

ODYSSEY NEWSLETTER



We acknowledge that we live, work and play with great privilege on the unceded and traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples - xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), skwxu7mesh (Squamish), and selilwitulh (Tseil- Watuth).



GRADUATION



YEAR END FAREWELL

With the end of the 2022-2023 school year, we would like to thank all of our parents, teachers, staff, and students for their contribution and participation. This newsletter covers all the events that Odyssey students hard participated in from the past month, while also highlighting the individual achievements made by students in Odyssey across all grades.

KEY EVENTS

- 2023 Graduation
- Math Contests
- Science Fair
- Graduation Highlights
- Student Highlights
- Odyssey Potluck
- June BBQ Party
- Farewell and Welcome

WATERLOO MATH CONTEST

Submitted by Mr. P. Chan & Ms. M. Rieder

In mid-May, we wrapped up the Math Contest Season with the grade 8 Gauss Contest from the University of Waterloo. Twenty-nine students took part and began what will hopefully be many years of participation in the many and varied math contests offered to the students of David Thompson from the University of Waterloo and the Canadian Mathematics Society.

In February and April, we had 140 students participate in these University of Waterloo Math Contests: Pascal (grade 9), Cayley (grade 10), Fermat (grade 11) and Euclid (grade 12) contests. Three students (Austin Ng, Jeffrey Chen and Colin Wang) scored high enough on the Euclid to earn Certificates of Distinction. This is an outstanding feat! Many students (grades 9-11) did well in their respective contests and based on those results, 20 grade nine students were invited to participate in the next level Fryer contest, 10 grade ten students for the Galois, and 15 grade eleven students for the Hypatia.

In February, we also had 14 students compete in the Canadian Computing Contest, with Jeffrey Chen (gr. 9) achieving a perfect score! Jeffrey also scored perfectly on the Hypatia Math contest as well. Way to go Jeffrey!

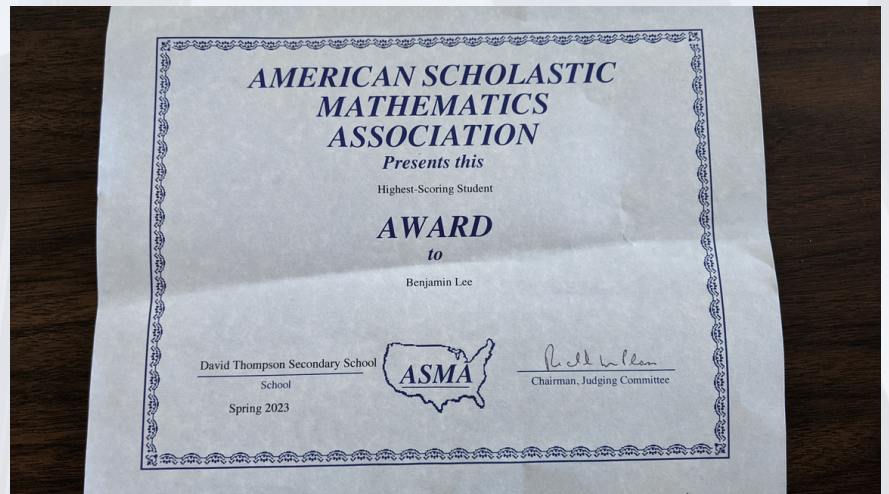
In the Fall (November 2022), 38 grade 8 to 12 students wrote either the Canadian Intermediate Mathematics Contest (CIMC) or the Canadian Senior Mathematics Contest (CSMC). They did very well! This contest followed the first one of the school year, the COMC (the Canadian Open Mathematics Challenge) which was written in October by 47 students in grades 8 through 12. With his very high score on the COMC, grade 10 Austin Ng was invited to participate in the Canadian Junior Mathematical Olympiad. At the Olympiad, Austin scored 17/35, above the median score of 15/35. The top Canadian score was 24/35. Well done, Austin!



Some of the math contest participants (June 2023)

MATH CONTESTS RESULTS

Congratulations to Benjamin Lee for winning first place in the American Scholastic Math Contest! The American Scholastics Math Association holds an annual contest for students in grade 8. Schools from around the world take part in the ASMA math contests. It consists of 6 monthly, challenging tests with a wide variety of questions that involve 'out of the box' thinking. During the school year, our dedicated Grade 8 Odyssey students wrote the tests and even came in during their FIT block in Semester 2 to complete the contest. Based on their cumulative score, our students earned a first place award!



