



## Newsletter

October 2020

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### Fall/Autumn Events & Activities Calendar

**September 30**  
Orange Shirt Day (BC)

**October 15**  
Student Health Check (no classes)

**October 18**  
Open School Day

**October 20**  
University of Fraser Valley  
Presentation 8:50 a.m.

**November 1**  
Open School Day

**November 4**  
BC Provincial Literacy  
Assessments 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.  
(Gr.10/11)

**November 9 -10**  
Student-Led Parent-Teacher  
Conferences

**November 11**  
Remembrance Day (BC)

**November 17**  
Vancouver Island University  
Presentation 8:50 a.m.

**December 4**  
Last day of Full BC Classes

**December 23**  
Last day of BC classes

**December 24**  
Closing Ceremony

# Osaka Gakugei Canadian International School

BC Offshore School



## Principal's Comments

It has been an active and productive seven weeks of learning since the start of term two. Students in 1-A and 2-A have been working hard on their BC courses and studying for and writing their Japanese midterms. One aspect of BC reporting is communicating with parents during the school year. BC Interim reports on all subjects/courses will be distributed to students and parents in late October. These progress reports are formative assessments that are designed to describe what the student is doing well and to provide specific suggestions for areas in need of improvement. Please review the interim reports and contact the school if you have any questions about them.

Our OGCIS students have demonstrated a high level of ability and knowledge of the BC curriculum since the school year began. Moreover, our grade 10 and 11 students have shown ongoing significant progress in their English language development and proficiency! As teachers of English language learners, we understand the importance of practicing reading, speaking and writing English for our students. We encourage students to regularly speak, read and write in English and to review assignments daily to develop their skills.

All grade 10 and grade 11 students will write the online graduation literacy assessment on Wednesday November 4th from 9:00am-12:00p.m. The grade 10 Literacy Assessment is required for graduation in B.C. Students may write the assessment up to three times with the highest score being on their permanent record. Students analyze and respond to texts, and results are categorized into these four proficiency levels: Emerging (initial understanding), Developing (partial understanding), Proficient (complete understanding) or Extending sophisticated understanding). We receive results on January 18, 2021.

*Mr. G. Halfyard*

# Indigenous

## Indigenous Perspectives in the BC curriculum

**i** The newly re-designed BC curriculum aims to incorporate Indigenous knowledge and ways of learning alongside traditional western education. As a BC offshore school, OGCIS is committed to providing our students with opportunities to learn more about Indigenous peoples of Canada as well as those fighting for recognition over the world. In BC lessons, teachers integrate First People's Principles of Learning (FPPL) and provide students with many opportunities to reflect on their own identity and sense of place within the world.

## Field Trip to National Museum of Ethnology



October 9<sup>th</sup>

On a rainy Friday, grade 10 and 11 students visited the National Museum of Ethnology located in the 1970 Expo Park. They viewed the special exhibition called "Treasures of Indigenous Peoples" which focused on artifacts from 9 different Indigenous groups from around the world.





# Studies

## Orange Shirt Day Activities

October 13<sup>th</sup>

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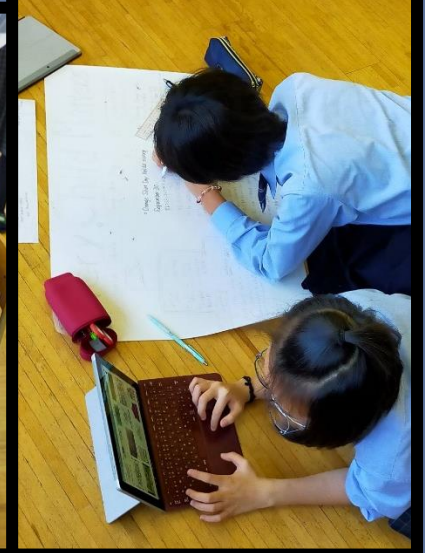
Orange Shirt Day is an event started in BC to raise awareness about Canadian residential schools and their lasting impact on Indigenous peoples of Canada. It not only highlights stories of survivors but acknowledges the children who did not return to their families. In BC, students wear orange t-shirts on September 30<sup>th</sup> with the phrase "Every Child Matters" to commemorate.



