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Donating & Plaques * Reunions * Our Board of Directors

Our MDAA VISION:

* Engaged with alumni, students & staff showing pride & spirit in our school. *

President's Message



Hello again, MD alumni, and here we are with another newsletter edition that we hope you will enjoy. The world pandemic is giving us challenges, but we just need to take in the beauty around us as we have much to still be so thankful for here.

Be in the know with Principal Donna Thompson and her admin staff's update on some school activities in her message. So much involvement at our Alma Mater. Were these events happening when you were at Mount Doug? These students are so lucky to be there with and experience this great hard-working admin team and staff. For a recent example, check out the Saanich News Wednesday, June 2/21 front page. Congrats, MD Mathletes & Mr. Neal Johnson their teacher/coach. Island champs!

And how many MD Quiz questions can you answer? Give it a go further down. Something for everyone here.

As Dr. Bonnie Henry reminds us, continue to follow all the current health protocols and always "Be kind, be calm, be safe" as we move through our next four stages to gradually return to a safe and more regular life. We will be through this unique situation sooner rather than later as more are vaccinated, and we follow the rules. Let's continue to do our best for the greater good. Thanks, MD Alumni! Now put your feet up and enjoy the informative, interesting and fun-filled newsletter we have created for you. Read on... and any questions or comments, please let me know at: newsletter@mountdoug alumni.com

Warmly,
Wendy Gedney
MD '67 class
MDAA President

Principal's Message



The 2020-2021 school year is flying by, and it's hard to believe we have been living and learning during the Global Pandemic for an entire year. While there are many things that have changed because of the public health restrictions, the importance of school has never been clearer. We continue to be flexible and fluid with the changing Public Health orders to keep our staff and students safe. We are also looking to find fun and creative ways to build school connections and culture.

The Aviation Program, a District Program which welcomes students from all the secondary schools, has just acquired a plane for students to learn on as part of their intensive program which includes flying, airplane mechanics, and design.

The Mount Doug Dancers have had a very exciting term filming a movie and winning the Virgin Radio Competition with the prize being a Jason Derulo Dance Party where Jason Derulo and his choreographer taught the students a new Tik Tok Video.

The Mount Doug Music Program will not be performing live this year but have been busy recording their music to share online with friends and family.

Sports teams have not been able to play inter-school competitions live, but students have been able to practice and train together as a team, building their skills and having fun. BC School Sports has also been presenting some virtual school challenges to keep the students motivated to participate.

School Clubs have also been able to start again by moving to virtual or physically distanced spaces. Inter-school virtual chess and debate challenges have been happening, and students have also participated in an online Model UN Conference.

There has been a great deal of activity in our library helping to change it into what is popularly and commonly known as a Learning Commons, a more comfortable and welcoming place for students to learn. This renovation has involved a massive culling of books, converting the all library shelving to a modular format on wheels, and creating a green screen area for video, a sound room for podcasts and numerous areas in the room for students to relax and learn. This might be an excellent area for alumni to contribute to be recognized as supporting present students in the school.

Grad this year will be different due to the public health orders although we are pleased to be able to offer a live stream recognition ceremony for the Grad Class of 2021. In groups of twenty-five, students will be able to walk across the school stage in the gym to receive their grad certificate. Parents, family and friends will be able to watch from their homes in any city around the world to share in the celebration. Photo booths and photographers will also be onsite to capture these special moments. The ceremony will take place on June 23rd at 5:00 pm which is their last day of public education before these students too, become the next Mount Doug Alumni members.

Donna Thompson
Principal and
Phil Pitre and Paul Ledet
Vice Principals
MDSS Administration team

Mount Doug Alumni... do you know about MD Wear?

Mount Doug Wear is a student-run business offered through Mrs. Parkinson's Marketing / Entrepreneurship class. This is Mount Doug Wear's 25th anniversary. Many of our alumni have gone through Mrs. Parkinson's business program and are now active business people in our community.

This year we decided to add the offer of a Mount Douglas 90th Anniversary commemorative line. Please see photo. It was a great hit with the staff and students and a wonderful tribute to our amazing school. Our sales are over for this school year, but do see our designs at <https://www.mountdougwear.com>



Also check out the fun videos with our mascot, Rambo showing some of our products. We will be up and running with online sales next fall. Check back again then.

