have proof of immunization against meningococcal disease, whooping cough, and for those children born in 2010 or later, chicken pox, to attend school. If proof is not provided your child could be temporarily suspended from school.

Go to www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/immsonline to update your child's record, or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 (toll free).

Making homework time less stressful for all!

Children need good study habits and routines in order to be successful at homework. However, for some children, homework can be a time of stress. Sometimes children have problems with homework because of poor planning, because they don't understand the work or because they would rather be doing something else. Parents can help children develop good homework routines with preparation, encouragement and by showing an interest in the work that they are doing.

To find out more, call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 and ask about the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program solutions for homework problems or visit www.tripleontario.ca.

Eye See Eye Learn program offering free eye exams, glasses for JK students

Your child may have a vision problem. Only an optometrist knows if your child sees to the best of their ability. Get them a comprehensive eye exam, which is free for children under 19 years old with their Ontario Health Card. The Eye See...Eye Learn® program offers one free pair of glasses to this year's JK students with their OHIP-covered eye exam, if prescribed by a participating optometrist. Learn more at www.EyeSeeEyeLearn.ca.

Lost-cost SnowPass for Grade 4 and 5 students

Do you have a child in Grade 4 or 5? The Canadian Ski Council offers the Grade 4 and 5 SnowPass to children across Canada, providing low-cost access to ski and snowboard hills across the country, including many in Simcoe County! Visit www.skicanada.org/grade-4-5-snowpass/ for further details.

Coming fall 2015: Parent Portal gives parents real-time access to attendance, grade information

The SCDSB Parent Portal is a secure online tool that provides parents/guardians (of students less than 18 years of age) with quick access to their children's attendance and, in secondary school, grades. Grades for elementary school students will be added to the system in the near future.

The program includes the option to sign up for email notifications. It will be available at all Simcoe County District School Board schools.

To access the Parent Portal, parents/guardians will need their child's SCDSB Student Number, which can be found on the Student Information Verification Form, as well as an Access ID. The Access ID will be provided in a sealed letter in November with instructions on how to create an account. If you lose the Access ID, you can visit us in the school office and we'll provide it to you after verifying your identity.

Free math help for students in Grade 7 to 10

Homework Help is a free online math help resource for students in Grades 7-10. Homework Help provides FREE, live one-on-one tutoring from Ontario teachers, and is funded by the Ontario government and administered by TVO. Students can ask their math questions during chat room hours, Sunday to Thursday, 5:30 – 9:30 p.m. For more information and other math resources, visit: www.homeworkhelp.ilc.org.