



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) & səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

Principal's Message

Dear Students and Families,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful and restful winter holiday. I am thrilled to be joining the University Hill school staff as principal, replacing Ms. Wood who has been transferred to Point Grey Secondary.

We are delighted to welcome two new staff members to our UHill community. Welcome to Miriam Pulsifer, who is our new Safe and Caring Schools Support Worker at UHill on Mondays, Tuesdays and alternating Fridays, and welcome to Nikki Stewart Hunter, who joins our Physical and Health Education Department for Semester 2.

As the end of the semester approaches, now is a great time for you 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.

Course planning for the 2025-2026 school year is underway. You are invited to please click the [UHill Course Planning Guide](#). Our counselling team is presenting to students throughout the month of January, and all parents are invited to attend our virtual Parent Course Information Evening on **Wednesday, January 22nd 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 "Clue" Shows are January 14th, 15th, 16th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd 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 regards,

Alec MacInnes
Principal

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 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 **Wednesday, May 7, 2025** (for Semester 2), from 4:00-6:30pm.

The Numeracy Assessments

Numeracy 10 Assessment will take place **January 14 and 15 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	By Last Names (starting with)
January 14, 2025	8:30 - 11:30 am	1B2	A to De
		1B4	Di to Hu
	12:00 - 3:00 pm	1B2	Hua to Li
		1B4	Lia to Luo AND all Whitecaps FC Students in Grade 10
January 15, 2025	8:30 - 11:30 am	1B2	M to R
		1B4	S to Ta
	12:00 - 3:00 pm	1B2	Tong to Xu
		1B4	Y to Z

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 **Friday, January 24, 2025.**
- Semester Turn-Around Days are **Monday, January 27 and Tuesday, January 28, 2025.**
- 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 **Wednesday, January 29, 2025.**
- Semester 2 schedules can be accessed on the MyEd Family Portal – it’s important that students check their schedules prior to arriving on January 29.
- Learning Updates will be posted on the MyEd Family Portal at 3:00pm on **Thursday, January 30, 2025.**

Theatre Company and Theatre Production Performance

This year University Hill Secondary's Theatre Company and Theatre Production are very proud to present "Clue."

Join iconic guests Scarlet, Plum, White, Green, Peacock and Mustard as they race to find out the murderer in Boddy manor before the body count stacks up. Based on the cult classic film and the popular board game, Clue is a madcap comedy that will keep you guessing until the final twist.

Showtimes: January 14, 15th, 16th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd @ 7:00 PM

Ticket Prices: Adults \$12; Students \$10

Early Bird: Adults \$10, Students \$7

Opening night: Buy one and get one Free

All Tickets will be sold during lunch and at the door

Karen Penney, Drama Teacher



School Office Reminders

Administrative Team:

Alec MacInnes, 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 West Parking Lot

Staff Parking Lot - *We need your help please*

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

Yearbooks

Yearbooks are available to order for \$55 on School Cash Online <https://vsb.schoolcashionline.com/>. The 2024-2025 Yearbook will be filled with pictures of students, staff, school events, and holidays, and create memories for years to come. Purchase yours early as we sold out the last two years. The Yearbook order deadline is **February 28, 2025**.

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 24, 2025. 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.

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 [School Technology Guide](#) if you require assistance. Please do not use the BC Services Card option. **Note: Grade 8 to 11 students will also need to access their MyEducationBC account to enter their 2025 - 2026 course selections that will be due on Thursday, February 13, 2025.**

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) 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)
- CASL - Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation

Graduation 2025 Information

Graduation Ceremony

The 2025 Graduation Ceremony will be held at the Chan Centre of Performing Arts at UBC at 4:00 pm on **Wednesday, June 4, 2025**. (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 will be available for purchase online directly from the Chan Centre Website from **May 1 to June 4, 2025**. 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

The 2025 Graduation Dinner / Dance will be held at the Pan Pacific at 6:00pm on **Friday, June 13, 2025**. Further information to follow.

Graduation Photo Session Dates are **February 2 to 6, 2025**

Grade 12 students can book their 30-minute appointment at <https://artona.com/bookings> during the week above. For further information, please visit www.artona.com/schools/UHIL - click on "contact us" or call 604-872-7272 with any questions.

- **Graduation Photo Session Dates: February 2 to 6, 2025**
- **Group Session Dates (For those who would like additional Group Photos of up to 6 people):** September 20, 2024 to March 23, 2025
- **Location:** at Artona – main studio at 353 West 7th Avenue, Vancouver

Athletics

Winter Season

Our basketball teams and table tennis teams are under way and have begun their seasons (3 boys' teams and 1 girls' team for basketball, 2 boys teams for table tennis). We are super excited to see how our 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!

