



# September 2017 News

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## From the Desk of Mrs Golding

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year!

I am pleased to be joining the Holly Meadows community and have already had a chance to meet many of the students and families who have done a wonderful job helping me settle in and making me feel at home. I am excited and optimistic that the 2017/2018 school year will be a rewarding and enjoyable year for all HMES community members.

Each new school year brings new opportunity. I encourage all parents to seize the opportunity to get actively involved in your child's education and in the broader school community. We are always looking for volunteers within the school as well as on our school council.

I love to share all of the wonderful things going on at the school! Please take a few moments to subscribe to our website to receive email notifications any time the site is updated. Opening a Twitter, Facebook or Instagram account and following our school feeds are another great way to keep informed with school news as well as viewing highlights and pictures of the great things happening at school. I also encourage you to subscribe to the school "Remind" App for reminders of important school wide due dates and events. In order to be environmentally friendly, after our first newsletter mailing of the year, subsequent school newsletters will be available for download from the school web-site and will be posted on our social media sites and shared via "Remind" within the first week of the month. **If you require a paper copy of the newsletter, please contact the office.**

An updated list of staff is available on the school website, however, it is important to note that, as always, class placements and teacher assignments are tentative until the turnaround date of September 26th in all SCDSB Schools.

Lastly, just as I encourage teachers to establish and nurture positive relations with the home, I ask that parents do the same with staff. You are your child's first and best teacher and you know them best. Working together, we can offer your child the best education possible! We look forward to meeting and getting to know your children and your family through the school year.

## From the Desk of Mr. Dobson

I am so excited about returning to Holly Meadows. It was a challenging year and I appreciate your support last year. Mrs. Hofmann was an inspiration and we all appreciate what she did to help build a wonderful Holly community. Moving forward, Mrs. Golding is a skilled principal who will provide the direction for the next chapter of Holly Meadows. I look forward to a year of learning, joy, and fulfillment. Can't wait to work with students, staff and the school community to make Holly an AWESOME place to be.

## Important Dates

- **Tues. Sept 5-** First Day of School for SK-Grade 8 (Share your photos on social media #scdsbfirstday)
- **Thurs. Sept 7-** First Day of School for JK's (Share your photos on social media #scdsbfirstdayjk)
- **Mon. Sept 25 6pm-** First school council meeting of the year in the library (elections)
- **Tues. Sept. 26-** Elementary turnaround day
- **Tues. Sept. 26-** Terry Fox Run
- **Thurs. Oct. 5-** Meet the teacher (information will be sent home shortly)

## 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 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 request a start up package in the office. 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
- If you would like to become a voting member or serve as an elected member on school council, please complete the nomination form **prior to** Monday September 25th

## Tentative Staff Assignments for 2017/2018

- Principal- A. Golding
- Vice Principal- J. Dobson
- Office staff- L. McAlendin and U. Parsons
- Custodial Staff- K. Harvey, M. Franssen, A Gaudet
- Kindergarten- C. Saunders, J. Rolph, L. Jones, A. Goodman, C. Cain, B. McElroy, K. Stanley, S. Sitarz, C. Latford, K. Watkin
- Grade 1- R. Bailey, G. Young, S, Bragg
- Grade 2- A. Goose, J. Waugh-McDiarmid, G. Semsch, R. Crawford
- Grade 3- R. Crawford, K. Henneberry, T. Davies
- Grade 4- A. Noble, D. Critch, N. Powell
- Grade 5- N. Powell, C. Sugg, S. Rogerson
- Grade 6- T. Cave, A. Furch, J. Greer
- Grade 7- P. Vanderveen-Moore, T. Rose
- Grade 8- B. McDonald, J. Chenette, J, Mellan
- French- C. Wright, A. Anderson, C. Confiant
- Planning Time- D. Thompson, B. Watson, S. Thomas, C. Confiant
- Special Education- D. Garland, A. Douglas, R. Moss, M. Meyer
- Teacher Librarian- M. O'Donal-Cook
- Educational Assistants- S. Domianczuk, J. Toffen, C. Bastedo, T. Renz, L. Haluska, A. Gordon, C. Greening, A. Harvey

## 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

## 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 many opportunities available, including food programs, reading help, kiss & ride, assisting with driving to and from athletics, attending field trips 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!

