

65th Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair, April 2026

Major Awards

Overall Best Project Winners

1st Overall – Rotary Award + Victoria HarbourCats

+ The UVic President's Award

+ Dean of Science Scholarship

+ Rotary Club of Victoria-Saanich \$2000 Scholarship

106	Dallin, Ethan	Nitrogen-Doped Carbon Quantum Dots as a Fluorescent Sensor for Hydrolysed Gluten	Glenlyon Norfolk School	10
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2nd Overall – Eupraxia Pharmaceuticals Award + Victoria HarbourCats

107	Qin, Jared	Discovering Hidden Galaxy Mergers: Finding Real Mergers Missed by Current Detection Methods	Saint Michael's University School	10
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3rd Overall – JASCO / Stemcell Award + Victoria HarbourCats

103	Wang, Yuanzhi	Development of an Autonomous Cleaning Robot Based on Helical Propulsion for Sandy Beach Benthic Organism Protection and Its Ecological Restoration Efficacy	Saint Michael's University School	10
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4th Overall – Point Hope Maritime / Stantec Award + SHAW Centre for the Salish Sea

+ UVic Science Chairs' Award

102	Tsao, Alvin Wu, Ruibo	Smart Pill Dispenser	Saint Michael's University School	11
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5th Overall – Firstlight Technologies / Nature Victoria Award + SHAW Centre for the Salish Sea

+ UVic Engineering Chairs' Award

111	Gibson, Elsa Zhang, Jason	Fecal Flora and Forgetting: Building a Machine Learning Model to Diagnose Alzheimer's Based on Bacterial Taxa	Mount Douglas Secondary	12
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Geminiano Awards

Nathan Geminiano Awards - Overall Winner 2 times

+ Blackball Ferries prize

111	Zhang, Jason	Fecal Flora and Forgetting: Building a Machine Learning Model to Diagnose Alzheimer's Based on Bacterial Taxa	Mount Douglas Secondary	12
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Alexa Geminiano Awards - Overall Winner 3 or more times

None awarded in 2025

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Division Winners

Senior (Gr. 10-12)

Prizes: Russell Books

First	110	He, Wendi	Biomechanical Analysis of the Sit Spin in Figure Skating: Assessing Movement Load and Injury Risk	Shawnigan Lake School	11
Second	96	Morley, Reagan	The Polymer Potential: repurposing latex paint waste into composite board	Glenlyon Norfolk School	10
Third	98	Pesta, Harmony	A.I.'s Contributions to the Climate Crisis	Reynold's Secondary School	10
Fourth	104	Lim, Taekyung	Water Purification and Waste-Heat Recovery for electricity generation using solar energy	Mount Douglas Secondary School	10
Fifth	109	Chen, Aidan	Automatic vs. Symbolic Differentiation: A Scalability Analysis in Computational Mathematics	Brentwood College School	11

Junior (Gr. 8-9)

Prizes: Flying Squirrel, Dance Victoria, Cordova Bay, Blackball Ferry, Butterfly Gardens

First	72	Pereira, Isaiah	Halo: Your AI Care Aide	Saint Michael's University School	8
Second	82	Humber, Roanan	Wildfire and House Siding - Does it Make a Difference?	Glenlyon Norfolk School	9
Third	91	Ameja, Shaan	The Effect Of Physical Activity on Blood Glucose	Saint Michael's University School	8
Fourth	74	Humber, Fynn	Increasing Bifacial Solar Panel Efficiency- Do Reflective Materials Help?	Glenlyon Norfolk School	9
Fifth	75	Ahmad, Zane	Methanol Vs. Ethanol: Which Makes Better Biodiesel?	Glenlyon Norfolk School	9

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Intermediate (Gr. 6-7)

Prizes: BC Aviation Museum

First	64	Chen, Kara	The Life-Saving Layer: Finding the Most Resilient Emergency Insulation Materials for Victoria's Wet Climate	Saint Michael's University School	7
Second	77	Picardi, Thea	Macroalgae vs. Ocean Acidification	Saint Michael's University School	7
Third	31	Parker, Korbin	What fluid increases bean height?	Saint Michael's University School	6
Fourth	46	MacDonald, Violet Steele, Charlotte	Bacteria, Be Gone!	Saint Michael's University School	7
Fifth	55	Bratzer, Bowen	Electrical Generator Greatness (EGG)	Glanford Middle School	6

