



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 selílwitlh (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

Principal's Message

Dear Students and Families,

It was a delight to see many of you at the first Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting of the year on Thursday, September 28th. It was a fantastic turn out and a joy to connect with families in person. Congratulations to the new members of our PAC Executive! We look forward to collaborating throughout the school year.

Over the past month, we had the pleasure of welcoming new staff to our school. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to:

- Ciara Cawley, Safe and Caring Schools Worker
- Michelle Williams, SACY (Supporting and Connecting Youth) Youth Worker
- Geoffrey New, Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies (ADST) Teacher
- Jane Situ, Skills Teacher
- Samantha Yang, English and English Language Learning Teacher

A highlight this week was our Clubs Day, which took place on Thursday, October 5th after school. Over 50 clubs were organized in our cafeteria space, highlighting opportunities for students to get involved and connect with each other. We are grateful to all our club teacher sponsors and student leaders for offering such a rich and diverse array of opportunities to get involved. You are invited to look at our list of [UHill Clubs for 2023-2024 on our school website](#). Thank you for encouraging your students to join a club, connect with others, and have fun!

In this newsletter, you will find information about communicating student learning, school office reminders, Grade 12 Literacy Assessments, 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. We wish you all a restful, relaxing, and rejuvenating Thanksgiving long weekend.

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.

| REPORTING TIMELINE |
|---|
| <p>Semester 1</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>Semester 2</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>Full Year Courses</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).

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 BC 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, student's 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:

- MyEducation 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.

Counselling Corner

Upcoming Mandatory Information Session for Grade 12 students

- October 24 - Grade 12 Information Assembly (during FIT) Grade 12 students are to report to the LLC for an information session about all things post-secondary from the counselling team.

New Parents/Guardians Workshop – October 17th from 3:30pm to 5pm in the Lower Learning Commons (LLC).

This workshop is for new grade 10 to 12 students and families at UHill this school year. The workshop will cover the BC Graduation Program and General Post-Secondary Information. Multicultural workers will be available for translation assistance (Mandarin/Cantonese, Spanish, Korean, and Farsi) and questions. Due to seating, we ask that students/parents sign up through the QR code or link by Friday, October 13th: [Microsoft Forms](#)



School Communication

We encourage all parents/guardians to see their students' MS Grade Teams and School Team for specific information. Our aim is to provide guidance and information to students/parents/guardians in order to support our students. We also strongly encourage students/parents/guardians to visit our counselling website for upcoming events and resources for well-being. Post-secondary school and external visits are also listed.

<https://uhillcounselling.weebly.com/>

Parent Webinar "Five Steps to U.S. Study" - Friday, October 13th at 11:25am; [Join this Zoom link](#)

Parents/guardians are welcome to attend this webinar for UHill students on the U.S. Admissions process. EducationUSA adviser Jenika Heim will provide information to help your student get started on the journey. These are the Five Steps!

1. Narrow your Search
2. Finance your Studies
3. Complete your Application
4. Know your Student status
5. Prepare to depart

Come with your questions about the U.S. Admissions process!

Emily Chen

Susan Hornby

Elizabeth Watanabe

Grades 8 – 12, Last name A – K & Strategies

Grades 8 – 12, Last name K – T

Grades 8 – 12, Last name U – Z & Whitecaps FC

Email: ehchen@vsb.bc.ca

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Email: ewatanabe@vsb.bc.ca

Clubs

We were excited to offer a Clubs Day on October 5 after school in the Cafeteria. It was an opportunity for students to obtain information about all the clubs to help them decide whether they want to sign up. Please encourage your student to join a club to meet others and have fun.

Take Your Kids to Work Day

Take your Kids (Grade 9 students) To Work Day is on Wednesday, November 1, 2023. More information for Students and Parents to follow.

Literacy Assessments (For Grade 12)

Grade 12 Literacy Assessments will take place on October 30 and November 1. Students in Grade 12 will all be registered for the session and the schedule for both days will be distributed to students shortly.

Grade 10 Numeracy and Literacy Assessments will take place in January 2024.

School and Graduation Photos

Artona Photo Studios were in on September 8 and today October 6, 2023 to take school photos. All the photos are now available online. To view and order photos see the Artona Website https://www.artona.com/schools/UHIL/programs/school_photo

Some Frequently asked Questions about school 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 November 18, 2023.

When are photo packages delivered?

For our bulk delivery schools, photos ordered 8 days after photo day will be delivered in two weeks. Photos ordered 8 or more days after original photo day will be delivered to the home within 2-3 weeks and subject to a \$7 mailing fee.

Can a student return their package to have it reprinted with the retake photo?

Unfortunately, no. All orders are final sale and cannot be exchanged for the retake image. This policy is displayed on our website before checking out. That said, it is important to us that our students and families are happy with their photos. If anyone is unsatisfied with their order, please advise them to [get in touch](#) with our customer service team.

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.

Athletics

Athletics are back! We are so excited to offer a full slate of sport offerings. Fall sports are in full swing, with Volleyball for Grades 8-12 for the girls sadly no senior or junior boys team this year. We have a senior boys and a juvenile boys soccer team in competition as well as a cross country team running a meet already! We have a swim team as well, which will compete in the district meet at Watermania in late October (28th).

The next sport leagues will be in the winter season, which begins in November. We are in the process of taking signups for the sports that can potentially run (on the tackboard outside the PE Office/Gym).

Here is the list of winter sports:

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 - [VSSAA Website](#) for more information.

GO HAWKS GO!

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 Thursday at 7:30 pm:

- October 26, 2023
- November 23, 2023
- January 18, 2024
- February 22, 2024
- April 25, 2024
- May 30, 2024
- June 20, 2024

Important Dates for 2023 - 2024

October 2023

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| 6 | Photo Retake Day (Morning only) |
| 9 | STAT - Thanksgiving Day |
| 13 | Informal Learning Update Published |
| 17 | CPT – Classes end at 1:45 pm |
| 20 | Non-Instructional Day (Province Wide) |
| 30 | Numeracy & Literacy Assessments for Grade 12 |

November 2023

- 1 Numeracy & Literacy Assessments for Grade 12
- 1 Take Your Kids to Work Day for Grade 9
- 13 STAT – Day in Lieu of Remembrance Day
- 14 Immunization Day #1 – for Gr.9’s
- 24 Written Learning Update & FY Informal Learning Update Published
- 24 Non-Instructional Day (District Wide)
- 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 Jan 5, 2024

January 2024

- 8 School Reopens after Winter Break
- 15 to 17 Numeracy & Literacy Assessments
- 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 S1 Summary of Learning and FY 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 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 Written learning Update Published

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
- 18 CPT – Classes end at 1:45 pm
- 27 Last Day of Student Attendance
- 27 Semester 2 Summary of Learning

