**Upper Musquodoboit Consolidated School Newsletter**

**8416 Hwy. 224**

**Upper Musquodoboit**

**Nova Scotia, B0N 2M0**

**Phone: (902) 568-2285**

**Email:** [**umcs@hrce.ca**](mailto:umcs@hrce.ca)

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January - February 2023 Update:

# Principal’s Message:

Welcome 2023! I hope that everyone had an enjoyable holiday break. As we move into the winter, please be mindful of our ever changing weather and ensure that your young people are dressed accordingly. It is also the time of year where we have to be aware of possible school closures or delays. Please make sure that you have a plan in the event that we are faced with these situations. 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.***

**Mid-day School Closure:** Please note that the decision to close schools is a Halifax Regional Centre decision and is **not** made by individual schools. We must wait to hear from HRCE that a decision to close schools early has been made (by 11 AM). At that point, all families will be notified and a student will not be put on the bus unless a parent (or designate) has been contacted.

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).

We encourage everyone to subscribe to email/text notifications from the Halifax Regional Centre for Education to receive any information regarding school cancellations, early closings or other important announcements at [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca/). The school receives notification of school closures at the same time as the email and text messages are sent. **PLEASE avoid calling the school to ask if school has been cancelled, as the volume of calls asking this question adds to an already busy day in the office area;** only call if there is a change in where your child is to go that day. Please ensure instructions regarding school closure and early dismissal are up to date with the office, and check your email regularly on inclement days for information from us (i.e. an email asking for directives). Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring all goes smoothly and students arrive home safely in the event of inclement weather.

For school closures by families of schools, please be advised that we are in the **“Musquodoboit Rural High”** Family of Schools.

* February is registration month for students new to UMCS; this information assists greatly in determining staffing needs and teacher assignments. If you have a son or daughter who will be five years of age on or before December 31, 2023, and will be attending UMCS, please be sure to contact the school to complete a registration package between Feb. 1st and 28th. At this time, we require your child’s birth certificate for verification purposes, proof of residency, such as a utility stub, and your child’s health card number. If you have a neighbor or friend who has a child starting school in September and does not have other children at our school, please have them contact us at (902) 568-2285.
* A thank you goes out to the members of Holy Cross Church 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.
* The staff and students would like to thank everyone for their support of our Remembrance Day service and Christmas concert. Both events were well attended and it was a pleasure for our students to showcase their talents for a live audience.
* All are reminded that we are a peanut free school. Please be aware of this information when packing snacks and lunches.
* Reporting Student Absences - Thank you to all of you who have been using the new system to report 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

Please note that the system will prompt you to report a full day or multi-day absence. If your child is going to be late or absent for a partial day, please choose the full day option and when the student arrives at school, they check into the office and their attendance is updated. Please make sure that you report the absence before the beginning of the school day to ensure that you do not get an automated message stating that your child is absent.

## Upcoming Dates:

* January 20 - Goatworks Drumming presentation for all classes
* January 24 - SAC Meeting at 2:00pm - (we are currently searching for a community member to serve on this committee. If you know of someone who may be interested, please contact Mr. Smith)
* February 1-28 - Registration Month
* February 20 - Heritage Day - No classes
* February 28 - SAC Meeting at 2:00pm

Sincerely,

Troy Smith, Principal