



September 2018 News

<http://hol.scdsb.on.ca>

Follow us on Twitter @meadows_es

Subscribe to 'Remind' @hollymes

From the Desk of Mr. Case

Holly Meadows Parents,

September was a very exciting and busy month at Holly Meadows! Our teachers have been busy not only with academics, but with a variety of other exciting activities for our students including activities like the Terry Fox run, various athletic activities and even a ballet performance for our primary students!

One of the challenges we have had this year is sharing information about the achievements, challenges and changes that have been happening. This has been compounded by the diversity of platforms that have been used for communication as we have had concerns raised that information posted on one platform is not always shared on others. In consultation with other staff members, we have decided upon the following communications plan. The school newsletters and Webpage will be the formal and official method of communication. We will continue to ensure that those sources have the most up to date calendars and information. We will also continue to use the Twitter account to promote the school and events on social media. For immediate direct communication with families, we will continue to use the Remind app, or as required, the direct phone call / messenger program at the school. To avoid duplication or confusion, other platforms will be discontinued, although individual classrooms may choose to use specific applications for their own communication. We are hopeful that this streamlining will promote consistency of communication to our community. As always, if anyone wishes to speak to me personally, please do not hesitate to call the school or drop by for a visit.

It's hard to believe that it is Thanksgiving already. We wish all of our students, staff and families a safe and happy Thanksgiving weekend!

From the Desk of Ms. Duffett

Thank you to all of our parents and students who walk to school. Holly Meadows is deemed a walking school with the exception of those students who live beyond the walking limits. Walking/biking to and from school is a great way to incorporate fresh air, exercise and a time to socialize for students.

If it is necessary to drive your child to school please obey the Kiss and Ride route which indicates no parking in the front of the school either in the drive or on the road. Students are not to be walking through the parking lot unless accompanied with a parent/guardian. Also, please refrain from letting your children out of the vehicle into the live lane (i.e. driver's side).

Thank you for keeping all our students safe.



Important October Dates

- **Mon. Oct 8** Thanksgiving Day
- **Tues. Oct 9** - Cross Country Meet at Sunnidale Park
- **Wed. Oct 10** - Picture Day
- **Thurs. Oct 11** - Kindergarten Trip to Rounds Ranch
- **Fri. Oct 12** - Grade 3 Swimming Lessons Begin (Mrs. Henneberry, Mr. Garland and Mrs. Sugg)
- **Mon. Oct 15** - Food Programs Begin
- **Mon. Oct 15** - Volunteer Orientation - 5pm
- **Fri. Oct 19** - Grade 7 Trip to Barrie Film Festival
- **Mon. Oct 22** - PA Day - No school for students
- **Fri. Oct 26** - Grade 8 Trip to Barrie Film Festival
- **Wed. Oct 31** - Halloween - Dress up or Black & Orange Day

Important November Dates

- **Mon. Nov 5** - School Council Meeting - 6pm in the Library
- **Tues. Nov 13** - Photo Retake Day
- **Fri. Nov 16** - Report Cards go home
- **Sat. Nov 17** - 3rd Annual Holly-Day Bazaar
- **Wed. Nov 21 - Fri Nov 23** - Student Led Conferences
- **Fri. Nov 23** - PA Day - No school for students

School Times

- 8:50 - 9:05- Supervision on yard for student arrival
- 9:05- Entry bell
- 9:05 - 10:45- First instructional block
- 10:45 - 11:05- K-5 Nutrition Break, 6-8 Recess
- 11:05 - 11:25- K-5 Recess, 6-8 Nutrition Break
- 11:25 - 1:05- Second instructional block
- 1:05 - 1:25- K-5 Nutrition Break, 6-8 Recess
- 1:25 - 1:45- K-5 Recess, 6-8 Nutrition Break
- 1:45 - 3:25- Third instructional block
- 3:25- Dismissal

If you have not done so already, please sign and return the attached items ASAP...