Jeff Hodgson, Athletic Director

Whitecaps FC Academy

Our students in the Whitecaps FC Academy continue to have a jam packed and commendable season! In January they are off to San Francisco and Sacramento to play in league games and will be hosting games at the UBC pitch on January 18th. Best of luck and congratulations to all our aspiring athletes, in their ongoing commitment to developing their soccer skills and maximizing their potential! A special shout out to the following members for their hard-earned achievements in the past month:

- Kunle Tokode represented the Nigerian U16 National Team
- Former Whitecaps FC Academy player, and current UHill student, Felipe Jaramillo Drolet represented the U17 Columbian National Team

LET'S GO WHITECAPS!

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 7

Grade 9 – Tuesday, January 14

Grade 10 – Thursday, January 9

Grade 11 – Tuesday, January 21 (Part 1) & Thursday, January 23 (Part 2)

Whitecaps FC Grade 9 – Monday, January 13 – Period 2 and Grade 10 & 11 – Monday, January 20 – Period 2

Virtual Course Planning Information Sessions for Parents/Guardians will be on **Wednesday, January 22, 2025 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 3 to 13, 2025. 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 13, 2025**. 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.



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
Susan Hornby
Elizabeth Watanabe

Grades 8 – 12, Last name A – K & Strategies
Grades 8 – 12, Last name K – T
Grades 8 – 12, Last name U – Z & Whitecaps FC

Email: ehchen@vsb.bc.ca
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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:

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

Calendar Dates to Note for 2024-2025

January 2025

- 7 Grade 8 Course Planning during FIT
- 9 Grade 10 Course Planning during FIT
- 13 Whitecaps (Gr. 9's) Course Planning during Period 2
- 14 Grade 9 Course Planning during FIT
- 14 & 15 Grade 10 Numeracy Assessments
- 15 PAC Meeting at 7:30pm in ULC
- 16 CPT – Classes end at 1:45 pm
- 20 Whitecaps (Gr. 10 & 11's) Course Planning during Period 2
- 21 Grade 11 Course Planning during FIT (Part 1)
- 22 Parent Course Info Night at 5:00pm (Virtual)
- 23 Grade 11 Course Planning During FIT (Part 2)
- 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 at 3:00pm
- 30 FIT for Learning (District Wide)

February 2025

- 3 Semester 2 Grade Assemblies Periods 1, 2 & 3 in Gym
- 3 to 13 Students Enter 2025/26 Course Selections in MyED
- 3 to 6 Grad Photo Sessions at Artona Studios by Appointment
- 12 PAC Meeting at 7:30pm in ULC
- 14 Non-Instructional Day (District Wide ProD)
- 17 STAT-Family Day
- 20 Cybersafe Grade Assemblies Periods 1, 2 & 3 in Gym
- 21 CPT – Classes start at 10:00 am
- 26 Pink Shirt Day
- 27 Fit for Learning (District Wide)
- 28 Last Day for Yearbooks Sales

March 2025

- 3 Grade 12 Grad Gown Order Forms due to Office
- 11 Grade 12 Assembly during FIT (Re: Capstones)
- 12 Spring Dance at 7:00pm in Cafeteria
- 13 S2 Informal Learning Update published at 3:00pm
- 13 FIT for Learning (District Wide)
- 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
- 15 FIT with Homeroom Class (Re: Core Competencies)
- 16 PAC Meeting at 7:30pm in ULC

April Continued....

- 18 STAT–Good Friday
- 21 STAT–Easter Monday
- 23 Valedictorian Nominee Video Speeches Due
- 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

May 2025

- 1 Graduation Ceremony Ticket Sales Available on-line from Chan Centre till June 4th
- 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
- 14 PAC Meeting at 7:30pm in ULC
- 16 Non-Instructional Day (School Based ProD)
- 19 STAT-Victoria Day
- 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
- 13 Grad Dinner and Dance at 6:00pm at Pan Pacific
- 11 Grad Assessments – Make Up Session Only
- 18 PAC Meeting at 7:30pm in ULC
- 19 Athletic Banquet at 5:00pm
- 23 Pride Picnic During Lunch on School Field
- 24 Grade Assemblies Periods 2, 3 & 4 in Gym
- 24 Last Day of Classes - Lockers Must Be Cleared Out
- 25 & 26 IE Days
- 26 S2 & FY Summary of Learning Published at 3:00 pm