



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 xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

Principal's Message

Dear Students and Families,

As we approach the end of the calendar year, I have some news to share with you. After two and a half wonderful years at University Hill Secondary School, I will be transferring to stəywəte:ń Point Grey Secondary School. My last day at UHill will be December 20th.

I have truly enjoyed my time at UHill. Thank you to all students, families, and staff for taking the time to connect with me over the past two and a half years. I am grateful, and I will miss being your Principal.

I am pleased to introduce Alec MacInnes as the Acting Principal of UHill, starting on January 6th. Alec is a highly respected Principal with whom I have had the pleasure of working with at two different schools. Please join me in giving Mr. MacInnes a warm UHill welcome!

In this newsletter, you will find information about our Winterfest music concert, communicating student learning, school office reminders, graduation ceremony information, athletics, counselling updates, PAC updates, and important dates for 2024-2025. Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and for connecting with your students about their learning.

We wish all students, families and staff a joyful December, a restful, relaxing and rejuvenating upcoming winter holiday, and all the very best in the New Year!

With Appreciation,

Michelle Wood
Principal

Administrative Team:

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

Office Staff:

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

UHILL MUSIC
PRESENTS

2024
Winterfest
join us!

THU DEC 12
BAND! CHOIR! ORCHESTRA!
7:00 PM IN THE GYM

Entrance by donation - minimum \$3

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 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 10, 2024**
- Written Learning Update published **November 21, 2024**
- Summary of Learning published **January 30, 2025**

Semester 2

- Informal Learning Update published **March 13, 2025**
- Written Learning Update published **April 25, 2025**
- Summary of Learning published **June 26, 2025**

Full Year Courses

- Informal Learning Update published **November 21, 2024**
- Written Learning Updates published **January 30 & April 25, 2025**
- Summary of Learning published **June 26, 2025**

Parent Teacher Conferences

There are two virtual Parent Teacher Conference Evenings one for each Semester. The first one took place on **Thursday, December 5, 2024** (for Semester 1) and the next one will take place on **Wednesday, May 7, 2025** (for Semester 2), from 4:00-6:30pm.

School Office Reminders

UHill West Parking Lot

Staff Parking Lot - *We need your help please*

- During school hours, the parking lot to the west of our school is our staff parking lot.
- We now have very limited space. Members of our community have been using the parking spots, and staff have not had anywhere to park
- We kindly request that community & families please don't park in the staff parking lot during school hours (especially in the morning). Thank you!

Yearbooks

Yearbooks are available to order for \$55. 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 the last two years. The Yearbook order deadline is **February 28, 2025**.

Spirit Wear

The school store will be selling spirit wear on Dec 9th and 13th at lunchtime ONLY. We have T-shirts, sweatpants, pullover hoodies, zip up hoodies and crewneck sweaters in black, blue, white, and gray. Some sizes and colors have been sold out. Prices are \$10.00 (t-shirts), \$30.00 (sweatpants) and \$35.00 (for all hoodies and crewnecks). Get yours before they all sell out!

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 first and last name, student number, grade, date(s) of absence, time of absence or periods of missed classes, and reason for the absence**. For extended absences parents/guardians must email the student's counsellor. A student should also email their teachers directly. 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 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 date of birth.**

Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Parents can find information about the University Hill Secondary PAC at the [UHILL PAC Website](#). Remaining PAC Meetings for the 2024 – 2025 school year will be on the following Wednesdays at 7:30 pm in the Upper Learning Commons:

- January 15, 2025
- February 12, 2025
- April 16, 2025
- May 14, 2025
- June 18, 2025

Graduation 2025 Information

Advance Notice of the Graduation Ceremony

The 2025 Graduation Ceremony will be held at the Chan Centre at UBC at 4:00 pm on **Wednesday, June 4, 2025**. (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 from **May 1 to May 23, 2025**. More information about the Ceremony, rehearsal and Grad gown size requests and pick up will follow in the new year.

Graduation Dinner / Dance

The 2025 Graduation Dinner / Dance will be held at the Pan Pacific at 6:00pm on **Friday, June 13, 2025**. Further information to follow.

