

U-Hill Parent Advisory Council

Welcome to the University Hill Elementary Parent Advisory Council (U-Hill PAC)!

As UHill parents or guardians, you are members of the U-Hill PAC and we look forward to meeting you all. Why? Because we, the PAC Executive, represent your voices to work with teachers, staff and school administration in making our children's U-Hill experience the best it can be.

There will be many opportunities to get actively involved in the U-Hill PAC . Our first meeting will be on **Friday, September 14th at 8.30 am in the multi-purpose room**. Please join us, you will:

- meet other parents
- learn about what's happening at the school
- have a voice on PAC initiatives
- help to make your child's school even better!

See you soon,

Angela Low
Silvia Mazabel
Co-Chairs

Jen McCutcheon
Vice-Chair

Nicolas Talloni
Treasurer

Juliet Carpenter
Secretary

You can contact us at uhillpac@gmail.com or keep up to date online at uhillpac.wordpress.com

Frequently Asked Questions

What does the PAC (Parent Advisory Council) do?

The PAC represents parents' voices and advises the school board, the principal and staff about matters concerning the education of our children or the school community (e.g., building the new playground). The U-Hill PAC supports many school events and classroom projects, with money that we raise through school-wide fundraising initiatives. We also organize events to bring together families in the school.

Who are PAC members?

All parents and guardians of students registered at UHill are members of the PAC, and welcome to PAC monthly meetings and getting involved at school events.

When does the PAC meet?

We meet once a month. We will alternate morning (8.30 am) and evening (6 pm) so more members have a chance of attending.

What happens at PAC meetings?

We hear updates from the principal, teachers and PAC executives about what is happening at UHill, and discuss issues that affect the students, and school community. Everyone attending has an opportunity to contribute, share ideas and comment. You won't be signed up to do anything unless you want to!

What happens if I cannot attend meetings?

You can also learn about what's happening through the PAC newsletters and website (uhillpac.wordpress.com), and also connect with us through email (uhillpac@gmail.com). We would love to hear your ideas and ways you would like to help out.

I want to get involved- what can I do?

There are many ways to be involved and you don't even have to attend meetings or regularly be at UHill to do so!

Here are some ways parents have gotten involved:

- help out at one of the many events we have throughout the school year (BBQs, Concerts, etc.)
- help us with a project (like developing the new playground or fundraising)
- share your knowledge at a parent education night- we are always looking for speakers!
- lead or join a committee (e.g., the multicultural committee, events committee, etc.)
- become a class parent representative

What's involved in being a class parent representative?

It is important that as many classes as possible are represented in PAC meetings, so that the PAC is able to support teacher and student initiatives across all grades. Typically, class parents attend PAC meetings, bring viewpoints and ideas from their class, and share back with other parents in their class. Good news! This role can be shared between 2 or even 3 parents!

What's going on with the playground?

Near the end of the 2017/18 school year, our main playground was assessed by the VSB to be unsafe, and had to be taken down. Since then, we have been working hard to:

- (a) design a new playground: we consulted with students, staff, parents, and some accessibility experts in June, and are now finalizing the design with potential vendors.
- (b) begin fundraising for the substantial cost of building it, with grant applications, the Summer Read-a-thon, and a direct appeal. However, we are still a long way from reaching what is required.

How you can help us:

- Attending the Whitecaps FC vs. FC Dallas game on September 23rd. Each ticket raises \$7 for the playground (saving \$7 off published rates). You can purchase tickets at: www.whitecapsfc.com/UHILL
- Making a donation to the PAC Playground fund at the school
- Purchasing Mabel's Labels - 20% of all sales benefit the playground - using this link: <https://uhillpac.mabelslabels.com/> (pass along the link to your friends and families)
- Helping us write further grant applications
- Helping us approach local businesses towards making a community engagement donation

There seem to be cars everywhere at 3pm. How can our kids be picked up safely?

- We encourage families to walk or bike to school. There is a "bike bus" where 1-2 parents/day volunteer to bike in and home with a group of kids. (Email: uhillbikebus@gmail.com)
- If you need to drive, please see the attached hand out for details on how to make pick-up safe for all kids. Parents need to stay in their cars in the pick-up loop in front of the school.
- Consider setting a meeting time of 3:15 or later to meet your child (especially for older kids).
- Please note: The parking lot is reserved for school staff and teachers only.