



OCTOBER NEWS

Remember that HMES is a NUT FREE SCHOOL!



Holly Meadows Staff 2016-2017

Kindergarten/ Designated Early Childhood Educator	L. Jones & A. Goodman, J. Banks & S. Sitarz, C. Saunders & J. Rolph, C. Cain(J. Wiken) & B. Mcelroy, C. Latford/S. Thomas & J. Araujo (J. Shelswell)
Grade 1	J. Warman, C. Manuel, S. Bragg, G. Young (1/2)
Grade 2	J. McDiarmid, K. Henneberry (2/3)
Grade 3	R. Crawford, G. Semsch, T. Davies (3/4)
Grade 4	D. Critch, A. Noble(J. Doherty), C. Sugg (4/5)
Grade 5	C. Elliott, A. Furch, S. Rogerson
Grade 6	D. Thomson, S. Michaud
Grade 7	P. Moore, T. Rose, B. McDonald
Grade 8	J. Wilson, J. Chenette
FSL	C. Wright, S. Moore
Planning Time	L. Rossi, S. Thomas, B. Watson, J. Neufeld, J. Collins,
Teacher-Librarian	M. O'Donal-Cook
Special Education Resource	A. Douglas, D. Garland, J. Greer, R. Moss,
Educational Assistants	C. Bastedo, S. Dominczuk, A. Gordon, C. Greening, L. Haluska, A. Harvey, T. Renz, J. Toffen, TBD
Office Staff	L. McAlendin, U. Parsons
Administrative Team	J. Hofmann, J. Dobson
Operations Staff	K. Harvey, M. Franssen, D. Bolan, K. Patterson

EMAIL Communication

All parents/guardians will be receiving an electronic copy of all newsletters/school wide communication commencing November 2016. 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.



Mark Your Calendar

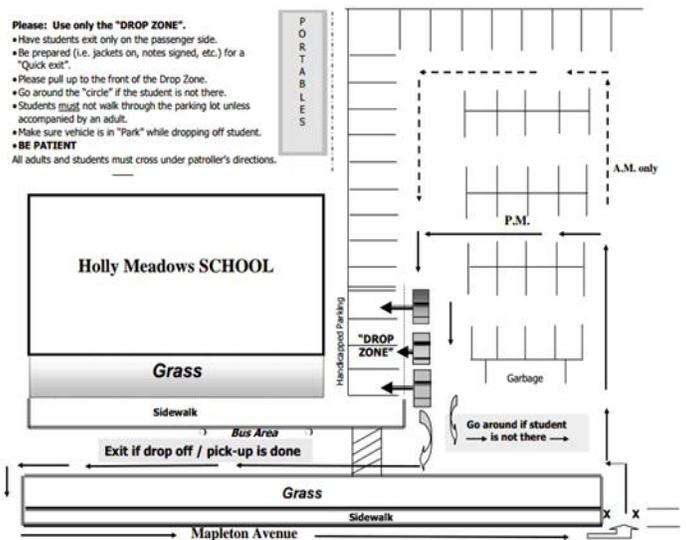
Oct. 6	Meet the Teacher 5-7 pm
Oct. 9-15	Fire Prevention Week
Oct. 10	Thanksgiving
Oct. 13	Cross Country Regional Meet Puppet Presentation Gr. 4-6
Oct. 17	Flag Football Tournament
Oct. 18	Picture Day

	County Cross Country Meet
Oct. 19	Grade 7-8 Immunization Clinic Grade 1 to Rounds Ranch
Oct. 21	PA Day (no school for students)
Oct. 24	Barrie Public Library Presentation Gr. 7-8 Trillium Brass Quintet JK-3
Oct. 28	Grade 6-8 Dance Seasonal Celebration
Oct. 31	Black and Orange Day
Nov. 4	Movie Night



Reminder about Our School Parking Lot

There have been a significant number of concerns raised regarding our Kiss and Ride. 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. If your child is meeting you at the Holly Recreation parking lot, they are to walk between the pylons and the school yard fence as this is a no drive zone at the end of the day. This is extremely dangerous for both students and drivers. Parents are asked to only use the designated KISS and RIDE spots and have students exit or enter on the passenger side as indicated on the diagram below. Please do not leave vehicles in the driving lane at any time. Drivers must stay with their vehicles. We ask that you park in a designated spot if you need to meet your child in the school yard. 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. Traffic must be in constant flow in this area at all times, meaning no parked vehicles are permitted in this area. Thank you for working with the staff to ensure the safety of our students.



Parking is permitted on Mapleton in front of the school at the present time. We ask that you do not park close to the driveways at either end of the school yard as there is limited visibility for vehicles entering or exiting our school.

