



Mitchell
Odyssey
Foundation

News Release – September 18, 2008

MITCHELL ODYSSEY FOUNDATION SUPPORTS 10 MORE SCHOOLS

More Than 25,000 Students Wild About Science!

The Mitchell Odyssey Foundation continues to engage and excite students with the promotion of Science and Technology through their “Wild about Science” initiative. The Foundation is supporting ten more schools in B.C. this fall as part of a targeted growth strategy to generate even more opportunities for students in science, technology and math.

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 events.

“Odyssey project themes range from *Spicing Up Science* and *Science Into The Future* to creating new programs involving *Robotics*, *Sustainability* and *Ecology For Life*,” said Cheryl Kristiansen, Managing Director of the Foundation. “It is certainly going to be a stimulating time of discovery for Odyssey students.”

Ten more schools are joining the Odyssey Network this fall, including schools in Abbotsford (2), Chilliwack (2), Nanaimo-Ladysmith (3) and Prince George (3) School Districts, respectively.

“Chilliwack School District is excited to have been selected to join the Odyssey Program,” says Ruth Wiebe, Director of Instruction. “Students will explore scientific ideas in new ways with the help of this funding.”

“We in School District 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) are extremely pleased to become involved in this project with Mitchell Odyssey Foundation!” said John Phipps, Ed.D. Assistant Superintendent – Educational Programs. “The science departments in these three schools are excited about this funding support and look forward to enhancing science learning experiences for their students.”

“School District 57 (Prince George) is thrilled to have been selected to join the Odyssey Program and we look forward to working with the Foundation to create lasting positive impacts for our students”, said SD 57 board of education chairman Lyn Hall.

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), please contact:

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Background Information on MOF Programs and Odyssey Schools Network is attached

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About The Mitchell Odyssey Foundation:

The Odyssey Foundation was established by Ross Mitchell, a high-tech entrepreneur who was inspired by a school trip at age 13 to pursue a life-long path of discovery into the physical sciences and create innovative communication technologies that have enhanced the world around him.

“The objective of the Foundation is to give adolescents the same opportunity by engaging, stimulating and mentoring them in the areas of science, technology and mathematics” said Ross Mitchell, Chairman of the Foundation.

The Mitchell Odyssey Foundation launched its Odyssey Schools program in 2004 at two secondary schools in the Vancouver School Board (VSB). Positive results led to increased demand the following year, when five more VSB schools were supported. One additional school was also supported in Ross Mitchell’s hometown of London, Ontario.

In the fall of 2006, more schools were supported in VSB and London, Ontario. The program also expanded into Richmond, Delta and Surrey School Districts – resulting in a total of 25 Odyssey schools.

Continued success led to rapid growth in 2007, with the addition of five more School Districts to bring the total participation to 50 schools covering 11 School Districts. In 2008, a targeted growth strategy has created a network of 60 Odyssey Schools covering 15 School Districts.

Odyssey Schools Program:

The Odyssey program targets students in Grade 7 to 10 with a variety of initiatives that support and enhance the curriculum, including both “in-school” and extracurricular activities. Odyssey funds are used to purchase lab equipment, supplies and software to provide “hands-on” opportunities for students to discover science.

During Science Focus Days and special workshops, guest speakers bring science and technology excitement into the classroom to engage students and inspire a life-long appreciation for science.

Foundation support helps create various science, technology and math clubs in Odyssey schools and encourages participation in science fairs and other stimulating competitions. Professional development opportunities expose educators to a variety of resources and teaching techniques to further enhance classroom activities.

Odyssey students explore real and practical science during field trips to Science World, Vancouver Aquarium, H.R. Macmillan Space Centre, Reed Point Marine Education Centre, local demonstration forests and other unique research centres in B.C.

Innovative school projects sponsored by Odyssey include: a Salmon Hatchery, Marine Biology Study Program, Best Math Camps, Digital Probe Indoor/Outdoor Science Labs, Pre-Engineering Design and Innovation Studio, Solar Heat Accelerator Project, and the creation of a special Robotics program for students.

Odyssey Schools Network:

Abbotsford School District (2 schools): ASIA Sumas Mountain, Yale Secondary.

Burnaby School District (4 schools): Alpha, Burnaby Central, Burnaby Mountain, Byrne Creek.

Central Okanagan School District (6 schools): Constable Neil Bruce, Dr. Knox, Glenrosa, KLO, Rutland and Springvalley Middle Schools.

Chilliwack School District (2 schools): AD Rundle Middle School, SD#33 Education Centre.

Coquitlam School District (5 schools): Coquitlam Alternate Basic Education (CABE), Dr. Charles Best, Heritage Woods, Riverside, Terry Fox.

Delta School District (5 schools): Burnsvew, Delview, North Delta, Sands, South Delta.

Langley School District (2 schools): Aldergrove Community, Walnut Grove.

London District Catholic School Board (London, Ontario): John Paul II Secondary

Nanaimo-Ladysmith School District (3 schools): John Barsby, Ladysmith, Woodlands.

Prince George School District (3 schools): Kelly Road, Mackenze, Prince George Secondary.

Richmond School District (4 schools): A.R. MacNeill, R.A. McMath, R.C. Palmer, Steveston-London.

Surrey School District (7 schools): Frank Hurt, Kwantlen Park, L.A. Matheson, North Surrey, Queen Elizabeth, Tamanawis, Princess Margaret.

Thames Valley District School Board (3 schools in London, Ontario): Clarke Road, H.B. Beal, Montcalm.

Vancouver School Board (10 schools): Britannia, Eric Hamber, Gladstone, John Oliver, King George, Prince of Wales, Sir Charles Tupper, Templeton, University Hill, Vancouver Technical.

Victoria School District (3 schools): Esquimalt High, Spectrum Community, Victoria High.

Individual Odyssey School Programs are described at:

www.m-o-f.org/mof_Odyssey_Schools.html