University of Waterloo's Certificate of Distinction Awards

Pascal: Warren Chen, Kevin Huang, Nickie Mak, Timothy Truong, Aiden Leong, Benjamin Lee, Kaitlyn Poon, Isaac Au, Zuzanna Klimkowska, Madison Kuan, Taohui Tutian, Quinta Ye, Shaurya Patel, Ian Wong, Annisa Law, Bryan Peng

Cayley: Cody Chau, Austin Ng, Mathew Moi, Nathan Ngai, Samuel Gao, Nathan Yan, Tara Zhan, James Han, Elizabeth Guo

Fermat: Jeffrey Chen, Colin Wang, Brydan Yuen, Dexter Cruise, Edwin Lui, Stephanie Tamkee, Brandon Yuen, Franny Chen, Jia Yi Liang, Slena Du, Julian Wu, Tri Cao, Lucas Jung

Fryer: Isaac Au, Zuzanna Klimkowska, Benjamin Lee, Nickie Mak, Alex Wu, Warren Chen, Madison Kuan, Aiden Leong, Timothy Truong, Quinta Ye

Galois: Cody Chau, Samuel Gao, Tara Zhan, Mathew Moi, Austin Ng, Nathan Ngai, Nathan Yan

Hypatia: Jeffrey Chen, Colin Wang, Julian Wu, Tri Cao, Edwin Lui.

Euclid: Austin Ng, Jeffrey Chen, Colin Wang

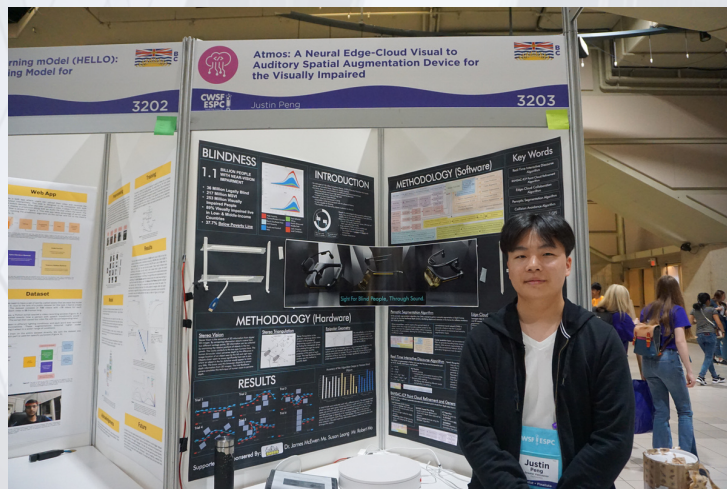
SCIENCE FAIR

Congratulations to all our CWSF and ISEF 2023 winners! DT students once again had amazing results! The students put in a lot of time and effort to share their passions with the world.

CANADA WIDE SCIENCE FAIR

Justin Du and Justin Peng

Justin Du (grade 12, left) and Justin Peng (grade 10, bottom left) achieved great success at the Canada Wide Science Fair (CWSF). CWSF is the country's largest annual youth STEM event. This year the fair was finally hosted in-person in Edmonton, Alberta.



ISEF Tara Zhan

Tara Zhan (grade 10, right) participated in the largest pre-collegiate STEM competition. Tara won 4th place in the Biomedical Engineering Category at ISEF, which was awarded with a \$500 cash prize. Tara's project was designing a low-cost and backdriveable lower limb exoskeleton for Hemiplegic patients



GRADUATION HIGHLIGHTS

2023

On June 1st, we say our farewells to our fellow senior students. Although it feels like yesterday when they first arrived to David Thompson, they have gone through a long 5 years here. Leaving an impact on David Thompson and on the Odyssey program with their achievements and participation in the school, we wish them the best of luck towards their new journey.



JUSTIN DU

K.R. McKenzie Merit Scholarship

Being a top student while participating in sports, extracurriculars, and as the executive of several clubs at David Thompson. Justin Du was awarded with the K.R. McKenzie Merit Scholarship for being a well rounded student. Having played for the senior ultimate team, Justin is also currently an executive for Science Club, Code Club and Makers Club.



