



# 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), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).*

## Principal's Message

Dear Students and Families,

March is a shorter school month having fewer days in session with the two-week Spring Break starting on March 15. We would like to wish our Junior and Senior Band well as they will be performing at the Magee Music Night on Wednesday evening March 12<sup>th</sup>. We are also grateful to our Student Council for organizing our upcoming school dance on Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm; info about ticket sales is posted on the all-student team.

On Thursday March 13<sup>th</sup>, Semester 2 Informal Learning Updates (Interim Reports) will be published for students and families. Thank you for taking the time to ensure that you can log on to the [MyEd BC student and family portal](#) so that you are able to access these Informal Reports. If you need help accessing MyEd BC, please click [here](#) for instructions or contact our school office. Informal Learning Updates are an opportunity for an early check-in as to how learning is going for our students. When reviewing as a family, here is a reminder of helpful questions to get conversations 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.

In this newsletter, you will find information about Communicating Student Learning, Counselling, Athletics, PAC and Graduation. Thank you for taking the time to go through this newsletter and for connecting with your students about their learning. With Spring Break just around the corner, we wish all our students, families and staff a restful, relaxing and rejuvenating upcoming holiday.

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 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.

## Counselling Corner

Course selection for next year is nearly complete. Thank you for all the timely input from students and families.

**Summer School Reminder** A reminder to be sure to inform your counsellor about summer learning plans. Please let us know if there are any changes to plans as summer approaches so we can make every effort to have a seat in the correct desired course next year. Information about summer school options and registration will be available in late April and registration opens on April 30<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5211/summer-learning>



For more information, please visit:  
<https://bit.ly/vancouveriat>

### Mental Health March

### Parent Resources

Family Smart at <https://familysmart.ca/>

- Family Smart is a source of videos, handouts and online events for parents about parenting through difficult times.

Kelty Mental Health: <https://keltymentalhealth.ca/>

- Kelty Mental Health is an online resource from BC Children's Hospital with excellent information for parents and youth.

Anxiety Canada: <https://www.anxietycanada.com/>

- Anxiety Canada has excellent information about anxiety and how to manage anxiety for both parents and students.

### Youth Resources

Foundry BC <https://foundrybc.ca/>

- Foundry BC provides online and in-person resources for youth mental health. Course Selection

Have a lovely Spring Break!

**Emily Chen**

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

Email: [ehchen@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:ehchen@vsb.bc.ca)

**Susan Hornby**

Grades 8 – 12, Last name Kj – T

Email: [shornby@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:shornby@vsb.bc.ca)

**Elizabeth Watanabe**

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

Email: [ewatanabe@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:ewatanabe@vsb.bc.ca)

## Athletics

**Winter Season:** Our basketball teams and table tennis teams are finished, with some strong play from all teams. Our table tennis teams made it to the 2nd round of playoffs and our Bantam Boys' basketball team made the quarterfinals of the league playoffs!

**Spring Season:** We have begun spring sports tryouts, with a few more still to come. We will be running the following sports during this athletic season:

* Juvenile boys' volleyball	* Boys Badminton
* Track & Field	* Coed Ultimate
* Girls Tennis	* Girls Soccer
* Boys Tennis	* Rugby
* Coed Golf	
* Girls Badminton	

Please contact Mr. Hodgson, as soon as possible, if you have interest in any of these sports! GO HAWKS GO!

Jeff Hodgson, Athletic Director

### Whitecaps FC Academy

Our students in the Whitecaps FC Academy continue to have a busy season! In March they are hosting LA Galaxy, Sacramento United, and the Portland Timbers in league play as well as some local friendly matches.

Special shoutouts this month go to:

- Johnny Selemani and Sahil Deo (gr 11) for being called up to play on the U17 Canadian Men's National Team.
- The U16 team for winning MLS Team of the Month
- Tyler Brown for MLS U16 player of the month
- Manav Badwal (gr 9) for his U17 Canadian Men's National Team training participation

LET'S GO WHITECAPS!

## Graduation 2025 Information

### Graduation Ceremony

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. All grade 12 students must complete the Grad Ceremony Attendance Confirmation & Grad Gown Height Measurement on-line survey form. The survey form is open **February 26 to March 13** and the link has been posted on the Grade 12 Graduation Teams Channel.

Graduation Photos Graduation Photo Session Dates were at the beginning of February.

