



# 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) & səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).*

## Principal's Message

Dear Students and Families,

With the end of the school year approaching, we gear up to celebrate student learning. In particular, our Grade 12 Capstone presentations will be showcased on **Thursday, May 22nd**. The Capstone is a year-long, individualized passion project that gives graduating students the opportunity to demonstrate their culmination of learning and emphasizes competencies, process, and reflection. Our Grade 8, 9, 10 and 11 students will be participating as audience members during the Grade 12 Capstone presentations, giving them an opportunity to learn from the projects and be inspired for when they will create their own. Grade 8-11 students, please see more information posted on the 'all-students' team and make sure you register for the session of your choice by Tuesday, May 6th. Congratulations in advance to our graduating students for sharing their Capstone presentations in our schoolwide event!

We also have our UHill Carnival coming up on **Wednesday, May 28th** after school. Our appreciation goes out to our student council for organizing this community event. Students are asked to stay tuned for more information that will be posted in the 'all-students' team.

In this newsletter, you will find information about communicating Student Learning, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Immunization Clinic, 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

Reminder of the upcoming virtual Parent Teacher Conference Evening:

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

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

Please see the conference appointment on-line booking information that was emailed to all families on Friday, April 25, 2025. The booking scheduler program will close today **Friday, May 2** at 10:00 pm.

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

<b>Wednesday, May 7, 2025 (Early Dismissal)</b>	
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

<b>Thursday, May 8, 2025 (Late Start)</b>	
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

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## Immunization Clinic #2

Date: **Wednesday, May 28, 2025**

Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Reminder of the upcoming Immunization Clinic on **Wednesday, May 28, 2025** at UHill in the LLC. There are approximately 160 students that have been given a consent form or a reminder notice. Signed consent forms are due to the office as soon as possible. The schedule will be done alphabetically, and it will be posted for students on Teams. Students should eat breakfast beforehand and wear a short-sleeved shirt. If you have any questions regarding this clinic, please contact the nurse, Katie Wanamaker-Briggs at 604-261-6366 extension 3333 or by email at [katie.wanamakerbriggs@vch.ca](mailto:katie.wanamakerbriggs@vch.ca).

## Counselling Corner

### Summer School Reminder:

Summer school registration opened at noon on **April 30, 2025**. We understand that many courses were full within minutes. 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 year! This includes confirming plans reported in course planning and any changes to plans as they unfold.**

### National Mental Health Awareness Month at University Hill Secondary:

May is National Mental Health Month - a time to prioritize well-being and support one another as a community. With the recent tragic events in Vancouver, and the pressures of AP exam season, it's completely normal to feel many different things. We want to remind you that you're not alone, please don't hesitate to lean on others for support.

Dr. Laurie Santos, psychology professor at Yale, is offering a new course for parents "The Science of Well-Being for Parents" It opens May 1<sup>st</sup> on Coursera and is **free**. Please check out the link [DrLaurieSantos.com/Parents](http://DrLaurieSantos.com/Parents)

Family Smart has info in the messaging below and finally we encourage you to check out the *Meaningful May* calendar at <https://actionforhappiness.org/> which offers daily actions to help build happiness and promote positive mental health. Let's continue to care for ourselves—and each other.

**FamilySmart Parent Events** – FamilySmart's focus this month supports National Mental Health month. Please see the link below for various offerings for parents next week: [May 7th | Events](#)

**Parent and Youth Resources:** Anxiety Canada - <https://www.anxietycanada.com/>

- Anxiety Canada provides practical CBT evidence-based resources for both youth and adults. Parent resources are also available on how to support youth.
- <https://www.anxietycanada.com/free-downloadable-pdf-resources/>
- Wellbeing.gov.bc.ca/youth <https://helpstartshere.gov.bc.ca/blog/youth-mental-health-and-substance-use>

**Youth Resources:** Foundry BC at <https://foundrybc.ca/>

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

### Post-Secondary Resources for Students and Families:

**Post-Secondary BC Resources for Parents** – Resources on how parents/guardians may support students to make the best and well-informed post-secondary choices - <https://www.postsecondarybc.ca/for-parents/>

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

## Athletics

### Spring Season:

Spring sports teams are finishing up their regular seasons and a few are poised to take part in the city championships and the zone qualifiers.

### **Badminton:**

The senior team has done very well to date and is battling to finish in the top 3 (on the girl's side) in hopes of making the city playoffs, can't wait to see the last push of the season for them and into zone qualifying.

### **Track & Field:**

The preliminary track meets were a huge success with many athletes performing very well. The city final meet is May 8th/9th/12th at Point grey/UBC/Swanguard from 3-7pm, looking forward to watching all the athletes compete at our home track!

### **Tennis:**

The tennis season was led by a former Uhill student and recent grad Amir K and Isaak Haberman. They really made this group gel and made tennis fun for this group. The girls' team will land top 4 and compete in the zone tournament and the city championships!

