



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) & salilwatał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

Principal's Message

Dear Students and Families,

Thank you to our students who led and performed in our Remembrance Day Assemblies today. Our student MCs and poem readers spoke eloquently, and our choir and orchestra performed beautifully. It was a meaningful tribute, and we thank all students for participating in these important assemblies to honour our veterans. Lest we forget.

This week, we celebrated VSB's Support Staff Appreciation Day! It takes a team to nurture a caring community, and we appreciate our wonderful education assistants, multicultural workers, youth workers, settlement workers, Indigenous Education Enhancement workers, office staff, and engineering and custodial team for the amazing work they do every day connecting with our student and families as well as supporting the day-to-day running of our school. It is with sincere gratitude that we thank all our support staff.

On Tuesday, November 5th, students met with their homeroom classes during [Flexible Instructional Time \(FIT\)](#) to self-reflect on their thinking, communicating, personal and social core competencies and to set goals for future learning and growth. The [Core Competencies](#) are integrated throughout all areas of learning in the British Columbia K-12 curriculum, and all students engage in core competency self-reflection and goal setting, building on their learning and growth from year to year. Students will meet again with their homeroom classes on Tuesday, November 12th to learn how to upload their core competency reflection to our new [SpacesEdu Digital Portfolio](#) platform. Please watch for an email from VSB by the end of November with a link to your child's digital core competency portfolio so that you can review with your child at home. Students will be continuing to add to their core competency reflections and goals throughout the year, meeting again with their homeroom classes during FIT in April and June.

In this newsletter, you will find information about our Fall into Music concert, communicating student learning, parent-teacher conferences, Grade 9 immunizations, school office reminders, athletics, counselling updates, school and graduation photos, 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.

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

UHILL MUSIC PRESENTS



FALL INTO MUSIC

**BAND! CHOIR!
ORCHESTRA!**

FRI 15.NOV.2024 7:00

GET TICKETS!

ENTRANCE BY DONATION
MIN. \$3

VENUE:

UHILL GYM

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 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, December 5, 2024** (for Semester 1) and **Wednesday, May 7, 2025** (for Semester 2).

Parent Teacher Virtual Conferences – On MS Teams

Date: Thursday, December 5th, 2024

Time: 4:00 – 6:30 pm – By Appointment

Please watch for the email to be sent out on Tuesday, November 19th with the conference appointment on-line booking information. It will also be posted on the school website in “School Information and Forms” under the “About Us” tab. The Appointment Scheduler will be open at **9:00 am on November 25th to 10:00 pm on December 3rd**.

Reminder there will be an early dismissal for all students at 2:05 pm to accommodate the conferences and a Collaborative Day on **Friday, December 1**. The adjusted bell schedules are as follows:

Thursday, December 5, 2024 (Early Dismissal)	
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

Friday, December 6, 2024 (Late Start)	
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	1:45 – 3:05

Immunization Clinic

Reminder of the upcoming Immunization Clinic on **Tuesday, November 12th** at UHill. This is mainly for the grade 9 students. However, there may also be a few students that in other grades that have been given consent forms. Signed consent forms are due to the office as soon as possible. If you have any questions regarding this clinic, please contact Katie Wanamaker-Briggs, VCH Public Health Nurse, at 604-261-6366 extension 3333 or by email at katie.wanamakerbriggs@vch.ca.

School Office Reminders

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 D.O.B.**

Athletics

Fall Season

The Fall season is coming to a close. Our volleyball programs have been doing well, and playoffs are about to start for our bantam girls team! The senior girls volleyball team entered tier 1 this year with a core of grade 10s, this was a great learning experience for a young team that should do well next year, congrats to the graduating seniors! The grade 9 girls team had some good results and will look to improve over the off season to come back stronger next year. The senior boys soccer team had a tough season with a difficult start to the season. They ended off on a winning note, congrats to the graduating seniors. Our Cross-Country team has finished up league meets and had some strong results and Philip Su qualified for provincials as an individual! He had an amazing race at provincials and ran on a muddy track and clocked a time of 22:13, well done Philip! Our Aquatics team had a fantastic season with a record amount of young swimmers participating. We had the MOST provincial qualifiers in history of the UHill swim program. Emma Liu and Justin Wu both qualified as individuals, along with our boys relay team that qualified for two relay events (Justin Wu, Philip Su, Jeffy Koo and Daniel Lei). Provincials are next weekend (Nov 15/16) at Watermania, GOOD LUCK and GO HAWKS GO!

Winter Season

Our basketball program has already started with tryouts, and we have 4 teams, 3 boys teams and 1 girls team. Unfortunately, there wasn't enough players for creation of a grade 10 team on the boys side and only one for the girls. Practices will begin for these teams this week, with league seasons to start in December.

Our table tennis program looks to get back to the top of the heap with two boys teams running this year. Good luck!

- We are looking for volunteers to help run/coach our table tennis team and have yet to find anyone. We will be doing tryouts sometime in the next two weeks. Please reach out to me (jhodgson@vsb.bc.ca) if you know of anyone that could help.

