



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) & səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

Principal's Message

Dear Students and Families,

We hope you all had a restful, relaxing and rejuvenating Spring Break.

On Tuesday, April 15th, students will meet with their homeroom classes during [Flexible Instructional Time \(FIT\)](#) to self-reflect on their thinking, communicating, personal and social core competencies and set goals for future learning and growth. This is a continuation from the reflection and goal setting that we started with students in November, and students will repeat this activity again in June, building the life-long skills necessary to set a learning target and then work towards it. The [Core Competencies](#) are integrated throughout all areas of learning in the British Columbia's K-12 curriculum, and all students now have the opportunity to engage in core competency self-reflection and goal setting throughout the school year, building on their learning and growth from year to year.

On Friday, April 25th, Mid-Semester Written Learning Updates for Semester 2 will be published for students and families. Please ensure you can sign in to the [MyEd BC student and family portal](#) to access these reports. If you need help accessing MyEd BC, please [click here for instructions](#) or contact our school office. If students and families have any questions about how learning is going, you are always welcome to connect with teachers and counsellors. When reviewing as a family, here are helpful questions to get conversation started:

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

We also invite you to join us for the upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences on Wednesday, May 7th, taking place virtually through Teams, with the opportunity to book appointments starting on Monday, April 28th. This is an excellent opportunity to connect with teachers about how learning is going. More information will be sent to families via email in mid-April.

In this newsletter, you will find information about communicating Student Learning, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Grade 10 Literacy Assessments, Counselling, Athletics, Graduation, and PAC and School Office Reminders. Thank you for taking the time to go through this newsletter and for connecting with your students about their learning.

With Appreciation,

Alec MacInnes
Principal

Administrative Team:

Alec MacInnes, Principal
David Bach, Vice Principal
Alfred Chien, School Trustee
Rick Lopez, Director of Instruction

Office Staff:

Holly Low, Accountant
Tina Matsalla, Office Admin Assistant
Mandana Shojaat, Receptionist & First Aid
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.

Communication 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 “Virtual” Conferences – On Teams

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:

Date: **Wednesday, May 7, 2025** (for Semester 2)

Time: **4:00 – 6:30 pm**, by appointment

Please watch for the email with the conference appointment on-line booking information that will be sent to all families at the end of April. The booking scheduler will be open at 9:00 am on **Monday, April 28th**.

A friendly reminder that there will be an early dismissal for all students at 2:05 pm on **Wednesday, May 7^h** to accommodate the conferences and that Thursday, May 8 is a Collaborative Day. The adjusted bell schedules are as follows:

| Wednesday, May 7, 2025 (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 |

| Thursday, May 8, 2025 (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 | 12:45 – 3:05 |

Grade 10 Literacy Assessments

The Grade 10 Literacy Assessment will take place **on Tuesday & Wednesday, April 8 and 9**. Schedules have been posted in the school and on Teams for student to reference. All students in Grade 10 have been registered for the assessment. Students who are not in Grade 10 and still need to take the assessment should see their counsellor to confirm registration.

Counselling Corner

Summer School Reminder

Summer school registration will open at noon on April 30, 2025. Please see <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5211/summer-learning> for more detailed information and updates.

IMPORTANT: Please keep your counsellor up to date with the most accurate information about your summer learning plans so we keep a seat for you in the correct course for next school year!

Parent Resources

S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Chinese Parent Support Group – S.U.C.C.E.S.S. is a non-partisan, non-profit multicultural Canadian organization that offers a wide range of programs and services. Carol Siu, a Family and Youth Counsellor, holds a bi-weekly Parent Support Group on Wednesdays from 10am to 11:30am via Zoom from April 2025 until June 2025. The group is open to all Chinese-speaking parents in BC with children ages 6 to 19 years old. **Please click on [this brochure](#) for details.** To participate in future events, parents only need to complete a simple one-time registration. **Online Registration:** <https://forms.office.com/r/c609qGi0zh>

FamilySmart Parent Events – FamilySmart’s April theme for their virtual and caregiver events is **Parenting When Anxiety Shows up as Anger**: Anxiety in our kids can show up as anger, and that can make parenting extra challenging. Discover some strategies that can help us before, during, and after these hard moments. Learn from Karen Peters, Registered Clinical Counsellor and with an interactive discussion afterwards with other parents/caregivers. **Please see [Monthly Events - FamilySmart](#) to register as well as other upcoming events.**

Reclaiming Connections – A 10 week in-person Indigenous family support group **from April 9th to June 11th, 2025** will be facilitated by Elder Sunni and Child and Youth Mental Health Clinicians at Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) 2750 East Hastings (3rd floor), Vancouver. This program is based on the Connect Attachment program and draws on Indigenous Knowledge and Cultural Resilience to strengthen relationships with our children. **Please click on [this brochure](#) for more information.** Taxi vouchers/bus tickets are available to help families attend for the 10 weeks. ***If you would like to be referred to this program, please contact your student’s respective counsellor.***

Upcoming Post-Secondary Events

Virtual Events (Canada, UK, and US universities) - April 7th to 10th, 2025 - Please click on [Spring 2025 Flyer](#) for more details and registration.