Current volunteers who do not submit an Annual Offence Declaration for Volunteers on or before December 31, 2017, will be deleted from the database on January 1, 2018, and will have to submit a new Criminal Records Check and Vulnerable Sector Screen. Please see the office for more information or if you have questions about volunteering in our school.

We know that not all parents are available during the day. If you work during the day but would like to be involved, we encourage you to consider participating in **School Council**. School councils are groups of parents, community representatives, teaching and non-teaching employees, students and the school principal. Involvement in school council is a meaningful, hands-on way to have a direct, positive impact on your child's educational experience. Research shows that when parents are involved in their child's education, the level of student achievement increases. Most of the HMES school council meetings occur at 6pm on the first Monday of each month. Please consider attending our first meeting on **Monday September 25th**. Additionally, every year, we look to fill a number of roles on council, if you would like to volunteer or want more information, please call to inquire or to request a nomination form from the office.

## Student dress code

Students are expected to respect the guidelines when dressing for school. Our school is a safe space. We work to be equitable and inclusive, and understand that students may choose to express themselves through their clothing choices. Student clothing cannot pose a safety concern or conceal identity. Exceptions are granted to students who wear head coverings or other garments/objects for the purposes of religious observance, medical or sensory needs, or other reasons protected by the Ontario Human Rights Code. The SCDSB dress code is available in the student agenda and online at <http://www.scdsb.on.ca/Students/Pages/Dress-Code.aspx> If you have questions about the dress code, you can contact the principal or the SCDSB Equity and Inclusive Education Team at 705-728-7570.

## Reminder from the Health Unit: School grounds are smoke free 24/7

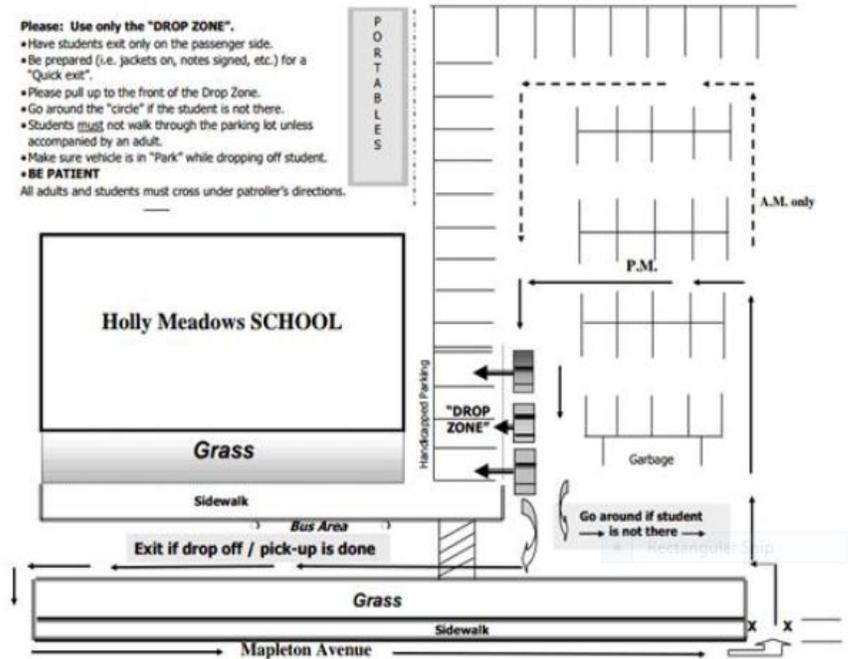
Protect yourself and your children from the health hazards of secondhand smoke. Remember, it is against the law to smoke ANYWHERE on school property at ANY TIME. This includes smoking in your vehicle while picking up or dropping off students. It is also against the law to smoke or hold lit tobacco in a vehicle carrying anyone under age 16. The fine for ignoring the law is \$250. For more information, contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or visit [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org). Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.