Mount Doug Wear Mission Statement: "To provide fashionable, wearable and affordable clothing to the students, staff, alumni and Mount Doug community to enhance school spirit and pride."

Mrs. Donna Parkinson
MDSS Business Department Head
dparkinson@sd61.bc.ca

Gone but Not Forgotten (since our Fall Newsletter Oct. '20)

Pamela Massa Fisher '77 - d. May '12

Ron Heslegrave - '69 - d. June '20

June Drage LeBel '51 - d. Oct. '20

Glenn Wakefield '68 - d. Oct. '20

Joshua D'Lorge '97 - d. Nov. '20

Phyllis Wakeyn '49 - d. Dec. '20

Craig Armstrong '67 - d. Dec. '20

Colin Kamphof '01 - d. Dec. '20

Dianne Badley Drewery '59 - d. Dec. '20

Nancy Nash MacDonald '67 - d. Dec. '20

Darren Cryderman '86 - d. Jan. '21

Clint Little '67 - d. Feb. '21

Maria Kasapi (Christodoulou) '69 - d. Mar. '21

Jeannine Notenberg (Seward) '83 - d. Mar. '21

Pat(ricia) Ellis '77 - d. April '21

Karen Odeh Moreton '80 - d. April '21

David Partridge '00 - d. May '21



SPOTLIGHT on our principal, Donna Thompson!

In this edition, we are pleased to feature Donna and let you know more about our school's leader.

Donna has been at Mount Douglas Secondary School for two full school years come the end of June, and she's very proud to be our principal. This is her first principalship. Before us, Donna spent thirteen years at Spectrum Community School, the last four years as their Vice Principal.

Born in Regina, Saskatchewan, Donna came to Victoria as a teen with her family. After graduation, she earned her Bachelor of Education degree at York University, and then taught for two years in an elementary school in Barrie, Ontario. She has a Masters in Counselling Psychology and a Post Graduate Diploma in Special Education and was a school counsellor and inclusive education teacher for our school district before becoming a VP at Spectrum.

Donna has a wonderful and supportive husband and an energetic and creative seven-year-old daughter. They enjoy travelling and golfing together. Reading is an important pastime for Donna; she has both professional development and pure pleasure reading books always on the go.

Donna works so well with our MDAA board members and fits right in with us. She attends our monthly evening board meeting with her warm smile, her contagious enthusiasm and a very informative school update. This way, she reports to us about what's happening at Mount Doug now and coming up.

In speaking with a few staff members about Donna, Paul Ledet, a VP said the following to describe her: *“an absolute pleasure to work with...collaborative, transparent, a team player, has an Open Door policy, warm and welcoming, hardworking, out and about in the halls and classrooms with the students and staff”*.

Another staff member speaks of Donna's compassion, and that she always has time to listen and cares deeply about each individual in the Mount Doug school community. Amelita Kucher, who teaches Science & Environmental Leadership, also says Donna has worked tirelessly to maintain and support our staff in these difficult COVID times. She notes that students always know they will be heard wherever they are talking with her.

Donna found a 1975 MD majorettes trophy, an archival item!



Donna with the students in the school garden



Donna greets the students with hand sanitizer for health protocols, as they come back to school in October last year.



Donna with daughter & husband



Donna Parkinson, Mount Doug's Marketing & Business teacher, notes that Donna creates a positive and safe learning environment for the students and staff. She is generous with her time, energy and her big smiles... easily seen under her mask! Busy as she is in her job, she always makes people feel respected and valued. She's forward thinking and wants to enhance Mount Doug's learning and working opportunities and environment.

Donna Thompson looks forward to leading MDSS successfully through this Global Pandemic and to be with us for many years to come. We, the alumni, and the staff and students all hope so too!

We give our principal an A★!

Mt. Doug Student's Memorial Garden Clean Up Project by Vince Kreiser-Grad 1973

This project started a few years ago when my long-time friend and fellow 1973 grad Mitch Markin and I went for a walk around the school grounds one week-end. Near the back entrance to the gym, we noted an overgrown section of landscaping and stopped to take a look. It turns out this area was a memorial garden established in the early 1990's to honour a former student who had passed away while attending the school.

