November 6 2026 UNIVERITY HILL SECONDARY SCHOOL OUR VSB

Community Newsletter

Phone: 604-713-8258 Website: uhill-sec.vsb.bc.ca

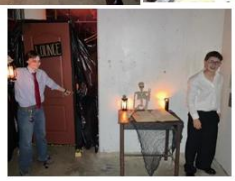
With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓ əm (Musqueam), Sḵwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

Principal's Message

Dear Students & Families,

It is hard to believe that we are already turning the calendar to November! The last week of October was filled with fun activities organized by our Leadership classes. Many students (and staff!) participated in the theme days. As well we had our first "Haunted Basement", and we had approximately 150 students attend our Halloween Dance. The week culminated with our annual Costume Contest. Well done to all the participants.





Spooky!

We had some special guests stop by as well: Skye, Mika and Gordon, registered therapy dogs!

Looking ahead to November, we will be holding our Remembrance Day Assemblies on Tuesday, November 10th. We encourage all students to "Dress with Respect" for those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. The month will end with Formal Written Learning Updates being published in MyEd on Friday, November 27th.



Skye, Mika & Gordon!

Sincerely,

Travis Bell
Principal,
University Hill Secondary

Administrative Team
Travis Bell, Principal
David Bach, Vice Principal
Alfred Chien, School Trustee
Rick Lopez, Director of Instruction

Office Staff
Kinjeel Patil, Office Admin Assistant
Holly Low, Accountant
Charlene Wang, Student Records
Shay Nezaki, Receptionist & First Aid Attendant

Mission Statement and Goal Summary

We are on a mission to inspire an ethical and caring community of evolving global citizens who live meaningfully, creatively, and mindfully.

University Hill Secondary, a multicultural school community, is committed to the pursuit of excellence through the provision of teaching and learning environments based on co-operation and social responsibility. University Hill staff, students, and parents/guardians are guided in their efforts to fulfil the school mission by the following goals and principles:

Improve student achievement in literacy and numeracy, physical and mental well-being, and belonging

Our goal is to promote and support positive mental health for all students by fostering a safe, inclusive environment that prioritizes well-being, builds resilience, and provides access to meaningful supports and strategies for self-care.

Improve equity

Our goal is to ensure that all learners are provided with an opportunity to achieve their academic potential.

Continue our journey of reconciliation with First Nations, Metis, and Inuit

Our goal is to advance reconciliation by ensuring all students engage in meaningful Indigenous learning and experiences.

Communicating Student Learning

The purpose of assessment is to move learning forward in an equitable and inclusive way. It helps us answer the following questions:

- Where am I now?
- Where am I going?
- How do I get there?

Each reporting period is an opportunity to celebrate learning and offer feedback for future learning. These reports will be available from the MyEducation Family Portal for four weeks. In addition to written reports, communication about student progress takes place by telephone and parent teacher interviews. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to contact individual subject Teachers or Counsellors for information on student progress.

Reporting Timeline

Semester 1

- Informal Learning Update published **October 16, 2026**
- Written Learning Update published **November 27, 2026**
- Summary of Learning published **February 5, 2027**

Semester 2

- Informal Learning Update published **March 12, 2027**
- Written Learning Update published **May 04, 2027**
- Summary of Learning published **June 29, 2027**

Full Year Courses

- Informal Learning Update published **November 27, 2026**
- Written Learning Updates published **February 5 & May 04, 2027**
- Summary of Learning published **June 29, 2027**

Parent Teacher Conferences

There will be two Parent Teacher Conference Evening, one for each Semester. Both will be from 4:00 – 6:30 pm and they have been scheduled on **Thursday, December 10, 2026** (for Semester 1) and **Wednesday, May 12, 2027** (for Semester 2).

Counselling Corner

We are aware that as we move through the fall that youth may be struggling more with mental wellbeing and stress management and hope parents will explore the resources below if they are looking for some additional ways to support their child with their mental well-being and post-secondary planning.



