



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

QMS STEM STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR INNOVATION

Future Scientists Display Passion for Curiosity

April 19, 2023 – Duncan, BC, Canada – For seven Queen Margaret’s School students, their pursuit of science just got a lot more interesting. Following their success at a QMS Science Fair earlier this year, event winners were selected to take part in the *62nd Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair*, where they showcased their research, earned top marks and took home 11 individual awards.

Hosted at the University of Victoria, April 16–17, the event was one of 100 regional qualifiers for the [Canada-Wide National Science Fair](#). For QMS Science Teacher, Maurice Last, and Science Department Head, Tomo Nishizawa, the opportunity was optimal for their Grade 10 students to showcase their research to the public, present their findings to a panel of discerning judges and celebrate their scientific pursuits. “I’m proud of the students’ poise during the science fair and as it was our School’s first time ever participating in the Regionals, delighted with their achievements,” Nishizawa states.

Top QMS achievement went to *Wakako Hagiwara*, who placed Third Overall, and was chosen as one of seven students to represent Vancouver Island at the *Canada-Wide National Science Fair (CWSF)* in Edmonton, AB, May 14–19, 2023. Her paper airplane project that explored superior aeronautical design won four additional awards: the Engineers and Geoscientists of BC Award, the Michael Crooks Physics Award, the Schneider Electric Award for Best Experimental Design and the Starfish Medical Award.

Rose Wu’s project entitled “Is Horse Manure A Viable Source of Energy?” won the Fourth Place Award in the senior division (Grades 10–12) with her classmates earning additional specialty awards:

- *Jason Cheng* – “The Effects of Blue Light on Adolescents’ Circadian Rhythm and Quality of Sleep”: the University of Victoria Faculty of Social Science Award
- *Harry Lin* – “Banana Peels to Plastic”: the Sanofi Biogenius Award
- *Maggie Preston* – “What Makes a Strong Electrolyte?”: the Schneider Electric Award and the Science Fair Alumni Award
- *Marina Jiayan Xie* – “Lactose Intolerance vs. Dairy Allergy”: the Genome BC Award

About Queen Margaret's School

QMS is a university-preparatory, 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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For more information or to arrange a QMS interview please contact:

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Photo caption: Members of the QMS Science 10 class earned 11 awards at the 62nd Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair with Wakako Hagiwara earning an invite to the CWSF Nationals in Edmonton.

(Left to right: Wakako Hagiwara, Rose Wu, Marina Jiayan Xie, Harry Lin, Jason Cheng, Maggie Preston and Megumi Fujita)

Photo by Tomo Nishizawa

