



# 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 xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).*

## Principal's Message

Dear Students and Families,

Please join me in celebrating [World Teachers' Day](#) this week! We are grateful to our teachers, educational assistants, and support staff for their dedication to connecting with our students, families, and each other. We are also delighted to welcome two new staff members to our school: Raj Jit who has joined our Custodial Team, and Katie Yang who has joined our Education Assistant Team.

Last week, all schools in VSB were gifted a Reconciliation Blanket designed by xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) artist, educator and master weaver Debra Sparrow. We are grateful for this gift as we continue to work together for Truth and Reconciliation. The blanketing of our school is an extension of Debra Sparrow's work of Blanketing the City of Vancouver and blanketing the district with her beautiful weavings. You are invited to learn more about xʷməθkʷəy̓əm master weaver Debra Sparrow on the next page.

An upcoming highlight for next week will be Clubs Day, which will take place after school on Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. Over 50 clubs will be organized in our cafeteria space, showcasing opportunities for students to get involved and connect with each other. We are grateful to all our club teacher sponsors and student leaders for offering such a rich and diverse array of ways to get involved. Thank you for encouraging your students to join a club, connect with others, and have fun!

In this newsletter, you will find information about communicating student learning, school office reminders, counselling updates, fall athletics, school clubs, Grade 9 Take Own Kids to Work Day, Grade 12 Literacy Assessments, Grade 10 – 12 New Parent Workshop, PAC Meeting Dates 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

## Debra Sparrow, x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm Master Weaver



### Biography

Debra Sparrow was born and raised on the Musqueam Indian Reserve and is self-taught in Salish design and jewellery-making. Her contemporary work combines textile and Salish design into geometric, hand spun blankets and hangings and can be seen in various museums and institutions, including the Vancouver Airport, Museum of Civilizations in Ottawa and the University of British Columbia. Debra designed the logo for the Canadian Men's Hockey Team for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver, B.C. She also continues to work on pieces close to her heart at her home in Musqueam. It is Debra's hope to educate others about the beauty and integrity of her people's history through her art. Debra is a highly accomplished weaver, and for over 20 years has played a pivotal role in the ongoing revival of Musqueam weaving.

<https://thebluecabin.ca/residency/skeins/debra-sparrow/>

“Her work has blanketed the City of Vancouver and VSB schools, both inside and out.”

Chas Desjarlais, Director of Instruction - Indigenous Education

## 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.

### 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 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).

## School Office Reminders

### Daily Absences

Parents/guardians are to report all absences 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 **students name, date(s) 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 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.**

### MyEd Student Verification Sheet and Emergency Reunification Authorization Forms:

Thank you to the Grade 8 and all new student families for completing and submitting their forms.

Note for all the returning students, their **MyEd Student Verification Sheet and Emergency Reunification Authorization Form** will be distributed October 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> during their periods 3 or 4 class. Parents/Guardians should complete the yellow Reunification Form and fully review and sign the pink verification sheet. Students should then return both forms to the office as soon as possible.

## Athletics

Athletics are back! We are so excited to offer a full slate of sport offerings. Fall sports are in full swing, with Volleyball for Grades 8-12 for the girls sadly no senior or junior boys team this year. We have a senior boys and a juvenile boys soccer team in competition as well as a cross country team running a meet already! We have a swim team as well, which will compete in the district meet at Watermania in late October (25th).

The next sport leagues will be in the winter season, which begins in November. We are in the process of taking signups for the sports that can potentially run (on the tackboard outside the PE Office/Gym).

Here is the list of winter sports: **Basketball** (boys and girls all grades), and **Table Tennis** (boys and girls all grades)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email Mr. J. Hodgson, Athletic Director at [jhodgson@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:jhodgson@vsb.bc.ca)

Click the link to the [Vancouver Secondary Schools Athletic Association Website](#) for more information.

## Counselling Corner

### Upcoming Mandatory Information Session for Grade 12 students

- October 22 - Grade 12 Information Assembly (during FIT) Grade 12 students are to report to the LLC for an information session about all things post-secondary from the counselling team.