SEEDS Before and After School Care

Welcome back to another wonderful school year! The children have been exploring our creative side, whether we are creating clay figurines or putting on a talent

show. We have also been exploring how cars work in the kindergarten classroom. We will be offering P.A day care at Holly Meadows this year, if you require care please call Sheena Bardai at 705-726-3770. Before and after school spaces are still available as well!

GIFTED SCREENING PROCESS

Some children who display an unusually advanced degree of general intellectual ability may require additional program support in order to reach their educational potential.

In consultation with parents, the school staff determines who these students are through the gifted screening process.

Parents of a student who are in or above Grade 3 in this school year, who wish the school to consider their child for screening, are asked to contact **Dave Garland before October 12, 2016.**

The gifted screening process consists of three components:

1. A Teacher Rating Scale;
2. A Parent Questionnaire; and,
3. Standardized test results (usually the Otis Lennon School Ability Test).

After signing a permission form, parents/legal guardians will complete the Parent Questionnaire. Information obtained from this questionnaire will help the school gain a better understanding of your child's early development as well as his/her strengths, interests, needs and abilities, which the standardized test may not identify. The teacher will complete a Rating Scale, which examines areas such as learning, motivation, creativity and leadership, which he/she has observed in the classroom. Group testing will be completed and the results will provide a standardized measure of school abilities. The information gathered from all three components will assist the school in programming for your child.

If you require information about the gifted screening process, please contact the school.

School Council News



Our 2016-2107 School Council has been established. The council meets the first Monday of each month in the HMES library. Be part of the team as we plan exciting events and support the staff in providing strong programs for our children.

Events to Come (Watch for more information)

- Wendy's Nights
- Movie Nights
- Math Night
- Vendor Fair
- Mental Health and Wellness Fair
- Coupon Book Fundraiser

Read and Feed Night @ Chapters
End of the Year BBQ/Fun Fair/Silent Auction

High School information nights coming to a school near you!

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information nights happen this fall and 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 Secondary School 100 Red Oak Drive Thursday January 12, 2017 at 6:30 PM.** Check out the full schedule of info nights and more information at www.scdsb.on.ca/highschool.

What's the SCDSB Difference? We need to hear from you!

We need your help developing the new strategic plan for the Simcoe County District School Board. The purpose of a strategic plan is to set goals and directions that will guide the work of our organization and help us realize our vision of a community of learners achieving full potential.

We want to know:

- What does the SCDSB do already to help us realize our vision of a community of learners achieving full potential? (What are we doing well?)
- What is the most important thing that we can begin to do to help us realize our vision? (What else can we do to improve?)
- What role do you think SCDSB schools play or should play in your community?

Get involved:

- Visit www.scdsb.on.ca/difference to take our survey and complete the *Where should we invest?* sorting activity to help identify priority areas.
- Follow our @scdsb_schools Twitter account and join our #SCDSBDifference Twitter chat to share your ideas on Thurs., Oct. 6 at 8 p.m.

Other consultation activities:

- We had community outreach booths at Collingwood Downtown Farmers' Market (Sept. 17), Orillia Downtown Farmers' Market (Sept. 24) and Alliston Downtown Farmers' Market (Oct. 1).
- We are conducting on-the-spot interviews with parents and students at select schools across Simcoe County.
- We've invited randomly selected representatives from various stakeholder groups to workshops on Oct. 4 at the Education Centre.

We'll use the input to identify the key areas stakeholders think the SCDSB should focus on. We will also review research on effective practices in education, our own data and the expectations we receive from the Ministry of Education. This information will help the

Board of Trustees set our priorities. The strategic plan will outline how—together—we inspire and empower learning for life. Ultimately, our strategic priorities should move us toward our vision of a community of learners achieving full potential.

Fire Prevention Week is October 9-15: Join the *Don't Wait, Check the Date* Selfie Challenge

Fire Prevention Week is October 9 to 15, 2016 and local fire departments want you to join the *Don't Wait, Check the Date!* selfie challenge. Smoke alarms wear out over time and need to be replaced within the time frame indicated by the manufacturer, usually 10 years. The date of manufacture is indicated on the back of the smoke alarm and the expiry date is taken from that date. Smoke alarms are required on every floor of your home and outside all sleeping areas. Test all of your smoke alarms monthly by pushing the test button on the alarm, and replace batteries at least once a year or when the alarm's low battery signal begins to chirp. Families are challenged everyone to take a selfie of their family checking the expiry date of their smoke alarms and post it on social media using #checkthed8. For more information about testing and replacing your smoke alarms, visit: www.ontario.ca/firemarshal.

