



MDAA Spring Newsletter 2023

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President's Message ~

Welcome back, MD alumni, to our Spring

'23 Newsletter. Do check out the regular and new features in this edition of our newsletter.

We have continued working to fine tune our new website and still have a few areas to build. Any feedback from you or offers of help are always welcome!

We continue to need more help with projects that are on hold currently. Expanding our board as well as our list of alumni helpers is a must to move forward for our alumni

association - for all of you and for the future alumni joining us annually.

A few volunteer hours here and there would be much appreciated. It is fun and satisfying becoming acquainted with other alumni in the process of helping for the greater good of our association.

Let me know if you'd be willing to share some of your time when you can. You can email me directly at: **wgedney@telus.net** . Thank you in advance, MD Alumni, as this will help keep our association alive & moving forward.

I hope you enjoy reading our offerings and the contributions below.

Sincerely,
Wendy Gedney
MDAA President



Principal's Message ~

Dear MDSS Alumni,

This has been an excellent year for Mount Doug in so many ways. The legacy of excellence in academics, arts and sport continues, shown by the hard work of our students in competitions, festivals, and Provincial championships. We have diverse offerings to meet the needs of our students and are proud of the efforts of our staff and school community. What might be less obvious than the trophies or accolades is the atmosphere of caring and continued work our students and staff have done in building the social-emotional capacity and mental health of the people in our building. Our students are leaders in ecological leadership, acceptance, inclusion and anti-racism in our community. Mount Doug continues to be made up of champions, both on and off the field.

This year was thankfully back to "almost normal" after the global pandemic. We were excited to be able to resume so many activities we had all missed.

Our Mount Doug RAMS had a successful football season and had student scholarships to the BC Provincial team as well as university scholarships to the University of Western Ontario and acceptance into the Rebels football team. From Basketball to Badminton, Golf to Soccer, Swimming and Track and Field and Tennis, our athletes distinguished themselves in competition. Our Ultimate Frisbee and Girls Volleyball teams competed at Provincials, and Mount Douglas students continue to be excellent ambassadors for youth.

Our Challenge and STEM students have also distinguished themselves with the highest

Our Challenging and STEM students have also distinguished themselves with the highest math standing of all schools on Vancouver Island in National Math Competitions and three students going on to attend the National Science Fair. Our students also provide peer leadership through peer tutoring for other Mount Douglas students and the Math Challengers program, an enrichment outreach to middle schools where older students act as mentors. An especially gratifying trend is the continual improvement of student scores from younger to older grades showing the building of skills and coaching from dedicated staff.

Our Robotics program is making great strides, entering their first competition this year and collaborating with local experts to deepen the student experience. Our Aviation, Design and Innovation and Shop Skills classes continually challenge students to tap into their creativity and passions to find their potential in ways that suit their personal plans.

Over 80 of our students registered to write Advanced Placement exams in over a dozen subjects, internationally recognized assessments that grant post-secondary credit while in high school.

In the Arts, our Dance students have represented Mount Douglas beautifully in local festival and made up two of three performing groups selected to compete at Provincial competition. Our music students attended the Whistler Performing Arts festival as well, earning Gold standing. Mount Doug continues to have exciting performing arts offerings

including String Orchestra, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Guitar, Choir, Dance and Choreography courses and Drama courses. Our visual arts work is displayed prominently, celebrating the skills and technique of our students.

We serve our students and families in times of joy, happiness, and triumph, but also in times of challenge, grief, and struggle. Academic learning and growth are our bottom line, yet we also understand that educating students means being attentive to the “whole child” and caring about their social and emotional well-being.

There is of course so much more we could mention, as it is impossible to distill the experiences of almost 1000 people into a short message. Our teachers and staff love to be a part of the learning and growth of our students during these crucial years of development and contribute to our positive school culture. Alumni, parents and the wider community are a big part of who we are, and we are excited to share our story with you.

Mount Douglas Secondary School is a place of learning, belonging, growth, and support for students, families, and the community. As we head into Graduation and beyond, we look forward to welcoming a new class of Alumni. Thank you for being a part of our community and school!

Sincerely,

Donna Thompson, Phil Pitre and Nancy Archer
MDSS Administration Team

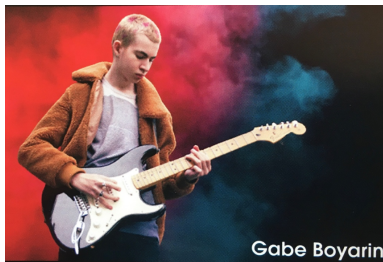




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## ***CONGRATULATIONS to our MDAA Bursary Recipients***

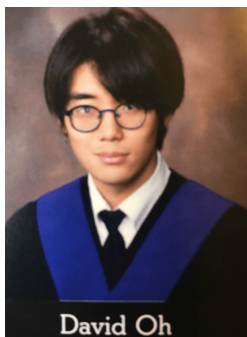
We are pleased to announce our 2 bursary winners for June 2022. They were: David Oh, who is the recipient of the Len Michaux Fine Arts Memorial Bursary and Gabriel Boyarin, who is the recipient of the MDAA Academic Bursary. Read more about each of these graduates.