### New Parents/Guardians Workshop – October 10, 2024, from 3:30pm to 5pm in the Lower Learning Commons (LLC).

This workshop is for grade 10 to 12 students and families at UHill that are **new to British Columbia**. The workshop will cover the BC Graduation Program and General Post-Secondary Information. Multicultural workers will be available for translation assistance (Mandarin/Cantonese, Spanish and Korean) and questions.

**2024-2025 Post-Secondary Events** - For students and families who are exploring post-secondary options, we highly recommend connecting with representatives from the institutions and sitting in on information sessions to get the most up-to-date information. For the 2024-2025 school year, we have several colleges/universities visiting in-person. Please go to the UHill Counselling website for the most up to date list of events both in school and in the community. This list will be updated throughout the school year, so it is recommended to check back for the most recent information: <https://uhillcounselling.weebly.com/>

**Pathways Family Resource** - For parents and families of loved ones living with a serious mental illness, Pathways provides support, education, and resources. Please visit <https://pathwayssmi.org/> for more information.

### School Communication

We encourage all parents/guardians to see their students' MS Grade Teams and School Team for specific information. Our aim is to provide guidance and information to students/parents/guardians in order to support our students. We also strongly encourage students/parents/guardians to visit our counselling website for upcoming events and resources for well-being. <https://uhillcounselling.weebly.com/>

<b>Emily Chen</b>	Grades 8 – 12, Last name A – Ki & Strategies	Email: ehchen@vsb.bc.ca
<b>Susan Hornby</b>	Grades 8 – 12, Last name Kj – T	Email: shornby@vsb.bc.ca
<b>Elizabeth Watanabe</b>	Grades 8 – 12, Last name U – Z & Whitecaps FC	Email: ewatanabe@vsb.bc.ca

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## Literacy Assessments (For Grade 12)

Grade 12 Literacy Assessments will take place on October 29 and 30, 2024. Students in Grade 12 will all be registered for the session and the schedule for both days will be distributed to students shortly.

Grade 10 Numeracy and Literacy Assessments will take place in January 14 and 15, 2025

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## School Clubs

We were excited to offer a Clubs Day on Wednesday, October 9 after school in the Cafeteria and the LLC (Lower Learning Commons). It was an opportunity for students to obtain information about all the clubs to help them decide whether they want to sign up. Please encourage your student to join a club to meet others and have fun.

## School Photos

**2024 – 2025 Photo Sessions:** Artona Photo Studios were in on September 6 and 25<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Vancouver.

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

**Grad Sessions: Group Session Dates:** Sept. 20, 2024 to March 23, 2025 at our 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.

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## Take Our Kids to Work Day

Take Our Kids to Work day (For Grade 9 students) is on **Wednesday, November 6, 2024**. More information will be emailed to all grade 9 students and families later in October.

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## Voluntary Student Accident Insurance Plans

### **Wording and Links to be included in your newsletter:**

The VSB is offering parents access to two voluntary student accident plans which offer coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical/dental expenses and critical illness. The two companies that are offering this product are the IA Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP) and Study Insured.

Families can register online to purchase and participate in either of these plans by using the URL’s provided below:

<https://www.solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc>

[www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com](http://www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com)

Family Accident Reimbursement Plan - Group insurance

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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 2024 – 2025 school year will be on the following Wednesdays at 7:30 pm:

- October 16, 2024
- 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

### October 2024

- 10 S1 Informal Learning Update Published
- 14 STAT-Thanksgiving Day
- 15 CPT – Classes end at 1:45 pm
- 16 PAC Meeting
- 25 Non-Instructional Day (Province Wide)
- 29 & 30 Grade 12 Literacy Assessments

### 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
- 20 PAC Meeting
- 21 S1 Written Learning Update & FY Informal Learning Update Published
- 22 Non-Instructional Day (District Wide)

### December 2024

- 5 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00 – 6:30 pm (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

