



# Community Newsletter

Phone: 604-713-8258 Website: [uhill-sec.vsb.bc.ca](http://uhill-sec.vsb.bc.ca)

Honoured to be working and learning together on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the *xʷməṭkʷəy̓əm* (Musqueam), *Sḵwx̱wú7mesh* (Squamish) and *sel̓íl̓wítulh* (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

## Principal's Message

Dear Students and Families,

On **Monday, November 6th** we celebrate VSB's Support Staff Recognition Day! It takes a team to nurture a caring community, and we appreciate our wonderful education assistants, multicultural workers, youth workers, settlement workers, Indigenous Education Enhancement workers, office staff and engineering and custodial team for the amazing work they do every day connecting with our students and families as well as supporting the day-to-day running of our school. It is with sincere gratitude that we thank all our support staff.

On **Tuesday, November 7th and Thursday, November 9th**, students will meet with their homeroom classes during [Flexible Instructional Time \(FIT\)](#) to self-reflect on their thinking, communicating, personal and social Core Competencies and set goals for future learning and growth. Students will repeat this activity in April and June, building the life-long skills necessary to set a learning target and then work towards it. The [Core Competencies](#) are integrated throughout all areas of learning in the British Columbia's K-12 curriculum, and all students now have the opportunity to engage in core competency self-reflection and goal setting, building on their learning and growth from year to year.

In this newsletter, you will find information about communicating student learning, parent-teacher conferences, Grade 9 immunization clinic, graduation photos, fall athletics, counselling updates, PAC, and important dates for 2023-2024. Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and for connecting with your students about their learning.

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.

<b>2023 – 2024 REPORTING TIMELINE</b>
<p><b>Semester 1</b></p> <p>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</p>
<p><b>Semester 2</b></p> <p>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</p>
<p><b>Full Year Courses</b></p> <p>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</p>

### Parent Teacher Conferences

There will be two Virtual Parent Teacher Conference Evenings, one for each Semester. Both will be from 4:00 – 6:30 pm and they have been scheduled on **Thursday, November 30, 2023** (for Semester 1) and **Thursday, May 9, 2024** (for Semester 2).

## Parent Teacher Virtual Conferences – On Teams

**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023

**Time:** 4:00 – 6:30 pm – By Appointment

Please watch for the email to be sent out on Tuesday, November 14 with the conference appointment on-line booking information. It will also be posted on the school website as well. To locate it Click on “Publications”, under the “About Us” tab. The Appointment Scheduler will be open at **9:00 am November 20 to 10:00 pm November 28.**

Reminder there will be an early dismissal for all students at 2:05 pm to accommodate the conferences and a Collaborative Day on **Friday, December 1.** The adjusted bell schedules are as follows:

<b>Thursday, November 30, 2023 (Early Dismissal)</b>	
Period 1	8:40 – 10:00
Period 2	10:05 – 11:25
Lunch	11:25 – 12:20
Period 3	12:20 – 1:10
Period 4	1:15 – 2:05

<b>Friday, December 1, 2023 (Late Start)</b>	
Staff Collaborative Time	8:40 – 10:00
Period 1	10:00 – 10:40
Period 2	10:45 – 11:25
Lunch	11:25 – 12:20
Period 3	12:20 – 1:40
Period 4	1:45 – 3:05

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## Immunization Clinic

Reminder of the upcoming Immunization Clinic on **Tuesday, November 14, 2023** at UHill. This is mainly for the grade 9 students. However, there may also be a few students that have been given consent forms. Signed consent forms are due to the office as soon as possible. If you have any questions regarding this clinic, please contact Katie Wanamaker-Briggs at 604-261-6366 extension 3333 or by email at [katie.wanamakerbriggs@vch.ca](mailto:katie.wanamakerbriggs@vch.ca).

## Counselling Corner

### Building Trades Information Night

- 6:30 pm, **Tuesday, November 7** at Tupper Secondary School 419 East 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Are you and your teenager interested in learning more about construction apprenticeships? The VSB has partnerships with companies, VCC and BCIT that will help your youth earn while they learn on the job and make their way to becoming an apprentice. Join Career Education, parents, company representatives, etc. to learn what these opportunities are all about.

We encourage all parents to see their student's Microsoft grade teams, and school team for specific information. Grade 12 students – Please continue to check Teams so you can be on top of your post-secondary information and needs.

Our aim is to provide guidance and information to students/parents/guardians in order to help support our students. We strongly encourage students/parents/guardians to visit our counselling website <https://uhillcounselling.weebly.com/> for important upcoming events, deadlines, and resources for well-being.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents/guardians of the counselling resources for students and families. These include: Anxiety Canada, Kelty Mental Health and Family Smart.

