

Mount Douglas Secondary School NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2021



ADMIN REPORT

As the 2020-2021 school year comes to a close, we can reflect back to the strength and resilience we have seen in the Mount Doug students and school community. Our courses this year were structured in a modified quarter system and students faced 8 transitions to complete the year. While we were able to keep the school population safe with the restrictions and safety protocols, I am sure we are all looking forward to September where we are planning to return to the traditional semester system.

With the end of the year comes goodbyes and best wishes. Saverio Colantonio our teacher librarian, Karen Whyte our strings teacher, Lisa Hill our English Teacher, and Darren Murdock our day time custodian will all be retiring. We wish them congratulations and all the best for the next part of their journey.

We also have the pleasure to announce that Nancy Archer has been appointed as our new Vice Principal starting in September 2021. Nancy comes to us from Lambrick Park Secondary School. Welcome to Mount Doug Nancy!

Congratulations to Paul Ledet, who will become the new Vice Principal of Spectrum Community School effective September 2021.

We wish all families a wonderful and restful summer.

Donna, Phil, and Paul
Admin Team



Inside this Issue...

Math Department Update
Page 2

Meddling Microplastics
Page 3

Charitable Clothing Collective & Athletics Update
Page 4

Environmental Leadership Update
Pages 5 & 6

Design Education Update
Page 7

Truth and Reconciliation, Mount Doug Strings Class, Career Centre Update & Grad
Page 8

Memorial Garden Cleanup
Page 9



MOUNT DOUG WINS TOP SCHOOL ON ISLAND IN MATHEMATICS IN ALL GRADES!

The Mount Douglas Mathematics department would like to extend our thanks to the Mount Doug PAC for helping to support students to write math competitions over the past many years. Our Math Honours and Challenge courses are thriving due to your support.

Over 230 individual tests were written this year by Mount Douglas students. We are very proud of this stat as it shows how many students are willing to take on the challenge of preparing for and writing these competitions, and many students were able to participate in more than one competition as well.

The results were the best ever by an Island school:

University of Waterloo National Competition Results

Grade 12 – 1st on Vancouver Island and 12th in British Columbia

Grade 11 – 1st on Vancouver Island and 6th in British Columbia

Grade 10 – 1st on Vancouver Island and 7th in British Columbia

Grade 9 – 1st on Vancouver Island and 12th in British Columbia

COMC National Competition

1st on Vancouver Island

Continued on Page 3...

Math Challengers Provincial Competition (Grades 8-10)

- Grade 10 – 1st on Vancouver Island Team Finish
 – 1st in British Columbia Team Finish
 – 1st place individual (Samuel L.) and 8th place individual (Nicholas S.) in BC
 – 6 students finished in the top ten individuals for Vancouver Island
- Grade 9 – 1st on Vancouver Island Team Finish
 – 5th in British Columbia Team Finish
 – 1st place individual Vancouver Island, 7th place BC Finish (Raphael L.)
 – 5 students finished in the top 10 individuals for Vancouver Island

A big thanks as well to all of our student coaches who helped train these students as well as train students from our local Middle Schools for these competitions:
 Justin S., Rafael E., Lucy Z., Jasmine Z., Emily W., Suhao H., Sophie R., Jiayi C., Sam L., Wendy W., Olivia S., Erin A., William K., Patrick H., Nicholas S., Luca J., Misato H., Thomas G., and Rita H.

For more on this, please click the link to read the front page Saanich News Article

<https://www.saanichnews.com/community/saanich-mathletes-make-their-mark-with-record-setting-awards-haul/>

Neal Johnson
 Math Challenger Sponsor

CANADA-WIDE SCIENCE FAIR

SILVER WINNER!