Elementary (Gr. 4-5)

Prizes: Maritime Museum

First	5	Clark, Finnley	Homeruns on Hot Days	Pacific Christian School	5
Second	58	de la Plante, Dana Fry, Vivienne	Do birds in BC prefer red, white, green or blue bird feeders?	Frank Hobbs Elementary School	5
Third	1	Ludu, Saheli	Can We Clean Water Using The Sun	Frank Hobbs Elementary School	5
Fourth	23	Powell, Audrey Zhang, Amy	Can people tell the difference between AI-generated photos and real photos?	Frank Hobbs Elementary School	5
Fifth	6	Kannangara, Makai	You want to cook food faster?	Pacific Christian School	5

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Science Fair Foundation of BC Awards

BC Agriculture in the Classroom Award

31	Parker, Korbin	What fluid increases bean height?	Saint Michael's University School	6
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BC Game Developers Innovation Award

Senior 102	Tsao, Alvin Wu, Ruibo	Smart Pill Dispenser	Saint Michael's University School	11
Junior 72	Pereira, Isaiah	Halo: Your AI Care Aide	Saint Michael's University School	8
Intermediate 66	Li, Aaron	Air Quality: Indoors VS Outdoors Which is Cleaner?	Arbutus Global Middle School	7

BC Nature Award

Senior 99	Parhar, Supriya	Algae: A Potential Energy Source?	Queen Margaret's School	10
Junior 69	Learmonth, Emilie Wang, Shiny	Help Rufous Hummingbird	Aspengrove School	9
Intermediate 28	McDowell, Kellan	How Do Animals Use DNA to adapt and Survive in different enviroments	Christ Church Cathedral School	6
Elementary 12	Binger, Toni	Sea turtles	Ecole George Jay Elementary	5

BC Science Teachers' Award

46	MacDonald, Violet Steele, Charlotte	Bacteria, Be Gone!	Saint Michael's University School	7
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Genome BC Award

111	Gibson, Elsa Zhang, Jason	Fecal Flora and Forgetting: Building a Machine Learning Model to Diagnose Alzheimer's Based on Bacterial Taxa	Mount Douglas Secondary School	12
46	MacDonald, Violet Steele, Charlotte	Bacteria, Be Gone!	Saint Michael's University School	7

Julia Lane Award

9	Mukhtar, Zahara	How do fungi glow	Ecole George Jay Elementary	5
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Michael Crooks Physics Award

112	Choe, Yul	The Effect of Air Pressure on the Period of a Simple Pendulum	Mount Douglas Secondary School	11
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SCWIST Award

68	Hansen-Nettleton, Dea Dia Patrick, Angeline	Hummingbird Feeding Pattern	Aspengrove School	9
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SHAD Award

97	Kumar, Kinara	Carbon Capture: Driftwood vs. Regular wood	Glenlyon Norfolk School	10
96	Morley, Reagan	The Polymer Potential: repurposing latex paint waste into composite board	Glenlyon Norfolk School	10
99	Parhar, Supriya	Algae: A Potential Energy Source?	Queen Margaret's School	10

Vancouver RASC Martha Pearce Award

107	Qin, Jared	Discovering Hidden Galaxy Mergers: Finding Real Mergers Missed by Current Detection Methods	Saint Michael's University School	10
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Provincial Awards - for nomination

Genome BC Scholarship Nomination

111	Gibson, Elsa Zhang, Jason	Fecal Flora and Forgetting: Building a Machine Learning Model to Diagnose Alzheimer's Based on Bacterial Taxa	Mount Douglas Secondary School	12
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Julia Lane Scholarship Nomination

	Self nomination	Application is to be made by student to SFFBC		
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Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure Scholarship Nomination

