



# University Hill Secondary Parent Newsletter

December 2020



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope you and your family are keeping safe and well as we enter the month of December and move into our second quarter. Typically, the winter season is such a festive time of year in the community and particularly in schools. This year, U-Hill will do its best to safely promote this joyful spirit in the interest of nurturing student engagement community well-being. It has been wonderful to be collaborating directly with students and staff as we investigate creative ways in which we can help our community flourish and grow stronger as we work through the challenge of the pandemic. Please see the following links to get a sense of the innovative things that are happening at the school.

<https://youtu.be/LO2Fqkk7wk>

[https://www.instagram.com/u\\_hill\\_secondary/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/u_hill_secondary/?hl=en)

[https://www.instagram.com/u\\_hill\\_art/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/u_hill_art/?hl=en)

It is our hope that the change to a weekly rotation between in-class and remote learning will further our student's connection to their learning and school community. As always, U-Hill will make health and safety our primary focus as we continue to support student growth and learning. We look forward to working with you as direct partners in doing all that we can to keep our community safe. We ask that parent and guardians joining us in a recommitment to follow all of the health and safety guidelines established by the Provincial Health Officer. Working together, we can make our community safer, stronger and more resilient.

With Gratitude,

Tim McGeer – Principal

## IMPORTANT DECEMBER DATES

Monday December 7, 2020 – Cyber teens Survey in Session 1 & 2

Wednesday December 9, 2020 – Fire Drill (10:10am)

Monday December 14, 2020 – Collaborative Planning Time (CPT) 10:30am-11:30am (No Flex A Class)

Friday December 18, 2020 – Last Day of Instruction Before Winter Vacation

Monday December 21, 2020 – Friday January 1, 2021 – Winter Vacation Period

Monday January 4, 2021 – School Reopens after Winter Vacation

## SCHOOL/OFFICE INFORMATION

**U-Hill Parking Lot:** Our school parking lot is an incredibly busy place especially in the morning and afternoon during start and dismissal times. We would like to take a moment to remind everyone that school buses drop off and pick up at that time and to ensure the safety of the students we ask you to please not park and idle in the designated bus zone. If there is a way to organize with your child to drop off and pick up in the Wesbrook Village parking lot or in the two hour parking on Ross Drive that would be greatly appreciated.

**Daily Health Assessment:** We ask that you continue to monitor your child(ren) on a daily basis before each school day, see attached: [Daily Health Assessment - Student \(Revised\).pdf](#)

## U-HILL CANNED FOOD DRIVE (VANCOUVER FOOD BANK)



University Hill Student Council is once again participating in the annual CANley Cup Food Drive!

The CANley Cup is a district-wide event that aims to raise non-perishable foods and money for the Greater Vancouver Food Bank. The food and money raised will help provide food access to families, seniors, new Canadians, not to mention breakfast and lunch programs in Vancouver, North Shore, Burnaby, and New Westminster. This year is especially important, as many families and seniors across the lower mainland have been so negatively impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic.

From November 16, 2020 to December 14, 2020, we will be in a friendly competition with neighboring schools. The school that collects the most cans will win the CANley Cup trophy. (Number of cans raised are scaled to school population, allowing a fair competition between large school populations and smaller ones.

You are encouraged to either make a cash donation via our GoFundMe page, [U-Hill Secondary CANley Cup Food Drive](#) or send your child to school with cans, which they can take to the office, or leave in the boxes placed in each pod.

Thank you in advance for your charitable donations!

## CINDERELLA PROJECT



Hello U-Hill Parents! Up until winter break, University Hill will be collecting donations for The Cinderella Project, a Registered Canadian Charitable Organization. As found on their website, <http://thecinderellaproject.com/>, Cinderella Project's goal is "to help break cycles of poverty by encouraging vulnerable youth to stay in school and complete their high school education. We work to encourage and recognize outstanding young people from across the Lower Mainland who reach the milestone of graduation despite overwhelming adversity."

This year, as the Cinderella Project cannot host their annual event due to COVID-19, they will instead be collecting donations to create "Bravo Boxes" to give to less fortunate students. These boxes will include necessities such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, sanitizer, face masks, etc. In addition to these essentials, Cinderella Project plans to include gift cards to local grocery stores to aid the students, as well as small special gifts to help motivate them. Ideas for said gifts include lip balm, nice hats, scarves, fluffy socks, travel mugs, lip gloss, hand cream, scrunchies, school supplies, hot chocolate mix, tea bags, and any other stocking stuffers you think your own children would enjoy. Bravo Boxes will be made for students of all gender identifications.

