

Hello Ucluelet Elementary School Parents and Guardians!

It has been a busy and joyous start-up over the last seven days. We are grateful to families for their support of our students as they reintegrate into school. Thank you, as well, to staff for their care and commitment as we set off on another exciting school year.

Please find information about the following below:

- **UES Open House – this Thursday 4:30-5:00pm**
- **PAC Welcome Back BBQ – this Thursday 5:00-7:00pm**
- **Parent Advisory Council Meetings – next Thursday September 18**
- **Monday Morning Meetings**
- **Photo Day**
- **UES Truth and Reconciliation Day, September 26**
- **Terry Fox Run**
- **Food Programs**
- **UES Lunch Schedule Changes**
- **Sports and Clubs – Volunteers Needed!**
- **Grade 7 Grad Trip**
- **Important Dates for the 2025-2026 School Year**

The UES Team

UES Open House – Tomorrow – Thursday September 11, 2025, 4:30-5:00pm

UES will hold an open house this Thursday before the PAC Back to School BBQ. The **school and classrooms will be open for parents to come in and say hello and meet many of our school staff.** We hope to see you!

PAC Welcome Back BBQ – Tomorrow – Thursday September 11, 2024, 5:00-7:00pm

The annual UES PAC BBQ is this Thursday September 11 from 5:00-7:00pm. The BBQ includes hotdogs, hamburgers and salads (with gluten-free and vegetarian options available).

Attendees are asked to please bring plates, cutlery, drinks and something to sit on, and are encouraged to bring a dessert item for potluck sharing. We look forward to seeing families there!

Parent Advisory Council Meetings

The first Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting takes place on Thursday September 18 at 6:00pm in the UES Flex Space. **All parents and guardians of UES students are automatically members of the PAC** and are welcome and encouraged to attend meetings.

The meeting next Thursday September 18 is an important one, as it will include nominations and voting for the next term of PAC Executive members.

The PAC is responsible for supporting a range of important events and initiatives that enrich the school culture, including but not limited to:

- Fundraising,
- School enrichment projects,
- The annual PAC Back to School BBQ,
- The Winter Gift Giving Initiative,
- The PAC Funfair,
- The UES Yearbook, and
- A range of other important supports and projects.

PAC Meetings are an excellent way to stay informed and participate in the school!

The PAC Meetings dates for the 2025-2026 year are:

- Thursday September 18, 2025
- Thursday, October 16th, 2025
- Thursday, November 20th, 2025
- Thursday, January 15th, 2026
- Thursday, February 19th, 2026
- Thursday, April 16th, 2026
- Thursday, May 21st, 2026
- Thursday, June 18th, 2026

Monday Morning Meetings

This year, **UES will be holding regular whole-school Monday Morning Meetings from 8:50-9:10am** (approximately). These meetings are important opportunities to meet as a whole school, engage in cultural practices, hear about various initiatives and explore whole-school concerns.

Photo Day, September 25, 2025

All UES students and staff will have their photos taken at school on September 25, 2025. **After photo day, UES will send home the photo proofs, which will include a QR code to scan if families want to order photos.**

Photo retake day takes place on October 21, 2025, for those who missed school photo day on September 25, and those who wish to have a different photo.

UES Truth and Reconciliation Day, September 26

UES will hold several class-based and whole school events and activities on Friday September 26, 2025, in alignment with the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on Tuesday September 30, 2025. We will share more information closer to the day. Please **contact Ms. Green, UES Vice-Principal,** if you or someone you know is interested in **participating in these important processes as a guest/volunteer.**

Terry Fox Day – Friday October 3

We will once again hold Terry Fox events, including a whole-school run. These will take place on the afternoon of October 3, 2025. Please **contact Cameron Fraser, UES Principal,** if you are interested in **participating in the event as a volunteer/guest.**

Food Programs

UES will once again provide a breakfast program, as well as snack and lunch programs for the 2025-2026 school year.

Breakfast Program

The breakfast program will run from 8:30-8:40am each morning. The program is run by volunteers and is funded through donation. **UES is seeking parents, guardians and extended community members** who would like to **volunteer in the running of the breakfast program.** We are **also seeking donations to support food purchases (see below).**

Snack Program

UES is aiming to provide fresh fruit and veggies as snacks this school year, particularly for families managing with food insecurity. **We are seeking donations to assist with purchasing food for snacks (see below).**

Lunch Program

The lunch program is run through a combination of SD70 and Nourish Cowichan. Lunches will be in a grab-and-go format and will include sandwiches/wraps/buns and fruit/veggies. Families interested in the lunch program should complete the lunch registration form, which is attached to this email.

A donation of \$100 a month is suggested and can be submitted electronically through the QR code on the lunch program form. **No family will be refused participation in the lunch program**, if they are unable to donate.

Our school, students and families need support with the food programs!

People interested in **volunteering for the breakfast program** or **donating to the breakfast program or snack program** can contact Cameron Fraser, UES Principal. To **donate to the lunch program** go to the Nourish Cowichan website.

UES Form Collection:

Each year commences with a new round of form collection, to ensure UES has the current contact information, necessary permissions and mechanisms to effectively support classes and teachers in a range of situations. Our form collection is rolling out in phases this year. **Parents and guardians are asked to complete and return the forms as soon as possible.**

Phase 1 Forms

Phase one began on Wednesday September 3, with three forms being sent home for parent/guardian review and possible signing, which included:

- **The Student Information Verification Form** - Important for ensuring the school has up-to-date health and contact information.
- **The Nominal Role Form** - Important for funding support initiatives at UES and in-community (e.g., YFN Education roles)
- **Lunch Program Form** – Is required to participate in this year's lunch program.