MARIANNE LI

Trojan Athletics Award

Participating in both school and club teams, Marianne was awarded with the Trojan Athletics Awards. For several years, Marianne has shown both commitment and passion for the sports she plays. Playing both badminton and volleyball at school, along with club volleyball, Marianne also shares her passion by coaching volleyball outside of school.



ALEX WANG

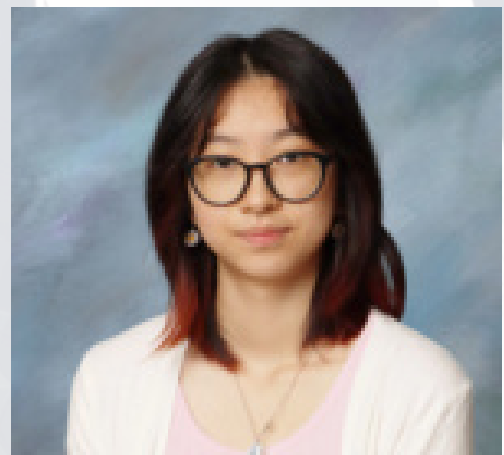
Dr. Jim McEwen Innovation Award

Receiving both the Dr. Jim McEwen Innovation award and Top Student in Mathematics, Alex Wang is an exceeding student who has shown his exceptional application of mathematics throughout his years. His hard work and dedication to mathematics strikes an awe from both teachers and his fellow peers.

ALINA REN

Top Student in Sciences

Awarded with the Top Student in Sciences, Alina Ren has displayed her understanding in sciences through biology, physics, and chemistry. Accomplishing this hard earned award, Alina is a student who brings out her best no matter what, giving her effort into each and every step.



AWARDS and SCHOLARSHIPS

Japleen Aujila

- Victoria Dr. Community Hall Ass. Award

Eshaan Baidwan

- Khalsa Diwan Society Scholarship

Justin Deng

- Killarney Community Centre Leadership Gold

Justin Du

- District Scholarship
- Jim McEwen Innovation Award
- K.R. McKenzie Merits Scholarship
- David Thompson Odyssey Academic Award
- Duncan Morrison Chemists Scholarship
- Elizabeth Eisner English Award
- Valedictorian Award

Marcus Kan

- Killarney Community Centre Leadership Silver
- Dr. Cary Chien Physics Scholarship

Marianne Li

- Henley Ross Scholarship
- Trojan Athletic Scholarship
- Mang Vance Leadership Award
- District Scholarship

Keisha Liu

- New Faces Leader Award
- David Thompson Odyssey Citizenship Award
- District Scholarship

Pascal Lo

- David Thompson PAC Academic Achievements Scholarship

Nathan Ma

- Vancouver Han-In Church Scholarship

Yingying Ping

- Universal Buddhist Temple Scholarship

Alina Ren

- Fleming Elementary Scholarship
- McEwen Family Award
- Science Department Top Student Award

Winston Tse

- Jean Ip Foundation Scholarship

Nevin Tsui

- Dr. Cary Chien Math Scholarship

Krishna Vinod

- McEwen Family Award

Alex Wang

- District Scholarship
- Mathematics Department Top Student Award
- Jim McEwen Innovation Award

Elysa Wong

- District Scholarship
- Friesens Scholarship
- Technical Studies Top Student Award

Naia Wong

- Home Economics Top Student Award
- Universal Buddhist Temple Scholarship

Jessie Zhou

- McEwen Family Scholarship
- Lydia Co Scholarship

PROM GRAD DINNER AND DANCE

Celebrating their last graduation event, the grade 12 Odyssey students got dressed up to spend their night out at prom. Stuffing their mouths with food and bussing it down on the dance floor, the students enjoyed their last event dedicated to them.