Gabe Boyarin was the 2022 recipient of the Len Michaux Fine Arts Bursary. The bursary was named in memory of Len Michaux who was an accomplished band teacher at MDSS from 1974-1985 and the founding president of the MDAA from 2005-2011. Interestingly, his father Emile Michaux was also a band teacher at MDSS. The bursary was initially funded by several former Mount Douglas band students, some staff, and Len's family. The MDAA continues to fund this bursary annually.

Gabe was a band student at MDSS for four years under the direction of band teacher Doug Awai. He is a multi-instrumentalist playing guitar, bass, and bass clarinet. He was part of the concert band, jazz band, and jazz combo while at the school. Gabe's main instrument is guitar and Doug Awai described him as "a fantastic jazz player and also a musical leader."

This year Gabe has been studying at the prestigious Berklee College in Boston, Massachusetts.



Our second bursary funded by the MDAA is the Academic Bursary. Last year's recipient was David Oh. This bursary is presented to a grade 12 student who shows proficiency in all areas of the curriculum with an emphasis on the core academic subjects. Financial need is also a consideration. This bursary was first given in 2016 and has been awarded every year since that time. It is funded from proceeds of the fundraising efforts of the

David was described by his teacher, Shona Lindsay as a very academic student. "He did especially well in all the sciences including Physics 12." David's plans for this year were to apply to the nursing program at Camosun College and Vancouver Island University. One option he was considering was attending the program part time and working part time to finance his studies. Shona Lindsay said he was "an amazing candidate for nursing who was very passionate about this career."

~ by Debbie Marchand



### **Gone but Not Forgotten**

Thanks for those who let us know about alumni they knew who have died, and writing a note to [obiteditor@mountdougalumni.com](mailto:obiteditor@mountdougalumni.com) (often including the obituary too where possible) so we can add the deceased alum to our In Memoriam section under their class' year on our website. Our thanks to alum **Carol Williams** for sending out MDAA Sympathy cards to families of the alumni who have died (if we have contact info).

Since our last newsletter, these are the alumni who we understand have passed:

Gordon McLean '48 - d. April '12 \*\*

Karen Lawson York '73 - d. April '18 \*\*

Christina Cubbins Widenmaier '88 - d. March '20 \*\*

Jim McLeod '66 - d. March '21 \*\*

Ian Reed '73 - d. April '22 \*\*

Ann Lichtensteiger Kingerlee '70 - d. August '22

Don Panter '67 - d. August '22

Scott Clazie '78 - d. September '22

John Rowan '49 - d. October '22

Sheila Ewing Cooksey '64 - d. October '22

Judy Williams Burgoyne '64 - d. November '22

Carolyn Hill Anderson '57 - d. December '22

Sharon Rogers Dovey '62 - d. January '23

Mike Sharlow - VP 1995 -'02 - d. January '23

Margaret Parker - teacher 1970 - '76 - d. January '23

Wally Russell - principal - 1979-'86 - d. February '23

George Musselwhite - '64 - d. February '23

Gerry Loudon - '67 - d. March '23

Hu(bert) Williston '60 - d. March '23

George Butterworth '59 - d. March '23

Dan Young '68 - d. April '23

Gary Dillabaugh '65 - d. April '23



\*\* denotes alumni who we were just informed about their deaths even though they died some years ago. They will also be posted on our website in their class year.

~ by Wendy Gedney

## ~ Mount Doug Alumni AUTHORS' CORNER ~

We have many talented authors in our MD alumni family and of the ones who have registered on our website and read in our newsletters about this chance to share their works, these are the 8 authors who sent in their information for all of you to read about. Thanks to all these published alumni authors who participated in our Authors' Corner.

**Please click on the button below to read about  
the contributing authors and their published writings.**

~ by Debbie Marchand & Wendy Gedney

Authors' Corner button



## REUNIONS - 2022 & 2023

It was a great summer for MD reunions last year. 5 classes and 1 in November celebrated with their classmates. Some were gathering now that COVID 19 restrictions have lessened. Thanks SO much to the reunion organizers in each class. All present at these successful events were thankful the committees had gathered them together.

Much fun and memory-making happened with these groups:



MD '62 class - 60th year reunion - September 14& 15, 2022 in Sidney -their organizers were: Sharon Hope, Mary Barnard Knudsen, Bev Highton, Ted Cameron, Marion Marson Denton, Rikki Bridges Bowman, Virginia Taylor Lund & Peter Bray.



MD '70 class - 50th+2 years reunion - June 25/22 - at Royal Colwood Golf Club - thanks to Carol Brassington Brown, Joan Hill Mann, Lynda Stewart, Cathy Wait Ellis, Linda Miller Donato, Anne Fulcher Miller & Maureen McDonald Fraser for organizing the reunion and thank you to all their reunion class mates for their kind donation to our MD Alumni Association as well. 😊



MD '72 class - 50th year reunion - August 13/22 at Windsor Park in afternoon & evening at The Strath - Gayle McDonald, Christine Morley Willows, Janice Logan Wilton, Barry Kelly and Teresa Love put these events together.





