



Community Newsletter

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

Honoured to be working and learning together on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the x^wməḶk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) and sel̓ílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Principal's Message

Dear Students and Families,

Happy December! As the holiday season approaches, we take a moment to highlight fun events happening at University Hill Secondary over the next few weeks.

On **Tuesday, December 5th** and **Wednesday, December 6th**, UHill Music proudly presents Winterfest, with our Junior Band and Junior Orchestra performing on Tuesday, and the Senior Band, Senior Orchestra and Concert Choir performing on Wednesday. Both performances will take place in the evening at 7pm in our UHill gymnasium. We also have our Student Council led food drive, the CANley cup, taking place from now until **Wednesday, December 13th**. Students are invited to bring in non-perishable food items to their Period 1 classes, with any cash donations made through School Cash Online. Thank you to our student council for their organization and dedication. In addition, we would like to extend our gratitude to our UHill PAC for organizing the upcoming PAC Staff Appreciation lunch on **Friday, December 15th**. We look forward to celebrating the holiday season as a community.

We also celebrate the accomplishments of our Fall Athletics Teams, in particularly the Senior Girls' Volleyball Team, who placed 2nd in the City Championships, Camron Haime who placed 22nd in the Cross-Country Provincial Championships, and Emma Liu, who won three Gold Medals at the Aquatics Provincial Championships. Congratulations athletes!

In this newsletter, you will find information about Communicating Student Learning, Counselling, Athletics, PAC, Graduation, CANley Cup Food Drive, and some friendly reminders from our office team. Thank you for taking the time to go through this newsletter and for connecting with your students about their learning.

We wish all students, families and staff a joyful December and a restful, relaxing and rejuvenating upcoming winter holiday.

With Appreciation,

Michelle Wood
Principal



Administrative Team:

Michelle Wood, Principal
David Bach, Vice Principal
Lois Chan-Pedley, School Trustee
Rick Lopez, Director of Instruction

Office Staff:

Holly Low, Accountant
Tina Matsalla, Office Admin Assistant
Mandana Shojaat, Receptionist & First Aid Attendant
Charlene Wang, Student Records

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:

- Well-qualified and dedicated staff is crucial to the efficient delivery of outstanding educational programs.
- Quality learning is fostered in safe, respectful, encouraging, and creative settings.
- The school curriculum, programs, and activities are student centred for active learning.
- Teachers, parents/guardians, and students co-operate in important ways to ensure effective communication in the process of achieving academic and social goals.
- Recognition is given for the achievements of students and staff, and positive reinforcement for self-reliant and co-operative behaviour.
- The school community and culture are characterized by concern for equity, fairness, school spirit, environmental awareness, and global issues.

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. 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 via email [UHill Contact Information](#)

2023 – 2024 REPORTING TIMELINE

Semester 1

Informal Learning Update (Interim) published **October 13, 2023**
 Written Learning Update (Mid-Semester Report) published **November 24, 2023**
 Summary of Learning (Final Report) published **February 9, 2024**

Semester 2

Informal Learning Update (Interim) published **March 8, 2024**
 Written Learning Update (Mid-Semester Report) published **April 26, 2024**
 Summary of Learning (Final Report) published **June 27, 2024**

Full Year Courses

Informal Learning Update (Interim) published **November 24, 2023**
 Written Learning Updates published **February 9 and April 26, 2024**
 Summary of Learning (Final Report) published **June 27, 2024**

Parent Teacher Conferences

The first of two Virtual Parent Teacher Conference Evenings was held yesterday, **November 30th** and the next one will be on **Thursday, May 9, 2024** from 4:00 – 6:30 pm for Semester 2.

Counselling Corner

Course Planning - Next year's Course Planning will take place beginning in January 2024. Students will receive course planning information during FIT times. Attendance is required. Please remind your students to attend. Virtual Course Planning Information Sessions for Parents/Guardians will be on **Wednesday, January 31st, 2024** at 5pm.

Grade 8	- Thursday, January 11th
Grade 9	- Tuesday, January 16th
Grade 10	- Tuesday, January 23rd
Grade 11	- Thursday, January 25th (Part 1) & Tuesday, January 30th (Part 2)

Family Resources

S.U.C.C.E.S.S. (<https://successbc.ca/>) – Offers volunteer helpline services in multiple languages to students and families who may require emotional support and/or information referrals. Helpline number is 1 (888)721-0596

- Mandarin – Ext.1
- Cantonese – Ext.2
- Korean – Ext.3
- Farsi-Dari – Ext.4
- Ukrainian – Ext.5

FamilySmart (<https://familysmart.ca>) – Upcoming online event for parents & caregivers

- ADHD – the Real Deal – please go the link [to Register](#) for December 2023

Wellness Tips - As we all continue managing life, we wanted to take a minute to remind parents/guardians to be practicing good self-care.