HIGHLIGHTS

STUDENT

MARIANNE LI

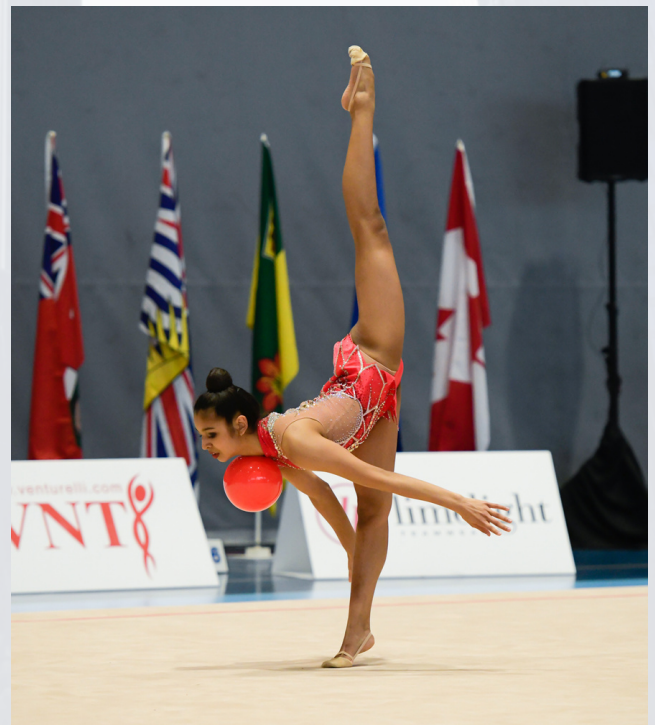
Top Athlete Award

In her last year, Marianne Li has been awarded the Top Athlete award once again. Marianne has been a hard working and encouraging team mate, showing respect with her sportsmanship. She has been playing in both the volleyball and badminton teams since grade 8, finishing her last year as the captain of both teams.



PARI GOYAL

Pari Goyal is National level Rhythmic Gymnast who has committed to this sport for 14 years. Last year she was part of Senior National Group and represented Canada at World Challenge Cup in Romania. She has been a member of the Canadian High-Performance Team since 2020, and this year finally Pari secured her spot on the Canadian Team as an individual athlete.





NEHA VERMA AND QUINTA YE

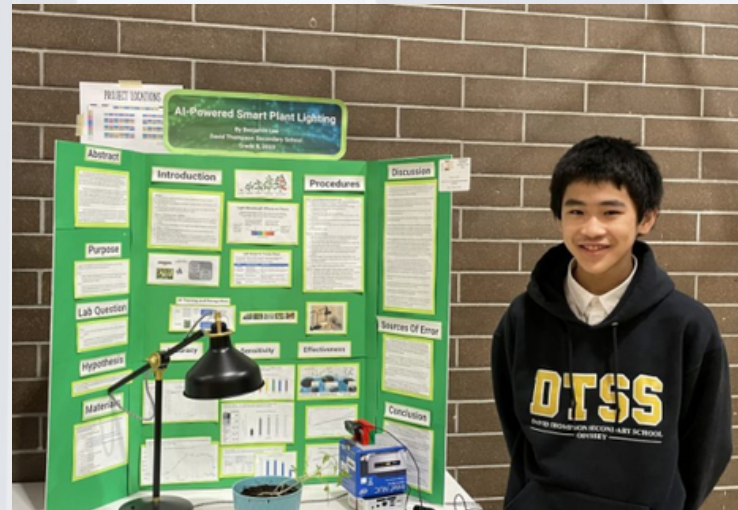
With hard work and determination, Neha Verma (#13) and Quinta Ye (#5) were able to achieve a gold medal in 15U Girls club volleyball Provincials. Both of them also contributed on the Juvenile Girls volleyball team to win David Thompson a gold medal in cities earlier this year.

BENJAMIN LEE

UBC Computer Science Award

Using AI, Benjamin Lee was capable of successfully growing tomato plants, winning him the UBC Computer Science Award. Impressing the judges with his project "AI-Powered Smart Plant Lighting" Benjamin was also able to claim bronze in his division at GVRSF earlier this year.

<https://www.cs.ubc.ca/news/2023/06/grade-8-student-wins-ubc-computer-science-award-using-ai-grow-plants>



Warren Chen

Warren Chen had the opportunity to participate in the national championships, where he received a bronze medal. Throughout the season, he has been fortunate enough to get a total of 8 national bronze medals in national elite tournaments, along with a provincial gold, 4 provincial silvers, and one bronze.

SCHOOL EVENTS

With the last month of classes, students at David Thompson have been planning events of which students can enjoy together. A few events are made to pay our respects or to celebrate an event. These events require time, planning, and commitment to execute them. Thank you to all students who contribute their time into helping with these events!