Counselling Corner

Parent Supports and Mental Health Resources

1. **FamilySmart** provides support and resources for parents/guardians/caregivers to support their child/youth. Here are some upcoming events in November:
 - November Topic 1 : [Obsessive Compulsive Disorder: It's More Than Overwashing Your Hands - FamilySmart](#)
Dates & Registration link:
 - [November 13 @ 12:00 pm PST](#)
 - [November 28 @ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm PST](#)
 - November Topic 2: [Supporting Safety at Home When Your Child Has a Mental Health Crisis - FamilySmart](#)
Dates & Registration link:
 - [November 26 @ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm PST](#)
 - [Help for the Hard Times Workshop - FamilySmart](#): For Families whose child or youth (up to 24 yrs) has been a patient in a psychiatric unit or had an ER visit due to their mental health.
 - Topics include: supporting a Safety Plan; taking care of yourself and family after a crisis; and how to find Resources.
 - Registration: [Click here to register.](#)
 - **One on One Support (FamilySmart)**
 - Family Peer Support Workers are available for 1:1 parent/caregiver peer support for families who have a child struggling with their mental health or substance use. Other than English, they can also offer support in Mandarin and Cantonese languages. [Referral form found here.](#)
 - Video resources are available on the FamilySmart [website](#) and [YouTube channel!](#)
2. **Pathways: Serious Mental Illness Society** provides support and resources for families to support their child/youth. They have a free online 9 week course starting January 16, 2025. Please go to <https://pathwayssmi.org/> for more information and for additional resources.

Emily Chen	Grades 8 – 12, Last name A – Ki & Strategies	Email: ehchen@vsb.bc.ca
Susan Hornby	Grades 8 – 12, Last name Kj – Te	Email: shornby@vsb.bc.ca
Elizabeth Watanabe	Grades 8 – 12, Last name Ti – Z & Whitecaps FC	Email: ewatanabe@vsb.bc.ca

School and Graduation Photos

2024 – 2025 Photo Sessions: Artona Photo Studios were in on September 6 and 25th to take school photos. All the photos are now available online. To view and order photos see the Artona Website <https://artona.com/>

What if students miss original photo day and retake day?

If students wish to have an Artona school photo taken, please watch for an email to let families know of the in-Studio Retake Day at Artona Studios – 353 West 7th Avenue Vancouver.

Graduation Photo Session Dates: February 02 to 06, 2025 at their main studio located at 353 West 7th Avenue, Vancouver

Grad Sessions: Group Session Dates: Sept. 20, 2024 to March 23, 2025 at their main studio located at 353 West 7th Ave., Vancouver

Grade 12 students can now book their 30-minute appointment at <https://artona.com/bookings> If you have any questions in regard to school or graduation photos, please contact Artona Studio directly - click on “contact us” on their website or call 604-872-7272.

Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

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

- November 20, 2024
- January 15, 2025
- February 12, 2025
- April 16, 2025
- May 14, 2025
- June 18, 2025

Calendar Dates to Note for 2024-2025



November 2024

- 6 Take our Kids to Work Day-for Gr. 9's
- 8 Remembrance Day Assemblies-Periods 1,2&3
- 11 STAT – Remembrance Day
- 12 Immunization Day #1-for Gr. 9's – full day
- 15 Fall into Music Concert at 7:00pm
- 20 PAC Meeting
- 21 S1 Written Learning Update & FY Informal Learning Update Published at 3:00pm
- 22 Non-Instructional Day (District Wide ProD)
- 25 Parent-Teacher Conf Scheduler opens at 9:00am
- 26 Grade 12 Assembly at FIT in the LLC

December 2024

- 5 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00 – 6:30 pm
- 5 (Early Dismissal at 2:05 pm)
- 6 CPT – Classes begin at 10:00 am
- 20 Grade Assemblies Periods 1, 2 & 3
- 23 to Jan 3 Winter Break

January 2025

- 1 to 3 Winter Break Continues
- 6 School Reopens after Winter Break
- 14 & 15 Grade 10 Numeracy Assessments
- 15 PAC Meeting
- 16 CPT – Classes end at 1:45 pm
- 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

February 2025

- 3 Grade Assemblies Periods 1, 2 & 3
- 3 to 6 Grad Photo Sessions at Artona Studios
- 12 PAC Meeting
- 14 Non-Instructional Day (District Wide)
- 17 STAT-Family Day
- 21 CPT – Classes start at 10:00 am

March 2025

- 13 S2 Informal Learning Update published
- 14 Last Day before Spring Break
- 17 to 28 Spring Break
- 31 School Reopens after Spring Break

April 2025

- 8 & 9 Gr. 10 Literacy Assessments
- 10 CPT – Classes end at 1:45 pm
- 16 PAC Meeting
- 18 STAT–Good Friday
- 21 STAT–Easter Monday
- 25 S2 & FY Written Learning Update Published
- 28 Non-Instructional Day (District Wide)

May 2025

- 7 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00 – 6:30 pm
- 7 Early Dismissal at 2:05 pm
- 8 CPT – Classes begin at 10:00 am
- 14 PAC Meeting
- 16 Non-Instructional Day (School Based)
- 19 STAT-Victoria Day
- 28 Immunization Day #2 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

June 2025

- 4 Graduation Ceremony at Chan Centre
- 10 CPT – Classes end at 1:45 pm
- 11 Grad Assessments – Make Up Session
- 18 PAC Meeting
- 24 Grade Assemblies Periods 2, 3 & 4
- 24 Last Day of Classes
- 25 IE Day
- 26 IE Day
- 26 S2 & FY Summary of Learning Published