- Acceptable use form for electronics
- Double sided "permissions and acknowledgement"
- Student info forms (please date, sign and return indicating "no changes" OR make changes directly on last years, date, sign and return)
- For volunteers— if you have not already accessed the online volunteer portal, received one, please request an annual offence declaration in the office in order to avoid having to repeat your criminal record check this school year. If you would like to sign up as a new volunteer, please sign up online through the new volunteer portal. If you would like to volunteer on school trips or as a driver to sporting events, you are required to complete this process.
- Medical forms-if your child has a life threatening medical condition or requires medication to be administered at the school and you have not received the appropriate paperwork, please request this at the office.

Reorganization balances class sizes to support your child's success

Each September, our school starts off with a certain number of classes and teachers - these numbers are based on estimates made the previous spring about how many students will be enrolled during the next school year. As you may be aware, the Ministry of Education has class size goals that all school boards are required to meet. When the Simcoe County District School Board organized its schools in the spring, they adhered to this expectation. Each September, the board compares actual enrolment numbers to the numbers projected by the board in the spring. At times it is necessary to reorganize classes. After reorganization, some students may move to another class in order to balance class sizes. In some cases, it may be necessary to move teachers to a new school. Please be assured that these changes will not affect the quality of education your child will receive at Holly Meadows. Our staff have the skills, training and resources to work effectively with students in a variety of settings.

Updated Tentative Staff Assignments for 2017/2018

- Principal- S. Case
- Vice Principal- J. Duffett
- Office staff- U. Parsons and C. Nickel
- Custodial Staff- J. Cochrane, M. Franssen, K. Patterson, J. Espanola
- Kindergarten- C. Saunders, J. Rolph, L. Jones, A. Goodman, L. Armstrong, B. McElroy, H. McConnachie, S. Sitarz, C. Latford, T. Payne
- Grade 1- R. Bailey, A. Goose, S. Bragg
- Grade 2- J. Waugh-McDiarmid, Davies LTO, Semsch (Ms. L. Cashaback)
- Grade 3- K. Henneberry, J. Waugh-McDiarmid, D. Garland, C. Sugg
- Grade 4- Douglas LTO, R. Crawford
- Grade 5- C. Elliott, S. Rogerson, T. Cave
- Grade 6- T. Cave, A. Furch, J. Greer
- Grade 7- B. McDonald, T. Rose, J. Bailey
- Grade 8- D. Thompson, J. Mellan
- French- C. Wright, S. Weening
- Planning Time- S. Thomas, S. Johnston, D. Critch, A. Noble
- Special Education- J. Chenette, R. Moss, M. Gaffoor, G. Young
- Teacher Librarian- M. O'Donal-Cook
- Educational Assistants- J. Toffen, A. Lemarquand, T. Renz, L. Haluska, K. Kilburn, C. Greening, A. Harvey, A. Tugwell
- Child & Youth Worker - Kerrie Durand Magee
- Social Worker - Chantal Enright

Want to be a volunteer at our school? Here's what you need to know

We appreciate the commitment of all who volunteer at our school. This school year, we are implementing a new online Volunteer Portal. SCDSB Community Apps (<http://communityapps.scdsb.on.ca>) is a new online portal that allows you to begin the process for volunteering at our school. Here is some information to share as we've been receiving some questions:

- Only NEW volunteers or those who received a letter in June indicating you require an updated Criminal Background Check Vulnerable Sector Screening (5-year renewal) are able to register as a volunteer on the Community Apps website at this time.
- If you're a current, approved school volunteer, you can still volunteer at our school for the time being. You have until November 30th to complete your online information. You should have recently received a letter with your access code. This code will allow you to register as a volunteer on the Volunteer Portal through the Community Apps website.
- Please ensure you have chose "Holly Meadows Elementary School" in the school selection section in order to complete the process.
- Holly Meadows will be hosting a volunteer orientation on **Monday, October 15th at 5 pm**. If you are unable to attend this event, please contact the office, or Ms. Duffett to make alternate arrangements.

SAFETY DURING ENTRY AND DISMISSAL

There are a number of procedures in place to help keep our school a safe place during entry and dismissal. We have a number of new families to the school community and it is always helpful to have a reminder of the procedures. Compliance around these procedures are critical to the safety of all community members.