I contacted the Mt. Doug Alumni Association President Wendy Gedney (Grad 1967) to see if some work could be done to tidy up the garden. A meeting was set up with School Principal Donna Thompson and one of the teachers, Amelita Kucher, along with some of her Environmental Leadership Program students. Good discussions took place at the meeting and a potential plan was laid out to move forward.

With everyone's cooperation, several work parties have taken place to help rehabilitate the garden. We're thankful for the support of these businesses: Victoria Plating Ltd., Greenway Automotive, DL Bins, Central Saanich Home Hardware, Doug Choo through his Jim's Mowing franchise and Peninsula Landscape Supplies.

There are still a few "touch ups" left to go as the weather gets warmer later in early summer, but with everyone's help the memorial garden is looking much better now. It has been very gratifying to see the alumni and current students come together like this to help out with this improvement at our school.

The before photo of the memorial garden



The planning meeting with Alumni & Environmental Leadership reps and principal,



Together weeding and adding soil,



Vince working with the plaque,



Ms. Kucher and her team



The finished up garden



A MOUNT DOUG QUIZ for you...

How well do you know your school, past & present?
How many questions can you answer correctly?

1. How many principals MDSS has had since it opened in 1931?
2. How many female principals have led our school?
3. In what year did our school move from the original campus on Cedar Hill Road to the current grounds on Gordon Head Road?
4. MDHS started as a grade 9-12 school; it changed to 10-12, then to a 11-12 school, then back full circle to a grade 9-12 school now. In what year did it change back to a grade 9-12 school?
5. Who was the longest serving principal of MDSS?
6. Who was the longest serving staff member at MDSS?
7. When did MDHS first start a band program?
8. What year was the aviation program started at MDSS and who teaches it?
9. What was the largest graduating class at MDSS?
10. What many students were in the first graduating class at MD 1931-32 year?
(Hint - answer can be found on the MDAA website)
11. What was the highest number of annexes MD had one its campus at one time?
12. How many students attend MDSS currently?
13. How many cultures & languages are represented at MDSS currently? How many were there in your time at MD?

14. What was the name of that school that existed on the current campus for 10 years before MDSS moved in?
15. What award did MDHS's Environmental (ECO) Club win in 2016? And who is the teacher sponsor?
16. What year did the Outdoor Club begin? Who was the teacher sponsor?
17. MD's computer lab was opened in the 70's then added to in phases. What teacher managed this task? And in what year did the drafting room receive its first Apple computer?
18. When did the rowing team begin at Mt. Doug & who started it?

(Hint - Regular alumni readers will know some of these answers from info in previous newsletters)

(Answers at the end of this newsletter)

Generations Attending MD

A former board member, Pat Emery Young '47 class suggested we ask our alumni if they have a child, grandchild, parent &/or grandparent that also attended MDHS/MDSS. How many generations in one family line can we discover that attended our alma mater in its 90 years in existence? Do let us know.*

Reply to: newsletter@mountdoug alumni.com with the alums' first and last names and grad years or would-be grad year if they dropped out or moved before grad.

We will publish them in our Fall '21 Newsletter. Let's hear from you, alum!

A Message from our treasurer, Rod Lindquist, CPA, CA - Class of 2002

Donate to the Mount Doug Alumni Association

Your Donation Will Always Count!

The Mount Doug Alumni Board is composed of seven board members consisting of former students and faculty members of Mount Douglas Secondary School. We serve the organization on a fully volunteer basis.

If you donate to the Mount Douglas Secondary Alumni Association, you can be assured that every dollar received will go a long way in our organization. Because we are a small society, we have very little overhead so your donations are almost entirely applied directly to our programs and charitable initiatives. All donations, except for payments for our plaques and merchandise, are eligible to receive a charitable donation receipt.

There are a number of ways to give back:

Donate to our Victoria Foundation Endowment

Over the years, we have built an endowment fund from donations from alumni & the public, and matching programs from the Victoria Foundation, totalling approximately \$34,000. This fund is maintained in perpetuity (we can never touch the principal), and it grants us the ability to pay out our two student bursaries directly from our annual grant from our endowment fund there. If you donate to that fund, your money will continue to grow with the Victoria Foundation and help increase our annual grant amount which will give us the opportunity to provide more bursaries to other deserving graduating students of MDSS.