### **Ultimate:**

The Senior Ultimate team will place 3<sup>rd</sup> in their pool and will be in the city championships and will qualify for the zone tournament. Good luck!

### **Golf:**

Our A team looks like it will be squeezed out of the city championships by 2 points, but hoping to qualify later in May for Zones, hoping to qualify for provincials in Squamish, good luck all!

B team finishes their season next week and hopefully will land in the top 5 in the league. A great year for this group, hoping several of the players will work on their game over the season and be a part of the A group next year!

### **Rugby:**

We have 10 students that are part of a joint team with 3 other schools. They are still in season and doing well.

### **JV Boys Volleyball**

This group has done so well this season, coming 2<sup>nd</sup> in their own tournament, and placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the west for the league. Upcoming is the playoffs, Good luck!

### **Senior Girls Soccer**

This group was put together by our fantastic new PE teacher Ms. Stewart-Hunter. A mish mash of so many grades, this bunch of soccer players played hard and never gave up. Looking forward to seeing more players come out next year. Great job!

GO HAWKS GO!

Jeff Hodgson, Athletic Director

### Whitecaps FC Academy

May has all of the teams heading into the final weeks of their season with team travel to the USA and games locally.

LET'S GO WHITECAPS!

## Graduation 2025 Information

**Graduation Ceremony** Will be held at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts at UBC on **Wednesday, June 4.**

- Graduates must arrive at 3:00 pm
- The doors will open for guests (to be seated) at 3:30 pm
- The ceremony will start at 4:00 pm

### **Graduation Citations**

The citations were due on **April 30.** Graduates who have not completed one should have received a reminder message by email and should submit one as soon as possible.

### **Graduation Ceremony Tickets**

**\*\* Please note: the NEW online process for 2025 and the change of ticket sale dates**

To ensure that tickets are distributed to all families evenly, they will be available in Rounds 1 to 3 from the Chan Centre Box Office. Please see the following Ticket Booking Rounds:

#### **Ticketing Round 1: Opens -Tuesday, May 6 (at 12:00pm) Closes – Wednesday, May 21 (at 11:59pm)**

- Online booking for a maximum of **2 complimentary guest tickets** and a **maximum of 1 additional paid ticket** can be purchased in this round. **Complimentary Tickets MUST be booked during this round. (Promo Code is required)**
- Book all of your tickets for this round in one order.
- No first round tickets are available after May 21st. There will be no exceptions for those who miss this reservation window
- Any unclaimed tickets from the first round are transferred to the extra ticket inventory and distributed in the Extra Ticket round
- Please note: this round is NOT first-come, first-served - you do not need to book right at Noon on May 6<sup>th</sup>. However, be sure to book well before the May 21st deadline.

#### **Ticketing Round 2: Opens – Thursday, May 22 (at 12:00pm) Closes – Tuesday, June 2 (at 11:59pm)**

- for a maximum of 2 additional paid tickets
- Complimentary tickets are no longer available in round 2
- No Promo code is required
- These tickets are first-come, first-served, until available seats are all booked.

#### **Ticketing Round 3: Opens – Tuesday, June 3 (12:00pm)**

- For any unclaimed tickets from the previous rounds will become available (no promo code required and no limits)
- No Promo code is required
- These tickets are first-come, first-served basis

The link to the Chan Centre's Ticketing Page (with the instructions and Promo Code) will be emailed to the Grade 12 families on **Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.**

## School Office Reminders

### Medical Alerts

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

### 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 following:

- **students first and name**
- **student number**
- **date(s) of absence**
- **time of absence/periods of missed classes**
- **and the 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. 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!

## 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:

- May 14, 2025
- June 18, 2025

## Calendar Dates to Note for 2024-2025

### May 2025

- 2 Parent/Teacher Conference Appointment Scheduler closes at 10:00pm
- 5 to 16 AP Exams
- 6 Graduation Ceremony Ticket Sales (Round #1) on-line from Chan Centre **till May 21 11:59 pm**
- 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)
- 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
- 21 Graduation Ceremony Ticket Sales (Round #1) will end at 11:59 pm
- 22 Graduation Ceremony Ticket Sales (Round #2) on-line from Chan Centre **till June 2 11:59 pm**
- 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 Graduation Ceremony Ticket Sales (Round #2) will at end at 11:59 pm
- 2 to 13 Student Council 2025-2026 (STUCO) Campaigns & Voting
- 3 FIT with Homeroom Class (Re: Core Competencies)
- 3 Graduation Ceremony Ticket Sales (Round #3) on-line from Chan Centre opens at 12:00pm
- 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
- 18 Athletic Banquet at 5:00pm – (Revised date)
- 20 PE Classes Dance Performances
- 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

