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QMS STUDENTS MAKE IMPACT AT VI REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

Young science enthusiasts win 13 awards including top prize.

May 6, 2024 – Duncan, BC, Canada – Three QMS students took part in the annual Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair, hosted by the University of Victoria, showcasing innovative experiments that captured the attention of the judges and earned them a long list of awards, including first place and punching two tickets to the national finals in Ottawa later this spring.

This year's event was more competitive than ever, with 76 entries compared to 50 last year. Participants and guests alike felt that the quality of experiments were outstanding. With such strong entries, Zhuola Sun (Grade 10) was thrilled to win first place for her project that focused on improving wind turbine efficiency by adding dimples to the turbine hub. Her tests using 3D printed rotors showed promising results, with significantly faster rotations at lower wind speeds compared to standard wind turbines.

Along with her first-place honours, Zhuola won the Rotary Club Award (\$2,000 scholarship) and the UVic Engineering Award while also earning a second University of Victoria Engineering Award, the Engineers & Geoscientists of BC Award, Julia Lane Award and BC Hydro Power Smart Award. "Participating in the regional science fair was an extraordinary journey," shares Zhuola. "I was exposed to so many inspiring projects and had the pleasure of meeting some truly amazing people. The experience has filled me with immense hope for the future."

Classmates, Jason Cheng (Grade 11), who presented "Cleaner Sponges, Cleaner Planet," and Teagan Yakimovitch (Grade 10) whose project "Ducks & Memory" also received numerous awards for their projects. Jason placed sixth overall, winning the Stantic Award, the UVic Science Chairs' Award, the Julia Lane Scholarship Nomination and the Victoria Natural History Society Award, while Teagan was recognized with the Science Fair Alumni Award and the Victoria Natural History Society Award.

With Zhuola and Jason's placings, they have won fully paid trips to the Canada-Wide Science Fair (CWSF) at Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario, May 26–31, 2024. "Along with Zhuola, I am thrilled to be representing QMS at the CWSF as a member of Team BC & Yukon," says Jason. "Being able to showcase our scientific findings at the national level is an incredible privilege and honour. I am immensely grateful to my science teachers for their encouragement and continuous support of my project."

For QMS Science teacher, Maurice Last, taking part in a science fair of this caliber has a plethora of benefits for students. "Just going to the Regional Science Fair is a great learning experience; taking away awards, including the top honours is exhilarating," he adds. "Placing in the top seven comes with a trip to the nationals, where the opportunities to be noticed by scientists and post-secondary institutes, and to build relationships with other young scientists cannot be undervalued. I think these achievements and experiences will inspire our students to further

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accomplishments in science and engineering and give them a leg up in getting their careers started—no matter what they decide to pursue.”

Photo: (from left to right) Zhuola Sun, Teagan Yakimovitch and Jason Cheng showcase their numerous awards earned at the recent Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair at the University of Victoria.



About Queen Margaret’s School

QMS is an all-gender day and boarding school located in Duncan, BC. Our purpose is to prepare young trailblazers, as no two journeys are the same. With an educational emphasis on experiential learning, innovative thinking, environmental stewardship and sustainability, we live by the value statement: *Be curious. Be kind. Be brave. Be you.*

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