

Mount Douglas Secondary School

3970 Gordon Head Road, Victoria, B.C. V8N 3X3

Phone 250-477-6977

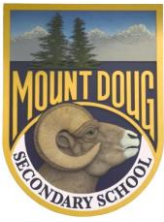
Fax 250-477-0277



Dear Parent/Guardian,

We would like to invite you and your student to an informational session about a potential two-week expedition to Mexico in summer 2020 to help with biodiversity surveys run by Operation Wallacea. The presentation will be given on **Monday, February 25th at 7:00 pm at Mount Douglas High School Library**. Parking lots are located on Gordon Head Rd and also off of Laval street. This amazing opportunity is open to current grade 10 and 11 students from both Mount Douglas and Oak Bay, but any student that is interested in biology, ecology and conservation is welcome to attend.

For the first week, the students will be working in the Selva Maya, which is the largest undisturbed tract of forest outside of the Amazon. The area is filled with ancient Mayan temples, and is one of the world's most important habitats for jaguar, tapir and other large mammals. Students will be assisting with a biodiversity survey being run by international teams of university academics to collect data to monitor the efficiency of the sustainable use projects in the area. They will be based in a rainforest research camp, where they will be helping with forest structure surveys, bird point counts and mist netting, amphibian and reptile surveys as well as camera trapping for the large cat species and tapirs. In addition, they will be learning about neotropical forest ecology and Mayan culture in their spare time, and will have the opportunity to visit a Mayan pyramid.



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For the second week the students will be based at Akumal where they have the chance to learn to dive to PADI Open Water level, or if they already dive or just want to snorkel then they would complete a Caribbean reef ecology course. All the students will get the chance to help with snorkel-based counts of turtles on the sea grass beds at this site.

Once the level of student interest has been determined and we move forward with the approval process, we can provide an exact quote for the expedition, but it will be around the CAD\$4500 mark. The quote will include food and accommodation while on the expedition, comprehensive medical insurance, training and participation in the research program. It will also include the cost of international flights, internal transfers and hotel stays. Operation Wallacea also has a professional fundraising team who can visit and help the school group raise a substantial proportion of the total sum needed.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Ms. Kucher

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Mount Douglas High School

Mr. Ashurst

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Oak Bay High School