



September 2018 News

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From the Desk of Mr. Case

Hello everyone,

I am very excited to join the Holly Meadows family this year. Over the Summer I was able to speak to many people about all of the amazing things that happen at the school and I am really proud to be a part of such a dynamic community. I really want to encourage all of our parents this year to get involved with our school. We have a lot of exciting plans, and we want you to be a part of it. Whether you are volunteering, joining School Council or even stopping by to share your ideas, I want to hear from everyone as we work on providing the best school experience for all of our students and families. I look forward to working with all of you in the years to come!

From the Desk of Ms. Duffett

I am very happy to be at Holly Meadows. It has been a wonderful start already! I look forward to working as a team with students, staff and the school community to make Holly an AMAZING place to be.

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

When you receive them, 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.

Elementary Turn-Around Day

It is important to know that at the beginning of every school year, there may be a discrepancy between the projected numbers in the Spring, and the actual numbers of students who walk through the doors of our school in September. Ministry guidelines and contractual obligations are taken into consideration as well. An increase in students may mean an increase in staff; a decrease in students may mean a decrease in staff. In either scenario, students will be moved to a new teacher and/or a new classroom on a designated day in September (this year that is September 27th). At this point in time, it looks as though our school will need to re-organize a few class placements. We are striving to have as much minimal impact to students and staff as possible. If your child will be effected in the Turn-Around Day, you will be notified prior to Sept 27th. At this time the staff assignments below are tentative and we will update the list once the new assignments are finalized.

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, M. McKnight, S. Mattson
- Grade 3- K. Henneberry, J. Waugh-McDiarmid, R. Gunson, C. Sugg
- Grade 4- D. Garland, C. Chamberlain, R. Crawford
- Grade 5- C. Elliott, S. Rogerson, D. Garland
- 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, C. Confiant, S. Brown
- Planning Time- S. Thomas, C. Confiant, 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
- Child & Youth Worker - Kerrie Durand Magee

Important Dates

- **Tues. Sept 25** Elementary turnaround day
- **Thurs. Sept 27** Terry Fox Run
- **Thurs. Sept 27** 6-8pm - Meet the teacher (information will be sent home shortly)
- **Fri. Sept 28** Orange Shirt Day
- **Mon. Oct 1** 6pm - School council meeting in the library
- **Mon. Oct 8** Thanksgiving Day
- **Wed. Oct 10** - Picture Day

SCDSB Community Apps portal makes volunteering easy

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 is a new online portal that allows you to begin the process for volunteering at a SCDSB school. The portal eliminates much of the paperwork currently associated with volunteers. Volunteer applications and approvals will occur online. The new mandate for Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) training, for volunteers, is also part of the portal. The Volunteer Portal is available for all new people requesting to volunteer at a school location: <http://communityapps.scdsb.on.ca>. Only new volunteers or those who require an updated Criminal Background Check Vulnerable Sector Screening (CBC-VSS) are able to register on the portal at this time.

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). Here are some ways to do that:

* 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. Provide your email and click Subscribe, a message 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.

* Sign up to receive Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) media releases by clicking the 'Subscribe' button at www.scdsb.on.ca. The SCDSB Education Centre can be reached at 705-734-6363.

* Follow the SCDSB on Twitter (@SCDSB_Schools), Facebook ([facebook.com/SCDSB](https://www.facebook.com/SCDSB)) and Instagram ([instagram.com/scdsb](https://www.instagram.com/scdsb)) and follow Holly Meadows by using the social media information listed on the front page of the newsletter.

For school bus transportation information, visit the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium'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.

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.

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.