90	Jia, Simon (Xianmeng)	Design and performance evaluation of a small scale ion thruster.	Glenlyon Norfolk School	9
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Organization and Individual Awards and Prizes

Drs. Rosemary & Walter Balfour Award

1st 20	Sandepudi, Gayatri	Hand Dominance with Puzzles	Westmont Montessori School	4
2nd 22	Razavi, Aria	The Impact of Exercise on Heart Rate in Grade 4 – 6 Students	Westmont Montessori School	4

Drs Jane Browning & Dave Berry Award

24	Busch, Alexander	What takes more energy, walking or running?	Frank Hobbs Elementary School	5
50	Scott, Bless	Making Biodegradable Plastic	Westmont Montessori School	6

Association of Professional Biology

46	MacDonald, Violet Steele, Charlotte	Bacteria, Be Gone!	Saint Michael's University School	7
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BC Hydro Power Pioneers Smart Award (Trophy)

103	Wang, Yuanzhi	Development of an Autonomous Cleaning Robot Based on Helical Propulsion for Sandy Beach Benthic Organism Protection and Its Ecological Restoration Efficacy	Saint Michael's University School	10
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BC Hydro Power Pioneers (South Island Office) Award

100	Aphiwetsa, Elmond Zhang, Sting	Waste-E: An Autonomous Self-Driving Garbage Picker for Zero-Waste Cities	Saint Michael's University School	12
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BC Hydro Power Pioneers (South Island Office) - Book Award

55	Bratzer, Bowen	Electrical Generator Greatness (EGG)	Glanford Middle School	6
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BC Institute of Agrologists

1st	41	Taylor, Linden	Organic Batteries	Westmont Montessori School	4
2nd	31	Parker, Korbin	What fluid increases bean height?	Saint Michael's University School	6
3rd	85	Peterson, Elizabeth	Kangen Water Or Tap Water?	Lighthouse Christian Academy	8
4th	100	Aphiwetsa, Elmond Zhang, Sting	Waste-E: An Autonomous Self-Driving Garbage Picker for Zero-Waste Cities	Saint Michael's University School	12

BUGS (Biology Undergraduate Society) Award

28	McDowell, Kellan	How Do Animals Use DNA to adapt and Survive in different enviroments	Christ Church Cathedral School	6
58	de la Plante, Dana Fry, Vivienne	Do birds in BC prefer red, white, green or blue bird feeders?	Frank Hobbs Elementary School	5
115	Galang, Michael Star Jones, Liberty	Impacts of social media, and overexposure of blue light in quality of life.	Kwalicum Secondary school	11
10	Bennett, Liva	Do Mushrooms Have Superpowers?	Ecole George Jay Elementary	5

Canadian Meteorological & Oceanographic Society (CMOS) Award

16	Paul, Shae	Ocean Erosion	Lighthouse Christian Academy	5
45	Crooks, Lucy Verraich, Agiya-liv	The heat beneath our feet	Saint Michael's University School	7
105	McDowell, Saoirse	Designing Safer Ship Propellers to Reduce Whale Injury	Queen Margaret's School	10

Dr Zonk Award (Liu Family sponsor)

25	Le Gresley, Vivian	MOTIVATION PROCLAMATION	Selkirk montessori School	5
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Gordon Patterson Award

51	Budd, Emma Lewis, Callia	Natural Pigments: Investigating Fruit Blush in a Spray Bottle	Saint Michael's University School	7
55	Bratzer, Bowen	Electrical Generator Greatness (EGG)	Glanford Middle School	6
33	Wunderlich, Mikaela	Si Un Panneaux Solaire Bouge Avec Le Soleil Est Ce Qu'il Va Produire Plus D'énergie Qu'un Qui Ne Pas?	Central Middle school	7

Ocean Network Canada Award

105	McDowell, Saoirse	Designing Safer Ship Propellers to Reduce Whale Injury	Queen Margaret's School	10
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Out of the Box

74	Humber, Fynn	Increasing Bifacial Solar Panel Efficiency- Do Reflective Materials Help?	Glenlyon Norfolk School	9
85	Peterson, Elizabeth	Kangen Water Or Tap Water?	Lighthouse Christian Academy	8