We would like to encourage everyone to be:

- Eating healthy
- Getting enough sleep and rest to regenerate
- Exercising regularly...outside if possible so you get fresh air
- Maintaining social connection
- Reaching out for supports/offering support...both when needed
- Practicing mindfulness...we recommend the apps Mindshift and Headspace as well as Mindfulness.com but there are many useful apps out there
- Practicing gratitude—we are really encouraging students to be aware of the things/people/experiences that they are grateful for and why. There is a lot of evidence that this helps our mindset.

With that in mind, we would like to take a moment to express our gratitude to the parent community of U-Hill. We are so grateful for the support you provide to the U-Hill students and staff.

Finally, we would like to wish you a happy, healthy holiday and we look forward to connecting again in 2024. Stay safe and be well.

Emily, Susan, and Elizabeth

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

The fall season has come to a close, how did that happen so quickly? Uhill teams represented themselves and their families and our school with tremendous honor. We had several outstanding results this fall. Our Senior girls' volleyball team came 2nd in the city championships, narrowly missing out on the championship, it was an unbelievably exciting match going to 5 sets! Emma from our aquatics team qualified for the provincials in 3 events and took home gold in ALL 3 of her events, an accomplishment that I don't think will be matched again! All our teams competed so well this fall and should be proud of the hard work put in, well done!

We are now entering the Winter sport season, with basketball and table tennis competitions. We have a team for every grade for the boys' basketball teams, and two teams on the girls' side (senior team and grade 9 team). We have three teams running for table tennis (2 boys' teams and 1 girls' team) and we are looking forward to a strong showing from all our winter sports teams. Come out and support all our WINTER TEAMS! GO HAWKS GO!

Graduation 2024 Information

Advance Notice of the Graduation Ceremony - The 2024 Graduation Ceremony will be held at the Chan Centre at UBC at 4:00 pm on **Wednesday, June 5, 2024**. (Graduates must arrive by 3:00 pm). Each Graduate will receive two tickets to the Graduation Ceremony for their guests. These tickets are included in the Graduation Fee. Additional tickets (no limits) are \$10 each and available for purchase on School Cash-online during from **May 1 to 23, 2024**. More information about the Ceremony, rehearsal and Grad gown size requests and pick up will follow in the new year.

Graduation Dinner / Dance – Information to be announced in the new year as well.

Graduation Photo Session Dates are January 22 to 24, 2024

Grade 12 students can now book their 30 minute appointment at <https://artona.com/schools/UHIL/programs/graduation>. If you have any questions regarding graduation photos please contact Artona Studio directly - click on "contact us" on their website or call 604-872-7272.

U Hill Food Drive for the Vancouver Food Bank

Once again, University students will be participating in the Annual CANley Cup Food Drive.

The CANley Cup is a district-wide event that aims to raise non-perishable foods and cash donations for the Greater Vancouver Food Bank. The food and money raised will help provide food access to families, seniors, new Canadians, not to mention breakfast and lunch programs in Vancouver, North Shore, Burnaby, and New Westminster.

Until December 13, 2023, we will be in a friendly competition with neighboring schools. The school that collects the most cans/money will win the CANley Cup trophy. (Number of food items raised are scaled to school population, allowing a fair competition between large school populations and smaller ones.)

Monetary donations are also welcome as Food Banks and other organizations prefer this due to buying power and flexibility to purchase what exactly is needed. Donations for the Food Drive can be made through School [School Cash Online](#)

Office Reminders

MyEducationBC Accounts

A reminder that MyEducationBC 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 report cards. 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 set up of 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 to log in otherwise only one person in your family will have access.

Absences

Parents/guardians reminder you should now be reporting absences to the office by email at uhillswitchboard@vsb.bc.ca. Emails should be sent using a parent/guardian email address and should provide the **students name, date 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 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.

Medical Alerts

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

School Fees/School Cash Online

If you haven't already done so, please check and register for "School Cash Online" and pay for any outstanding or new school fees or items. 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.

School Forms

If you haven't already done so, please ensure that the following forms have been returned to the school office:

- MyEducationBC Student Verification Form (pink)
- Yearbook Permission/ Name Confirmation Form (white)
- Emergency Reunification Form (yellow)

Yearbooks

Yearbooks are available to order for \$50. The Yearbook is packed full of memories to cherish for a lifetime. The book will be filled with pictures of staff, students, events, holidays, etc. Purchase yours early as we sold out last year. The Yearbook order deadline is **February 29, 2024**.

Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Parents can find information about the University Hill Secondary PAC at the [UHILL PAC Website](#).

