

March 6, 2026

UNIVERSITY HILL SECONDARY SCHOOL

OUR VSB



# Community Newsletter

Phone: 604-713-8258 Website: [www.vsb.bc.ca/university-hill](http://www.vsb.bc.ca/university-hill)

*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) & səlilwətał (Tseil-Waututh Nation).*

## Principal's Message

Dear Students and Families,

It has been a busy start to Semester Two here at U-Hill. Counsellors have completed their grade level course planning meetings for the 2026/27 school year, and we have begun the initial steps to use these course requests to build schedules for staff and students to be ready for September. Our Student Council organized Valentine's Spirit Week, which included a cupcake decorating contest and a photo booth. Also, red envelopes were distributed to each student to celebrate Lunar New Year, and we hosted a Lion Dancing Team. Our student and staff community celebrated the Olympic spirit with lunchtime viewing parties in the cafeteria. Lastly, the Winter School Sports season has ended, and we want to congratulate all students and coaches for their efforts.

As we turn the calendar to March, we look forward to Spring Break. March 13th will be the last day students will be in session, and school will be reopening on March 30th. We hope that families can spend time together during these two weeks, and students will be coming back afterwards recharged and ready for the stretch run until June!

Semester Two Informal Learning Updates will be published for students and families by 3PM on Friday, March 6th. As always, we encourage families to reach out to their students' teachers at any time to get a sense of where they are in their learning and any improvements that can be made.

With respect,

Travis Bell  
Principal  
University Hill Secondary School

### **Administrative Team**

Travis Bell, Principal  
David Bach, Vice Principal  
Alfred Chien, School Trustee  
Rick Lopez, Director of Instruction

### **Office Staff**

Tammy Weinczok, Office Admin Assistant (Interim)  
Holly Low, Accountant  
Charlene Wang, Student Records  
Sanket Kale, Receptionist & First Aid Attendant

ANNUAL STUCO  
SPRING DANCE



# 2026 Stucos



Come & Enjoy

**LIVE DJ &  
MUSIC**

**PHOTO  
BOOTH**

**PIZZA &  
DRINKS**

Mark your calenders!

**11 MARCH 2026**

Lights! Camera! Action! UHill's annual spring dance is back! Wear your finest clothes and come have fun!

**Location**

University Hill  
Secondary Cafeteria

**Time**

7:00 PM  
11/03/2026

**BUY TICKETS AT LUNCH IN THE CAFETERIA**



## 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 at **3:00pm on October 10, 2025**
- Written Learning Update published at **3:00pm on November 21, 2025**
- Summary of Learning published at **3:00pm on January 30, 2026**

#### Semester 2

- Informal Learning Update published at **3:00pm on March 06, 2026**
- Written Learning Update published at **3:00pm on May 01, 2026**
- Summary of Learning published at **3:00pm on June 25, 2026**

#### Full Year Courses

- Informal Learning Update published at **3:00pm on November 21, 2025**
- Written Learning Updates published at **3:00pm on January 30 & May 01, 2026**
- Summary of Learning published at **3:00pm on June 25, 2026**

### Virtual Parent Teacher Conferences

There will be two Virtual Parent Teacher Conference Evening, one for each Semester. Both will be from 4:00 – 6:30 pm and they have been scheduled on **Thursday, December 11, 2025** (for Semester 1) and **Wednesday, May 06, 2026** (for Semester 2).

## 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 29<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5211/summer-learning>



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

### Mental Health March

### Parent Resources

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

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.

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)

## Student Drop-off and Pick-up Reminder

Recently, particularly with the colder weather and extended darkness in the mornings and early evening, we have had some close calls in our parking lot and on our neighbouring streets. Please drive with caution in the roundabouts and when approaching crosswalks.

Also, a reminder that entrance to the parking lot off of Ross Drive is for University Hill Staff only.



## Help Grow Our School Garden — Plant, Tool & Cutting Donations Welcome!

Our school garden continues to flourish, and we're excited to expand it this spring with help from our amazing staff, students and families. We are seeking donations of **perennial divisions, cuttings, and gently used gardening equipment**.

**Plants we are seeking:** ferns, hostas, heuchera/coral bells, blue fescue, feather reed grass, lamb's ear, herbs, strawberries, and any other perennials you can divide.

