



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), Sḵwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səlilwətał (Tseil-Waututh Nation).

Principal's Message

Dear Students and Families,

Congratulations to all students on your accomplishments throughout Semester 1! We wish you a fantastic first day in your Semester 2 classes on Monday. Students can access their Semester 2 class schedules through the [MyED BC Family Portal](#). If there are any questions about how to access schedules, students are welcome to connect with any teacher or with our office support team on Monday morning.

Over the past few weeks, counsellors have met with students in grade assemblies during Flexible Instructional Time (FIT) to go over course planning for the 2024-2025 school year. You are invited to find our course planning book, course planning selection forms, and recordings of our virtual parent course planning information night on our [School Website](#). All students are to complete their course selections on the [MyED BC Family Portal](#) and drop off their signed course selection form to the Lower Learning Commons (LLC) by Thursday, February 15th.

Throughout February, we honour Black History Month. As part of the recognition of Black History Month, movies and documentaries will be shown over several lunch hours in the Upper Learning Commons (ULC). The films will range from historical American movies to contemporary Canadian documentaries. Weekly updates will be shared through the "All Students" Team, in the student weekly bulletin, and in the announcements.

We are also looking forward to Pink Shirt Day on February 28th, a day to celebrate kindness and diversity. Thank you to our student council, who are busy planning and organizing events for Pink Shirt Day. Student council is also planning a surprise for students at lunch on Monday, February 12th in celebration of Lunar New Year.

In this newsletter, you will find information about Communicating Student Learning, Cell Phones in Schools, Counselling, Athletics, PAC, Graduation, 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.

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 on **November 30th** and the next one will be on **Thursday, May 9, 2024** from 4:00 – 6:30 pm for Semester 2.

Cell Phones in Schools

Update: Provincial government announced restrictions on cell phones in schools for September 2024.

On Friday, January 26, the provincial government announced measures to improve student safety online. This included information about restricting cell phones in schools to be put in place by the next school year.

Currently, in the VSB, several measures are in place to guide appropriate use of cell phones and other devices. These including the [District Student Code of Conduct](#) and [Acceptable Use of Technology](#) administrative procedures. Staff will work with the Ministry of Education and Child Care to ensure that any necessary changes are implemented ahead of September 2024. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

You can learn more about the provincial government's [announcement through this news release](#).

You are also invited to see UHill's current cell phone use school procedure on our [UHill school website](#).

Semester 2 Starts on Monday, February 5

Reminders:

- The start of Semester 2 is **Monday, February 5, 2024**.
- Semester 2 schedules can be accessed on the [MyEd Family Portal](#). It's important that students check their schedules prior to arriving on February 5.
- Semester 1 Summary of Learning (report cards) will be posted on the MyEd Family Portal by the end of the day on **Friday, February 9, 2024**.

Counselling Corner

Course Planning Timeline

Students will be expected to enter course choices into MyEducation BC between February 5th to 15th, 2024. We will also collect a paper course selection form from every student. Forms were distributed at the grade assemblies and must be dropped in a blue box in the Lower Learning Commons (LLC) by February 15th, 2024. It is important that the course selections are made carefully because those selections determine what courses will be on the timetable.

What Can Parents Do?

- Discuss the options with your student and encourage him/her/them to explore a full range of post-secondary options. Begin gathering information in grades 9 and 10.
- Sign the student course selection form and remind your student to hand in the form to the office before the deadline.

What Can Students Do?

- Develop good study habits; remember you are competing only with yourself to meet your goals.
- Research the career fields you are interested in by looking up the admission requirements of post-secondary institutions and attending post-secondary information sessions at the school and district career fairs.
- Talk with your counsellor about volunteer or work opportunities.
- Talk to your counsellor starting in grade 10 or 11 if you are considering applying to an American University.