PAC Meetings for the 2023 – 2024 school year will be on the following Thursdays at 7:30 pm:

- **January 18, 2024**
- **February 22, 2024**
- **April 18, 2024**
- **May 30, 2024**
- **June 20, 2024**

Calendar Dates to Note for 2023 - 2024

December 2023

- 1 Collaborative Planning Day – Classes begin at 10:00 am
- 5 CyberTeens Survey during FIT - all students
- 5 Jr Band and Jr Orchestra Winter Music Concert 7:00 pm
- 5 to 13 Canley Cup Food Drive
- 6 Sr Band and Sr Orchestra Winter Music Concert 7:00 pm
- 7 Grade 10 Assembly during FIT
- 12 UTP (University Transitions Program) Year 1 Parent Info Night 6:00 pm
- 14 Grade 12 Assembly during FIT
- 15 PAC Staff Appreciation Lunch
- 22 Winter Grade Assemblies - P1 Grade 12, P2 Grade 8/9, and P3 Grade 10/11
- 22 Last Day before Winter Break
- 25 Winter Break Begins till January 05, 2024

January 2024

- 8 School Reopens after Winter Break
- 11 Grade 8 Course Planning Session during FIT
- 15 & 16 Numeracy & Literacy Assessments for Grade 10 students
- 15 to 18 Theatrical Production – 7:00 pm
- 16 Grade 9 Course Planning Session during FIT
- 17 Numeracy & Literacy Assessments (Grade 12 Make up session only)
- 18 Collaborative Planning Day– Classes end at 1:45 pm
- 18 PAC Meeting 7:30 pm
- 22 to 24 Grad Photo Sessions at Artona Studios – by appointment
- 23 Grade 10 Course Planning Session during FIT
- 25 Grade 11 Course Planning Session during FIT (Part 1)
- 30 Grade 11 Course Planning Session during FIT (Part w2)
- 31 Last Day of Semester 1
- 31 Parent Course Information Session 5:00 pm (Virtual)

February 2024

- 1 & 2 Semester Turnaround Days
- 5 First Day of Semester 2
- 5 to 15 Students to enter 2024-2025 Course Selections to MyEducation

February Continued...

- 7 VCH Tobacco and Vapour Reduction Parent Information Session
- 9 Semester 1 Summary of Learning and Full Year Written Learning Update Published
- 16 Non-Instructional Day (District Wide)
- 19 STAT – Family Day
- 22 PAC Meeting 7:30 pm
- 23 Collaborative Planning Day - Classes start at 10:00 am

March 2024

- 5 Jr & Sr Band Concert 7:00 pm
- 6 Concert Choir and JR/SR Orchestra Concert 7:00 pm
- 7 Grade 12 Assembly During FIT
- 8 Semester 2 Informal Learning Update published
- 12 Grade 12 Assembly During FIT
- 15 Last day before Spring Break
- 18 to 29 Spring Break

April 2024

- 1 STAT – Easter Monday
- 2 School Reopens after Spring Break
- 9 Homeroom Class during FIT
- 11 Homeroom Class during FIT
- 15 & 16 Numeracy & Literacy Assessments for Grade 10
- 18 Collaborative Planning Day – Classes end at 1:45 pm
- 18 PAC Meeting 7:30 pm
- 22 Non-instructional Day (District Wide)
- 26 Semester 2 Written Learning Update and Full Year Written Learning Update Published
- 29 Parent Teacher Conference Appointment Scheduler opens till May 7

May 2024

- 1 to 24 Grad Tickets Sale Dates on School Cash On-line
- 6 to 17 AP Exams
- 9 Parent/Teacher Conferences (Early Dismissal at 2:05pm)
- 10 Collaborative Planning Day – Classes begin at 10:00 am
- 14 Immunization Day #2
- 17 Non-Instructional Day (School Based)
- 20 STAT – Victoria Day
- 21 Grade 12 Assembly During FIT
- 23 Grade 12 Capstone Presentations during FIT and Period 4
- 30 PAC Meeting 7:30 pm
- 31 Grade 12 Assembly, TVR Verification, Grad Rehearsal and Gown Package Pick up Periods 3 and 4

June 2024

- 5 Graduation Ceremony at Chan Centre (4:00 pm)
- 10 & 11 Numeracy & Literacy Assessments (Make-up session for Grade 10 students)
- 11 Homeroom Class during FIT
- 13 Homeroom Class during FIT
- 18 Collaborative Planning Day – Classes end at 1:45 pm
- 20 PAC Meeting 7:30 pm
- 21 Grade 12 Yearbook Pick up 11:30 am – 12:15 pm
- 24 Grade 10 & 11 Yearbook Pick up 11:30 am – 12:15 pm
- 25 Yearend Grade Assemblies – P2 Grade 8/9, P3 Grade 10/11, and P4 Grade 12
- 25 Grade 8 & 9 Yearbook Pick up during 11:30 am – 12:15 pm
- 27 Last Day of Student Attendance
- 27 Semester 2 and Full Year Summary of Learning Published