**Cuttings we welcome:** hydrangeas, salvias, penstemons, fuchsias, pelargoniums and more.

**Garden tools & equipment:** medium or large pots, plant stands, clippers, shears, gloves, watering cans, hoses, tomato cages, stakes, and potting trays.

If you're unsure whether something can be divided or donated, feel free to ask — we're happy to help.

**Donations can be arranged by emailing Tish Silvers ([asilvers@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:asilvers@vsb.bc.ca)) to have them dropped off direct to garden.**

Thank you for helping us cultivate a thriving, hands-on learning space for our whole school community.



## Yearbooks – Deadline Extended to March 13

Yearbooks are available to order for \$60 on School Cash Online <https://vsb.schoolcashionline.com/>. The 2025-2026 Yearbook will be filled with pictures of students, staff, school events, and holidays, and create memories for years to come. **The Yearbook order deadline has been extended to March 13, 2026 – all sales will end on this date, no exceptions. Once the order has been placed, we cannot add to the order.**

## Graduation 2026 Information

### Graduation Photo Session Dates were February 1 to 4, 2026

If these session dates were missed, **graduates can still sign up online on the Artona website [artona.com/bookings](https://artona.com/bookings)**. Grad photos are also used for the grad composite, yearbook and grad ceremony slideshow; however, **deadlines are fast approaching for photos to be included in these items, so please book ASAP!** If you have any questions, click on "contact us" on Artona's appointment registration page or call 604-872-7272. Studio Location: 353 W 7th Ave., Vancouver.

### Graduation Ceremony

Graduation Ceremony will be held at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts at UBC at **4:00 pm on Wednesday, June 3**. 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, Name Confirmation & Grad Gown Sizing On-line Form, even if they are not attending.** The survey form was open **January 9 – 30** and the link posted on the **Grade 12 Graduation Ceremony 2026 Teams Channel**. We have extended the deadline temporarily, for the last few students to submit responses **ASAP!**

Each Graduate will receive two tickets for their guests. **These two tickets are included in the Graduation Fee which is \$100 and is due as soon as possible.** Additional tickets are \$10 each (no limits, subject to availability) and will be available for purchase from the Chan Centre Website **May 1 to June 3**. Tickets will be released in 3 rounds with varying limitations per round. Ordering details will be sent via email by mid to late April. More information about Grad was sent via email, and students are encouraged to regularly check the Grade 12 Graduation Ceremony 2026 Teams Channel for important updates.

### Graduation Dinner / Dance (Prom)

The 2026 Graduation Dinner / Dance will be held at the Pan Pacific at 6:00pm on **Friday, June 12, 2025**. More information to follow.

### Graduation Citations

Grade 12 students that will be attending the ceremony will need to submit their Citation (this is the message that will be read aloud as they cross the stage to collect their graduation certificate). Citations are being collected via an online form, and the link/QR code to access the form is available on the Grade 12 Graduation Ceremony 2026 Teams Channel. Graduates should submit their Citation form as soon as possible.

### Graduation Awards

In addition to celebrating the end of your high school journey, the Grad Ceremony provides an opportunity to recognize exceptional students for their accomplishments. High achievement, community service, fine arts and athletics are just some of the categories that are taken into consideration when determining the recipients of these awards. **If a student would like to be considered for a Major Grad Award**, they can fill in the Application Form posted as of March 9 on the Graduation Ceremony 2026 Teams Channel, to give the awards committee an idea of their accomplishments. **Applications are due Friday, April 8th at 11 am**, either by email or by paper copy (email preferred) directly to Ms. Kuiper at [akuiper@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:akuiper@vsb.bc.ca).

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## Mandatory Graduation Assessments

Due to the BC General Employees' Union (BCGEU) strike action in the BC Public Service last fall, both mandatory Grade 10 and Grade 12 Graduation Assessments have been rescheduled as follows:

- Grade 12 Literacy Assessments were between **January 13 and 16, 2026**.
- Grade 10 Numeracy Assessments will be between **April 21 and 24, 2026**.
- Grade 10 Literacy Assessments will be between **June 16 and 19, 2026**.

Schedule details regarding the Grade 10 Assessments will be provided for students closer to the dates.