MEDDLING MICROPLASTICS: A STUDY OF THE INTERACTIONS OF MICROALGAE AND MICROPLASTICS

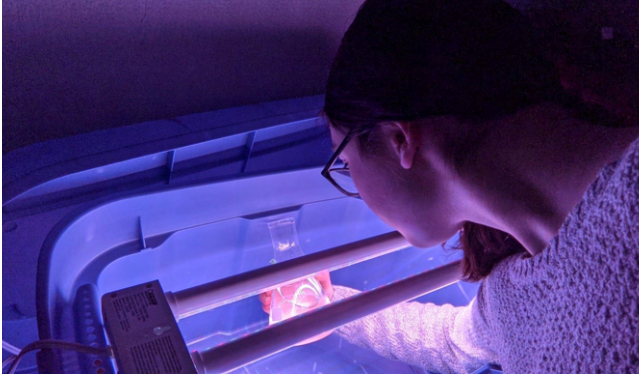


As microplastics are increasingly abundant in the world's oceans, it is important to understand the effect of these plastics on the phytoplankton, the primary producers of the oceans. This experiment studied the effect of microplastics on the growth of microalgae. Based on recent studies, it was hypothesized microplastics would exert a negative effect on algal growth. Five species of microalgae were incubated with various microplastic samples and the effects on growth were observed. PVC microplastics exerted a negative effect on growth. PP did not affect growth. However, HDPE was shown to significantly augment the growth of three algal species – Tetraselmis chui, Nannochlois oculata and local marine diatom species. A colonization experiment was performed which documented the stages of growth of diatoms on fresh HDPE samples. These results suggest that certain plastic types may alter the ecology of marine algae by providing a surface for growth. This could have implications both for artificial algal culture, as well as the ecology of harmful algal blooms. My CWSF project "board" can be found here:

<https://projectboard.world/ysc/project/meddling-microplastics-a-study-of-the-interactions-of-microalgae-and-microplastics-eyenb>

Margaret K. Grade 12





Congratulations to Margaret K. who came 2nd overall in the Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair, and won a silver medal at the Canada Wide Science Fair. She also won the StarFish Medical Award, BC Nature Award, Sanofi Biogenius Award and Aquatic Informatics Water Award at the BC/ Yukon Virtual Science Fair. Canada-wide, Margaret also won the Candian Stockholm Junior Water Prize and the Beaty Centre for Species Discovery award. She was the provincial champion for the Sanofi Biogenius Canada Competition and competed as the sole BC representative at the National competition.

CHARITABLE CLOTHING COLLECTIVE

Throughout the final weeks of May and early June, Mount Doug's fashion club, environmental and community leadership were collecting clothing. In the early stages, leadership students put up posters, boxes, lists with necessary items for donation, and notified classrooms about the initiative. Later on, as generous contributions were flooding in, students were actively collecting, sorting, and counting the incoming donations. These persistent efforts aimed to provide necessities to those in vulnerable situations due to the ongoing pandemic. Thank you to all students and staff who volunteered both their time and endeavors.

Authors: Shreya S. Evelyn Y. and Maria S.

ATHLETICS UPDATE

Congratulations to all Mount Doug student-athletes who recently competed in the city high school athletic challenges. Some standout performances included Aleksej M. who was the top junior ultimate frisbee athlete, Claudia B. who captured the girls soccer juggling competition, Kai C. who won city titles in the 100 and 200 meter track races, and Wishva K. who won city titles in the discus and shotput. Wishva was also named top overall girls field athlete in the city and Richard L. was named the top overall junior boys field athlete in the city. Well done Rams!

There is great excitement and enthusiasm for athletics in the 2021-22 school year with a hope that school athletics returns to normal. Please look and listen to announcements and information on meetings for fall sports teams (Rowing, Swimming, Football, Volleyball, Boys Soccer, Girls Field Hockey, Cross Country) when school returns on September 7th.

Mr. Ball
Athletic Director





ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AT MOUNT DOUGLAS: WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

Despite the pandemic claiming the lives of many, the KELP group (Environmental Leadership) at Mount Douglas Secondary School have found a way to continue breathing life back into the natural world.

Located in the school's backyard, next to the parking lot, sits the school garden. This garden sprung up in early 2020 after years of planning and securing grants. Just before school closed in early March last year, students built three successful planters. Lined with newspaper, and filled with mulch and soil, these raised beds were filled with kale, broccoli and komatsuna plants transplanted by the students.



Leadership students with broccoli plants and flowering kale for seed production

When school reopened, work on the native garden resumed. In autumn the meadow's hedge was planted. These plants included June Plum, Nootka Rose, Salmonberry and Red Columbine. Smaller plants followed, separated by the Camas beds transplanted from two to four year old bulbs, grown by students.



Shooting star plants being transplanted into the native garden

The area was then mulched thoroughly, and a bark mulch path was laid out. In March 2021, three more planters were built, more seedlings were added to the native meadow, and the students were able to taste the fruits of their labours from the winter garden plants.



Winter garden growing with new beds awaiting planting behind

Another important student contribution belongs to Theodore R., who relentlessly fed the worm farm in room 219 and then harvested large quantities of worm compost now being used in the garden.



