



News Release

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Inaugural Race Rocks Challenge a Spirit-lifting Success!

The inaugural open water [Race Rocks Challenge](#) swim on May 25 was an overwhelming, spirit-lifting success with three [Pearson College UWC](#) students completing the entire 6000-metre course!

Students Mikella Schuettler, Mara Bohm and Hayley Touchburn finished the course from Race Rocks lighthouse to the campus docks on Pedder Bay in between two and four hours early on a chilly and overcast Saturday morning. Teammates Tess Casher, Andrew Littlejohn, Sarah Lewis and Dvir Maimon also completed significant portions of the course. All students are Canadian, with the exception of Dvir who hails from Israel.

“All seven students who trained for the challenge in the chilly waters of the Salish Sea were incredible,” said Corey Teramura, Seafront Activities Coordinator who was a driving force among the many people on the Metchosin campus who made this challenge a success. “Each and every one displayed strength, stamina and spirit and we’re so proud of them for sharing this inspirational challenge with the entire community.”

Students [trained with](#) and were mentored by [Susan Simmons](#), who volunteered her time. Well-known on Vancouver Island, Simmons also works extensively with Special Olympics participants, including the Spirit Orcas team which is currently training for a relay crossing of the English Channel and the [Great Bear Swim](#) training camp.

Safety was top priority for ***The Race Rocks Challenge*** with all swimmers wearing donated full-body wetsuits and accompanied by a flotilla of safety personnel and observers in powered craft and certified guide-staffed kayaks surrounding the swimmers every metre of the way.

“The Race Rocks Challenge was a mental and a physical challenge requiring focus, dedication, toughness and resilience – all qualities that Canadian and international students bring to Pearson.” said President and Head of College Désirée McGraw. “We hope this becomes an annual spring tradition here at ‘Canada’s School for the World.’”

About Pearson College:

In 1974, Lester B. Pearson United World College of the Pacific was founded on a forested campus along the shores of Pedder Bay in Metchosin. We are proud and grateful to be living and learning on the unceded territory of the Scia’new (Beecher Bay) First Nation. Pearson is one of 18 United World Colleges (UWCs) worldwide.

Pearson's mission – *To make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future* – is transformational. Pearson is a two-year pre-university school for nearly 200 students aged 16 to 19 selected from up to 160 countries and all Canadian provinces and territories. This year, nearly 90% of students attend on full or partial scholarships made possible through individual and organizational donors. The non-profit, charitably-registered school's commitment to deliberate diversity draws students from regions of conflict, refugee backgrounds and often from challenging socioeconomic backgrounds.

Pearson College UWC offers the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma, the most recognized and respected high-school diploma in the world. Students embrace a whole education that pays equal respect to academics, service, leadership, physical pursuits, creative expression, experiential learning and the lessons of learning and living together. To date, 14 [Pearson alumni](#) have gone on to become Rhodes Scholars.

For more information or to arrange an interview:

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