



# Community Newsletter

Phone: 604-713-8258 Website: [uhill-sec.vsb.bc.ca](http://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 x̱m̱əθḵw̱əy̱ am (Musqueam), S̱ḵwx̱w̱ú7mesẖ Úx̱wumix̱w (Squamish Nation) & səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).*

## Principal's Message

Dear Students and Families,

We hope you all had a restful, relaxing and rejuvenating Spring Break.

On Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 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. This is a continuation from the reflection and goal setting that we started with students in November, and students will repeat this activity again in 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 throughout the school year, building on their learning and growth from year to year.

On Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, Mid-Semester Written Learning Updates for Semester 2 will be published for students and families. Please ensure you can sign in to the [MyEd BC student and family portal](#) to access these reports. If you need help accessing MyEd BC, please [click here for instructions](#) or contact our school office. If students and families have any questions about how learning is going, you are always welcome to connect with teachers and counsellors. When reviewing as a family, here are helpful questions to get conversation started:

- *What are you learning and why is it important?*
- *How is it going with your learning?*
- *What are your next steps?*

We also invite you to join us for the upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences on Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, taking place virtually through Teams, with the opportunity to book appointments starting on Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. This is an excellent opportunity to connect with teachers about how learning is going. More information will be sent to families via email in mid-April.

In this newsletter, you will find information about communicating Student Learning, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Grade 10 Literacy Assessments, Counselling, Athletics, Graduation, and PAC and School Office Reminders. Thank you for taking the time to go through 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 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 “Virtual” Conferences – On Teams

The first of two Virtual Parent Teacher Conference Evenings was held on **November 30<sup>th</sup>** and the next one will be:

Date: **Thursday, May 9, 2024**, for Semester 2.

Time: 4:00 – 6:30 pm, by appointment

Please watch for the email with the conference appointment on-line booking information that will be sent to all families in Mid-April. The booking scheduler will be open at 9:00 am on Monday, April 29.

A friendly reminder that there will be an early dismissal for all students at 2:05 pm on Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> to accommodate the conferences and that Friday, May 10 is a Collaborative Day. The adjusted bell schedules are as follows:

<b>Thursday, May 9, 2024 (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, May 10, 2024 (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	12:45 – 3:05

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## Grade 10 Literacy Assessment

The Grade 10 Literacy Assessment will take place on April 16 and 17. Schedules have been posted in the school and on Teams for student to reference. All students in Grade 10 have been registered for the assessment. Students not in Grade 10 and still need to take the assessment should see their counsellor to confirm registration.

## Counselling Corner

We have had the pleasure of hosting volunteer pet therapy teams from **Pets and Friends** throughout the school year. Students needing a break from their studies had the opportunity to connect and interact with both dogs and their owners. We want to send our sincere gratitude to Pets and Friends for their pet therapy program and amazing volunteers!

Please see link for more information about the work Pets and Friends do as well as the Benefits of Pet Therapy:

<https://www.petsandfriends.org/about/>



### About | Pets and Friends

Pets and Friends is a nonprofit society that provides and promotes the healing comfort and companionship of animals through pet therapy visitations in British Columbia.

[www.petsandfriends.org](http://www.petsandfriends.org)

Please check the counselling website (<https://uhillcounselling.weebly.com/>) for counselling resources as well as upcoming post-secondary events.

### Summer School Reminder

Summer school registration will open at noon on May 1, 2024. Please see <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5211/summer-learning> for more detailed information and updates.

**IMPORTANT: Please keep your counsellor up to date with the most accurate information about your summer learning plans so we keep a seat for you in the correct course for next year!**

**Emily Chen**

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

Email: [ehchen@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:ehchen@vsb.bc.ca)

**Susan Hornby**

Grades 8 – 12, Last name Kj – T

Email: [shornby@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:shornby@vsb.bc.ca)

**Elizabeth Watanabe**

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

Email: [ewatanabe@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:ewatanabe@vsb.bc.ca)

## Athletics

### Spring Season:

Spring sports teams will start this week! We are running the following teams for the spring season:

- Coed Badminton
- Coed Ultimate
- Sr Girls' Soccer
- Boys' Rugby
- Coed Tennis
- Coed Golf
- Track & Field

GO HAWKS GO!

Mr. Hodgson, PHE Department Head & Athletic Director

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## Graduation 2024 Information

**2024 Graduation Ceremony** – will be held at the Chan Centre of Performing Arts at UBC on **Wednesday, June 5, 2024**.

- Graduates must arrive at 3:00 pm
- Doors open for seating at 3:30 pm
- Ceremony Begins at 4:00 pm

**Graduation Dinner / Dance** – will be held at the Pan Pacific Hotel - 999 Canada Place on **Friday, June 14, 2024 at 6:00 pm**

For more information about the Ceremony, and other Grade 12 events please review the [Grade 12 Events and Important Information](#) letter that was distributed to all Grade 12 students in February.

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## Office Reminders

### Medical Alerts

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

## 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 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 to log in, otherwise only one person in your family will have access.

## Absences

Parents/guardians - a 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 following:

- **students name**
- **date of absence**
- **student number**
- **and the reason for the absence**

## For extended absences

Parents/guardians must email the student's counsellor. A student should also be providing 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 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. All school fees for Semester 1 were due on January 31, 2024. If there are any discrepancies, please email Mrs. Low [hlow@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:hlow@vsb.bc.ca). 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 for your attention and consideration in this method of payment.

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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:

- **April 18 – In person in the Library/ULC at 7:30 pm**
- **May 30 – On-line at 7:30 pm**
- **June 20, 2024 – In person in the Lower Learning Commons at 7:00 pm**

## Calendar Dates to Note

### April 2024

- 1 STAT – Easter Monday
- 2 School Reopens after Spring Break
- 9 & 11 Homeroom Class during FIT
- 16 & 17 Numeracy & Literacy Assessments for Grade 10
- 18 Collaborative Planning Day – Classes end at 1:45 pm
- 18 PAC Meeting – In person in the library at 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 (May 6, 7, 13, 16 & 17)
- 9 Parent/Teacher Conferences (Early Dismissal at 2:05pm)
- 10 Collaborative Planning Day – Classes begin at 10:00 am
- 14 Immunization Day #2 – AM session only.
- 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 – On-line at 7:30 pm
- 30 Grade 12 Assembly, TVR Verification, Grad Rehearsal and Gown Package Pick up Period 3 and Fit

### June 2024

- 5 Graduation Ceremony at Chan Centre at 4:00 pm
- 10 & 11 Numeracy & Literacy Assessments (Make-up session for Grade 10 students)
- 11 & 13 Homeroom Class during FIT
- 14 Graduation Dinner and Dance at the Pan Pacific Hotel at 6:00 pm
- 18 Collaborative Planning Day – Classes end at 1:45 pm
- 20 PAC Meeting in person in Lower Learning Commons at 7:00 pm (*note time change*)
- 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 11:30 am – 12:15 pm
- 27 Last Day of Student Attendance
- 27 Semester 2 and Full Year Summary of Learning Published