Up on Mount Tolmie, socially distanced groups of up to 10 students carefully extracted broom plants and himalayan blackberries, whose invasive nature led to the decimation of indigenous plants. They also maintain a fenced off plot which currently holds hundreds of young camas.

Continued on Page 6...



Senior students move a garden shed built by Mount Douglas students into the garden area

At Cadboro Bay beach, the seventh bioplastic accumulation survey organized by Jennifer G. has taken place. During these monthly surveys, students collect and categorize detritus found on the beach, and send the numbers to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an institute which is located in the United States. The bioplastic accumulation surveys are a part of the institute's Marine Debris Monitoring and Assessment Project, a citizen scientist initiative to survey and record the types of marine debris found in the surrounding environment.

Thanks to an award from Staples for Mount Doug's Environmental efforts, new recycling bins were able to be purchased and refundable recycling bouts continued after school. The students involved are responsible for procuring the recycling from each classroom, sorting it, and determining the quantity of each category before storing it in the leadership bin located outside.



Even at home, students can learn more about the world around them through online webinars hosted by the Victoria Naturalist society and other groups; it's both eye opening and safe, as students can watch from the comfort of their homes. One such webinar was the Climate Interactive webinar organized by grad student

Margaret K., which upwards of fifty students attended online. With the expertise of Shea Wyatt, a Ph.D candidate, the webinar offered students a fantastic opportunity to learn about what it would take to prevent the ongoing climate crisis we are facing today. With a great turnout of students from all across the school community as well as from another One Planet school in California. Around 60 people attended, 40 of them being Mount Douglas Students. In breakout rooms, students predicted the best way to bring down the temperature, in the process realizing the wealth of work that needs to be done in order to keep the planet habitable.

Throughout Earth Week, members of the One Planet Group collaborated with Californian students to organize and attend a Youth Summit. Sadikshya Baral won a prize for her group work, and Luca Jones won third place in the film awards with his Biomass rap.

Margaret and Sabrina also organized a reusable beeswax wrap workshop for June 15 on Zoom. Students worked together to prepare the materials for the workshop. Thanks to Rampac for funding this student initiative.

Even though the pandemic continues to rage on, the devoted members of KELP are hardly letting this year go to waste. The world might be a scary place, but through enthusiasm and hard work, they keep putting one foot in front of another to make their community a better place.

Article written by Anika R., grade 11



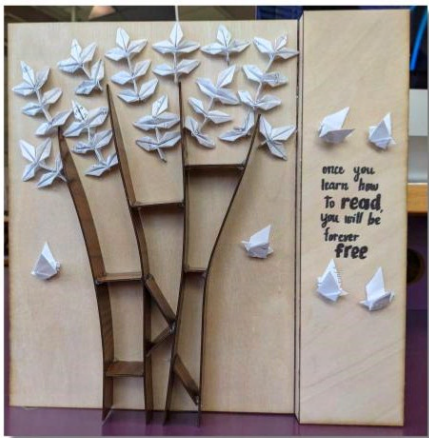
DESIGN EDUCATION UPDATE

Real World Design

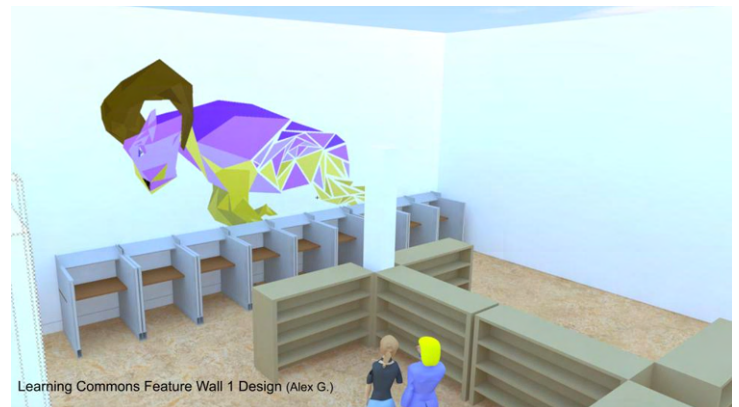
Students in Design & Innovation 9-12 have been applying their creative problem-solving skills to prototype concepts for our refreshed library learning commons. Based on the broad spectrum of user needs for the space, students applied information presented by Environmental Psychologist Lindsay McCunn of Vancouver Island University, to develop calming feature wall concepts, self-watering library-friendly planters and new signage/way finding systems.



