



Nanaimo Science & Sustainability Society



VANCOUVER ISLAND UNIVERSITY



Working together to involve the community in long-term ecological research.

Interested in having your students participate in an authentic scientific research project designed by a team of local scientists?

What will your students do?

- Hands-on research with scientists from VIU, DFO, and NS3 to monitor the dynamics of an introduced bivalve (Varnish Clam, *Nuttalia obscurata*) in the intertidal at Departure Bay Beach
- Learn how to collect and record scientific data, and how to measure and identify local bivalves.
- Learn about the local environment through activity stations designed by science educators (e.g., touch tanks of local intertidal species, use of microscopes, etc.).



Step one: Register your class

Research will occur on select days in May and June (dates depend on timing of optimal tides); classes will be on the beach for one hour (time does not include travel). **Associated activities and busing are being provided free for grade 5 students by SD68.** To register contact the Community Schools Coordinator, Susan M'Gonigle at sm'gonigle@sd68.bc.ca. Dates and times are based on availability so register early!

Step two: Participate

Use materials provided by NS3 and VIU to prepare your students for your research day. Come to the beach and work with a research guide (e.g., NS3 staff, VIU faculty/students, DFO researchers) to sample the intertidal bivalve community and participate in onsite environmental education. Sign up to receive additional activities currently being developed through VIU to integrate into the grade 5 science curriculum.

As part of NS3's Citizen Science project students will

- make observations and predictions
- experience and interpret the local environment
- observe, measure and record data using appropriate tools
- identify patterns and connections in data
- identify social, ethical, and environmental implications of their findings