We would also like to remind students that we continue to be here to support them too. The best way to meet with us is to email their respective counsellor to book a meeting (in person, online, or by phone)

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

## Athletics

The Fall season is coming to a close. Our volleyball programs have been doing well, and playoffs are about to start for all our teams! The senior girls' volleyball team is 4-1 at the moment in league play and are top of the league and will be hosting the city championships on **Nov 14 to 16<sup>th</sup>**, good luck! The juvenile girls' volleyball team has a new coach and new players and have had a good season so far. The senior boys' soccer team had a tough season and unfortunately came up short making playoffs, congrats to the team and the graduating seniors. Our juvenile boys' soccer team lost in their first round of playoff match, a strong season for the new players. Our Cross-Country team has finished up league meets and had some strong results with one student qualifying for provincials as an individual! Our swim team had a fantastic zone meet, with 3 swimmers making provincials next week. One of the students will be the only one participating in the event, for ALL 3 OF THEIR EVENTS, good luck!

### Winter Season

- Our basketball program has already started practices, and we have 6 teams, 4 boys' teams and 2 girls' teams. League seasons to start in December.
- Our Table tennis teams have begun, with 2 boys' team and 1 girls' team (reigning city champions)!

Good luck to all winter teams.

GO HAWKS GO!

## 2023 Fall Fest

It's time for a wellness break! Fall Fest is here! Yes, on **Tuesday, November 7, 2023** there will be an evening of music starring UHILL Music – Concert Choir, Senior and Junior Band, and Orchestra. Five different groups will perform just for you. Come and join us for a relaxing evening of music.

Tickets are \$5 and will be sold in the hallway at lunch. The concert will start at 7:00 pm and will be held at 1550 West 33<sup>rd</sup> (at Granville Street), at Shaughnessy Heights.



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## School and Graduation Photos

Artona Photo Studios were in on *September 8 and October 6, 2023* to take school photos. All student photos are available online on the Artona Website [https://www.artona.com/schools/UHIL/programs/school\\_photo](https://www.artona.com/schools/UHIL/programs/school_photo) to view and order photos.

### What if students miss original photo day and retake day?

If students wish to have an Artona school photo taken, they can come to our [in-studio retake day](#) at our Vancouver studio, which is scheduled for **Saturday, November 18, 2023**.

### 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 in regards to school or graduation photos please contact Artona Studio directly - click on "contact us" on their website or call 604-872-7272.

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## School 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](mailto: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.schoolcashionline.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 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**.

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## 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:

- **November 23, 2023**
- **January 18, 2024**
- **February 22, 2024**
- **April 25, 2024**
- **May 30, 2024**
- **June 20, 2024**

## Important Dates for 2023 - 2024

### November 2023

- 13 STAT – Day in Lieu of Remembrance Day
- 14 Immunization Day #1 – for Grade 9 students
- 20 Parent/Teacher Conference Appointment Scheduler opens till November 28
- 24 Non-Instructional Day (District Wide)
- 24 Semester 1 Written Learning Update & Full Year Informal Learning Update Published
- 30 Parent/Teacher Conferences (Early Dismissal at 2:05 pm)

### December 2023

- 1 CPT – Classes begin at 10:00 am
- 25 Winter Break Begins till January 05, 2024

### January 2024

- 8 School Reopens after Winter Break
- 15 to 17 Numeracy & Literacy Assessments for Grade 10 students
- 18 CPT – Classes end at 1:45 pm
- 22 to 24 Grad Photo Sessions at Artona Studios – by appointment
- 31 Last Day of Semester 1

### February 2024

- 1 & 2 Semester Turnaround Days
- 5 First Day of Semester 2
- 9 Semester 1 Summary of Learning and Full Year Written Learning Update Published
- 16 Non-Instructional Day (District Wide)
- 19 STAT – Family Day
- 23 CPT – Classes start at 10:00 am

### March 2024

- 8 Semester 2 Informal Learning Update published
- 18 to 29 Spring Break

### April 2024

- 1 STAT – Easter Monday
- 2 School Reopens after Spring Break
- 15 & 16 Numeracy & Literacy Assessments
- 18 CPT – Classes end at 1:45 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

- 9 Parent/Teacher Conferences (Early Dismissal at 2:05pm)
- 10 CPT – Classes begin at 10:00 am
- 14 Immunization Day #2
- 17 Non-Instructional Day (School Based)
- 20 STAT – Victoria Day

### June 2024

- 5 Graduation Ceremony at Chan Centre (4:00 pm)
- 10 & 11 Numeracy & Literacy Assessments (Make-up session for Grade 10 students)
- 18 CPT – Classes end at 1:45 pm
- 27 Last Day of Student Attendance
- 27 Semester 2 and Full Year Summary of Learning Published