The Truths and Myths of How Canadian Universities Make Admission Decisions

The late Andrew Arida dedicated his 20+ years career to student recruitment and admissions, and held roles as Deputy Registrar and Associate Director, Undergraduate Admissions at UBC. His work contributed to the holistic admissions process at UBC. At UHill, we had the privilege of welcoming Andrew to present to students and families. The link below provides access to his April 2019 presentation and is still a helpful resource on Canadian Universities Admissions as well as UBC’s admissions process.

<https://magazine.alumni.ubc.ca/2019/webcasts/truths-myths-canadian-universities-make-admission-decisions>

Wellness



Who Can I Talk To?

- Talk to Someone Now
- Chat and Texting Options
- Counselling Services
- Medical Services
- Substance Use Services
- Sexual Assault Supports
- Programs and Places



SCAN ME

For more information, please visit:
<https://bit.ly/vancouverlat>

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Athletics

Winter Season: Our basketball teams and table tennis teams are nearing the end of their regular seasons. Our girls' and boys' teams have worked hard so far and are seeing the results of this effort. Playoffs will be beginning in mid-February for all winter sports, its looking like many of our teams will be moving on to the playoffs, good luck to all!

Spring Season: We have begun spring sports sign-ups, with QR code registration posted in TEAMS and on flyers all over the school (Coed Badminton, Ultimate, Bantam and Juvenile boys' Volleyball, girls' Soccer, Boys Rugby, Coed Tennis, Coed Golf and Track). We will have an info meeting for each sport once we get the minimum number of sign-ups. Deadline to sign up is Feb 23, 2024. GO HAWKS GO!

Mr. Hodgson, *(PE Department Head & Athletic Director)*

Graduation 2024 Information

Graduation Ceremony - The 2024 Graduation Ceremony will be held at the Chan Centre of Performing Arts 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 24, 2024**. More information about the Ceremony, rehearsal and Grad gown size requests/ pick up will be provided to the graduates and their families at the beginning of Semester 2.

Graduation Dinner / Dance - at the Pan Pacific Hotel - 999 Canada Place - **Friday, June 16, 2024, at 6:00 pm**

Graduation Photo Session Dates were January 22 to 24, 2024 - If Grade 12 students missed the January session dates, please contact Artona Studios as soon as possible to book a 30-minute appointment.

<https://artona.com/schools/UHIL/programs/graduation>

If you have any questions regarding graduation photos, please contact Artona directly - click on "contact us" on their website artona.com or call **604-872-7272**. The Artona Group 353 West 7th Avenue Vancouver, BC.

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.

Grade 8 to 11 students are to be reminded that they will need to access their MyEducationBC account to enter their 2024 - 2025 course selections that are due on Thursday, February 15, 2024.

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. All school fees for Semester 1 are due by January 31, 2024. If there are any discrepancies, please email Mrs. Low 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.

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:

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

Calendar Dates to Note

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
- 7 ~~VCH Tobacco and Vapour Reduction Parent Information Session – CANCELLED~~

- 8 Grade 7 Parent Information/Course Planning Night 5:00 – 6:00 pm
- 9 Semester 1 Summary of Learning and Full Year Written Learning Update Published
- 12 Semester 2 Assemblies P1 – Gr. 8/9; P2 – Gr.10/11; P3 – Gr. 12
- 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 Spring Concert 7:00 pm
- 6 Concert Choir and JR/SR Orchestra Spring 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 & 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 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
- 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 Period 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 & 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 11:30 am – 12:15 pm
- 27 Last Day of Student Attendance
- 27 Semester 2 and Full Year Summary of Learning Published

Join us

I Love




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LOVE BOMB






BOOK & LYRICS BY MEGHAN GARDINER
MUSIC STEVE CHARLES DIRECTOR RENÉE IACI

MARCH 5, 2024 | KITSILANO SECONDARY SCHOOL
2706 TRAFALGAR ST, VANCOUVER | **7:00PM - 9:00PM**

Join us for refreshments at 6:30pm. A panel discussion will follow the show.



Scan the QR code to register by **February 23, 2024**

This event is brought to you by **Vancouver Community Action Team**: a network of local service providers working together to promote awareness & prevention of the sexual exploitation of children and youth.