October is International Walk to School month

Did you know that October is International Walk to School month? It is 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. Get in on the fun and try these activities:

- Create a walking group/"bus" to and from school
- Create a fun walking challenge for your school community involving students, parents and teachers
- Create and sign a Walk to School pledge

Check out the website at www.saferoutestoschool.ca for more information. You can also call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 and speak with a public health nurse or visit the health unit website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Message from Director of Education Kathi Wallace

At the Sept. 28 Board Meeting, it was shared publicly that I will retire as of December 31, 2016. As I'm sure you can imagine, this decision was challenging for me. I love what I do—I have felt this way in every role during my 39 years in this board.

It's truly been an honour to serve the students and families of Simcoe County throughout my career. I've had the privilege of working with fantastic staff, parents and community partners. I've been surrounded by skilled, passionate and caring people.

My focus remains on our work as I complete my time here. The Board of Trustees have now started the search for a new director. We will also continue with our strategic planning consultation and analysis. The input provided by our staff, students, parents and community members will be invaluable to the board

and senior administration, including the new director, as they move the system forward. If you haven't already, I encourage you to add your ideas by visiting www.scdsb.on.ca/difference.

I am also looking forward with optimism to this next stage of my life. It's a chance to spend some more time with my family. This includes my growing group of beautiful grandchildren who provide that daily reminder of life's wonder and simple joys. It's that same reminder I cherish from my days as a classroom teacher.

Student accident insurance available for extra-curricular activities and trips

Student injuries at school, during school events, and extra-curricular activities (athletics, clubs, and out-of-province/out-of-country trips) are not covered by the school board or its insurance company. While every precaution is taken to provide a safe learning environment, accidents can happen. It is essential that all students participating in extra-curricular activities have adequate insurance coverage. The SCDSB has selected *Insure My Kids* as an option for parents to consider. The coverage is for 24 hours a day and offers a variety of plans at reasonable prices. Coverage can be purchased online at www.insuremykids.com.

Stay updated, get information about your school and school board

Want to ensure you are receiving up-to-date, accurate information about what's going on at your school and our school board? Here's how:

- You can subscribe to our school's website by clicking on 'Subscribe' at the top of our school website: <http://hol.scdsb.on.ca>. You can sign up to receive emails about school news updates and information during emergency situations. When you fill out your email and click Subscribe, an email will be sent to your inbox with a link to click to confirm that you want to subscribe. You can unsubscribe at any time using the link at the bottom of each email.
- For Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) media releases and event information, visit the 'News' section under 'About Us' at the SCDSB's website: www.scdsb.on.ca. You can also subscribe to receive board media releases, event information and/or job postings via email by visiting www.scdsb.on.ca and clicking on 'Subscribe' at the top of the page.
- Follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB_Schools), Facebook (facebook.com/SCDSB) and Instagram (instagram.com/scdsb) @meadows_es
- Check out our *Sharing Simcoe* blog (www.sharingsimcoe.com), where we share stories of our amazing students, staff and community members.
- For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation

Consortium (SCSTC)'s website at: main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. And remember to bookmark the school bus information page at: www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days. Notifications of bus delays can be emailed to families and students that subscribe to receive their specific bus delay notification through the SCSTC website. Subscribe here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions/>.

many opportunities available, including school council, breakfast clubs, reading help, assisting in the classroom or library and much more. Everyone who volunteers in a school must have a criminal record check which includes a Vulnerable Sector Screening. Please call or visit the school office for more information about opportunities available or if you'd like to volunteer!

Message from the Health Unit: Ensure your child's immunization record is up-to-date

The Ontario Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) requires the health unit to have up-to-date immunization records for all students attending school. According to ISPA (2014), students are required to be vaccinated against the following diseases:

- Tetanus, Diphtheria, Polio and Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Measles, Mumps and Rubella (must have two doses after the first birthday)
- Meningococcal Disease (must have one dose after the first birthday & Men-C-ACYW in Grade 7)
- Varicella (chickenpox) - only for those born 2010 and after

The health unit **does not** receive immunization information directly from doctor's offices. Please contact the health unit each time your child receives a vaccine from their health care provider.

What you can do:

- check your child's yellow immunization card
- contact your child's health-care provider to obtain records or get missing vaccinations
- go to <http://www.smdhu.org/immsonline> to enter the complete record, or fax a completed record to 705-726-3962

Message from the Health Unit: Smoke-free movies support healthy choices for our kids

Parents are always doing their best to protect their kids from harm. Have you ever wondered how movies influence our children? Research shows that seeing smoking in movies has a direct impact on youth smoking. In fact, the more often kids see smoking in the movies, the more likely they are to smoke. So why is smoking allowed in children and youth-rated movies? Movies influence kids. Make them smoke free. For more info visit the health unit website: www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or www.smokefreemovies.ca.

Giving back to the school community - volunteer in our school

Volunteers are an important part of what makes our school a great place to learn and grow. We value and appreciate the support of our volunteers. There are