Donate to our endowment fund through [Canada Helps](#). If you prefer, you can send us a cheque; made out to Mount Doug Alumni Association, c/o MDSS, 3970 Gordon Head Rd, Victoria, BC V8N 3X3

[Buy A Plaque](#) and Immortalize Your Time or Tenure at MDSS

We will then create a matte black brass plated plaque and affix it to the bleachers in the gym of Mount Douglas Secondary School in perpetuity for you. The plaque will indicate a staff or student name of your choice and the relevant grad year or tenure. What a great way to give back to the school while also showing your personal support as an alumni member! [Go to our website](#) to purchase your plaque now!

General Donations

Your one-time or monthly donation will have a huge impact on our ability to operate and serve alumni and students.

If you are interested in donating a larger sum to be earmarked for a particular project for the school, please reach out to us so we can discuss your vision!

Donate to our endowment fund through [Canada Helps](#). If you prefer, you can send us a cheque; made out to Mount Doug Alumni Association, c/o MDSS, 3970 Gordon Head Rd, Victoria, BC V8N 3X3

ANSWERS to the Mount Doug QUIZ - how did you do?

1. **12 principals + 3 acting principals** for a year each in the past 90 years MDSS's doors have been open
2. **Donna** is our 3rd female principal
3. **Summer 1970** was the move
4. **September 2003** MD went back to gr 9-12 school when middle school system was introduced
5. 2nd one, **Mr. Eric Forster served 30 years**
6. **Stan Gill**, PE teacher, 34 years at MDSS (several close behind him) Bill C, Colin Q, Dave B, Monty F
7. **1958 with Vern Bryant**, 1st conductor/director
8. Feb. **2016** John Sumner Aviation teacher
9. **1977** with over 600 according to our annuals/yearbooks
10. 1932 grad class had **19** students in it in June

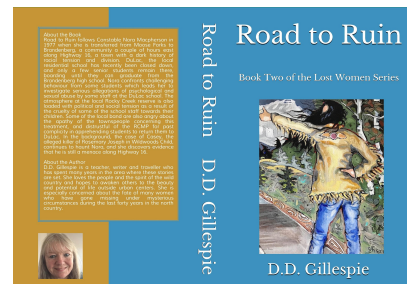
11. Most annexes at 1 time = **9 or 10?** (in the '70's)
12. **912** students at MDSS currently
13. **37** countries & their cultures & languages represented at MDSS this year
14. **Gordon Head Junior High School** (gr. 7-9 then 8-10)
15. In **2016**, Amelita Kucher's ECO Club won Saanich's Environmental Awards for Youth for ivy pulling on Mt Tolmie & other initiatives
16. In **1971** the Outdoors Club began sponsored by Bill Conconi with Monty Fulton.
17. **Colin Quail** created the Computer Lab and later the drafting room received an Apple computer in **1979**.
18. The MD rowing team began in 1986-7 sponsored by **Bill Conconi** and the coach was It continues today with Coach Graham McLaren who rowed for MD as a student when it first started there.

So, how did you fare? Now you know more about our alma mater. Well done!

Reunions - do let us know if for this year or next: 1. if your class is planning one this summer in either virtual or in-person format, and 2. if so, how we could help you with it. See our Reunion Organizing Guide under [Reunions](#) on our MDAA website at: <https://moundoug alumni.com>

Our newsletter proof-reader, and retired Mount Doug English teacher, Dianne Gillespie, is also an author! There are two books in her Lost Women series currently. Her latest is Road to Ruin.

Visit her website <https://www.thelostwomen.com>



Our MDAA board of directors:

David Foster '67 - honorary president

Wendy Gedney '67 - president

Kirsten Mawle '78 - vice-president

Rod Lindquist '02 - treasurer

Colin Quail '72 -'04 staff - recording secretary

Bill Conconi '71 -'02 staff - meeting chair & member at large

Shirley Lee '88 - member at large

Bruce Ralphs '81 - member at large

Donna Thompson - principal, school liaison & ex-officio director

Newsletter Committee: Rod Lindquist & Wendy Gedney; guest contributors: Vince Kreiser '73, Paul Ledet MDSS VP, Amelita Kucher MDSS staff, Donna Parkinson MDSS staff and Dianne Gillespie, proof reader & retired MDSS staff.

