



# Blue & Gold Banner

Uwchlan Hills Elementary

November 2024

## Upcoming Dates

**Nov. 1:** No School - Diwali  
**Nov. 4:** 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip  
**Nov. 5:** No School  
**Nov. 6-13:** Book Fair  
**Nov. 7:** Picture Retakes  
**Nov. 12:** Book Fair Family Night  
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM  
**Nov. 19:** UHHS Meeting –  
Commons at 6:30 PM  
**Nov. 20:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Field Trip  
**Nov. 22:** UH Spirit Day  
**Nov. 25:** Early Dismissal – 1:35  
PM; No Kindergarten  
**Nov. 26-29:** No School

## Letter from the Principal

Dear fellow Unicorns,

I hope this letter finds you well. Our recent Fall Jamboree was a fantastic success, bringing together students, families, and staff for a day filled with laughter, games, and delicious treats. It was heartwarming to see everyone enjoying the activities and creating lasting memories together, showcasing the vibrant spirit of our school community. A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers whose enthusiasm and hard work made this event possible—your contributions truly made the day special!

As we continue through the school year, I want to take a moment to recognize the incredible effort our students are putting into their learning. It's inspiring to see how hard they are working, embracing new challenges, and growing in their knowledge and skills. Each day, they demonstrate curiosity, resilience, and a commitment to excellence that makes us proud. Their dedication not only enriches their own educational journey but also contributes positively to our entire school community. Thank you for your continued support as we foster a love for learning together!

I also want to remind all parents that our school office is always here to help. If you have any questions, concerns, or need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out. Whether it's a small inquiry or a larger concern, no issue is too small for us to address. You can call the office or email me directly—I'm here to support you and your child in any way I can.

Warm regards,  
Robert E. Giering, Jr.  
Principal, Uwchlan Hills Elementary





## 2024-2025 UHSA Board

### Principal Advisor

Mr. Bob Giering  
rgiering@dasd.org

### President

Kaitlin Knecht  
uhhsa.president@gmail.com

### Vice-President - Open

### Advisor

Kelly Jackson  
kjax35@gmail.com

### Treasurer

Adrienne McLaughlin  
amm4433@gmail.com

### Secretary

Laura Hartman  
laura.c.hartman@gmail.com

### Teacher Representative

Ronnie Lemler  
rlemler@dasd.org

## Letter from the President...

Hello Uwchlan Hills Families!

It's hard to believe we are moving into the chilly month of November! I hope everyone had so much fun participating in games, eating good treats, and playing the odds at the baskets at the Fall Jamboree! Our event wouldn't have been possible without the many volunteers who helped us put this event together.

Thank you to everyone who ran a game, the cakewalk, or worked the ticket table. Huge thanks to our Jamboree Coordinators: **Hannah Domizio and Melissa Totani**. You ladies took on these positions with amazing ideas and hard work. The day of the event you were running around and making sure everything went smoothly and because of that it was a huge success.

We also wanted to say thank you to the Jamboree Committee Chairs: **Colleen McGrath** - Food, **Yi Cao** - Cakewalk, **Meaghan Shermer** - Decorations; and **April Gucciardi** and **Kristen Wade** - Raffles (I mean 124 baskets!!! That was a crazy amount of work!).

I also wanted to thank **Ryan Lizardi** for coordinating the special Uwchlan Hills showing of *The Wild Robot* movie at Regal Downingtown. We had a completely sold-out theater and I may have shed a tear or two at this amazing story. Thank you for all that attended!

Coming up in November: The Book Fair! It starts next week, November 6, and runs through November 13! Please pay close attention to the dates listed for your child's class or come out to Family Night. Thank you, **Adrienne McLaughlin**, for organizing this beloved event.

Other items to note:

- We will be sending out a signup genius for the Staff Appreciation Comfort Cart. Get ready to bake or provide some goodies for our amazing staff the week before Thanksgiving!
- It's never too late to send in your family donation to the UHSA! Every little bit adds up.
- We are looking for a coordinator for Pizza Bingo in February. Please reach out to me if you have any interest in helping with this event.

Our next UHSA meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 19 at 6:30 PM**. Our meeting will take place in the Commons area at school. Bring your questions and ideas. All are welcome!

Have a great November, and a Happy Diwali and Thanksgiving for those who celebrate!

Kait Knecht  
UHSA President  
[uhhsa.president@gmail.com](mailto:uhhsa.president@gmail.com)  
484-849-1751



## Uwchlan Hills Home and School Association

Dear Parents,

The Uwchlan Hills Home & School Association (UHHSA) is a non-profit organization serving the students, faculty, staff, and community of our elementary school. We are very fortunate to have an amazing school community and pride ourselves on the incredible support we receive each year.

**The intent of this letter is to explain the purpose of and to ask you to make a \$60 per family donation to UHHSA by November 29, 2024.**

One of the functions of Home and School is to raise money for Uwchlan Hills. The money raised pays for a variety of programs and events enhancing your child's educational experience. These programs include: school assemblies, field trip transportation, field-day t-shirts, and classroom supplies above and beyond what the Downingtown Area School District provides. **100% of the money raised by UHHSA goes back into the school, benefiting all the students.**

Historically, UHHSA raised money through traditional fundraising type events (bake sale, carwash, wrapping paper sales, etc). However, our UH community decided to donate \$60 directly to the UHHSA rather than purchase over hundreds of dollars in products throughout the school year. Not only does this free up student, parent, and teacher time, but it also decreases the amount of mail going home with students.

Normally, our biggest fundraising event is the Fall Jamboree and all our other events make a small profit or break even—the main purpose being to bring Uwchlan Hills families and students together for fun.

**We thank you in advance for supporting the UHHSA, and we look forward to the challenge of serving our Unicorn community in new and creative ways. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any member of the board.**

Kaitlyn Knecht – President      Kelly Jackson – Advisor  
Laura Hartman – Secretary      Adrienne McLaughlin – Treasurer

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### UHHSA FAMILY DONATION

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my donation of: \$60 or other amount \_\_\_\_\_

**Cash or Checks: Please return this form with donation by Friday, November, 29 in an envelope addressed to:**

**UHHSA Treasurer/Family Donation. Make checks payable to UHHSA.**

**Matching gifts: follow instructions from your employer.** The UHHSA 501(c)3 non-profit tax identification number is 23-2363383.

**PayPal:** [uhhsatreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:uhhsatreasurer@gmail.com)

Please note *UHHSA Family Donation* in the comments or notes section.



## Uwchlan Hills Home and School Association 2024-2025 Event Dates

*\*Tentative Schedule: dates are subject to change\**

**\*\*UHHSA Meetings are held in the Commons area (behind the steps closest to the main entrance)**

| EVENT   | DATE                      | TIME                   |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Picture Retakes   | November 7                | During School Hours    |
| Fall Book Fair<br>Family Night                          | November 6-November 13    | During School<br>6-8PM |
| UHHSA Meeting   | Tuesday, November 19      | 6:30 PM                |
| Comfort Cart  | Thursday, November 21     | During School Hours    |
| UHHSA Meeting   | Tuesday, January 14, 2025 | 6:30 PM                |
| MLK Day of Service                                      | Monday, January 20        | 12-2 PM                |
| Science Fair<br>• <i>Snow Date</i>                      | TBD                       | 6 PM                   |
| Pizza Bingo (LMS)                                       | Friday, February 7        | 6 PM                   |
| Variety Show  | Monday February 24        | 6:30 PM                |
| UHHSA Meeting   | Tuesday March 11          | 6:30 PM                |
| Spring Picture Day ( <i>no retakes</i> )                | TBD                       | During School Hours    |
| Multicultural Heritage Night                            | Friday, May 9             | 6:30 PM                |
| Spring Spirit Wear Sale                                 | End of March              | Online                 |
| Designer Bag Bingo                                      | Thursday April 10         | 5:30 PM                |
| Scholastic Book Fair – Spring<br>Book Fair Family Night | TBD                       | TBD                    |
| Family Fun Run  | Saturday, May 3           | 9:15 AM                |
| School Supply Sale                                      | End of May 2024           | Online                 |
| UHHSA Meeting   | Tuesday, May 13           | 6:30 PM                |
| UH School Musical                                       | TBD-End of May            | 6:30 PM                |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Party                             | TBD- Beginning of June    | 4-6:30                 |
|   |                           |                        |

# Literati BOOK FAIRS

## WE'RE HAVING A BOOK FAIR! NOVEMBER 6 – 13, 2024

Our students will explore starfields of stories at our Literati Book Fair! Your child will visit the Book Fair during their regularly scheduled Library class (see list below). Parents and guardians are invited to visit the fair during our **Family Night on Tuesday, November 12 from 5:30 – 7:30pm**. Every purchase supports our school!

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Wednesday 11/06 (A Day) | Cool, Ellison, Hadzor                            |
| Thursday 11/07 (B Day)  | Chindemi, Laird, Lemler, Metz                    |
| Friday 11/08 (C Day)    | Cardine, Farren, Kramer, Plant, Autistic Support |
| Monday 11/11 (D Day)    | Booraem, Melanson, Noll, Reiner, Whiteley        |
| Tuesday 11/12 (E Day)   | Frosty, Harris, Ingemie, Panko                   |
| Wednesday 11/13 (F Day) | Cruice, Quigley                                  |
| FAMILY NIGHT            | TUESDAY 11/12 FROM 5:30 – 7:30 PM                |

- **Shop Our Fair Online:** Can't attend in person? No worries! Shop a wider selection of books at [fairs.literati.com](https://fairs.literati.com), including popular online exclusives like *Dog Man* and *The Baby-Sitters Club*. When you search for our school, double-check that you have the right city and state.
- **Buy Gift Cards:** Purchase digital gift cards for use at both our in-person and online fairs, for an easy payment method that won't get lost in a backpack (and never expires!).
- **Share Wishlists:** Invite friends and family to shop for your reader directly—gift cards included! You can also shop your teacher's wishlist online to support your classroom.
- **Volunteer:** Are you crafty, creative, or social media savvy? We'd love your help! To sign up, contact Adrienne McLaughlin at [amm4433@gmail.com](mailto:amm4433@gmail.com). All volunteers get a 20% book fair discount!

We can't wait for our students to experience our upcoming book fair! Thank you for helping to inspire a lifelong love of reading.



# Order Your Uwchlan Hills Elementary Yearbook Online



**Step 1:** Visit [shop.memorybook.com](http://shop.memorybook.com)



**Step 2:** Login if returning or new users click 'Register' to create an account using school code **960859M**

**Step 3:** Buy a yearbook for **\$18.00** through **04/18/25**  
or a personalized book for **\$20.00** through **04/04/25**



If you have any questions about ordering your yearbook  
contact your school's yearbook advisor.



[www.memorybook.com](http://www.memorybook.com)





## **Fall Jamboree Photos**

**Share your Fall Jamboree  
photos using the QR Code  
above or by sending them  
to**

**[uhyearbook@gmail.com](mailto:uhyearbook@gmail.com)**

## Uwchlan Hills Variety Show 2025

Hello Unicorns!

We are excited to announce that the Variety Show will be:

**Monday, February 24st, 6:30 pm on the Uwchlan Hills Stage!**

The Variety Show is traditionally a two act show of students performing individual or group acts. There are 5th Grade student emcees and a "bake sale" during intermission. The last number of the show is the 5th Grade Finale and is a slide show, song, and dance combination. The Variety Show is a fun opportunity for the students to perform on stage. Students, depending on age and experience, plan their music, costumes, dance moves, dialogue, jokes, routines, and staging etc., with or without parental support. The Permission Slip page should be filled out by a parent or guardian since it requires a signature. It is our job to organize the event, guide the students in presenting their talents, and organize the finale. **This year's show is in February, so please take close note of the due dates.**

### Variety Show Fast Facts

1. **K-5 students** can sing, dance, act, cheer, play an instrument solo or in a band. A student can demonstrate gymnastics, karate or any skill. He or she can perform magic tricks, comedy or entertain in another way.
2. Any student may do a **"Solo Act"** or a **"Group Act"**, but can only participate in one.
3. Acts will be limited to **2 minutes**.
4. If you require recorded musical accompaniment, please send the "2 minute long cut" to the email provided below by **December 5th**. Be sure to include in your email the **name of the student(s) and act**.
5. Lyrics and dialogue must be appropriate for a K-5 audience and must be submitted no later than **December 5th** at the email provided below.
6. Please fill out the permission slip completely. We will limit the number of times a song is repeated, so please get your form in as soon as possible to "reserve" your song.
7. The **Permission Slip** is due no later than **Tuesday, November 12th**.
8. **5th Graders** can additionally try out to be an **Emcee (host)** and/or participate in the **5th Grade Finale**. This is a fun opportunity, but one requiring commitment and extra rehearsals. These positions require more responsibility and you will be expected to **stay for the entire rehearsal for extra rehearsals**.
9. **5th graders** who do not want to perform, but would like to be involved behind the scenes can sign up to be on tech crew, work on the scripts, decorations and art, or the program for the show. It is difficult to be on the tech crew and perform in the show.
10. The "Permission Slip" can either be printed at home and sent to the school office in an envelope labeled "Variety Show", or email us and we will send a hard copy home with your student/group to fill out.



## **Schedule:**

**Act 1 Rehearsals: 3:35-5**

Tuesday 12/17, 1/14, 2/18 (Tech and Dress Act 1)

**Act 2 Rehearsal: 3:35-5**

Wednesday 12/18, 1/15, 2/19 (Tech and Dress Act 2)

**5th Grade Info Meeting Tuesday 11/12 3:35-4:45**

Finale Performers

Tech Crew

Stage Managers

Emcees

**5th Grade Finale Rehearsals:(Tuesdays) 3:35-5**

1. 11/19
2. 12/3
3. 1/7
4. 1/28
5. 2/11
6. 2/18
7. Wednesday 2/19 3:35-5

**Emcee Rehearsals: 3:35-5**

2/12 Wednesday

Act 1 Rehearsals:

Tuesday 12/17, 1/14, 2/18 (Tech and Dress Act 1)

Act 2 Rehearsals:

Wednesday 12/18, 1/15, 2/19 (Tech and Dress Act 2)

**Reminder:** Parents and family members who attend rehearsals and help with students must have all clearances on file in the school office. Please consider helping.

Three positions we are looking to fill this year are an Act II assistant, a sound board operator, and someone to assist with the 5th grade finale. We have found that many hands make light work. Please consider helping if even for one day or in some way from home.

### **Attention 5th graders:**

There is a meeting for **all 5<sup>th</sup> graders** who are interested in participating in any aspect of the Variety Show on **Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> from 3:35-4:45**. During this meeting, we will discuss:

- Emcee/Host in the Variety Show
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Finale Performer and/or Dance Captain
- Tech Crew- which will help to run curtain, lights, sound, move props, call acts to the stage, etc.
- Stage Manager positions
- Writer-Opportunities to help write the script
- Art Crew-Plan and design decorations and stage decor.

**This is a chance for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to have input in planning the Finale.** Please come with some ideas of favorite songs and dance ideas! The slide show is always a fan favorite and is created/organized by the students.

**If your 5th grader would like to attend the meeting:**

- **Please email us by 10:30 am the morning of the meeting so we know whom to expect. Please include your child's full name and homeroom teacher.**
- **ALSO>>>Please indicate on "Pick Up Patrol " that your child will be staying after school, then type in "Variety Show Activity". This lets his or her teacher know where they are going.**

**We need the help of many parents and guardians in this process.** If you are interested in helping, please fill out the adult help portion. As with all activities, proper clearances must be on file in the office to participate. It is immensely important to have support for this project to work. Please consider signing up to help.

**Please check out the schedule of rehearsals and important rehearsal dates.** Once we have all the acts we will designate who is in Act 1 or Act 2. We try to create a nice balance in each act of different types of entertainment.

We are excited to put this show together and look forward to working with you and your children!

If you have any questions, please email us at [uhillsvarietyshow2025@gmail.com](mailto:uhillsvarietyshow2025@gmail.com).

Thank you,

Colette Pester-Phillips and Maria Jackson-Hnatow

Cell 610-241-2492

Cell 856-297-6887

**VARIETY SHOW PERMISSION SLIP – please return to main office by Tuesday, 11/12**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are interested in performing an "Act" in the Variety Show, please indicate "Solo Act" or "Group Act".

Please check one.                      Solo Act: \_\_\_\_\_                      Group Act: \_\_\_\_\_

Rehearsals for the "Acts" will usually Please indicate your preferred day. If you can do either day, please indicate that. We will do our best to accommodate.).      Tuesday Rehearsal: \_\_\_\_\_      Wednesday Rehearsal: \_\_\_\_\_      Either day works: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of your group: \_\_\_\_\_ Ex: "Dancing Stars-if in a "Group", make sure all participants use this name.

If in a "Group Act", please all the members. Include their grade and teacher. Please make sure anyone listed below is aware he or she is in your group. Every member of a group has to complete the permission slip. If you require more lines, please use back space.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of your act (singing, musical instrument, dancing, comedy, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Song title: \_\_\_\_\_ Artist/Band/Movie/Musical Song is from: \_\_\_\_\_

Equipment needed (microphone(s), mats, table, music stand, piano, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**Attention 5th graders: Check all interests. It may be possible to do 2 or more depending on choices.**

\_\_\_\_ Emcee \_\_\_\_ Finale Perf. \_\_\_\_ Dance Captain \_\_\_\_ Tech Crew \_\_\_\_ Writer \_\_\_\_ Art Crew \_\_\_\_ Stage Mgr

\*\*\*\*\*

Adult Volunteer: If interested in helping with any aspect of the show, please provide email and phone #. We will send you more information. THANK YOU!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

*My child has permission to participate in the Uwchlan Hills Variety Show on February 21, 2025, attend all after-school meetings, auditions, and rehearsals. I have read the attached information and understand and agree to the schedule.*

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Group Members:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_



**Uwchlan Hills Elementary School Parents**  
Support UH in style with our newly designed car magnets!



**5" x 5" Unicorns Car Magnet - Only \$3!**

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**UHES 5" x 5" Unicorns Car Magnet - Order Form**

Please fill out the form below and include it with cash or check made *payable to UH HSA* in an envelope labeled Unicorns Magnet to be handed in to your child's teacher.

| Student Name | Grade | Teacher | Quantity<br>\$3 each |
|--------------|-------|---------|----------------------|
|              |       |         |                      |



# ESL COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) Community Outreach Program at West Chester University

The ESL Community Outreach Program offers English language instruction to members of the West Chester University community and individuals in the greater West Chester area.

- Classes run once a week in the spring
- All participants must register.
- West Chester University employees attend free of charge. A valid WCU employee ID card needs to be presented at registration.
- Non-West Chester University employees attend for a fee of \$20.
- Once registered, all attendees will be contacted by the Program Coordinator to schedule a placement evaluation.

For registration information, please contact:

**Dr. Jelena Colovic-Markovic**

[jmarkovic@wcupa.edu](mailto:jmarkovic@wcupa.edu)

610.436.3371

### **English-as-a-second-language (ESL) Classes**

#### **When?**

February 27 – May 8, 2025

Thursdays

5:30-7:15 p.m.

***No classes during Spring Break***

#### **Where?**

Mitchell Hall, West Chester University

#### **How much?**

WCU employees: free

Non-WCU employees: \$20 for materials

*ESL classes are taught by volunteer graduate students in the West Chester MA TESOL program,  
Department of Languages and Cultures.*

# TD Bank Affinity Program

**Raise money for HSA**

**No cost to you!**

Get your account(s) signed up now and ask your friends & family to sign up too.

Call the TD Bank branch in Lionville/Exton anytime at 610-594-0712 and ask a customer service rep. to code the account(s) for the Uwchlan Hills Elementary School Affinity Program OR stop into the branch any time. **CODE: A3224**

**\*\*If you signed up last year, you do not need to do anything, the accounts will remain as part of the program.**

- No cost to you or the school to participate and it's all handled through the bank confidentially. The H&S does not receive any account information.
- All existing and new TD Bank accounts (personal, checking, savings, CDs, IRAs, Money Market accounts and Business checking accounts) whose owners say they want to be part of our group help us raise money and maintain their 50 households minimum.
- UH families, UH school staff, relatives, neighbors, etc. (anyone) are eligible to link their TD Bank accounts to the program.
- The bank runs a report once a year and takes a % of the average in all accounts linked to the program and makes a contribution to Uwchlan Hills H&S.





Please contact Adrienne McLaughlin with any questions at [uhhsatreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:uhhsatreasurer@gmail.com).



**America's Most Convenient Bank®**

# November 2024



| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday                               | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|----------|
|  |   |   |   |   | 1<br>Diwali<br><br>NO SCHOOL  | 2        |
| 3<br> | 4<br>F<br>4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip              | 5<br><br>NO SCHOOL<br>(Professional Day)                | 6<br>A<br>Book Fair Starts →            | 7<br>B<br>Picture Retakes<br>→  | 8<br>C<br>→   | 9        |
| 10   | 11<br>D<br>Veteran's Day<br>Wear Red, White & Blue<br>→ | 12<br>E<br>Book Fair Family Night<br>5:30 – 7:30pm<br>→ | 13<br>F<br>Book Fair Ends               | 14<br>A<br>Eagles Spirit Day<br> | 15<br>B   | 16       |
| 17   | 18<br>C<br>Silly Hair Day                               | 19<br>D<br>UHSA Meeting<br>6:30pm                       | 20<br>E<br>3rd Grade Field Trip         | 21<br>F   | 22<br>A<br>UH Spirit Day       | 23       |
| 24   | 25<br>B<br>Early Dismissal–1:35pm<br>No Kindergarten    | 26<br>NO SCHOOL<br>(Conferences)                        | 27<br>NO SCHOOL<br>(Work Collaboration) | 28<br>Happy<br>THANKSGIVING   | 29<br>NO SCHOOL<br>(Thanksgiving Recess)  | 30       |
| Dec 1  | 2<br>C  | 3<br>D  | 4<br>E                                  | 5<br>F  | 6<br>A<br>76ers Spirit Day<br> | 7        |