- Reminder that Grade 12 students should have booked their 30-minute appointment at Artona Studios Location: (353 West 7th Avenue, Vancouver).
- If anyone has missed the earlier photo session dates, there is still time to book an appointment at [artona.com/bookings](https://artona.com/bookings) – **Deadline to book is March 31, 2025**. If you need any assistance with booking an appointment contact Artona's customer service team at [artona.com/contact-us](https://artona.com/contact-us)
- This photo is for the Grad Composite.

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.

## Parent/Caregiver/Educator Info Session

### Understanding and Guiding Youth in Online Gaming

PSSG is excited to share this learning opportunity from Public Safety Canada:

This session will explore strategies to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse within online gaming environments, providing practical guidance and expert perspectives. The webinar is facilitated by GamerSafer, a safety tech company focused on protecting players and gaming communities from digital risks and harms.

This session will be hosted on Zoom. To register, please click on the link below. You will then receive a confirmation email with login details.

**Understanding and Guiding Youth in Online Gaming, March 5, 2025 from 10:30 am – 12:00 pm PST.**

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Participants will be able to ask questions during the event. Please be advised that this event may be recorded.

For any questions about the event, please do not hesitate to email Public Safety Canada at: [onlinecseeseenligne@ps-sp.gc.ca](mailto:onlinecseeseenligne@ps-sp.gc.ca).

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## Yearbook Collection Notice for Yearbooks

Each school year, staff and students collaborate to develop a yearbook, a copy of which is available for purchase by each student and staff member in June. The creation of the yearbook not only provides students with a keepsake of their school experiences but also provides an opportunity to recognize and showcase student work and achievements.

It is the Vancouver School Board's practice to include a photo of each student in the yearbook, together with their name and grade. Other photos from school events, activities, and sports teams, in addition to student work, are also collected and featured in the final version of the yearbook. This personal information that is collected and distributed to collect the yearbook is done under the authority of section 26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Should you have any questions about the collection and use of your or your child's personal information for these purposes, please email [uhillswitchboard@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:uhillswitchboard@vsb.bc.ca). Please also note that participation in the yearbook program is voluntary. **If you have already indicated that you do not consent to your child's images being used in the yearbook, your response has been noted and you do not need to reach out again.** If, however, you did not complete the previous consent form and wish to be excluded from the yearbook please email [uhillswitchboard@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:uhillswitchboard@vsb.bc.ca) no later than **Wednesday, March 12, 2025.**

## 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

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## VSB After the Bell: Live – an online learning series for families

Introducing VSB After the Bell: Live, a new series of information sessions designed to provide families with direct access to educators and experts on key topics affecting student learning and well-being.

As an extension of our [podcast, After the Bell](#), the learning series is designed to be accessible and informative, featuring education subject matter experts, live Q&A and practical takeaways for families. For March, we will be exploring how to navigate social media, AI and online safety.

### **VSB After the Bell: Live**

**Topic:** Helping kids navigate social media, AI and online safety

**Date:** March 11, 2025 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

**Who:** Jeff Spence, VSB District Principal of Information technology and Christina Walker, VSB Digital Literacy Mentor Teacher

In an increasingly digital world, understanding how to be a responsible and informed online citizen is more important than ever. Join VSB After the Bell: Live for an engaging session on digital literacy, where we'll explore how students can safely and responsibly navigate the online space.

Join experts in the field to discuss key topics including navigating social media platforms (Snapchat, Discord, Instagram, TikTok), the impact of Generative AI (Copilot, ChatGPT) and essential student online safety strategies. Learn how VSB is supporting both students and educators on this journey and gain practical insights to help your child thrive in the digital age.

Have questions? Ask ahead of time to get them answered live. Submit questions [here](#).

A link to the information will be sent a day before the event.

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### Podcast

In our podcast, VSB: After The Bell, you'll hear directly from those responsible for our publicly funded education system.

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## 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](mailto: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. **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.**

### 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](mailto: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 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!

## Calendar Dates to Note for 2024-2025

### March 2025

- 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 Grade 8 Applied Skills/Fine Arts Rotation #2 starts (March 13 to May 9)
- 13 FIT for Learning (District Wide)
- 13 Graduation Ceremony Confirmation & Grad Gown Height Measurement on-line survey form due at 3:00 pm
- 14 Last Day before Spring Break
- 17 to 28 Spring Break
- 31 School Reopens after Spring Break

### 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 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 to the Office by 10:00am
- 17 Graduation Ceremony Citation on-line survey form response is due by 3:00 pm
- 18 STAT–Good Friday
- 21 STAT–Easter Monday
- 23 Class of 2025 Valedictorian Nominee Video Speeches due by 10:00 am
- 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
- Apr 30 to May 2 – Valedictorian Speeches posted and Voting Days

### May 2025

- 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