Planter concepts (Sophia V., Liana H. & Sara M.)



Feature Wall #2 Scale Model (Valeria G. & Maximilian H.)



Learning Commons Feature Wall 1 Design (Alex G.)

Circular Design

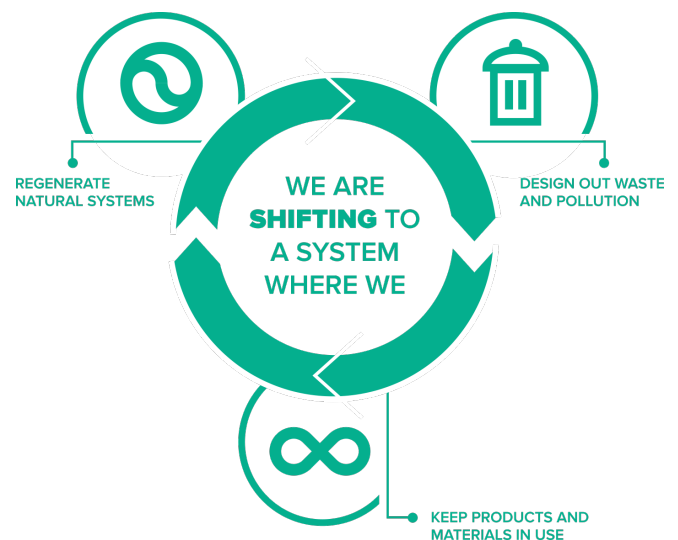
Design & Innovation students have also been examining design opportunities in the trending Circular Economy. With the help of guest speaker Lindsey Boyle of Circular Citizen, students studied waste streams and potential entry points within "the circle" to design out waste destined for landfills. Prototypes will be pitched in our Design & Innovation film festival.

Photo source

(<https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/>)

Graham McLaren

Department Head: Applied Design, Skills and Technology





TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Choir drum circle where we sang Children's Blessing Song by Sheryl Sewepageham to honour survivors and those who never made it home from residential schools.

CAREER CENTRE UPDATE

Congratulations to the following students who aced the SD61 Pathways and Partnerships selection process: Dominic S., Jace B., Ahnaf Z., Atommm K., and Darius I. who have all been accepted into the Aviation program and will be flying the skies starting in February of 2022.

For the summer Graphic Design program - Ritisha C., Ann D., Maya G., Maria S., and Anika R. wowed the interviewers with their graphic design talent.

For the two month summer outdoor Tourism and Leadership Exploration program - TALE - our successful candidates were Rebecca P., Emma V., Eric W., and Eva Y. By August, they will be working at a tourism related business and putting their skills to good use.

GRAD CLASS OF 2021

Congratulations to the Graduation Class of 2021! Due to COVID restrictions the Grad 2021 Recognition Ceremony was held on Wednesday June 23rd. Grads were able to participate in a livestream ceremony in small groups of 25 and parents, relatives, and friends were able to watch from home, anywhere in the world. Congratulations to this year's Valedictorians Ryan A. and Margaret K. and Student Presidents Yash K. and Nora S. who shared their Grad messages to the graduating class. Best of luck as you become Mount Doug's next Alumni members.



MOUNT DOUG STRINGS CLASS

Despite the challenges of Covid, the Mount Douglas Strings students have had a very successful year. With the generous help of Mr. Awai, the students have produced some wonderful videos of their work. Winners of the Secondary School Strings Award in the Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival, the Mount Douglas Strings performance of the Jig from the St. Paul's Suite by G. Holst was featured in the Large Ensembles Highlights Concert. The performance can be viewed in the following link:

<https://www.gvpaf.org/highlights>

The students recently completed production of their final recordings on June 15th. These performances were recorded along with the Mount Douglas Band and Choir groups.



Students prepare for their Strings test

Mount 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 a rather overgrown section of landscaping and stopped to take a look. Turns out it was actually a memorial garden established in the very early 1990's to honour a former student who had passed away while attending the school.

I contacted the current Mount 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 the School Principal Donna Thompson and one of the teachers Amelita Kucher along with some of her Environmental Leadership Program students. Lots of very good discussion took place at the meeting and a potential plan was laid out to move forward.

With everyone's cooperation a number of work parties have taken place to help rehabilitate the garden. We also had some nice external support from some Victoria region businesses including: 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 the spring 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 these improvements at their school.