STUDENT COUNCIL

2022-2023

Submitted by Sajjid Barcelona



The members of the David Thompson Student Council

EVENTS

- Summer Extravaganza presented by the Student Council
- Asian Heritage Month
- Lest We Forget led by Ms. Huey and Mrs. Jiang
- Odyssey Potluck
- Odyssey June BBQ

Just recently, on June 15, the Student Council hosted its annual Summer Extravaganza where we had games like musical chairs, a wipeout machine, tug-of-war, Jacob's ladder, gladiators, and more. We also sold lots of food including burgers, hot dogs, bubble tea, chips, and juice. The turnout was amazing this year, and we received a lot of positive feedback from the DT community. The photo includes Lucie Li, Patrick Huynh, Mark Xiao, Timothy Truong, Viduni Siriwardana, Tara Zhan, Justin Peng, and other student members.

ODYSSEY POTLUCK

In May, the Odyssey staff, students and family members participated in the annual potluck. We were excited for the return of our social activities this year. We had a great selection of food consisting of pizza, sushi, chips, samosa, fried rice, many yummy dishes and the chocolate fountain! Incoming grade 8s participated in games with our Odyssey 9s. Grade 12s were able to experience the potluck one more time before graduating. Thank you to everyone who showed up and made the evening memorable!



ASIAN HERITAGE

Submitted by Ms. S. Huey

May is Asian Heritage Month. To celebrate and learn more about some Asian cultures, there were several events taking place at David Thompson throughout this month during FIT and lunch time in both the library and auditorium. These events ranged from origami, Japanese Taiko drumming performances, Korean display with snacks and names translated into Korean, Kurdish/Arabic cultural display with names translated into Arabic, Filipino cultural displays with singing and food, South Asian displays with henna tattoos, snacks, and dance, Chinese tea demonstration and tasting, then finally, ending with an Asian Heritage Fashion Show. Some fabulous contest prizes could be won if students participated in these events and filled-out entry forms.



LEST WE FORGET

Submitted by Ms. S. Huey

Japanese Canadians in the First World War Research Project

This year, thirty-one David Thompson students who were mainly grades 10-11 Odyssey students led by Ms. Huey, Mrs. Jiang (former National Coordinator of the Lest We Forget Cenotaph Research Project at Library and Archives Canada), supported by Mrs. Monk collaborated with the Gregg Centre for the Study of War & Society of the University of New Brunswick on a new national initiative that examines the diverse experiences of the Japanese Canadian soldiers, who volunteered to fight in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) in the Great War (World War I), despite not having the right to vote (until 1931) and their democratic rights violated as naturalized British subjects.



Hence, this distinct social justice project provides DT students with opportunities to work extensively with military records to enhance the academic research on British Columbia and the Great War. The students' efforts are a part of the compilation of a unique new database, making digital mapping possible, and chronicling the movement of each soldier. In this way, the students' work is contributing directly to scholarly research and raises awareness about the diversity and inequities faced by WWI Japanese Canadian soldiers in the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

On June 21, 2023, a celebration was held to celebrate the completion of this project and students received certificates of recognition from the University of New Brunswick for their research work. Special guests included the Consul General of Japan in Vancouver, Mr. Kohei Maruyama, Hon. MLA George Chow, survivors of internment, and members of the Japanese Canadian community.

Remembrance Day: Students wore badges with the names and pictures of their soldiers.



JUNE BBQ PARTY

On the last day of this school year, a BBQ party was held for all Odyssey students. Each year an annual Odyssey gathering is held, and instead of the usual Boston Pizza, this year we held a BBQ to get students socializing with one another. Thank you to everyone who came as there was a massive turnout!



Here's to the **NEXT CHAPTER!**

Farewell grads! We will wish the grad class of 2023 all the best as they leave David Thompson Secondary and go on their chosen path to conquer new worlds and experience and learn all that they can. Having spent at least three years of their high school years in a pandemic, these grads have shown they have the resiliency and grit to face the many challenges or the unexpected. Nos Quoques Exploremus, Odyssey Trojans!

**All
The
Best**



Welcome Odyssey Class of 2028! The Odyssey and DT teachers would like to welcome the incoming grade 8 class and their families. We look forward to guiding you to discover new passions, making new friends, and becoming part of our Odyssey family. The DT teaching staff wish all Odyssey students and their families a safe and relaxing summer filled with memorable moments. We look forward to seeing you in September!



THANK
YOU

We would like to give thanks to all the staff and students for their submissions.

And thanks to, V. Siriwardana, P. Goyal, and O. Li for creating the newsletter to share with our DT Odyssey community.

S. Leong