We will be collecting donations in cardboard boxes around the school up until the start of winter break. In addition, a school cash online option will be set up for monetary donations, for which tax receipts can be offered from a minimum amount. All donations will be deeply appreciated and will help bring a little festive motivation to these grade 12 students who have worked so hard to succeed in the face of hardship.

Thank you for your support, and we hope you feel the festive spirit of giving this season!

Ariana Hafezi, Grade 11

Sabrina Hafezi, Grade 9

## DIVERSITY AT U-HILL



Our teacher librarian, Ms. Love, has started to run a Diversity Club out of the ULC. The club has two main goals. First, it offers a safe space to students who feel left out or unsafe at U-Hill due to their race, religion, gender identity, sexuality, or any other reason. The second goal is to start and support school wide initiatives that elevate the voices of people and groups who traditionally feel left out, unheard, or unsafe at school.

## ATHLETICS



As we continue to be in STAGE 2 of return to sport (U-Hill students competing against U-Hill students, no inter school competition), the athletics program can only provide intramural activities or skills sessions. At the moment, we are running a volleyball league at lunch time. So far, it is going great! We have 9 teams, with all grades being represented. This league will run until the Christmas break, with a new sport league beginning in the new year. Stay safe everyone!

Please email any questions to: [jhodgson@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:jhodgson@vsb.bc.ca)

## WEEKLY ROTATION CALENDAR-DECEMBER 2020

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
	<b>Dec 1.</b> D2P2(F2F) D2P1(Remote)	<b>Dec 2.</b> D2P2(F2F) D2P1(Remote)	<b>Dec 3.</b> D2P2(F2F) D2P1(Remote)	<b>Dec 4.</b> D2P2(F2F) D2P1(Remote)
<b>Dec 7.</b> D2P1(F2F) D2P2(Remote)	<b>Dec 8.</b> D2P1(F2F) D2P2(Remote)	<b>Dec 9.</b> D2P1(F2F) D2P2(Remote)	<b>Dec 10.</b> D2P1(F2F) D2P2(Remote)	<b>Dec 11.</b> D2P1(F2F) D2P2(Remote)
<b>Dec 14.</b> D2P2(F2F) D2P1(Remote)	<b>Dec 15.</b> D2P2(F2F) D2P1(Remote)	<b>Dec 16.</b> D2P2(F2F) D2P1(Remote)	<b>Dec 17.</b> D2P2(F2F) D2P1(Remote)	<b>Dec 18.</b> D2P2(F2F) D2P1(Remote)

## STUDENT WORK – GRAPHIC NOVELS – MR. EDMONDSON CLASS

Here is a wonderful, decolonized family history graphic novel by Ella Diaz:

Page 1: [Comicpart1.pdf](#)

Page 2: [Comicpart2.pdf](#)

## JOURNALISM CLUB

Highlights and Interviews about the Quarterly System from our Journalism Club:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JV-yvmCY30k&feature=youtu.be>

**Course Planning** - Next year's Course Planning will take place beginning at the end of January and lasting until the end of February. Please keep your eyes open for information coming out of counselling about this in the new year.

**Wellness Tips** - As we all continue managing life in Covid times we wanted to take a minute to remind parents to be practicing good self-care. We would like to encourage everyone to be:

- Eating Healthy
- Getting enough sleep and rest to regenerate
- Exercising Regularly...outside if possible so you get fresh air
- Maintaining social connection virtually
- Reaching out for supports/offering support...both when needed
- Practicing mindfulness...we recommend the apps Mindshift and Headspace as well as Mindfulness.com but there are many useful apps out there
- Practicing gratitude—we are really encouraging students to be aware of the things/people/experiences that they are grateful for and why. There is a lot of evidence that this helps our mindset

With that in mind, we would like to take a moment to express our gratitude to the parent community of U-Hill. We are so grateful for the support you provide to the students and staff of University Hill Secondary School.

Finally, we would like to wish you a happy, healthy holiday and we look forward to connecting again in 2021. Stay safe and be well.

Emily, Susan and Elizabeth

Ms. Emily Chen (Grade 8 – 11, Last Name A-L, LSP) [ehchen@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:ehchen@vsb.bc.ca)

Ms. Susan Hornby (Grade 8 – 11, Last Name M-Z, Transitions) [shornby@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:shornby@vsb.bc.ca)

Ms. Elizabeth Watanabe (Grade 12, Whitecaps) [ewatanabe@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:ewatanabe@vsb.bc.ca)



**-Happy Holidays-**