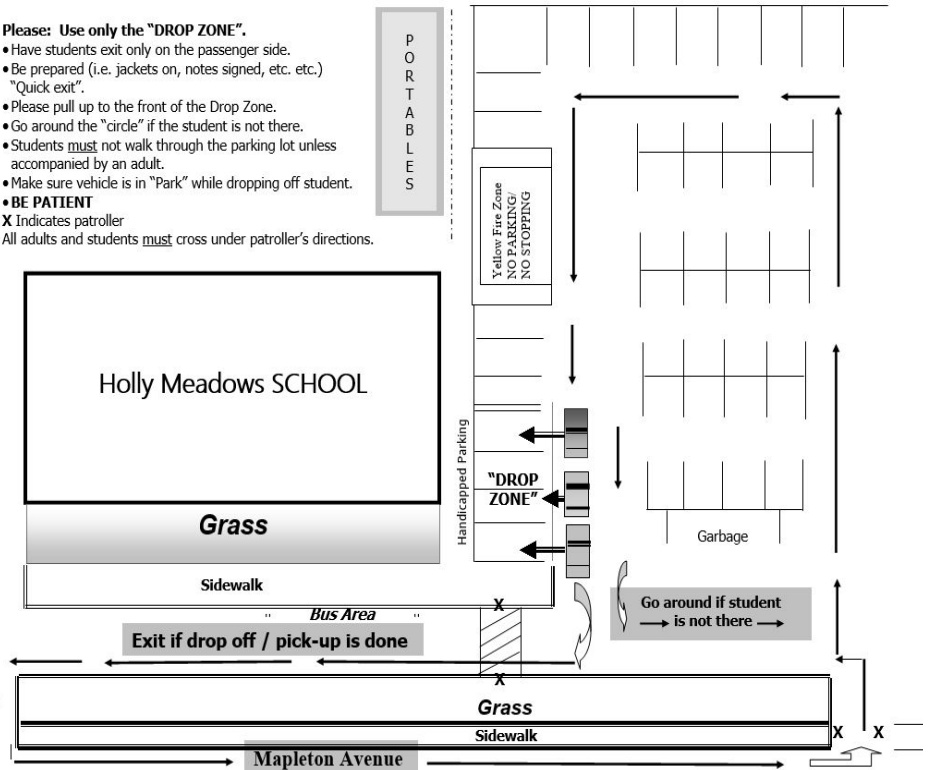
The Kiss and Ride program allows parents/guardians the opportunity to drive through the parking lot loop in order to safely drop off their children. This is very important as it significantly reduces the congestion of vehicles alongside the roadway and the dangers of students potentially getting hit by a vehicle exiting their vehicle in moving traffic. The Kiss and Ride can be a safe and effective way of allowing children to enter school property providing that it is used properly. To facilitate the safe arrival of students and to alleviate congestion in the parking lot, please adhere to the following:

- Enter the parking lot slowly and in single file
- Proceed to the designated Kiss and Ride as pictured right
- Remain in your vehicle while your children get into or out of the vehicle
- Proceed slowly and safely out of the parking lot
- Please do not leave vehicles parked in the driving lane at any time
- Please do not stop in the Kiss and Ride any longer than it takes for your children to get into or out of your vehicle. If you need to assist your child getting into or out of your vehicle, or need to meet them on the yard/at the door, please park in a designated parking spot.

Please: Use only the "DROP ZONE".

- Have students exit only on the passenger side.
- Be prepared (i.e. jackets on, notes signed, etc. etc.) "Quick exit".
- Please pull up to the front of the Drop Zone.
- Go around the "circle" if the student is not there.
- Students **must** not walk through the parking lot unless accompanied by an adult.
- Make sure vehicle is in "Park" while dropping off student.

• BE PATIENT
X Indicates patroller
All adults and students **must** cross under patroller's directions.