Parent Supports and Mental Health Resources

◊ **EducationPlannerBC -** EducationPlannerBC is a website where students and families may learn about post-secondary education and career opportunities, and resources to support your student in planning for their future. The information will be especially helpful for families with students in grades 10-12. Search thousands of programs, get to know trades, and discover career paths. Find helpful resources, including financial aid options, admission requirements, FAQs, and the Glossary. Learn how to create an account, save programs, paths, and careers to My List, and apply to post-secondary in B.C. **Parent & supporters resources** are available as well as **Parents as Education and Career Coaches (PECC) virtual presentations. There are upcoming information sessions on Nov 4, 17 and 25. Check out the links below to find more information about these useful free sessions.**

https://www.educationplannerbc.ca/go/plan/parents

◊ **Parent Support Groups** - There are resources and groups available for parents and families who have a child/youth struggling with mental health. Please see links for more information and resources:

https://keltymentalhealth.ca/how-can-i-find-support-group
https://keltymentalhealth.ca/info/peer-support-families

Emily Chen	Grades 8 – 12, Last name A – Ki & Strategies	Email: ehchen@vsb.bc.ca
Susan Hornby	Grades 8 – 12, Last name Kj – T	Email: shornby@vsb.bc.ca
Elizabeth Watanabe	Grades 8 – 12, Last name U – Z & Whitecaps FC	Email: ewatanabe@vsb.bc.ca

Athletics

Our Fall sports are coming to an end; the volleyball teams have done well this year and are looking forward to the teams that will make playoffs this week! Special shout out to our graduating volleyball players on the senior Girls and boys' teams!

We have a senior boys soccer team that had a good experience in tier 1 and should be proud of their competitive spirit in a very tough league. They are moving on to the zone tournament, where they have a chance to get into provincials should they do well!

Our cross-country team competed in the zone championship with a few runners in contention for a provincial entrance, good luck to those runners!

We have a swimming team as well, which are competing in the district meet at Watermania today with several swimmers poised to make provincials!

The next sport leagues will be in the winter season, which begins in November. We are in the process of tryouts for:

Basketball (boys and girls all grades), and Table Tennis (boys and girls all grades).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email Mr. J. Hodgson, Athletic Director at jhodgson@vsb.bc.ca

Click the link to the Vancouver Secondary Schools Athletic Association Website for more information.
https://admin.esportsdesk.com/leagues/custom_page.cfm?leagueID=0&clientID=223&pageID=21514&link=Pro&xx=4

GO HAWKS GO! Jeff Hodgson, Athletic Director

Whitecaps FC Academy

A big shoutout to the academy player who have been called up to play for Team Canada:

U15—**Yele D., Elliott K. and Jaskaran S.**
U16—**Manav B., Henry H., Marko K., Hunter M. and Noah M.**

Graduation Photos

Graduation Photo Session Dates are January 31 to February 3, 2027

Grade 12 students can now book their 30-minute appointment at https://artona.com/bookings If you have any questions in regards to school or graduation photos please contact Artona Studio directly - click on "contact us" on their website or call 604-872-7272.

Artona Studios
353 West 7th Avenue, Vancouver, BC

Remembrance Day Assemblies



We will be hosting our annual Remembrance Day Assemblies on Tuesday, November 10th. Students are encouraged to bring a donation for their poppies, which will be distributed in Period 1. Donations can be made through School Cash Online from November 2-11. Cash donations will also be accepted at the office. All donations will be given to the local Legion.

P1: Grade 8/9/10 Assembly
P2: Grade 11/12 Assembly

Poppies will be distributed in P1.

School Office Reminders

Medical Alerts
If your child has important health alerts, please update the school office with written documentation.

Daily Absences
Parents/guardians are to report all absences by email at uhillswitchboard@vsb.bc.ca - Emails should be sent using a parent/guardian email address and should provide the **student's name, date(s) of absence, grade, student number and reason for the absence.**

*** For extended absences** parents/guardians must email the student's counsellor. A student should also be provided with a note for their teachers. Students must be reminded that falsifying attendance notes is unacceptable. It is the student's responsibility to make up any work that is missed, regardless of the reason for the absence. Exceptions to this may be granted due to unforeseen circumstances. If a student becomes ill while at school, or has an appointment during school time, students must sign out at the office. Students will only be released with parent permission. Students who are ill should not come to school and if they attend school and is deemed to be unwell, parents/guardians will be contacted to pick up their child.