## Athletics

### HAWKS

Winter Season: Our basketball teams and table tennis teams are finished, with some strong play from all teams. Our table tennis boys team placed first in the league with a 5-0 record. They made the city final, and unfortunately lost in the final 3-2, a fantastic season and congratulations to all! The senior boys basketball team had a historic season, placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the league with an 8-3 record, and came within a bucket of qualifying for the city final championship game. They went on to compete in the zone championships and made us all proud, competing at a very high level against some of the strongest teams in BC, well done all!

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:

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

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

Jeff Hodgson, Athletic Director

**GO HAWKS GO!**

### WHITECAPS FC ACADEMY

A special shout out to Ryder Sewell who got his first start for WFC2, Jesse Peace who made his debut off the bench and Tyler Brown who played 15 minutes off the bench against LA Galaxy's reserve team. Congratulations to all!

Additionally, the GA Cup is coming up and the U15 & U16 teams will play against top European & South American opposition. Best of luck in these exciting opportunities!

#### **Give a Home to One of the Whitecaps FC Stars of Tomorrow!**

The Whitecaps FC MLS Academy program is looking for host families in the UBC surrounding areas to host players for the duration of the upcoming school year. Becoming a Billet host in the MLS Academy program is a unique and rewarding experience, sharing day-to-day life with a young player developing towards their professional soccer career in the Whitecaps FC MLS Academy and continuing his education at University Hill Secondary School.

Each family will be given two 2026 MLS regular season tickets, as well as financial compensation to cover food and utility costs. As a family, you will provide a safe and comfortable living environment and physical nourishment, which includes three nutritious, prepared meals per day, seven days a week.

A typical MLS Academy season will begin in mid-August for pre-season preparation, with players travelling home for Christmas and Spring Break, finally culminating in June following the MLS NEXT Cup tournament. The first competitive games of the season will take place around Labour Day, with players travelling Friday to Saturday, on average twice per month from September to June.

If you are interested in becoming a Billet host family for this upcoming season, please contact:

Max Corcoran  
Director, Academy Operations  
[mcorcoran@whitecapsfc.com](mailto:mcorcoran@whitecapsfc.com)

(604) 349-5744

**LET'S GO WHITECAPS!**

## 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 follow the format below to excuse the absence:

**Your relationship with the student:** (Mother/Father/Guardian/Custodian/Homestay parent)

**Student's first and last name:**

**Student number:**

**Grade:**

**Date(s) of absence(s):** (e.g., February 12 to February 15)

**Time of absence OR periods of the missed classes:** (All day, P1, P2, P3, P4, Music off-timetable, Choir off-timetable, etc.)

**Reason for absence:** (Illness/Appointment/Medical Appointment/Parent Excused/Religious Holiday, etc.)

**Students must sign in at the office whenever they arrive late.** For extended absences parents/guardians must also email the student's counsellor. A student should be provided with 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** (and sign back in if they return the same day). **Students will only be released with parent 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.

### 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.

### UHill West Parking Lot

Staff Parking Lot – Reminder that during school hours, the parking lot to the west of our school is our staff parking lot. We have very limited space for UHill and District Staff. Therefore, we kindly request that community and families please do not park in the staff parking lot during school hours (especially in the morning before school). Thank you!

### School Fees/School Cash Online

If you haven't already done so, please check and register for "School Cash Online" and pay for school fees. 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 setting up the 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.

## Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

### 25-26 PAC Direct Donation Campaign.

" One Click, Big Impact "

Your generosity makes a meaningful difference—thank you for supporting our school and students!

### PAC 25-26 Direct Donation Campaign

- Arts & Language
- Science & Technology
- Principal's Initiative
- AP Course Support
- Athletics
- Music
- General school improvements

*One Click*  
*Big Impact*



### School Cash Online

Follow the step-by-step guide that is attached to this message and be sure to select **"U-Hill Secondary PAC"** as the fund destination.

### Upcoming PAC General Meeting Schedule

Meetings are scheduled for Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm and will focus on important topics related to UHill Secondary and school community. Upcoming meeting dates are as follows:

- April 15
- May 13
- June 17

All parents and caregivers are welcome!

Parents can also find information about the University Hill Secondary PAC at the [UHILL PAC Website](#).