## 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.



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 between the pylons and the school yard fence as this is a no drive zone at the end of the day.

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.

## Keep connected with our school and with the SCDSB

It's important to get accurate information about what's going on at your school and at the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB):

- you can subscribe to our school's website by visiting the 'What's New' section at <http://hol.scdsb.on.ca>. You can sign up to receive emails about school news updates and information during emergency situations. It's easy to subscribe – visit our website and click the 'Subscribe' link at the very top of the page. 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' on the SCDSB's website: [www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca). The SCDSB Education Centre can be reached at 705-734-6363.
- follow SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB\_Schools), Facebook ([facebook.com/SCDSB](https://www.facebook.com/SCDSB)) and Instagram ([instagram.com/scdsb](https://www.instagram.com/scdsb)).
- follow the Holly Meadows on Twitter (@meadows\_es), Facebook ([facebook.com/hollymeadowses](https://www.facebook.com/hollymeadowses)) and Instagram (@hollymeadowses).
- through SCDSB's Sharing Simcoe blog ([www.sharingsimcoe.com](http://www.sharingsimcoe.com)), we share stories of our amazing staff, students and school communities.
- For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's website at: [main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca). And remember to bookmark the school bus information page at: [simcoecountyschoolbus.ca](http://simcoecountyschoolbus.ca) for bus delay and cancellation information on inclement weather days.

**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](mailto:hollymes@remind.com)

You can leave the subject blank

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

## HMES Personal Electronic Devices Guidelines

Students are permitted to bring personal devices to school to support and enhance learning in the classroom if families choose to do so. School computers and other school-owned devices will also be made available to students for learning.

In regard to the use of devices, the following guidelines must be understood and adhered to:

- A personal device is used for learning purposes only in the classroom or learning environment as indicated by the teacher
- Students are responsible for their device at all times (whether lost, stolen, or damaged)
- No calls, texts, pictures or recorded video of other students or staff are made without the consent of a school staff member

For additional information, please refer to the SCDSB's "*STUDENT INFORMATION COMPUTING TECHNOLOGY APPROPRIATE USE AGREEMENT*" which is sent home for signature at the beginning of each school year. Thanks in advance for your continued support.

## Procedures help keep our school safe

The safety and well-being of students is our top priority. We have a number of procedures in place to keep our school safe. You can help your child understand and feel safe by:

- talking to them about the situations below
- reminding them that emergencies are rare
- telling them it's important to follow staff instructions in these situations

## Parents should talk about the following emergency drills with their children:

- **Shelter in place** is used when there is an environmental or weather-related situation, like a chemical spill outside the building, or a major storm. Activities continue inside the school. Students and staff are not allowed to leave the building. The ventilation system may be shut off.
- A **hold and secure** is used when there is a situation in the community, not related to the school, like a bank robbery nearby. Activities continue, but all doors are locked. No one is allowed to enter or exit the school.
- A **lockdown** is used when there is a major incident or a threat of violence related to the school. Students and staff move to secure areas, away from doors and windows. Doors are locked, lights are shut off and blinds are drawn. Students and staff remain quiet. We practice lockdown drills at least two times per year. In the unlikely event of an actual lockdown situation, police ask that parents do not go to the school. Information will be communicated through the school board social media sites ([www.facebook.com/SCDSB](http://www.facebook.com/SCDSB) and [www.twitter.com/SCDSB\\_Schools](http://www.twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools)) and website ([www.scdsb.on.ca](http://www.scdsb.on.ca)), through local police and local media.
- All schools have evacuation plans in case of gas leaks, bomb threats or fire incidents that would require everyone to leave the school. We hold drills to practice our evacuation plan. In a real evacuation, students and staff may go to the evacuation site, depending on the situation. Parents will be informed about pick-up procedures by the school, school board and local media.
- **Elementary school main doors are locked during the school day.** Visitors must use the intercom system to enter the building. Staff may not be available to answer the door immediately, please be patient. All visitors, including school volunteers, are required to sign in at the school office and wear visitor identification.
- Staff and volunteers must complete a criminal record check before having contact with students.
- We ask parents to contact us when their child will be absent from school as part of our Safe Arrival program. When we don't hear from a parent/guardian, and a student is absent, we will call home to find out the reason for the absence.
- At least two staff members in every school are trained in first aid and CPR. All Simcoe County District School Board schools have Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).