School Forms

If you haven't already done so, please ensure that the following forms have been completed (on-line):

- VSB Internal Use Media Consent
- Student AUP - Acceptable Use Policy
- External Use Media Consent
- Adobe CC Consent (if applicable)
- CASL - Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation

Log on to https://myforms.vsb.bc.ca/ to provide consent electronically for the forms below. Sign in with the student's 9-digit Personal Education Number (PEN) and the D.O.B.

MyEd Student Verification Sheet and Emergency Reunification Authorization Forms

Thank you to all families for completing and submitting their forms. Just to note that some forms are being returned to students if the pink verification form was not signed or if the yellow reunification sheet was not fully completed. **PLEASE RETURN THESE TO THE OFFICE BY SEPTEMBER 29th.**

UHill West Parking Lot

Staff Parking Lot – Reminder that during school hours, the parking lot to the west of our school is our staff parking lot. We have very limited space for UHill and our District Staff. Therefore, we kindly request that community and families please do not park in the staff parking lot during school hours (especially in the morning before school). Thank you!

Yearbooks

Yearbooks are available to order for $60 on School Cash Online https://vsb.schoolcashonline.com/. The 2026-2027 Yearbook will be filled with pictures of students, staff, school events, holidays, and create memories for years to come. Purchase yours early as we have sold out in previous years. The Yearbook order deadline is **February 26, 2027.**

School Fees/School Cash Online

If you haven't already done so, please check and register for "School Cash Online" and pay for school fees The following link will take you to the website: https://vsb.schoolcashonline.com/. This is the preferred method for paying for all items for school including: yearbooks, school fees, workbook fees, etc. This method is also a quicker way to receive a refund if one is required. Thank you for your attention and consideration in this method of payment.

MyEducationBC Accounts

A reminder that MyEducationBC (MyEd) is the student information system for the Vancouver School Board. A Student/Family Portal Account has been created by the district for all students at University Hill Secondary School. This account is a shared account where students and parents can access student schedules, daily/class attendance, course grades and learning updates. It is imperative that you share the account information (password) as a family (with your child). Your login for this account is your child's student number. Please use the website to login: MyEducationBC Account and the instructions for setting up the account: MyEd Student Family Portal. Click on the link to UHILL's School Technology Guide if you require assistance. Please do not use the BC Services Card option.

Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

1. Direct Donation Campaign





2. November PAC Fundraiser – Save-On-Foods Gift Cards

Support U-Hill Secondary while shopping for your everyday groceries—at no extra cost to you! From November 2 to 20, 2026, families can purchase Save-On-Foods gift cards in $50 or $100 denominations (multiple cards may be purchased) through School Cash Online. You receive the full value of your gift cards, while Save-On-Foods contributes 8% of total gift card sales to our PAC to support student programs and activities. It's an easy way to give back to our school community!

3. PAC Nov 18th GM Guest Speaker:

Dr. Mauricio Drelichman
Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies
Vancouver School of Economics, UBC
Topic: Economics Studies and Career Opportunities
Parents, guardians, and students are all welcome to attend!
Please scan the QR code below to register for this event.

Warmly,
PAC Executives

PAC Meetings for the 2026 – 2027 school year will be on the following **Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in Library (ULC) unless otherwise noted:**

- November 18, 2026
- January 13, 2027 (virtual)
- February 10, 2027 (virtual)
- April 21, 2027
- May 19, 2027
- June 16, 2027

Looking ahead

Nov. 10: Remembrance Day Assemblies
Nov. 11: STAT
Nov. 17: Grade 12 Assembly FIT LLC
Nov. 18: PAC Meeting 7PM
Nov. 19: Lockdown Drill P3
Nov. 20: Pro-D
Nov. 24: FIT W/ HR Classes re: Core Competencies
Nov. 27: Semester One Written Learning Update & Full Year Informal Learning Update Published 3:00PM
Dec. 3: Grade 12 Assembly during FIT re: Capstone