Graduation Photo Dates

Grade 12 students can now book their 30-minute appointment at <https://artona.com/bookings>. For further information, please visit www.artona.com/schools/UHIL - click on "contact us" or call 604-872-7272 with any questions.

- **Graduation Photo Session Dates: February 2 to 6, 2025**
- **Grad Sessions: Group Session Dates: Sept. 20, 2024 to March 23, 2025**
- **Location: at Artona – main studio at 353 West 7th Avenue, Vancouver**

Athletics

HAWKS

And just like that, the fall season is over! The student athletes competed hard, and they should be proud of the season and accomplishments made. The fall season saw plenty of great volleyball action from all our girls' teams! The standout season was by our Juvenile boys' soccer team, they had a phenomenal league result placing 2nd in their conference. They then went on to the championship final vs Churchill and battled ferociously until the end, unfortunately losing that game. City finalists in soccer is a tremendous achievement, well done boys!

In aquatics, we had many swim for the first time at the regional meet, and some great results to boot. We had 2 individuals qualify for provincials, and 1 relay team qualify for 2 relay events. The boys relay team (Philip Su, Jeffy Koo, Daniel Lei and Justin Wu) placed 6th in the 200m medley and swam an incredible race. Justin Wu placed 8th in the 100m breaststroke and Emma Liu won GOLD in the 50m freestyle event, an event where she holds the meet record!

We are now entering the Winter sport season, with basketball and table tennis competitions. We have 3 boys' teams for basketball (gr 8, gr 9, senior), and 1 team on the girls' side (junior team). We have two teams running for table tennis (2 boys' teams) 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! Jeff Hodgson, Athletic Director

WHITECAPS FC ACADEMY

Our students in the Whitecaps FC Academy have been having a jam packed and commendable season! With hosting homes games and travelling to Seattle, Denver, San Jose, Salt Lake City and Portland, our dedicated players are off again to Palm Springs this month to showcase their talent. Best of luck and congratulations to all our aspiring athletes, in their ongoing commitment to developing their soccer skills and maximizing their potential! A special shout out to the following members for their hard-earned achievements:

- Jeevan Badwal won the WFC2 player of the year
- Jayden Kim represented the South Korean U15 National Team
- Sahil Deo & Yuma Tsuji represented the U17 Canadian National Team
- Cam Hajdu won our BMO RESP for his commitment, selfless attitude and leadership on and off the pitch

LET'S GO WHITECAPS!

Counselling Corner

Course Planning - Next year's Course Planning will take place beginning in January 2025. 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 22nd, 2024** at 5pm.

Grade 8	- Tuesday, January 7th
Grade 9	- Tuesday, January 14th
Grade 10	- Thursday, January 9th
Grade 11	- Tuesday, January 21st (Part 1) & Thursday, January 23rd (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 events for parents & caregivers

Winter Wellness Tips - As we all continue managing life, we wanted to take a minute to remind students and their 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 connections
- Reaching out for supports/offering support...both when needed
- Practicing mindfulness...we recommend the apps Mindshift, Breathr 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 2025. 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

Calendar Dates to Note for 2024-2025



December 2024

- 5 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00 – 6:30 pm (Virtual)
- 5 Early Dismissal at 2:05 pm
- 6 CPT – Classes begin at 10:00 am
- 12 Grade 12 Assembly at FIT (Re: Capstones)
- 12 Winterfest Music Concert at 7:00pm in Gym
- 20 Winter Grade Assemblies Periods 1, 2 & 3 in Gym
- 20 Last Day Before Winter Break
- 23 to Jan 3 Winter Break

January 2025

- 6 School Reopens after Winter Break
- 7 Grade 8 Course Planning during FIT
- 9 Grade 10 Course Planning during FIT
- 14 Grade 9 Course Planning during FIT
- 14 & 15 Grade 10 Numeracy Assessments
- 15 PAC Meeting at 7:30pm in ULC
- 16 CPT – Classes end at 1:45 pm
- 21 Grade 11 Course Planning during FIT (Part 1)
- 22 Parent Course Info Night at 5:00pm (Virtual)
- 23 Grade 11 Course Planning During FIT (Part 2)
- 24 Last Day of Semester 1
- 27 & 28 Semester Turnaround Days
- 29 First Day of Semester 2
- 30 S1 Summary of Learning & FY Written Learning Update Published at 3:00pm
- 30 FIT for Learning (District Wide)

