**Upper Musquodoboit Consolidated School Newsletter**

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**Upper Musquodoboit**

**Nova Scotia, B0N 2M0**

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March - April 2023 Update:

# Principal’s Message:

As we turn our calendars to March, hopefully winter is winding down!! January and February were busy months in each of our classrooms, as we maintained our focus on improved literacy, math and well being. Students had the opportunity to welcome the Maritime Marionettes to our school for two days; one to view a show and another to participate in a puppet making workshop. It was nice to welcome guests into our school and our students were excited to create a puppet of their choice to take home.

Thank you to everyone for your support as we underwent clean up from our frozen pipes in early February. Our students navigated the situation of a gender neutral washroom and the ongoing repairs very well. Thank you all!!

As we move into March/April our weather will be ever changing, please make sure that your young people are dressed accordingly and have a change of clothes on hand for those who may need it as we will continue to get outside as much as possible over the coming weeks.

Teachers are starting to think about possible trips for their classes, so if you are interested in chaperoning or being a volunteer at school, please begin to complete the required paperwork now so that everything is in place. If you are looking for further information on what is required, please check the following link: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/volunteerbackgroundcheckpolicyen.pdf>

**School Updates:**

* February was registration month for students new to UMCS; if you, or someone you know, has a child starting school in September and has yet to register, please have them contact us at (902) 568-2285.
* We would like to welcome Ms. Adrianna Ciccone, who has been hired by Halifax Regional Arts, to replace Mr. Rutz who has moved on to another position. Ms. Ciccone will begin working in the school this week with fiddle classes resuming the Week of March 6.
* A huge thank you goes out to the members of Royal Canadian Legion Branch # 147 for their generous donation to support our breakfast program. This donation will help us to continue to provide students with a healthy way to start their day.
* Thank you to the Schools Plus staff who delivered the “Home Alone “ program to our grade 5 & 6 students.
* HEAD LICE: **PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHILD’S HAIR REGULARLY.**  The following are recommended guidelines for parents/guardians:
  + Check their child for nits and head lice on a regular basis;
  + Notify the school if their child has head lice;
  + Check other family members or others spending time in the house of children identified as having head lice;
  + Provide recommended head lice treatment to a child identified as having head lice as outlined by Public Health How to Prevent, Find and Treat Head Lice, and complete first treatment prior to their child returning to school;
  + Call 8-1-1 at any time to speak with a Registered Nurse for more information and guidance if head lice are still present after the second treatment
* All are reminded that we are a peanut free school. Please be aware of this information when packing snacks and lunches.
* Reporting Student Absences - Just a reminder that there are 3 ways to report a student absent:

• Via Phone: 1-833-582-6940

• Via Website: https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/

• Via School Messenger App

I hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable March Break and a wonderful Easter break!

**FROM HRCE:**

**Inclement Weather:**  Below are the steps that HRCE take when deciding whether to cancel school and/or busing:

A 6 a.m. announcement could be:

1) All schools are closed for the day.

**OR**

2) Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day.

**OR**

3) All schools are open, but some or all busses are not operating for the day.

**OR**

4) All schools are delayed in opening by 2 hours.

If weather deteriorates, or is forecast to worsen throughout the morning, an 11:00 am announcement could be:

1) Bussed students will be picked up 2 hours earlier than their regular dismissal time for a mid-day closure (11:50 am or after all families have been contacted - see below).

**AND**

2) Walking students will be dismissed at 11:50 after their families have been contacted

***IMPORTANT: We will not dismiss any students until contact has been made with all parents, guardians or emergency contacts.***

Where can cancellation information be found:

**Website:** [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca/) **Twitter:** @HRCE\_NS **Phone:** 902-464-INFO (4636)

Announcements will also be made on local media outlets (radio/television).

**Joint Accessibility Plan**

The Nova Scotia Accessibility Act recognizes **accessibility as a human right** and sets a goal of an accessible Nova Scotia by 2030. You can learn more about how the province will achieve this goal by visiting https://novascotia.ca/accessibility/access-by-design/

Nova Scotia’s seven regional centres for education and the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial are responsible for developing a multi-year plan to ensure accessibility in public education. Together, we created a Draft Joint Accessibility Plan, outlining ***how we will provide accessible learning and teaching experiences for all, in every aspect of education***. We’re now looking for feedback

This is a reminder that we are inviting you to review our draft plan and provide input through *ThoughtExchange*. Tell us what works, what needs improvement and what we might be missing. It’s quick, easy and anonymous. You can read and rate the thoughts of others – and contribute as often as you like. Please see our school website for further information.

This consultation will run until March 8, 2023.

## Upcoming Dates:

* March 9 - Pancake and sausage breakfast
* March 13-17 - March Break
* March 20 - Assessment & Evaluation Day - Grades P-9 - No Classes
* March 28 - SAC Meeting at 2:00pm - We continue to search for a community member to serve on this committee. If you know of someone who may be interested, please contact Mr. Smith.
* March 30 - AM Professional Development / PM Parent Teacher Interviews 1:00pm - 3:00pm and 6:00pm - 8:00pm - No classes - Appointments will be booked from March 21st until March 29th through Mrs. Fleck. Please call to book your appointment.
* April 7 - Good Friday - No Classes
* April 10 - Easter Monday - No Classes
* April 25 - SAC meeting - 2:00pm

Please feel free to reach out at any time if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Troy Smith,

Principal

tsmith@hrce.ca