



# October 2017 News

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## From the Desk of Mrs Golding

After spending my first month at Holly Meadows and as we approach Thanksgiving, I am able to reflect on some of the things that I am truly thankful for. For the families at HMES for warmly welcoming me to the school, for the students who share their excitement for learning with me each day, for the staff who work hard to provide positive learning and extracurricular experiences for the students in their care...the list goes on! Now that students have settled into their classrooms, I'm looking forward to the new adventures that October will bring! Don't forget to follow us on our social media feeds where we share examples of our learning every day!



## From the Desk of Mr Dobson

Where did September go? Thanks to the students, staff, and community for helping make the September transition as smooth and successful as possible. October is a good time to reflect on what we learned during our start-up and make plans and set goals that will carry us through the rest of the year. Professionally, I plan on spending more time in your children's classroom, working alongside their teachers to help improve your children's literacy and math skills. Personally, I plan on attending more of my 10 year-old son's skating practices and piano recitals. I also plan on spending more time outdoors, enjoying the natural beauty that Simcoe County has to offer. What are your plans and goals for the rest of the year?

## Pay for field trips, lunch days, etc. with School Cash Online

Holly Meadows is accepting online payment for all our field trips, lunch days and other fundraising initiatives. School Cash Online is our preferred method of payment. Not only does it allow you to pay with your debit or credit card, it helps our volunteers and staff run online reports instead of managing hundreds of forms every month. Instead of receiving paper order forms, you will receive online notifications as items are added for payment. Thank you for your support as our school moves to this online system.

Follow these steps to register for School Cash Online:

1. Go to [simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com](http://simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com) or from our school website click on "Pay Fees"
2. Register and add your child to the newly created account
3. View and purchase items through echeck or credit card

The School Cash Parent Helpdesk is available 24/7 to help you with registration, password recoveries or any other payment issues. Call the helpdesk at 1-866-961-1803 or email [parenthelp@schoolcashionline.com](mailto:parenthelp@schoolcashionline.com)

## Important Dates

- Mon Oct 2- School Council 6pm
- Thurs Oct 5- Meet the teacher 5:30 - 7 pm
- Mon Oct 9 - Thanksgiving (no school)
- Mon Oct 16- Clothing drive begins
- Tues Oct 17- Photo day
- Fri Oct 20- PA Day



## HMES Open House

We would like to invite all families to **Meet The Teacher** on Thursday, October 5th from 5:30 - 7:00 pm. This is a great opportunity to visit your child's classroom and introduce yourself to your child's teacher. The format is very casual; just make your way to your child's classroom during the time mentioned above.

## A Message About Computer Headphones

As part of our school activities, students sometime wear headphones to access media with sound on computers. The school has headphone sets for student use, however, some parents may prefer to purchase an inexpensive set of ear buds at the dollar store in order to minimize the risk of head lice transmission. If you choose to do this, please label your child's ear buds with a piece of masking tape or similar label with their name on it.

## HMES Dismissal Procedures

For any parents that participate in the drop-off / pick-up routines at school, you are well aware of how busy (some may say 'chaotic') it can be. Students will be dismissed at 3:25, when the final bell rings. Here are some ways that you can help us out:

1. Please wait in the area between the fence and portable. This helps eliminate crowding on the tarmac during the instructional time.
2. Please allow a considerable distance between the exit doors and where you meet your child. This allows teachers a clear line-of-site for our younger students.
3. Please exit the area as soon as possible. This helps us identify any students who may need assistance with pick-up. Also, our SEEDs Daycare partners are often outside during this time and it is better for them to monitor their students.
4. If you use the Kiss-and-Ride area, please ensure that you do not leave your vehicle. The process is meant to be quick and efficient: Enter the parking lot (to the right), form a line of cars, pull up to the designated spots by the tarmac fence and have your child quickly enter the car, buckle up and continue to exit the parking lot. If your child is not ready for pick up, start the process again. Think of it like the Arrivals area of an airport.