These three forms were stapled together and are intended to be kept together as one package (please do not separate). **Please contact Cam Fraser, UES Principal, or Carly Green, UES Vice-Principal with any questions or concerns.**

Phase 2 Forms

Phase two began on Tuesday September 9, with the following being sent home by teachers for parent/guardian to review and sign or prepare:

- **Comfort Kit** – items and a note for supporting students in an emergency.
- **Walking Field Trip Form** – required before classes can do walking field trips
- **Technology Use Agreement** – students require this before they can use a computer
- **Protection of Privacy Consent Form** – so we know what information, including photos, is okay to share with the school community

Please contact Cam Fraser, UES Principal, or Carly Green, UES Vice-Principal with any questions or concerns.

Bus Schedule

SD70 took over the bussing program from Wilson Transport, which included obtaining funding from the Ministry of Education in support of the acquisition of brand-new buses with seatbelts, cameras and a bus pass scanning system. **UES and SD70 are grateful to families as we navigate these changes, which have resulted in adjustments to the bus schedule and some practices.**

The bus schedule as of September 8, 2025 is:

- **Morning Route (Monday through Friday)**
 - 7:50 am Hitacu old hall parking lot
 - 7:56 am Hitacu Daycare corner of Albert
 - 8:04 am 1435 Albion Road
 - 8:06 am Port Albion Road and Sutton Road
 - 8:10 am West Barclay Main and Port Albion Road
 - 8:17 am Albion Cres. and Karn
 - 8:25 am Ucluelet Secondary
 - 8:30 am Ucluelet Elementary
- **Afternoon Route (Monday through Thursday)**
 - 2:45pm Dep. Ucluelet Elem. School
 - 2:53 pm Albion Cres. and Karn
 - 3:00 pm Barclay Main and Port Albion Rd
 - 3:06 pm Port Albion Rd & Sutton Rd
 - 3:08 pm 1435 Albion Rd
 - 3:12 pm Hitacu Daycare
 - 3:15 pm Hitacu old hall parking lot

- **Afternoon Route (Friday)**
 - 2:15 pm Depart Ucluelet Elementary
 - 2:27 pm Albion Cres. and Karn
 - 2:34 pm Barclay Main and Port Albion Rd
 - 2:40 pm Port Albion Rd & Sutton Rd
 - 2:42 pm 1435 Albion Rd
 - 2:46 pm Hitacu Daycare
 - 2:49 pm Hitacu old hall parking lot

UES Lunch Schedule Changes

UES has adjusted the lunch schedule in support of effective instruction and scheduling. Eating time remains at the same time as last year, but **lunch recess has been moved to after eating time**. The adjusted schedule is as follows:

12:35pm – Start of lunch bell

12:35-12:55pm – Students eat lunch in their classrooms (lunch program students collect their lunches from the Flex Space and return to class).

12:55pm – Start of recess bell

12:55-1:15pm – Students play outside

1:15pm – End of recess bell – students return to class

Sports and Clubs

UES is in the process of organizing sports and clubs for the 2025-2026 school year. We rely on parental volunteers for coaching, running activities and transporting our students to events. We will be making a more formal call-out to parents, guardians and community members, but **please be in contact with Cameron Fraser, UES Principal, if you are interested in volunteering in relation to a sport or club.**

Grade 7 Grad Trip

UES representatives will schedule a meeting with grade 7 students and families near the end of September/beginning of October to discuss fundraising and roles and responsibilities for the Grade 7 trip to Strathcona Lodge. Initial information will tentatively be presented at the September 18, 2025, PAC Meeting as part of the UES Principal's Report. Stay tuned for more information!

Important Dates for the 2025-2026 School Year

Thursday, September 18 – Parents Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting

Thursday, September 25 - Photo Day

Friday, September 26 – UES Truth and Reconciliation event and activities

Monday, September 29 - Professional Day – no school for students
Tuesday, September 30 - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – no school
Friday, October 3 – afternoon Terry Fox Run
Monday, October 13 – Thanksgiving Monday – no school
Thursday, October 16 – ShakeOut BC earthquake drill
Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting
Tuesday & Wednesday October 28 & 29 – Early Dismissal for Parent-Teacher Interviews
Tuesday October 21 – Photo retake day
Friday October 24 – Professional Development Day – no school for students
Friday October 31 – Halloween
Friday November 7 - UES Remembrance Day Ceremony
Monday November 10 – Professional Development Day – no school for students
Tuesday November 11 – Remembrance Day – no school
Thursday, November 20 – Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting
Wednesday & Thursday December 17 & 18 (tentative)– PAC Winter Gift Giving Initiative
Friday December 19 – Report Cards go home
Monday December 22 – Friday January 2 – Winter Holidays – no school
Monday January 5 – School reopens after the Winter Holidays
Thursday, January 15 – Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting
Monday January 19 – Professional Development Day – no school for students
Friday February 13 – Family Day – no school
Monday February 16 - Professional Development Day – no school for students
Thursday, February 19 – Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting
Friday March 6 – Report Cards go home
Monday March 9 – Friday March 20 – Spring Break – no school
Monday March 23 – School reopens after Spring Break
Friday April 3 – Good Friday – no school
Monday April 6 – Easter Monday – no school
Thursday, April 16 – Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting
Wednesday & Thursday April 22 & 23 - Early Dismissal for Parent Teacher Interviews
Friday April 24 – Professional Development Day – no school for students
Monday May 11 – Professional Development Day – no school for students
Monday May 18 – Victoria Day/May Long Weekend – no school
Thursday, May 21 – Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting
Thursday, June 18 – Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting
Thursday June 25 – Last day of school/ Grade 7 Grad/ report cards go home
Friday June 27 – Monday September 7 - Summer vacation
Tuesday September 8, 2026 – First day of the 2026-2027 school year