

The Acorn

Issue #8 - Wednesday, April. 17th, 2024

UVic West Project Opportunity

By Fernanda

Do you want to be part of engineering projects while in high school? Do you want to leave your comfort zone and expand your knowledge? Or do you wish to be in more leadership positions to put on your resume? Uvic West can help you with all of these!

WEST is a student-led (Uvic Students) group that partners with industry professionals to engage female-identifying students in real industry projects. By participating, you can build your resume and gain valuable skills including leadership and teamwork. It is open for students in Grades 11 and 12 who are Female-identifying and women+ from any school in Victoria.

Mushan Kapoor, a 2nd year Computer Science student at UVic comments on her experience at WEST by saying, "This was an amazing experience. I met new people and learned problem-solving skills and how to talk in public. I recommend participating in this project as it is a way of making friends and learning."

Uvic West had two partnerships with Schneider Electric, an energy management company. The project goal of this year was for students to find new ways to educate people on energy management. The project was a

success and an enriching experience for the participants. The participants don't only work with each other, but also with professionals in the focused field. They receive professional feedback at every stage of the project. You will get to do networking with both university students and professionals.



Pictures from last year and this year's project on @uvicwest on Instagram

The sign-up for next year's project will open in December 2024. If you want to learn more, follow UVic West on instagram: @uvicwest

Issue #8 Song Rec Spotify Playlist



Your First Job

By Sophia Schlag

By the time High School comes around, a lot of people are more than ready to get their first job and save up for something fun, like a device, or something not as fun, like college. We have all stumbled on a classmate while out shopping one day, and wondered what it would be like to work there. With BC's minimum wage increasing to \$17.40 an hour starting in June, now is a better time than ever to start putting in hours.

I recently began training at a grocery store and am enjoying learning about how to help customers and work with others. However, finding employment was a several month-long job in itself, with a lot of rejection before the email I got with an offer. Here are a few tips on how to get one of your first jobs:

- Have a good resume: volunteering or being self-employed as a babysitter, house cleaner, etc. is still good experience!
- Try giving your application in person to the manager, so they can put a face to the name.
- Try to be as available as possible for shifts, especially at first, so they start to appreciate you.
- Prepare answers for interview questions: Google and Indeed are great starts!
- The Career Center is always posting new information about opportunities in our community and abroad for high school students.

Good luck!

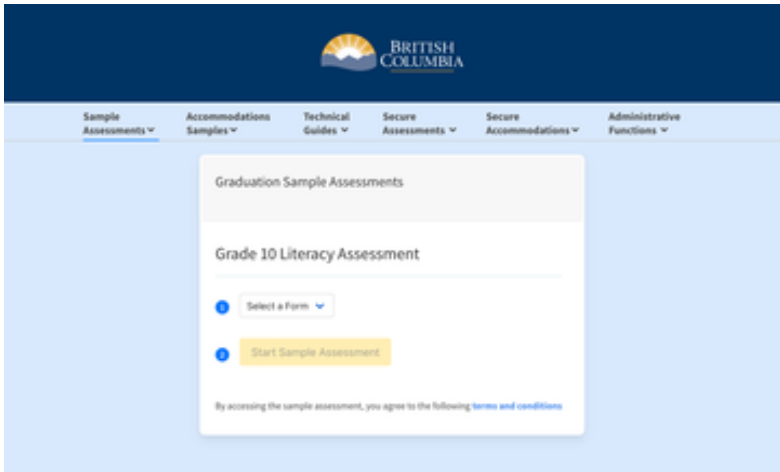


<https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DrTGwFwU8AEtZmR.jpg>

Numeracy and Literacy Assessments

By Lena Dietsch

Throughout our time in high school, the B.C. government has installed provincial assessments every few years in order to measure the numeracy and literacy skills of students. For those who are new to the school, I will be giving a brief overview of what these assessments consist of, who has to take them, and why we must suffer through these long three-hour tests every two years. The tests usually take place three times a year at our school for a week-long period, one of which happens to be this week. Grade 9s and 11s who completed theirs last year are safe for now, but for those in Grade 10, you will have to endure these assessments. The numeracy exam tests your basic math skills which you have learned over the years, while the literacy test evaluates your writing skills through comprehension questions and essay writing. Lastly, in Grade 12, there is another literacy assessment to confirm that you can critically assess texts and express your ideas through writing. All of these exams are graduation requirements, they last approximately 3 hours, and students complain about them A LOT. However, they do have a



WSS Library

purpose: they do not only exist to measure our literacy and numeracy abilities but to assess whether or not our school curriculum is properly educating us. The assessments are here to make sure that the SD61 school board is teaching us to an acceptable degree, and find gaps that may require changes to the curriculum. All of this is to say, don't stress over the assessments too much. Although a three-hour test seems scary, it is designed at the level of an average student of your grade and low marks (which are only out of 4) have little to no consequence on your future. Just try your best!



