



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), Sk̓wxwú7mesh (Squamish) and sel̓ilwítulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Principal's Message

Dear Students and Families,

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a restful, relaxing, and rejuvenating winter holiday.

We are delighted to welcome two new staff members to our UHill community. Welcome to Jessie Lyons, who is our new Connecting and Supporting Youth (SACY) Student Support Worker at UHill on Mondays, Tuesdays and alternating Wednesdays, and welcome to Brian Shieh, who joins our Mathematics Department for Semester 2.

As the end of the semester approaches, now is a wonderful time to connect as a family about how learning is going. Here are some helpful questions to get the conversation started:

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

Please know that if students and families have any questions about how learning is going, you are always welcome to connect with teachers and counsellors.

This is also the time of year when we start planning for courses in 2024-2025. You are invited to [please click here to access our course planning guide](#). Our counselling team is presenting to students throughout January, and all parents are invited to attend our virtual Parent Course Information Evening on **Wednesday, January 31st at 5pm**. Links to this virtual meeting will be sent out closer to the date.

In this newsletter, you will find information about Communicating Student Learning, Counselling, Athletics, PAC, Graduation, the upcoming Numeracy 10 Provincial Assessments, Semester Turn-Around days; and some friendly reminders from our office team. We also highlight that next week, our UHill Theatre Company is proud to present "She Kills Monsters." Shows are January 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th at 7pm, and tickets are available at the door.

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.

The Numeracy Assessments

Numeracy 10 Assessment will take place **January 15 and 16 from 8:30 am – 3:00 pm.**

All grade 10 students have been registered for this exam. Students in grade 11 or 12 that need to complete the assessment, please see Mr. Bach. You are required to arrive 10 minutes before the start of the exam. Please find the schedule below:

Numeracy 10 Grad Assessment			
Date	Time	Room	Names
January 15, 2024	8:30 - 11:30 am	1B2	A to Deo, S.
		1B4	Ding, A to Hassanzadeh M.R
	12:00 - 3:00 pm	1B2	He, J. to Lee, Michelle
		1B4	Lei, D. to Meffered, H
January 16, 2024	8:30 - 11:30 am	1B2	Minghai, E. to Sran, R
		1B4	Stiver, E to Wong, Bowen
	12:00 - 3:00 pm	1B2	Wu to Zhang, A
		1B4	Zhang, D. to Zuo

Semester Turn-Around Days

Please see below for information about the end of Semester 1 and the start of Semester 2

- The last day of Semester 1 is **Wednesday, January 31, 2024.**
- Semester Turn-Around Days are **Thursday, February 1 and Friday, February 2.**
- On these days:
 - Regular classes are NOT in session.
 - If there is a need, teachers can ask students to attend to make up any work necessary for Semester 1. Teachers will contact students individually with a meeting time.
 - District special education programs are in session.
- 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.
- 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

A friendly reminder that students will receive course planning information during FIT times. Attendance is required. Please remind your students to attend.

Grade 8 – Thursday, January 11th

Grade 9 – Tuesday, January 16th

Grade 10 - Tuesday, January 23rd

Grade 11 – Thursday, January 25th (Part 1) & Tuesday, January 30th (Part 2)

Virtual Course Planning Information Sessions for Parents/Guardians will be on **Wednesday, January 31st, 2024 at 5pm**. There will be three presentations: one for Grade 8s and 9s; one for Grade 10 and 11s; and one for Whitecaps Academy players. Links to the presentations will be posted on the school website. If you have questions after attending these sessions, please email your student's counsellor.

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. The forms will be distributed at the grade assemblies and must be returned to the UHill office **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.
- Attend course virtual planning presentations at the school.
- **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>

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

Athletics

Winter Season

Our basketball teams and table tennis teams are under way and have begun their seasons (4 boys teams and 1 girls team for basketball, 2 boys teams and 1 girls team for table tennis). We are super excited to see how our boys and girls teams do this year and can't wait to host the rest of the school district teams in our beautiful gym. Playoffs will be in February and then we will start looking at info meetings for our spring sports (Coed Badminton, Ultimate, Bantam and Juvenile boys' volleyball, girls' soccer, Coed Tennis, Coed Golf and Track). GO HAWKS GO!

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 23, 2024**. More information about the Ceremony, rehearsal and Grad gown size requests and pick up will be provided to the graduates and their families at the beginning of Semester 2.

Graduation Dinner / Dance – Information to be announced soon.

Graduation Photo Session Dates are **January 22 to 24, 2024**.

Reminder that Grade 12 students should now book their 30 minute appointment at Artona Studios (353 West 7th Ave. Vancouver) <https://artona.com/schools/UHIL/programs/graduation>. If you have any questions regarding graduation photos, please contact Artona Studio directly - click on "contact us" on their website or call 604-872-7272.

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.

Note: Grade 8 to 11 students will also need to access their MyEducationBC account to enter their 2024 - 2025 course selections that will be 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.

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**.

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:

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

Calendar Dates to Note

January 2024

- 15 & 16 Numeracy & Literacy Assessments for Grade 10 students
- 15 to 18 Theatrical Production – 7:00 pm
- 16 Grade 9 Course Planning Session during FIT
- 18 Collaborative Planning Day– Classes end at 1:45 pm
- 18 PAC Meeting 7:30 pm
- 19 Numeracy & Literacy Assessments (Grade 12 Make up session only)
- 22 to 24 Grad Photo Sessions at Artona Studios – by appointment
- 23 Grade 10 Course Planning Session during FIT
- 25 Grade 11 Course Planning Session during FIT (Part 1)
- 30 Grade 11 Course Planning Session during FIT (Part 2)
- 31 Last Day of Semester 1
- 31 Parent Course Information Session 5:00 pm (Virtual)

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
- 9 Semester 1 Summary of Learning and Full Year Written Learning Update Published
- 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 Concert 7:00 pm
- 6 Concert Choir and JR/SR Orchestra 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
- 15 & 16 Numeracy & Literacy Assessments for Grade 10
- 18 Collaborative Planning Day – Classes end at 1:45 pm
- 18 PAC Meeting 7:30 pm

April Continued...

- 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
- 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