## 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 grades and includes the option to sign up for email notifications. To access the Parent Portal, parents/guardians will need their child's SCDSB Pupil ID 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 this fall with instructions on how to create an account. If you lose the Access ID, visit us in the school office and we'll provide it to you after verifying your identity.

## School Bus Safety Week and School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

School Bus Safety Week takes place Oct. 16 to 20. To support schools in promoting school bus safety to students, the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC), in partnership with school bus operators, will offer bus evacuation training to all home-to-school transported students. During this week, school bus drivers will educate students on how to evacuate a school bus safely in an emergency situation.

Wed., Oct. 18 is School Bus Driver Appreciation Day in the province of Ontario. It's a great opportunity for the school community to thank our bus drivers for all their hard work transporting students to and from school safely. For more information, visit the SCSTC website at [main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca/](http://main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca/).

### **New Path offering child and youth mental health walk-in clinics**

In response to the increasing wait times for child and youth mental health services, and the increased need for such services, New Path has undertaken a service redesign that will provide more timely and responsive services to children, youth and families in Simcoe County. New Path now offers Child and Youth Mental Health Walk-In Clinics in five office locations throughout Simcoe County: Bradford, Alliston, Barrie, Collingwood and Orillia.

Children, youth and families requesting service from New Path no longer need to call and complete an intake; they can simply attend one of the local Walk-In Clinics and will receive a single session intervention that day. Should children or youth require further service, New Path will continue to offer a wide variety of community and school-based services as well as residential service and women's service. For further information, including the clinic locations, days and hours, visit [www.newpath.ca](http://www.newpath.ca) or contact New Path's central intake department at 705-725-7656.

### **Fire Prevention Week is October 8 to 14: Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!**

Fire Prevention Week runs from Oct. 8 to 14. This year's theme is "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!" Smoke and fire spread fast. There's no time to figure out how to escape AFTER a fire starts. All households should have working smoke alarms and practice a home fire escape plan with everyone in the family BEFORE there's a fire. Find out more at: [www.nfpa.org/fpw](http://www.nfpa.org/fpw).

### **LGBTQI2S Junior Youth Connection for kids aged 12 to 15**

The Gilbert Centre is offering a new drop-in and social program for LGBTQI2S identified youth to connect, explore and learn. Meetings take place on the first and third Friday of every month from 5-7 p.m. at 80 Bradford Street in Barrie. For more information, please call Ve Tao, Youth Support Worker at 705-722-6778 x109, visit [lgbtyouth.ca](http://lgbtyouth.ca) or email [vet@gilbertcentre.ca](mailto:vet@gilbertcentre.ca).

### **October is International Walk to School Month**

Did you know that October is International Walk to School month? It's a great way for children to get their recommended 60 minutes of physical activity each day and also gives parents and staff a chance to be part of a worldwide event that celebrates the many benefits of walking. Here are some ideas:

- Encourage your child to walk or cycle to and from school if you live close by and team up with others to make the trip more fun
- If you usually drive your child to school, try getting them to walk part of the way
- If your child takes the bus, walking to and from the bus stop is a great way to add physical activity minutes into the day

*Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*

### **Healthy classroom celebrations**

Classroom and school celebrations are great opportunities for children to practice the healthy eating messages they learn in the classroom. Help teach the importance of healthy eating by choosing healthy foods to send in the next time your child's class is celebrating. Here are some ideas:

- Send a tray of watermelon slices, orange slices, apples or fruit kabobs
- Make homemade mini muffins with whole wheat flour and grated carrots or apple
- Send a tray of whole grain crackers, cubes of lower fat cheese and grapes
- Send a veggie platter - get creative by arranging it in fun shapes
- Prepare chocolate dipped strawberries for a sweet treat

Looking for more information to help keep you and your family healthy? Call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-5720 to speak with a public health nurse or visit the health unit's website at [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org). *Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*