<https://drizzleandhurricanebooks.com>

4 Books to Read this Spring

By Rocio de la Rosa

The weather is finally getting warmer, and what better way to start the season of growth and clear skies than with a new list of books to read? Here is a short list of colorful, feel-good books to brighten the approaching spring months.

L. M. Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables* is a classic Canadian title and not one to be missed. This wholesome story follows the young orphan Anne and her life at Green Gables on PEI. Anne's story is one of adolescence, hope, and "kindred spirits" and is a must-read for those who love stories about friendship and growing up.

Are you looking for something long, luxurious, and, surprisingly, funny? *The Goldfinch* (by Donna Tartt) is the perfect read for you. Theodore Decker, a boy orphaned by a bomb explosion at the Met, spends much of his life jumping from house to house. As a teenager, he meets Boris, an intelligent, funny, and troubled boy, who leads Theo down a dangerous and irreversible path. This book is muddled with mystery, intrigue, and compelling characters – not one to be missed!

For enjoyers of classic literature: Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. This classic romance novel features two memorable heroines: Elizabeth Bennet and the aloof Mr. Darcy. Not only is it the perfect romance for springtime, but it also features bold and

intriguing characters with voices that are uniquely Austen's.

Orion Carloto's popular photography, prose, poetry, and short story collection *Film For Her* offers a unique perception on memories and what they hold for us as people. This raw and personal assortment of photos and poetry captures people, places, and emotions in a way that feels startlingly new. It is also the perfect book to flip through and enjoy as the summer approaches.

The Step Up Youth Program

By Lola Weinzettl

The Step Up Youth program offers youth the chance to volunteer and learn more about healthcare. This program is for ages 15-18. It is the perfect opportunity to gain work experience and volunteer hours. The volunteers attend weekly two-hour shifts and have monthly career guest speakers, such as dietitians, social workers and emergency room physicians who come in to discuss different careers in healthcare. Step Up Youth are often the first to know about other exciting volunteer opportunities available through Island Health, such as Code Hack and Code Orange Mass Casualty Drill.

During the weekly shifts, volunteers visit patients at one of several Island Health sites throughout Vancouver Island. Volunteers spend time with the patients talking, listening, playing card games, and reading to them in order to decrease their sense of isolation.

Volunteers can also make cards to hand out to patients or take the book cart to the patient's rooms. The book cart is essentially a little portable library. It has books in a range of genres so that every patient can find something they enjoy.

The process to get into the program is an online application followed by an interview. More information and the online application is available on this website: <https://www.islandhealth.ca/volunteer-resources/volunteer-opportunities/step-youth-program>. The closing date for applications for the next session is May 31, 2024.



Step Up Youth Program Website



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Worldle

By Samantha Gomez-Bedingfield

Guess which countries these are!



Image 1



Image 2



Image 3

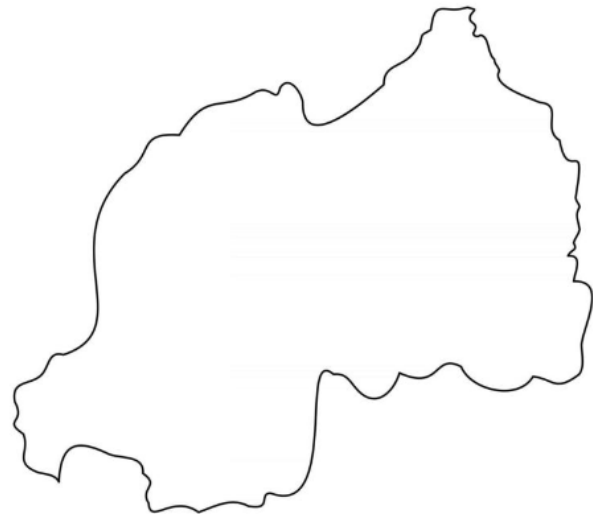


Image 4