



MITCHELL ODYSSEY FOUNDATION - STUDENTS WILD ABOUT SCIENCE ***Richmond School District Hosts Odyssey Symposium '08***

With the “science buzz” resonating in Odyssey schools, the Mitchell Odyssey Foundation continues to spark student interest and generate enthusiasm with their “Wild About Science” initiative. The Foundation will hold its second annual *Odyssey Symposium* at Steveston-London Secondary School in Richmond on Saturday, November 22nd.

“Educators from across the Lower Mainland will network with teachers from Vancouver Island, Prince George, Central Okanagan, and London, Ontario,” said Cheryl Kristiansen, Managing Director of the Foundation. “Symposium 2008 will showcase exceptional Odyssey programs, foster collaboration and encourage teachers to work together to inspire new ideas for engaging students.”

Keynote presentations include Pacific CRYSTAL’s project that promotes science, math and engineering literacy through innovative, hands-on activities for students. Michael Smith Labs and Science World will highlight an exciting new initiative that links world-class scientists with teachers to develop practical classroom resources. Stimulating workshops will examine diverse topics ranging from space exploration, marine ecology and Science Olympics - to demonstrations of plate tectonics, the human genome project and robotics for the classroom.

The Symposium is being hosted by Richmond School District, which has four Secondary Schools in the Odyssey program. Richmond Superintendent, Dr. Bruce Beairsto is a strong supporter: “The Mitchell Odyssey Program has leveraged teacher enthusiasm and expertise by providing resources that encourage and connections that inspire, which all benefits our students.”

With 10 new schools joining this fall, the *Odyssey Schools Network* now includes 60 schools covering 15 School Districts, engaging over 25,000 students in science enrichment opportunities. Odyssey students experience science in a fun and imaginative way while improving their knowledge and application of science skills. They also learn that science goes beyond what happens in the classroom by actively participating in field trips, outreach programs and extracurricular initiatives.

Launched in 2004, the Mitchell Odyssey Foundation is seeking to expand its programs with the longer-term aim of sustainability through additional sponsorships. Each Odyssey school receives up to \$25,000 over a five-year period to implement a “teacher-defined” program unique to their school.

Earlier this year, the Foundation also launched its Odyssey Career Discovery Initiative to help translate science interest into real world accomplishments. Students witness first-hand what they can achieve with a science education by visiting organizations that research, develop and market innovative technology.

“We believe that leading edge, hi-tech companies will recognize the benefits of participating in Career Discovery to encourage and motivate our future scientists, engineers and innovators,” explained Cheryl Kristiansen.

For more information about the Mitchell Odyssey Foundation (MOF) and its programs:

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- Visit www.m-o-f.org for Odyssey Symposium '08 event details