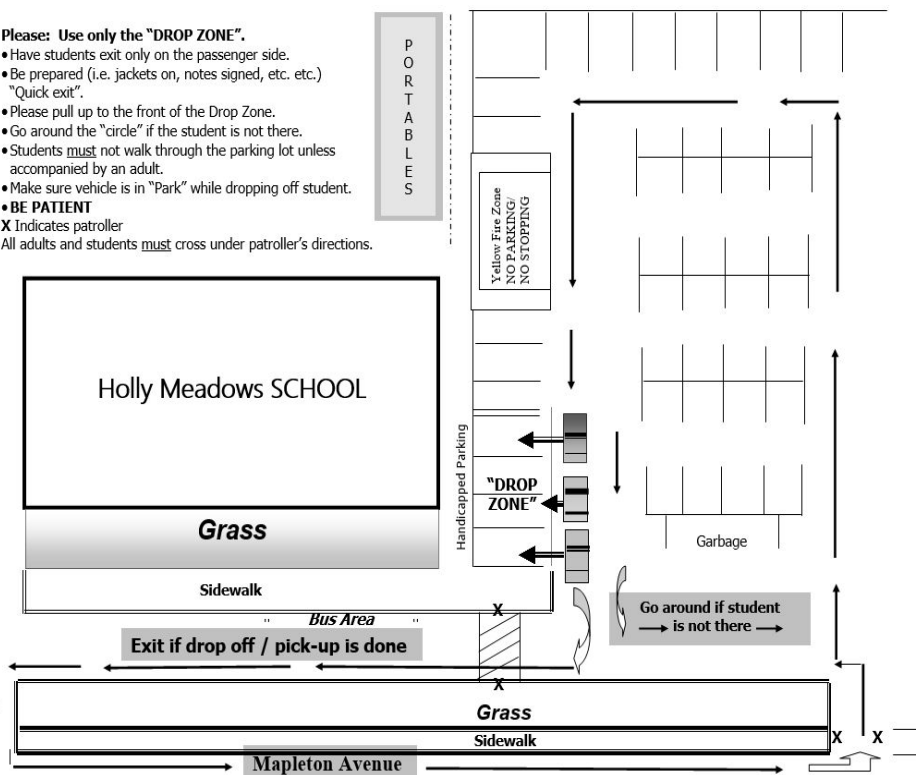
The Kiss and Ride program allows parents/guardians the opportunity to drive through the parking lot loop in order to safely drop off their children. This is very important as it significantly reduces the congestion of vehicles alongside the roadway and the dangers of students potentially getting hit 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.

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. 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), 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. And remember to bookmark the school bus information page at: 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

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 and www.twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools) and website (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.

Don't stress! Back to school mental health tips

It's the start of a new school year and students need to get back into the swing of things! While a new school year can be exciting, it can also cause stress and anxiety. The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) suggests maintaining positive mental health during this seasonal shift with the following strategies:

- Take care of your body – mental and physical health are fundamentally linked. Make sure to get enough sleep, drink water, eat well and exercise.
- Build resiliency – resiliency means coping well with problems, stress, and other difficult situations. Set aside time to think about the resiliency tools available to you and your child, such as structured problem-solving skills or resources that can help out during difficult situations.
- Reach out for support – offering love, acceptance and sense of safety is important but so is providing resources outside of

the home to support our youth in times of crisis. Some useful resources include New Path, YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka, CMHA, Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions, and the Kids Help Phone.

To learn more about the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka community youth programs and support, visit www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca.
Information provided by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka (www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca)

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.

Register now for free International and Indigenous Language Programs

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 or second language, every student can benefit from this program. The Barrie Learning Centre (Bayfield Mall) offers Arabic, Farsi, Korean, Mandarin, Ojibwe, Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian and Urdu. The Bradford Learning Centre (157 Holland St. E, Suite 200) offers Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, Tamil, Ukrainian, Urdu and Vietnamese. The classes take place Saturday mornings, 9 to 11:30 a.m. starting Sept. 15 (classes are dependent on student enrollment). 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 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.schoolcashonline.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.

Stressful mornings sound familiar? Here's how to get organized and out the door on time

(for elementary or secondary schools)

Try these tips to help get the whole family out the door on time:

1. Plan ahead: pack lunches and pick out clothes the night before.
2. Go to bed at a reasonable hour so you wake up rested and ready for the day.
3. Wake up and get yourself ready, before your child.
4. Keep the TV and electronics off. These can be disruptive first thing in the morning.
5. Give clear instructions and be realistic about what your child can do for themselves. Praise them when they do something well to help them learn new skills.

Finally, remember to have patience. Your child learns from watching you! In time your child will learn to plan ahead, be organized, and develop patience too. For more tips, visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or www.triplep-parenting.ca

Information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

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. 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.

Ideas for packing healthy school lunches

A school lunch should give children the energy and nutrients they need to be ready to learn, be more alert and perform better at school. When planning lunches keep these tips in mind:

- Include one serving from at least three of the four food groups from Canada's Food Guide.
- Rather than buying pre-made lunch kits, make your own healthy "lunch kit" with divided containers and small bite-sized cheese cubes, left over chicken chunks, veggie sticks or fruit slices.
- Get your kids to eat more veggies - send cucumber coins, zucchini sticks and pepper strips with dip.
- Fill whole wheat or multigrain wrap/pita/tortilla shells with your child's favourite foods such as hummus and grated carrot or sliced turkey with honey mustard.
- Don't have them drink their fruit - send water instead.

For more information to keep you and your family healthy, visit www.simcoemuskokahealth.org or call *Health Connection* at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.

Register for Before & After School/Child Care at our school

Register now for before and after school programs/childcare. The Before and After School Program is for students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 who need care before and/or after the regular school day hours. The fees are as follows:

2018-19 Daily Fees

Before and After School Fee: \$20.75

Before School Only Fee: \$10.50

After School Only Fee: \$15.25

PA day, holiday Fee: \$37.75

Please contact SEEDS at 705-726-3770 to register your child(ren).