US University Fair – April 30, 2025 from 6:30pm to 9pm at Magee Secondary (6360 Maple St., Vancouver) – Please click on [Spring 2025 Flyer](#) for more details and registration.

NACAC International Universities Fair – Saturday, May 3rd, 2025 from 1pm to 4pm at Vancouver Convention Centre – West. Please click on [NACAC 2025 Spring Vancouver International Universities Fair](#) for more details and registration.

Pets and Friend – Pet Therapy

We have had the pleasure of hosting volunteer pet therapy teams from **Pets and Friends** this school year. Students needing a break from their studies had the opportunity to connect and interact with both dogs and their owners. We want to send our sincere gratitude to Pets and Friends for their pet therapy program and amazing volunteers!

Please see link for more information about the work Pets and Friends do as well as the Benefits of Pet Therapy:

<https://www.petsandfriends.org/about/>



Emily Chen

Susan Hornby

Elizabeth Watanabe

Grades 8 – 12, Last name A – Ki & Strategies

Grades 8 – 12, Last name Kj – T

Grades 8 – 12, Last name U – Z & Whitecaps FC

Email: ehchen@vsb.bc.ca

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Athletics

Spring Season:

Spring sports teams are starting this week! We are running the following teams for the spring season:

- Senior Boys and Girls Badminton
- Senior Coed Ultimate
- Sr Girls' Soccer
- Boys' Rugby
- Senior Boys and Girls Tennis
- Coed Golf
- Track & Field
- Juvenile Boys' Volleyball

GO HAWKS GO! - Jeff Hodgson, Athletic Director

Whitecaps FC Academy

April has the U16 and U18 teams heading to Florida to play in the Generation Adidas Cup!

Special shoutouts this month go to:

- Liam Mackenzie for his professional debut with the Whitecaps First team at BC Place.
- Jeevan Badwal (2024 UHill grad) has been playing regularly with the first team this season.

LET'S GO WHITECAPS!

Graduation 2025 Information

Graduation Ceremony

Reminder that the Graduation Ceremony will be held at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts at UBC at 4:00 pm on **Wednesday, June 4**. The Graduates must arrive by 3:00 pm. The doors will open for guests (to be seated) at 3:30 pm and the Ceremony will start promptly at 4:00 pm. Thank you to all the grade 12 students for confirming your attendance and providing their height measurement for the grad gown order.

Graduation Citations

Grade 12 students that will be attending the ceremony will need to submit their Citation (this is your message that will be read out loud as you cross the stage to collect your graduation certificate. These are being collected by a survey form and the link/QR code to access the form is available on the Grade 12 Graduation Teams Channel. Reminder that citations are due by **Thursday, April 17**.

2025 Class Valedictorian

The valedictorian for the University Hill Secondary class of 2025 should be the student who best represents the graduating class. The valedictorian writes and gives a speech at the end of the Graduation Ceremony that captures the spirit of the class, acknowledges the achievements and contributions of the students, staff and parents. The speech should be serious, inspirational, entertaining and look ahead to life beyond high school. Please see the amended timeline below for the application process.

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| April 4 | Class Valedictorian applications are available from the office |
| April 16 | Class Valedictorian application due to Mr. MacInnes by 10:00 am |
| April 16-22 | Commencement Committee determines shortlist of 3-4 candidates |
| April 22 | Shortlisted candidates will be notified |
| April 29 | Grade 12 assembly during FIT (at 1:25 pm) - for Valedictorian Candidates Speeches |
| April 29-30 | On-line voting – on Grad 2025 Teams Channel |
| May 1 | Successful candidate announced |

For more information about the Ceremony, and other Grade 12 events please review the [Grade 12 Events and Important Information Notice](#) that was emailed to all Grade 12 students and Families on February 26, 2025.

School Office Reminders

Medical Alerts

If your child has important health alerts, please update the school office with written documentation.

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/guardian permission. Students who are ill should not come to school, and if they attend school and are deemed to be unwell, parents/guardians will be contacted to pick up their child.

MyEducationBC Accounts

A reminder that MyEducationBC (MyEd) 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 learning updates. 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 [Technology Guide](#) if you require assistance. Please **do not** use the BC Services Card option.

