

Hello UES parents and guardians!

A number of events and changes to our regular school days are just ahead, including **photo day tomorrow and no school this Monday and Tuesday**. Please find information below related to:

- **Photo day - tomorrow**
- Truth and Reconciliation Events – this Friday
- Pro-D Day/ **no school for students – Monday** September 29
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation/ **school closed – Tuesday** September 30
- Sports and Clubs – **Parent/Guardian Volunteer Meeting next Wednesday** October 1
- Grade 7 Strathcona Trip–**Grade 7 Students and Parent/Guardian Meeting**–October 1
- Terry Fox Run – Friday October 3

And other important information concerning:

- Parking lot drop-off etiquette
- Bus Stop Adjustments in Hitacu
- Ministry of Education Information – ERASE Resource
- Dates of events and non-school days this year

Thank you,

The UES Team

Photo day - tomorrow September 25

Individual **photos will begin being taken tomorrow, beginning at 8:45am**. Please send your child(ren) as you would like them to look in their photos (e.g., hair combed, favourite shirt, etc.). **Proofs will be sent home in October, with information about how to order photos**, if families desire to do so. Photo retakes are scheduled for October 21. We do not have confirmation whether class photos will be taken this day or on photo retake day.

Truth and Reconciliation Events – this Friday September 26

UES will be engaging in a number of Truth and Reconciliation learning activities and actions over the week both in classrooms and as a whole school. We will have a whole-school assembly first thing Friday morning, which will include the singing of our District song, *našuk?añin* (We Are Strong). We will also create an art installation as a whole school, painting and writing messages of care and hope on orange hearts, which will be attached to our front fence. **Families are welcome to join us for the assembly** (from approximately 8:50-9:15am) **or the art installation process at the end of the day** (from 1:40pm onward).

Pro-D Day – this Monday

Students will not be attending school this Monday September 29, as we have our first Professional Development day of the year. **Families are responsible for making arrangements for their child(ren)'s care this day.**

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – this Tuesday

School will be closed this Tuesday September 30, to observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. We encourage community members to attend local events for Truth and Reconciliation.

Terry Fox Run

UES will hold our annual Terry Fox Run on Friday October 3 from 1:20-2:00pm. We will be using the USS track for this event. **Families are welcome to attend** and cheer on our kids.

Sports and Clubs – Parent/Guardian Volunteer Meeting

We will be holding a meeting with **people interested in volunteering to support sports and clubs at UES.** The meeting will take place in the UES Flex Space Wednesday October 1 from 5:30-6:30pm. We will share the year's sports calendar, plan dates for practices, and discuss requirements for coaches and transportation. We will also discuss possibilities related to lunch and after-school clubs if people are interested in leading these

Grade 7 Strathcona Trip – Grade 7 Students and Parent Meeting – October 1

We will be holding a meeting in the UES Flex Space with the grade 7 students and parents on Wednesday October 1 at 6:45pm. We will be making a plan for the organization and fundraising to support the grade sevens to engage in this valuable experience. **All grade 7 students and families are asked to attend this meeting.**

Parking Lot Drop Off Protocol/Etiquette

The UES main parking lot includes parking spots and a drop-off lane, **cars must not be left unattended in the drop-off lane.** **Please assist us by following the drop-off process:**

1. Parents/guardians wait in their vehicle with their child(ren) until their vehicle is at the front of the line.
2. Once at the front of the line and the car is "in park", the child(ren) get out of the vehicle and walk toward the sidewalk (the parent stays in the vehicle).
3. Once the student is at the sidewalk, the parent/guardian starts the car and drives away, leading to the cars behind to move forward and repeat the drop-off process.

It is essential that **anyone needing to accompany their child(ren) from the vehicle** onto the school ground **park in a parking spot or on the side of the road** in a designated space and then walk with their child.

Student Arrival at School

Please remind your child(ren) to approach the school by the sidewalk and do not ride or walk through the parking lot. If parked in the parking lot, students should cross the parking lot to the sidewalk and walk along the sidewalk, cross the exit of the parking lot and then walk along the school sidewalk onto the grounds. Thank you for your assistance with keeping our students safe!

Bus Stop Adjustments in Hitacu

Based on parent/guardian and daycare feedback, the order of **the Hitacu stops have been reversed on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday**, with the bus stopping at the daycare stop before the old hall stop (Fridays will still include the old hall before the daycare). For up-to-date schedule information, go to: [Bus Routes](#)

Ministry of Education Information – ERASE Resource

Please find attached an information poster for parents and guardians about resources, information and reporting tools related to:

- Diversity and inclusion
- Mental health and substance use
- School and online safety

Important Dates this School Year:

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 – Terry Fox Run

Monday, October 13 – Thanksgiving Monday – **no school**

Thursday, October 16 – ShakeOut BC earthquake drill

Thursday, October 16 - 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 student
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