MD '80 class - 40+2 year reunion - September 30/22 at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club - Sandi Purches Bertram, Paul Rivet & Susan Barnett Pearse reunion were their organizers.



MD '82 class 40th year reunion - June 25/22 at UVic's Felicita's Pub - some of the reunion '82 class partiers above. Committee organizers: Les Bryan Chris Mosher, Neela Streifel, Cathy Larsen & James Love.



MD '77 class - 45th year reunion - November 12, 2022 at Uplands Golf Club - Kevin Sing, Carol Wicken Charlebois, Marion Boulstridge, Norma Thomson Campbell, Joanne Lee ruickshank, Gorman Lee and David Bramley who put the event together.

**This summer these MD classes are pre  
paring to celebrate:**



MD '68 class' 55th on July 8th  
MD '73 class' 50th on June 17th  
MD '78 class' 45th on Sept. 9th  
MD '00 class' 23rd on Sept. 30/23

If you are in any of these 4 classes,  
see details about your reunion on our website homepage. Click [Learn More](#).  
Also, do let us know if your class is planning a reunion and we will post it on our site for  
you and your class. Send us your reunion information to: [info@mountdoug alumni.com](mailto:info@mountdoug alumni.com)

~ by Wendy Gedney



## Mrs. Parkinson Waves Goodbye After 43 Years

On January 31st, 2023, Mount Douglas teaching legend Donna Parkinson officially retired concluding an amazing 43-year teaching career. Donna celebrated this momentous event in the Mount Doug Gym with a Reunion/Retirement Social with close to two hundred of her former students from across 5 decades. The gym was adorned with many pictures and awards including the many National and Provincial Championships that Donna's Marketing classes won over the years. The night of celebration was filled with many entertaining stories celebrating Donna's impact on the thousands of students she helped mentor.

Donna began her teaching career in 1980 at the age of 22 in Richmond, BC where she taught for 10 years before moving to Victoria in 1990 with her husband Charles and her

taught for 10 years before moving to Victoria in 1990 with her husband Charles and her two young children Chelsea and Devon. In that same year, Donna started her 33-year tenure at Mount Doug as a math and business teacher. Ms. Parkinson believes that the best way to learn business is to actively BE in business so in 1996 when Donna took over the Marketing program, she and her class launched the first line of Mount Doug Wear. Since then, Donna's classes have literally clothed half of Gordon Head with trendy and affordable clothing. Along the way, her students learned invaluable lessons in entrepreneurship, finance and key life skills which helped many of her graduates go on the successful business careers.

The recent night of celebration for Donna included many former students sharing how Ms. Ps teaching impacted their lives. Among those at the Celebration were dozens of Mount Doug graduates who were among the 400+ students who Donna guided through New York City to discover business firsthand. The evening concluded with Donna taking the microphone and reminiscing on many significant, funny and impactful moments from her career. It was clear to all in attendance that Donna Parkinson's passion for education is still as strong as it was when she began this amazing journey 43 years ago.

*~ by Bernie Kidd, MDSS teacher*

THANK  
YOU  
AND  
WISH YOU  
ALL THE BEST

**MDSS Staff Retirements from 2022:**

Jill Stokes - administrative assistant - January '22

Ben Greene - English & guitarist in the MD teacher band,

Victoria's Other Secret - June '22

Owen Clement - Science & PE - June '22



## **\* IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER REMINDER \***

*\* Alumni who registered on this new website since April 2022, need to also sign up separately to receive our newsletters, that we can then email to you twice a year. Go to the bottom left on our home page and register there too.*

*Alumni who signed up before April 2022 when we created our new website (ie. going back from then to 2009, when our original website was designed & up!), you were carried over automatically to our new site and will receive newsletters and information from us; you needn't sign up again. Please pass this information on to classmates who signed up in the last year so they can receive our newsletters. Thank you. \**



## **DONATING TO YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Please support your MDAA and MDSS students by *DONATING* via our website toward our 2 annual bursaries we give to 2 deserving grade 12 students - 1 in the Fine Arts and 1 for Academics...so far.

There are other projects that also need your support, like our new website for you all, that was costly but needed to be done. We will also be recording our archival collection digitally as a next project which involves experts to assist in starting us with this process.

Simply go to our Donate Now button on our home page on the top line.

See the website link below our MDAA logo here. A tax receipt will be issued to you immediately by email.

Thank you for supporting your MD alumni and MD students.

~ by Rod Lindquist, MDAA Treasurer

Our Newsletter Committee - Wendy Gedney, Debbie Marchand & Rod Lindquist,  
- guest contributor, Bernie Kidd, MDSS teacher





You are receiving this email because you registered as an alumni on our website and/or signed up for our newsletter.

[www.mountdougalumni.com](http://www.mountdougalumni.com)

Visit us on social media:



[MDAA Website](#)

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If you want to unsubscribe, [click here](#).