When parents are at school during a drill or emergency event, they must follow direction from school staff, police, fire and/or emergency personnel. Parents may not have immediate access to their children during drills or emergencies. They may need to wait until the situation is resolved and school staff and/or emergency personnel release students into parent care.

It's important for you to know we'll always take whatever precautions are necessary to keep our school and students safe.

## 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.

### **Your child can learn a new language for free this fall in Barrie and Bradford**

The SCDSB offers children in Grades 1 to 8 an opportunity to learn and/or maintain a language other than French or English. Whether you enrol your children in this program to learn a new language, understand a new culture or to extend their knowledge of their first language, every student can benefit from this program. The Barrie Learning Centre (Bayfield Mall) is offering Arabic, Russian, Mandarin, Korean, German, Spanish and Ukrainian. The course takes place Saturday mornings, 9 to 11:30 a.m. starting Sept. 16. There is no charge for this program. Most classes fill quickly on a first come, first served basis. Register your child by visiting [www.thelearningcentres.com](http://www.thelearningcentres.com) and clicking on 'Elementary Student.'

### **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](http://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

### **Information about student accident insurance for the 2017-2018 school year**

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 board or its insurance company. While every precaution is taken to provide a safe learning environment, accidents can and do happen. The Simcoe County District School Board has selected the "insure my kids" program through Old Republic Canada as an option for students/parents/guardians to consider. This insurance offers a variety of plans and benefits at reasonable annual prices. Coverage can be purchased online at [www.insuremykids.com](http://www.insuremykids.com). Please watch for your student accident insurance package along with a letter about requirements for extra-curricular activities.

### **Eye See...Eye Learn program offers free glasses for Junior Kindergarten students**

The Eye See...Eye Learn program provides comprehensive eye exams by local optometrists to Junior Kindergarten (JK) students. The eye exams are covered under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) when parents show their child's health card. There is no out-of-pocket cost for the eye exam and if the child requires a pair of glasses, they will receive them free of charge courtesy of a participating optometrist. For more information, visit [www.Eyeseeyelearn.ca](http://www.Eyeseeyelearn.ca).

### **Free dental care for children under 18 from Healthy Smiles Ontario**

Free dental service is available to your child through Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's Healthy Smiles Dental Clinic in Barrie, as long as you qualify for the program. To find out if your child qualifies or to book an appointment, call the health unit (Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) oral health team at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520, extension 8818. Healthy Smiles Ontario is a government-funded program that provides free dental care for children and youth 17 years old and under from low-income households. This dental program provides free preventative, routine and emergency dental services.

### **Simcoe Community Services' Grandparent System Support Program**

Simcoe County is home to approximately 4,000 grand-families. The Grandparent System Support Program (GSSP) was established in response to the increased needs and unique challenges experienced by grandparents with the sole responsibility of raising their grandchildren. The GSSP Support Groups take place in Barrie, Bradford, Orillia and Midland. For more information about the support group, meeting dates/times or if you have questions about the GSSP, contact Trish Longo at [gssp@simcoecommunityservices.ca](mailto:gssp@simcoecommunityservices.ca) or 705-726-9082 x2321