School Fees/School Cash Online

If you haven't already done so, please check and register for "School Cash Online" and pay for any items or outstanding or new school fees. All school fees for Semester 1 are now overdue. If there are any discrepancies, please email Mrs. Low hlow@vsb.bc.ca. The following link will take you to the website: <https://vsb.schoolcashonline.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 completed (on-line) by logging on to <https://myforms.vsb.bc.ca/> to provide consent electronically (**sign in with the student's 9-digit Personal Education Number (PEN) and the date of birth**):

- VSB Internal Use Media Consent
- Student AUP - Acceptable Use Policy
- External Use Media Consent
- Adobe CC Consent (if applicable)

UHill West Parking Lot - Reminders

- During school hours, the parking lot to the west of our school is our staff parking lot.
- We 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 the community & families please don't park in the staff parking lot before school and during school hours. Thank you!

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:

- April 16, 2025
- May 14, 2025
- June 18, 2025

Calendar Dates to Note for 2024-2025

April 2025

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 1 | Graduation Citation Survey Form Opens (April 1 to 17) |
| 3 | Student Learning Survey for Grade 10 – 12's – During FIT (students stay with Period 3 class) |
| 4 | Class of 2025 Valedictorians Nominations Open (April 4 to 16) – forms available from the Office |
| 7 | ICBC Presentation for Grade 11 & 12's – Period 3 (12:20 – 1:40 pm) in the Gym |
| 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 |
| 16 | Class of 2025 Valedictorian Nomination Forms due by 10:00 am |
| 17 | Graduation Ceremony Citation on-line survey form response is due by 3:00 pm |
| 18 | STAT–Good Friday |
| 21 | STAT–Easter Monday |
| 22 | Class Valedictorian Short-listed candidates will be notified |

- 24 FIT for Learning (District Wide)
- 25 S2 & FY Written Learning Update Published at 3:00pm
- 28 Non-Instructional Day (District Wide Pro D)
- 28 Parent/Teacher Conference Appointment Scheduler Opens a 9:00am
- 29 Grade 12 Assembly – during Fit (at 1:25 pm) – For Valedictorian Candidate speeches
- 29 & 30 Valedictorian On-Line Voting - on Grad 2025 Team Channel

May 2025

- 1 Class of 2025 Valedictorian successful candidate announced
- 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
- 10 Grade 8 Applied Skills/Fine Arts Rotation #3 starts (May 10 to June 24)
- 12 Graduation Ceremony Ticket Sales Available on-line from Chan Centre till June 4th
- 14 PAC Meeting at 7:30pm in ULC
- 16 Non-Instructional Day (School Based Pro D)
- 19 STAT-Victoria Day
- 20 Re: Capstone - Grade 12 Technical Practice – during FIT
- 20 to 23 Student Council 2025-2026 (STUCO) Nomination Week
- 22 Capstone Presentations During FIT and Period 4
- 28 Immunization Day #2 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm in LLC
- 28 School 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 2025-2026 (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 (Graduates arrive at 3:00pm)
- 10 CPT – Classes end at 1:45 pm
- 11 Grad Assessments – Make Up Session Only
- 13 Grad Dinner and Dance at 6:00pm at Pan Pacific
- 18 PAC Meeting at 7:30pm in ULC
- 19 Athletic Banquet at 5:00pm
- 20 PE Classes Dance Performa
- 23 Pride Picnic During Lunch on School Field
- 24 Grade Assemblies Periods 2, 3 & 4 in Gym
- 24 Last Day of Classes
- 24 Lockers Must Be Cleared Out
- 25 & 26 IE Days
- 26 S2 & FY Summary of Learning Published at 3:00 pm
- 30 Last Day for MS Teams/Email/Office 365 Account Access for Grade 12 students



SACY

Supporting and Connecting Youth

A partnership
initiative of the

VSB Vancouver
School District

Vancouver
CoastalHealth

CAPACITY CAFE

A WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

Capacity Café is a unique opportunity for caregivers, parents, and guardians to hear about and learn from the lived experience of youth.

In a Capacity Café, adults sit around a circle with youth where a moderated discussion unfolds. When sitting around the Capacity Café circle, youth are given the opportunity to share their thoughts, views, and observations on various topics, speaking to youth lived experience. Some of the topics include stress management, substance use, and relationships.

The Capacity Café is intended to be a youth-friendly environment where youth are invited to talk openly about the issues they consider to be important to them and their peers. Through Capacity Cafes, SACY aims to forge intergenerational connections by helping caregivers, parents and guardians understand and appreciate life from a youth's perspective and be better equipped as youth-allies.

