



Dear Parents and Students,

I hope that everyone is safe and well during this time of uncertainty. The staff, and myself are healthy and working from home, but we want you to know how much we miss seeing you every week in class! Some of the teachers are hosting online classes and have emailed you to let you know. I encourage everyone to take this opportunity to stay engaged and connected, which will help combat the isolation we are all feeling. As well, we all know that dance is an expression of the soul, and that combined with the physical benefits, is excellent, if not essential, for one's mental well-being.

Since the suspension of classes at the university on Monday, March 16th, and the closure of the building on Monday, March 23rd, there have been many changes made for the coming months. University classes moved to online instruction and examinations for the remainder of term 2 2019-2020. They have also moved online for the spring and summer session, as well. Convocation has been postponed, as have many large events scheduled for the spring and early summer. As we all know, many changes have also been made off of university campus, many services are suspended and major events for the summer have been cancelled or postponed, and physical distancing is now the norm.

Due to these restrictions and unforeseen circumstances, the school of dance must cancel the photographs and dance recital scheduled for April 26th and May 24th, this year. This is very disappointing for all of us, dancers and teachers especially, who had worked very hard in their classes and on choreography. I know how eager and excited they were to showcase that work at our year end dance recital. The teachers and I are working through several options as we move forward to the fall, when we are hoping the physical distancing measures are lifted and dance classes can resume as they had before. We would like to have the opportunity, perhaps later in the fall, to have some sort of performance or showcase of these works. Unfortunately, until we know when this will happen, it is difficult to set anything in stone. However, here is some information that was decided upon for the time being.

Costumes:

Many of you have already purchased your costume(s) for this year's dance recital, either from your teacher, or from our office. If you had, you should have received your costume and have it at home. If you do, please put it away for safe keeping (perhaps in a garment bag, or suitcase) so that it remains clean and intact. Costumes are non-refundable. The companies that we purchased from will not refund them, so we will need to come up with a way to use them. The teachers feel confident that we will be able to use most of them, or, perhaps swap them amongst each other. **If you did not receive your costume from your teacher, but paid for it, please know that we have it. Please contact your teacher, and they will let you know where it is.** Some teachers had ordered the costumes (using their own money) but had not asked for payment as they had not arrived yet. **If you did not purchase a costume before suspension of classes, your teacher has purchased one for you. Please contact them directly.**

Competitions:

For those of you who have paid competition fees and were planning on attending competitions this spring, there has been no news. Please know that the teachers, who were taking you to competition, **paid the fees, but have not been reimbursed for anything.** We will update you when we receive any more information from the competition committees. **USask Rec Dance will not** be refunding any competition fees.

Refunds and credits for 2019-2020:

Classes were suspended on March 16th which left **9 weeks of classes** left for the year (no classes Easter break), before the dance recital that was scheduled for May 24th, 2020. Our hourly rate is based on **32 classes for the year (Sept-May).** At this time, we are offering a **pro-rated credit on your USask Rec account for classes that were cancelled or a pro-rated refund.**

If you would like a **credit** for the remaining classes that were cancelled beginning on March 16th, 2020, **no action is required.** Our staff will apply the credit amount to your USask Rec account and it will be valid until December 31st, 2020.

If you wish to get a refund, please email usaskrec@usask.ca and they will process your pro-rated refund, as quickly as they are able. Our office is closed at this time and our staff are working remotely to process a large number of refunds and cancellations, so please allow them time to complete these transactions. Your patience in this matter is greatly appreciated.

For now, this is the update we can give you. We hope that you all will remain healthy and happy! I encourage you to take advantage of any online dance classes that your teacher offers, or follow ones posted on our Facebook page (USaskRec Dance). The Usask Rec Facebook page offers some workouts as well each week, that can easily be done at home. If you have any concerns or questions, please email me directly at, michelle.weimer@usask.ca.

Yours in dance,

Michelle Weimer, Coordinator