## Calendar Dates to Note



### March 2026

- 05 Gr 12 Assembly during FIT in LLC (Re: Grad Citations & Yearbook Quotes & Baby Picture Submission)
- 05 Choir Performance at Lunch
- 06 S2 Informal Learning Update published at 3:00 pm
- 06 **Whistler Ski Trip**
- 08 Daylight Savings Time (clocks ahead 1 hour)
- 10 Gr 12 Assembly during FIT (Re: Capstone & Award Applications) in LLC
- 11 Spring Dance 7:00 pm in Cafeteria
- 12 Applied Skills/Fine Arts 8 Semester 2 Rotation #2 (Mar 12 to May 8)
- 13 Last Day before Spring Break
- 16 to 27 Spring Break
- 30 School Reopens after Spring Break
- 31 Euclid Math Contest in Room 1E4

### April 2026

- 02 to 15 Valedictorian Nominations Open – Forms available in Office
- 03 STAT Holiday – Good Friday
- 06 STAT Holiday – Easter Monday
- 09 Collaborative Planning Time PM – Classes end at 1:45 pm
- 10 Relationship Lab Assemblies – Periods 1, 2, 3 & 4 Gr 8-12
- 14 Homeroom Class during FIT (Re: Core Competencies)
- 15 Valedictorian Nomination Forms Close/Due at 10am
- 15 PAC General Meeting 7:00 pm in the ULC
- 16 Angus Reid “Purpose & Passion” Assembly Gr 8-10 at FIT in Gym
- 20 PRO-D Day - Non-Instructional Day (District Wide)
- 21 Shortlisted Valedictorian Candidates Notified
- 21 to 24 Grad Assessments (Numeracy 10) in the LLC
- 24 Valedictorian Speeches due, in writing, to Mr. Bell by 9:00 am
- 28 Gr 12 Assembly during FIT (Valedictorian Speeches)
- 30 Gr 12 Grad Citation Survey Form Closes



### May 2026

- 01 S2 & FY Written Learning Update Published at 3:00 pm
- 01 Grad on-line Ticket Sales Begin – more details to follow
- 04 to 15 AP Exams – Exam Schedule TBA
- 05 Students sign-up at FIT re: May 21 Capstone Event
- 06 Parent/Teacher Conferences (Early Dismissal at 2:05 pm)
- 06 Choir Performance at Lunch
- 07 Collaborative Planning Time AM – Classes begin at 10:00 am
- 11 Applied Skills/Fine Arts 8 Semester 2 Rotation #3 (May 11 to June 23)
- 11 ICBC “Road Safety” Assembly Gr 12 during P2 in Gym
- 13 PAC General Meeting 7:00 pm in the ULC
- 15 PRO-D Day - Non-Instructional Day (School Based)
- 18 STAT Holiday - Victoria Day
- 19 Gr 12 Capstone Technical Practice during FIT in assigned rooms
- 20 Immunization Day #2 9:00 am – 12:00 pm in LLC
- 21 Capstone Presentations during FIT and Period 4
- 22 Vocal Solo Night 7:00 – 9:00 pm in Gym
- 25 to 29 Student Council Nomination Week
- 28 Gr 12 Assembly/Grad Rehearsal during period 3 in the LLC

### June 2026

- 02 Homeroom Class during FIT (Re: Core Competencies)
- 03 Graduation Rehearsal at Chan Centre (UBC) at 8:45 am
- 03 Graduation Ceremony at Chan Centre (UBC) at 4:00 pm
- 08 STUCO Campaign Videos Due
- 08 to 12 Student Council Campaign Week
- 09 Collaborative Planning Time PM – Classes end at 1:45 pm
- 12 Grad Dinner/Dance at Pan Pacific 6:00 pm – 11:00 pm
- 15 to 19 Student Council Voting Week
- 17 PAC General Meeting 7:00 pm in the ULC
- 18 Choir Performance at Lunch
- 18 Locker Clean/Organize during FIT
- 19 Gr 12 Yearbook pick up during Lunch
- 22 Student Council Executive Announced
- 22 Gr 10/11 Yearbook pick up during Lunch
- 23 Year End Assemblies Periods 2, 3 & 4
- 23 Last Day of Classes
- 23 Gr 8/9 Yearbook pick up during Lunch
- 23 Lockers MUST be emptied by end of day
- 24 & 25 IE Days
- 25 S2 & FY Summary of Learning Published at 3:0