

Mount Doug Alumni Newsletter No. 1 - March 2009

A group of former students and teachers have come together to form the Mount Doug Alumni Association (MDAA). Our goal is to enhance opportunities for Mount Doug students to benefit from arts and sports programs now and in the future. To accomplish this, we are appealing to all former students and staff to become involved.

The Mount Doug Alumni Association will be a catalyst for building a dynamic Alumni network comprised of former students and staff reuniting to support the arts, sports and academic programs that benefit current and future students and our local communities.

You Can Help

- **Become a Member of the Alumni Association**

We are 650 members and growing daily. We have a long way to go but it's a great start. Whenever possible, please pass along the website address www.mountdoug alumni.com to any Alumni you happen to encounter. It's free to join your Alumni; once you are a member you will be kept informed via our on-line newsletters about upcoming reunions, events and projects.

- **Come to a meeting and get involved at the committee level**

Our next meeting is April 7th at 7:00 pm at Mount Douglas Secondary (3970 Gordon Head Road). We are in the process of forming our first executive. Please refer to the last paragraph of the newsletter for more information – it's a great time to get involved.

- **Please Donate**

Join your fellow Alumni who have already donated generously to develop the association. You can designate your donation to help defray organizational costs or help start funds for scholarships or capital projects – you can help your school in any way you desire through the MDAA. Thank you!

Remember, you can securely donate online with the donate button on the web site. Any amount will help and it is tax deductible. Once the donation has been successfully submitted, a PDF format tax receipt will be issued immediately via email. As shown in the recent Obama campaign, small donations were equally as important as large donations.

Your gift to the MDAA is an investment in our students which will continue to pay dividends throughout their lives.

Activities and Events

Mount Doug Family of Schools Showcase on April 28th

The Mount Doug Family of Schools (Frank Hobbs Elementary, Campus View Elementary, Arbutus Middle and Mount Douglas Secondary) is inviting the community to attend an "Excellence Showcase" open house on April 28th. Mount Doug will host this event and invite past, present and future students, parents, staff, Alumni and the surrounding communities to check out what is happening across the K-12 curriculum in our schools.

This will also be your opportunity to see the results of all the seismic construction that has taken place over the last two years. Members of the MDAA will be available to answer questions and show you the various ways to be involved. Stay tuned for more details.

Class Reunion Events

Plans are in the works for Class of 1960 and Class of 1974 events. If your class is planning a reunion, let us know and we will place an announcement on the events page. Reference to your events will also be linked to the Student Alumni list page to help you get the word out about your event.

The Mount Doug Community Fine Arts Centre

For many years, Mount Doug has had to produce major dance/art/theatrical/musical events in gymnasiums or in theatres in other schools because Mount Doug continues to be one of the few remaining high schools in the district that does not have a theatre of its own. Over a decade ago, Saanich recognized that citizens of the Gordon Head community would benefit from the construction of a Fine Arts Centre.

To address this community deficit, the Mount Doug Fine Arts Committee was struck in 2004 to begin work on building a professional, "green", state-of-the-art, fully accessible Fine Arts Centre for the students of Mount Doug and the Gordon Head community. The vision is a 350-seat theatre equipped with the latest technology for persons with physical, hearing or vision challenges, full accessibility to stage, pit and audience areas and public exhibition space for all fine arts media (available to professional, amateur and student artists). The Committee has obtained approval and a financial commitment from the Municipality of Saanich for this project, and the Greater Victoria School District has given us approval to begin fundraising. We have preliminary drawings of our vision, and are now seeking a lead donor.

We need your help to make this project a reality. At this time, we are in particular need of someone with financial expertise to advise our committee. Please consider volunteering your time and / or offering financial support. Together as a community, we can overcome all obstacles and make this dream a reality.

For further information, please contact Pat Blundon or Sandy Terry at pblundon@shaw.ca or John Fawcett, Principal at jfawcett@sd61.bc.ca.

The Executive

The current MDAA is operated by the original development committee led by former Mount Doug band teacher (and Class of '65 Grad), Len Michaux. The major ground work is complete; including the establishment of the Society and our charitable status. Now the fun begins!!

The proposed structure of the MDAA will be posted on the website, including the current "Board of Directors" and the needed Executive roles to be filled by any and all interested Alumni. Please email Len Michaux at lmichaux@shaw.ca if you would like more information about joining the Board or the Executive.

Worried about time commitments? Don't want to "jump in" just yet? If you could lend a hand with any of the committees, we'd love to hear from you; just let us know what works for you.

This is your opportunity to have your say on what the priorities of the MDAA should be moving forward – don't be shy – we've all seen your Grad photo!!