DATE: Wednesday May 7

TIME: 5:30-7:30pm

LOCATION: Library at KITSILANO Secondary School

Join SACY for a light dinner and a presentation by Vancouver secondary school students

Orientation and light dinner will be served from 5:30-6:00PM

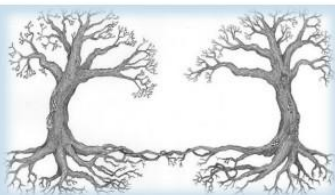
Circle Workshop from 6:00pm to 7:15pm

Please note *attendance to the 5:30PM orientation is Mandatory in order to attend the 6:00PM presentation with students

Registration is limited

This is an adult only event/childcare will not be available.

For Registration, Please Click the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CSL9K95>



What is Reclaiming Connections?

Reclaiming Connections brings parents and caregivers together for **10 weekly gatherings**, with a focus on understanding the importance of attachment and connection for pre-teens (age 8-12) and teens (age 13-17).

Caregivers come together in **groups of 8-12** with two facilitators for **1.5 hours each week**. Knowledge keepers and Elders are welcome at each gathering, which occur in-person or virtually.

The group promotes **cultural connectedness** and is **shaped by Indigenous voices** to ensure relevance by and for each community's particular culture, needs, and history.

For more information or to get involved, please visit:

www.connectattachmentprograms.org/reclaimingconnections

To find Reclaiming Connections in your community, please contact:

Connect Team – Simon Fraser University
youth-project@sfu.ca

Siobhan Avery
Phone: 778-621-6620
Email: siobhan.avery@gov.bc.ca

Amonda Francis
Phone: 236-468-1511
Email: amonda.francis@gov.bc.ca



This program is delivered by community mental health practitioners across British Columbia and Ministry of Child & Family Development staff. We gratefully acknowledge funding in part from the Public Health Agency of Canada.



Reclaiming Connections

Drawing on Indigenous Knowledge & Cultural Resilience to Strengthen Relationships Between Youth, their Parents, and their Circle of Caregivers

Information for Parents and Caregivers

Reclaiming Connections is part of Connect Attachment Programs, in partnership with Simon Fraser University



What do Parents and Caregivers Do in Reclaiming Connections?

- Drawing on each caregiver's **cultural knowledge**, explore ideas and strategies to support our children and take care of ourselves
- Build understanding of *our child's* and *our own* relational needs, feelings, and behaviours
- Discuss ways of **responding to challenging behaviours** and intense emotions
- Watch **role plays** that show common challenges and engage in **reflection exercises**



Shaping Reclaiming Connections

Reclaiming Connections is shaped by Indigenous families, mental health professionals, and researchers.

Through **mutual dialogue and partnership** with all levels of community, we continue to gather information about how to make the program stronger and **ensure cultural sensitivity and safety**.

Information gathered belongs to each community; and with consent, new knowledge will be shared broadly to support learning.



Graphics by Colleen Stevenson

Understanding Our Connections with Adolescents

Becoming a teenager is a big transition for both young people and their kinship. Many parents and caregivers may find it difficult connecting with their youth. However, teenagers continue to need relationships and connections with their caregivers and kinship as they get older.

In Reclaiming Connections, we find **new ways of understanding and strengthening relationships with our children** to support them in navigating life's journey.



What To Expect



Meet Universities I Canada, UK, US, NCAA

Date: Apr 7-10

Location: Zoom Events (Online)

Details:

The NCAA and universities will be providing presentations at different times from Apr 7-10. Presentations will be available to watch live or on-demand. Register to receive the full agenda!



US University Fair

Date: Apr 30 | 6:30pm-9pm PT

Location:

Magee Secondary School
6360 Maple St, Vancouver, BC

Details:

Join us in-person to meet US universities including UMich, UChicago, Pitzer College, Arizona State and more!



Career Pathways

Learn about career pathways in healthcare (medicine, dentistry, nursing, etc.), business, engineering, science and technology, education, law, finance, arts, Esports, and more!



Undergraduate Programs

Learn about top majors and undergraduate programs that will help you succeed in your future career path!

Featured Universities



THE UNIVERSITY
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Caltech IMPERIAL



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME



UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA



RIT

ASU

UC SANTA BARBARA



UNIVERSITY
OF MIAMI



TEXAS TECH
UNIVERSITY



COLLEGE for Creative Studies



STEVENS
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



OSWEGO
STATE UNIVERSITY



[Click Here](#) or
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VSBC Vancouver
School District

2025 Spring Post-Secondary Events

Online and In-Person

Organized by: CollegeTrackr Canada