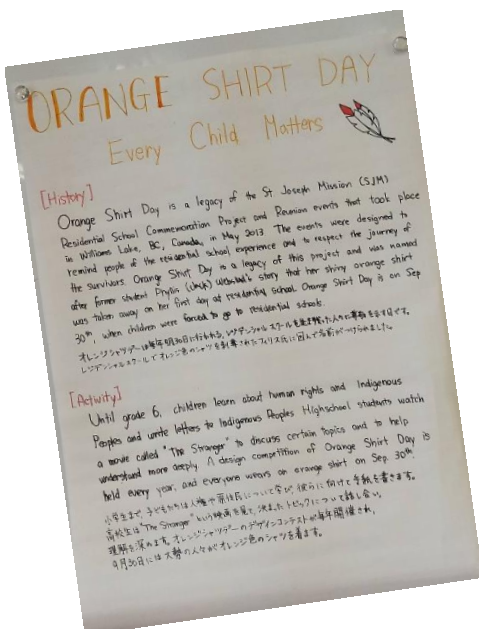
Contest winner



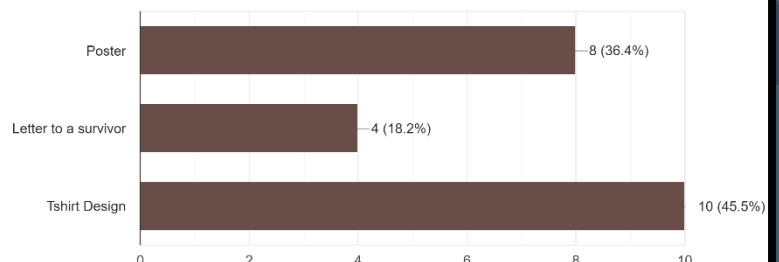
Contest runner-up



Students participated in 3 different activities focusing on different skills. Students designed an orange t-shirt and voted on their favourites, wrote a letter to a survivor of a residential school, and collaborated with a classmate to make a poster to teach Japanese students about residential schools and/or Orange Shirt Day.



What activity interested you the most today?  
22 responses



# Teacher Perspectives



In Science 10, students have been learning about chemical compounds and ions. Students recently completed a lab in which they discovered that different metal ions produce different flame colours when heated. Students then used this discovery to identify the metals in an unknown solution.

In Chemistry 11, students have been learning about real life applications of chemical processes and recently performed their own titration. They used this technique to determine the concentration of acid in a solution.

In Physics 11, students have been working hard learning about forces and Newton's Laws of Motion. In one activity, students completed a lab using physics carts in order to discover the relationship between mass.

In Math 10, students recently completed their final projects for the polynomial unit. Groups were tasked with designing a house floorplan using polynomial expressions then had to calculate the area of each room. They came up with some interesting designs!

In Math 11, students have been learning about linear and quadratic inequalities. They recently discovered how to graph inequalities through an inquiry based learning activity. and acceleration.

In social studies this fall, students will begin units focusing on the cultural genocide of Indigenous peoples by the Canadian government with residential schools. Students will explore how systemic erasure occurs and reflect on how Indigenous peoples are fighting to hold on to their culture and traditions today. They are showing a great deal of empathy and maturity as we discuss these difficult topics and the dark history of Canada.

So far this term, the Grade 10s have advanced from paragraphs into essay writing and are learning all about the variety of essay types and structures and planning needed to strongly express their ideas. They'll have their first independent essay project coming up in a couple weeks, as they attempt an analysis of a spooky Halloween movie! For the Grade 11s, we've finished up our literary analysis of Thomas King's "The Colour of Walls" and--continuing with our Indigenous Perspectives--are about to move into our novel study unit focusing on the theme of sense of place and residential schools.

In CLE, the Grade 11s are working on email etiquette and the different registers needed depending on audience. They've also been developing their portfolios for the year, including a mentor interview and learning reflections. In November, students will resume work on their big Post-Secondary research project to familiarize themselves with after graduation opportunities.

## Student Video Project

Thanks to the guidance of Mr. Estrada and continued support of Ms. Allen, our grade 10 and 11 students completed videos of Osaka Gakugei Canadian International School. Working in groups students collaborated to write scripts, create storyboards, record audio and video and edit a finished production. We are proud of the energy, effort and teamwork demonstrated by all students in completing this important project. The videos will be used to introduce our school to potential new students and parents at OGCIS.

## BC University & College Presentations

Part of our mandate is to introduce students to opportunities for post-secondary education in British Columbia. During this term students have received virtual presentations by the University of Victoria (Sept. 15) and will participate in online presentations from the University of Vancouver Island (Nov. 24) and The University of the Fraser Valley (Oct. 20). Our goal is to broaden students' knowledge about quality post-secondary education institutions in BC with the intent of attending a college or university in BC after graduation.