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Rotary Club of Victoria-Saanich Environment Award

1st	46	MacDonald, Violet Steele, Charlotte	Bacteria, Be Gone!	Saint Michael's University School	7
2nd	89	Grispun Katz, Leo	Tuberculosis Detection from Chest X-Rays Using a Deep Learning Model Trained With Cosine Recognition	Glenlyon Norfolk School	9
3rd	77	Picardi, Thea	Macroalgae vs. Ocean Acidification	Saint Michael's University School	7
3rd	50	Scott, Bless	Making Biodegradable Plastic	Westmont Montessori School	6

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Victoria Chapter (RASC) Award

107	Qin, Jared	Discovering Hidden Galaxy Mergers: Finding Real Mergers Missed by Current Detection Methods	Saint Michael's University School	10
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Science Fair Alumni Award

11	Chabun, Kira Marshall, Violet	On thin ice	Ecole George Jay Elementary	5
68	Hansen-Nettleton, Dea Dia Patrick, Angeline	Hummingbird Feeding Pattern	Aspengrove School	9
94	Kiblevi, Sehed	Does Brushing Your Teeth Harder Really Clean Better?	Belmont secondary school	9
110	He, Wendi	Biomechanical Analysis of the Sit Spin in Figure Skating: Assessing Movement Load and Injury Risk	Shawnigan Lake School	11

Nature Victoria Award

110	He, Wendi	Biomechanical Analysis of the Sit Spin in Figure Skating: Assessing Movement Load and Injury Risk	Shawnigan Lake School	11
105	McDowell, Saoirse	Designing Safer Ship Propellers to Reduce Whale Injury	Queen Margaret's School	10
97	Kumar, Kinara	Carbon Capture: Driftwood vs. Regular wood	Glenlyon Norfolk School	10
98	Pesta, Harmony	A.I.'s Contributions to the Climate Crisis	Reynold's Secondary School	10
99	Parhar, Supriya	Algae: A Potential Energy Source?	Queen Margaret's School	10
68	Hansen-Nettleton, Dea Dia Patrick, Angeline	Hummingbird Feeding Pattern	Aspengrove School	9

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Business Awards

Butchart Gardens Award (to a teacher for special efforts)

Joan Gaines

Flying Squirrel Pass

70	Arya, Parsa	Humanoid Skeleton Detection	Christ Church Cathedral School	8
79	Rainsberry, Rayna	comment les oeuf reagir a les liquides	Central Middle School	7

Miniature World Pass

40	Wilson, Liam	H2NO SALT	Westmont Montessori School	5
37	Zhou, Justine Zilber, Alma	Break the Chain: Procrastination Cycle on Students	Saint Michael's University School	7
48	Cheung, Tessa	Mineral vs. Chemical Sunscreen: Which is Best?	Saint Michael's University School	7
65	Storry, Zenna	Clear Sight: Rain Project	Westmont Montessori School	7

Maritime Museum

105	McDowell, Saoirse	Designing Safer Ship Propellers to Reduce Whale Injury	Queen Margaret's School	10
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Munro's Books

87	Arun, Rakshith	Posture Perfect Chair	Saint Michael's University School	8
108	Demirkol, Kaan	Time dilation with a model light clock	Brentwood College School	11

Technology Professionals of BC

70	Arya, Parsa	Humanoid Skeleton Detection	Christ Church Cathedral School	8
87	Arun, Rakshith	Posture Perfect Chair	Saint Michael's University School	8

Victoria Bug Zoo

36	Gill, Ahlia Lalani, Arianna	Study Beats or Total Defeat?	Saint Michael's University School Saint Michael's University School	7
57	Zhang, Ino	Tiny Hockey Sticks	Lighthouse Christian Academy	7
23	Powell, Audrey Zhang, Amy	Can people tell the difference between AI-generated photos and real photos?	Frank Hobbs Elementary School	5
39	Miller, Joshua	Need a Hand?	Pacific Christian School	5