February 2025

- 3 Semester 2 Grade Assemblies Periods 1, 2 & 3 in Gym
- 5 to 13 Students Enter 2025/26 Course Selections in MyED
- 3 to 6 Grad Photo Sessions at Artona Studios by Appointment
- 12 PAC Meeting at 7:30pm in ULC
- 14 Non-Instructional Day (District Wide ProD)
- 17 STAT-Family Day
- 20 Cybersafe Grade Assemblies Periods 1, 2 & 3 in Gym
- 21 CPT – Classes start at 10:00 am
- 26 Pink Shirt Day
- 27 Fit for Learning (District Wide)
- 28 Last Day for Yearbooks Sales

March 2025

- 3 Grade 12 Grad Gown Order Forms due to Office
- 11 Grade 12 Assembly during FIT (Re: Capstones)
- 12 Spring Dance at 7:00pm in Cafeteria
- 13 S2 Informal Learning Update published at 3:00pm
- 13 FIT for Learning (District Wide)
- 14 Last Day before Spring Break
- 17 to 28 Spring Break
- 31 School Reopens after Spring Break

April 2025

- 1 to 17 Grade 12 Citation Survey Forms are Open
- 14 to 16 Grade 12 Valedictorian Nominations are Open

April continued...

- 8 & 9 Gr. 10 Literacy Assessments
- 10 CPT – Classes end at 1:45 pm
- 15 FIT with Homeroom Class (Re: Core Competencies)
- 16 PAC Meeting at 7:30pm in ULC
- 18 STAT–Good Friday
- 21 STAT–Easter Monday
- 23 Valedictorian Nominee Video Speeches Due
- 24 FIT for Learning (District Wide)
- 25 S2 & FY Written Learning Update Published at 3:00pm
- 28 Non-Instructional Day (District Wide ProD)
- 28 Parent/Teacher Conference Appointment Scheduler Opens at 9:00am
- 30 to May 2 Valedictorian Nominee Video Speeches Posted on Teams and Voting is Open

May 2025

- 1 to 23 Extra Grad Ticket Sales on School Cash Online
- 2 Parent/Teacher Conference Appointment Scheduler Closes at 10:00pm
- 5 to 16 AP Exams
- 7 Parent/Teacher Conferences (Virtual) 4:00 – 6:30 pm
- 7 Early Dismissal at 2:05 pm
- 8 CPT – Classes begin at 10:00 am
- 14 PAC Meeting at 7:30pm in ULC
- 16 Non-Instructional Day (School Based ProD)
- 19 STAT-Victoria Day
- 20 to 23 Student Council Nomination Week (STUCO)
- 22 Capstone Presentations During FIT and Period 4
- 28 Immunization Day #2 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm in LLC
- 28 Carnival at 3:10pm
- 29 FIT for Learning (District Wide)
- 29 Grade 12 Assembly during Period 3 in LLC (Re: Grad Rehearsal and Grad Items Pick Up)

June 2025

- 2 to 13 Student Council (STUCO) Campaigns & Voting
- 3 FIT with Homeroom Class (Re: Core Competencies)
- 4 Graduation Rehearsal at 8:45am at Chan Centre
- 4 Graduation Ceremony at 4:00pm at Chan Centre (Grads arrive at 3:00pm)
- 10 CPT – Classes end at 1:45 pm
- 13 Grad Dinner and Dance at 6:00pm at Pan Pacific
- 11 Grad Assessments – Make Up Session
- 18 Indoor Sports Day
- 18 PAC Meeting at 7:30pm in ULC
- 19 Athletic Banquet at 5:00pm
- 20 PE Classes Dance Performances
- 23 Pride Picnic During Lunch on School Field
- 24 Grade Assemblies Periods 2, 3 & 4 in Gym
- 24 Last Day of Classes - Lockers Must Be Cleared Out
- 25 & 26 IE Days
- 26 S2 & FY Summary of Learning Published at 3:00pm