We have a large number of students who are being dropped off at the recreation centre or in the parking lot and walking through parked and stopped cars. This is extremely dangerous for both students and drivers. Parents are asked to only use the designated KISS and RIDE area and have students exit or enter on the **passenger side** as indicated on the diagram above. If your child is meeting you at the Holly Recreation parking lot, they are to walk around to the front of the school, and use the sidewalk. Children are not permitted to walk through the parking lot unaccompanied by an adult. The bus loading zone at the front of the school is out-of-bounds during arrival and dismissal times, with the only exception being Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium vehicles. Parents/Guardians/Private childcare providers are asked not to use the front of the school as a drop off or pick up in the bus zone.

After the first day of school, we will also be asking parents to refrain from entering the yard during school hours, including before school. After school, we ask that parents wait for students to be dismissed only outside of the fence or in the area between the fence and the portable. For the safety of the students, it is important that we know who the adults are on school property at all times through our check in process at the office. It is also important that staff members are easy to locate on the yard which can be difficult if we have many different adults on the yard during entry and dismissal.

Lastly, just a final reminder that, although we love pets, with the exception of service dogs, they are not allowed on school property. If you do bring your dog on the walk to school, we ask that you kindly wait for your child at the edge of the school property.

We appreciate your support, it takes the co-operation of the entire school community to ensure the safety of our students.

School Council members invited to *Connections* event on Oct. 23

School council members are invited to join us at Connections, the Simcoe County District School Board's (SCDSB) school council development and networking event.

When: Tues. Oct. 23, 4 to 7 p.m.

Where: SCDSB Education Centre, 1170 Hwy. 26, Midhurst

Participants can gather tips and important information to help you in your role on school council, contribute to group discussions, browse booths and enjoy snacks from our approved vendors, and network with fellow school council and Parent Involvement Committee members. This year, we welcome Jacqui Strachan, Communications Director, People for Education, who will discuss fundraising and equity within a school council. Register at www.scdsb.on.ca/connections. Register by Oct. 16 for your chance to win a \$500 parent engagement grant for your school. The winner(s) will be drawn at the event. You must be in attendance to win the prize.

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, you can visit us in the school office and we'll provide it to you after verifying your identity.

School bus transportation information available from the SCSTC

For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)'s website at: main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Also, remember to bookmark the school bus information page at: simcoecountyschoolbus.ca for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days.

School Bus Safety Week and School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

School Bus Safety Week takes place October 22 to 26, 2018. 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. 24 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/.

HMES is on "Remind" Would you like to receive occasional reminders via text or email for events like due dates for food orders, picture day, spirit days, newsletters and other school events? If so...

To receive **text** reminders, text (705) 302-3415 and write @hollymes in the body of the text.

You can opt out at any time by texting unsubscribe @hollymes to the same number.

OR

To receive **e-mail** reminders, send an e-mail to hollymes@remind.com

You can leave the subject blank

To unsubscribe, send an email to the same address with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

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

We have made it easy for parents to make their school purchases from the convenience of their own home. Whether it's lunch days, field trips or school wear, we have it online for you! It's safe, fast and convenient. Contact the office with any questions. Follow these three steps to get started:

1. Go to simcoecounty.schoolcashionline.com or visit our school website and click on "Pay Fees"
2. Register and add your child to the newly created account
3. View and purchase items through bank transfer or credit card

It's safe, fast and convenient. Contact the office with any questions.

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 7 to 13

This year's Fire Prevention Week theme focuses on three fundamental actions people can take to be fire-safe:

- LOOK for places fire could start. Take a good look around your home. Identify potential fire hazards and take care of them.
- LISTEN for the sound of the smoke alarm. You could have only minutes to escape safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Go to your outside meeting place, which should be a safe distance from the home and where everyone should know to meet.
- LEARN two ways out of every room and make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily and are free of clutter.

It's time to 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. It's easy to update your child's immunization status. Go to www.smdhu.org/jimmsonline 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

October is International Walk to School Month

Get in on the fun and be part of this worldwide event! Encourage your child or teen 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. Walking or cycling allows kids to enjoy the outdoors and get their recommended 60 minutes of physical activity each day. Learn more: <http://ontarioactiveschooltravel.ca/international-walk-to-school-month/>.

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit