



# Odyssey News

David Thompson Secondary School



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## NOS QUOQUE EXPLOREMUS

Let us also explore

As a school community we are honoured to unlearning and relearning on the unceded and traditional territories of the  $x^w m\theta k^w \dot{y}\dot{a}m$  (Musqueam),  $skw\dot{x}w\acute{u}7mesh$  (Squamish), and  $sel\acute{i}l\acute{w}it\acute{u}lh$  (Tsleil-Waututh), nations.

The return to school in September filled many of us with a mixture of emotions — excitement for new experiences and learning, trepidation at the structure of new routines, and nervousness at meeting new people. With the continuing pandemic many wondered how students and staff would deal with being in the building full time, fortunately things have returned to a new normal. The cafeteria, library, and gym have all reopened, sports teams competitions are taking place, new and continuing clubs are engaged in a variety of activities, and Student Council is in full swing with new opportunities for students to get involved.

The Odyssey grade 8 and 9 students have been actively engaged in field trips and school events. The year kicked off with an opportunity to meet each other and some of the Odyssey staff at the Cookie Meet in the school's courtyard on October 7 (see page 3 for photos), and several field trips (pages 4 through 9). These events promote bonding, friendship and connections that continue to deepen as the cohorts continue their learning Odyssey.



Susan Point gifted this art work to the Vancouver School Board. The piece honours the importance of salmon and the number four. There are four seasons, four winds, four directions and four elements (earth, fire, water, and air) each of which must be respected for their gifts of life.



Detail of Vancouver School Board reconciliation pole. Carved by James (Nexw'Kalus-Xwalack-tun) Harry is from Squamish Nation (Swxwú7meshk) descent & Rick (Xwa-lack-tun) Harry of Squamish and Kwakiutl, Coast Salish descent.

## Our Commitment to Indigenous Learning

Our school community continues the work of incorporating the Indigenous Principles of Learning, supporting Indigenous youth, and ensuring that all students engage in learning about First Peoples in all subject areas.

Orange Shirt week ran from September 27 to October 1 and the halls were filled with orange shirts and all students wore buttons to honour those found at Residential schools across Canada. Students learned more about the Truth and Reconciliation commission and the impact of colonization on Indigenous people. For more information on the Vancouver School Board's Indigenous Education Department please visit [https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student\\_Learning/Indigenous\\_Education/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Learning/Indigenous_Education/Pages/default.aspx)



Artwork by fine arts teacher, Regina Thomas, honouring the unnamed children whose remains were found at Kamloops Residential School in May 2021.



## Odyssey Cookie Meet October 7, 2021





## Dragonboating on False Creek and BC Sports Hall of Fame October 8, 2021











“If you believe in a dream,  
and have the courage to  
try, anything is possible.”  
– Rick Hansen









## October 29 Field Trip UBC: Botanical Garden, Greenheart Treewalk, and the Pacific Museum of Earth









## Student Clubs and Teams

There is a long history of service and school involvement by Odyssey students. In spite of the pandemic many clubs and teams are running this year. In addition to daily course work and our of school activities Odyssey students have taken part in a wide range of clubs and sports teams.

### *Clubs*

3D Designer and Maker Club  
Board Games Club  
Hunger Bites  
Business Club  
Ceramics Club  
CHAT  
Coding Club  
Community Schools Team

Hockey Club  
Journalism Club  
Library Club  
Math Challengers  
Medical Club  
Science Club  
Service Club  
STEM Sorority

Student Council  
Time and Effort  
Watersports Club  
Yearbook Club

### *Sports Teams*

Bantam Boys Basketball  
Cross Country Team  
Junior Boys Volleyball  
Juvenile Girls Basketball  
Juvenile Girls Volleyball

Senior Boys Volleyball  
Senior Girls Basketball  
Senior Girls Volleyball  
Swim Team

Congratulations to Alex Wu and Annisa Law achieved perfect scores on the American Scholastic Mathematics Association first test. Congratulations to Joseph Soo who earned a Bronze Medal in the 50m breaststroke at the BC Provincial Swim Championships.





Many senior Odyssey students are on the Executive Committees of these clubs and others work as sports officials, managers, and coaches for the various sports teams. With the fall season of school sports ending a new season is beginning and the spring sports teams, such as Ultimate, attract many Odyssey students.

In January students will be taking part in our school Science Fair. Projects and research is underway continuing our long participation in Science Fairs that has seen students succeed and go on to national and international competitions.



Thank you to everyone who submitted photos for this newsletter. As you continue to take photos of school events and Odyssey activities please email copies to Ms. Jack, [jjack@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:jjack@vsb.bc.ca), for inclusion in the April or June newsletters.

<https://blogs.vsb.bc.ca/thompson-odyssey/>



This year's school wide Remembrance Day Ceremony took place virtually and focused on remembering the diverse range of Canadians who have gone to war. The solemn presentation gave our community time to reflect on the important contributions of people from all backgrounds. In spite of the limitations imposed by the pandemic staff continue to creatively facilitate these important community events.

This year's winter solstice occurs 7:58am December 21, 2021, as we experience the shortest amount of daylight and longest hours of darkness we will continue to experience cold weather but we also have the hope that comes from knowing that warm weather and longer days will return.

This time of year sees many people celebrate light in the darkness through ceremonies and traditions such as Diwali, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Christmas, Eastern Orthodox Christmas, Omisoka (Japanese New Year), and the ringing in of the New Year. However you and your family celebrate we will you a time of family connection, rest, and joy.

**Happy Holidays from the  
Odyssey teaching staff!**



