

# School Newsletter

SUMMER 2022



2022 GRADUATES ACHIEVE BEST UNIVERSITY AND SCHOLARSHIP OFFER RESULTS

## Headmaster's Greeting

I am always a little stunned when I look around the school in July – where did everyone go? How did the year fly past so quickly? And each year at this time, in the quiet reverie of an empty school, I take some time to reflect on the many blessings we share and the many wonders we encounter throughout the year.

Our year started with some VERY exciting news! On September 3, 2021 we were named the recipient of a PIONEER Award. The PIONEER Awards are based out of London, UK and recognize innovation and achievement in global education. A panel of 43 international educational experts identified Merrick Preparatory School as the **BEST IN THE WORLD** with the *Secondary Learning International Impact Award*. It was, and remains, a real honour to be recognized

with such a prestigious award ... reflecting on the calibre of our faculty and staff, and the tremendous positive impact we have on our students, humbly, it is not surprising!

With the COVID pandemic still in full swing in September we were very much buoyed to have students back on campus – the first time since March 13, 2020! Many students made it on campus for the start of the school year, others were delayed due to Visa processing times or COVID restrictions, with our final students making it on campus with one month left in the school year – it was a GRAND celebration to have everyone on campus – a real joy and made all of us truly appreciate our students on a new level.

Throughout the year, despite a few lockdowns, our students and staff were able to get out and enjoy Merrickville and the surrounding area, with various different field trips, including an overnight in May to the Queen's University Biological Research Station – the Elbow Lake Outdoor Education Centre – where our students took part in a variety of cooperative games, team building exercising, scientific experiments and hands on experiential learning, applying their learning from their classes. In addition, we had several day field trips throughout the year and partook in a series of soccer tournaments and Track and Field events in Ottawa against other schools – many of our students placing 2nd and 3rd in the city wide Track and Field event! A remarkable achievement.

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We also had a variety of strong co-curriculars, including painting our mascot, MPS Wolf, on the snack bar wall (brilliant work by our students) and a very strong music program that grew and evolved throughout the year – it was wonderful to hear the students and staff playing music weekly just outside of my office.

And of course, our graduates did remarkably well in gaining admission to their first-choice universities, as they do every year. This year we had seven graduates looking to gain admission into university. Those **seven graduates** were granted **61 offers of admission** and **\$235,500 in scholarships** – that is an average of almost \$34,000 in university scholarship per graduate!

We very much look forward to having our students back on campus on September 6, 2022! And for those unable to travel to beautiful Merrickville and our campus, they can join our live-real-time Synchronous Learning Platform with students from around the world.

To learn more about our amazing students, staff and programs, send us an email to [admissions@merrickprep.com](mailto:admissions@merrickprep.com) or give us a call at **1.613.269.2064**. We look forward to seeing you in September!

Sincerely,

  
**Kevin Farrell**  
**Headmaster**



## Merrick Prep Connects with Community

Merrick Prep hosted the **Merrickville Chamber of Commerce** in April and what a breakfast it was! Merrick Preparatory School is committed to supporting our wonderful town and the local businesses that make Merrickville the true gem of the Rideau River! During our business social our Headmaster, Kevin Farrell, and our Director of Admissions, Johanna Ziegler, gave a short presentation about our school and how we can support each other in the community. The presentation was quickly overtaken by questions about our programs, where are students come from, and general interest in how their businesses can support our international students. All the business owners stated that our students are such a wonderful addition to this community.

Our lovely breakfast was sponsored by **Violet on Main Bakery**, as well as our amazing kitchen staff.  
**We look forward to our next event!**



## Easter Weekend

**The Easter long weekend was a fun celebration** here at Merrick Preparatory School! We had students celebrating Easter, fasting for Ramadan and experiencing the end of a Canadian winter.

We started off the long weekend on Friday creating and decorating pysanky-Ukrainian eggs, learning traditional patterns and making our own. That night we played all sorts of board games together. We finished the evening with a vintage VHS cheesy horror game at midnight in the dark - lots of jumps, laughs and we all lost!

The weekend continued with fresh haircuts, trips to town, gathering for snacks, Netflix and learning new board games together. On Sunday two of our students who wanted to visit a local church for an Easter service were unable to due to post-travel quarantine - so the Residential Life Staff and a few students create paper decorations for their rooms and put together an Easter service on the back lawn so the quarantine students could join from their dorm room windows. Hymns were sung with acoustic guitar accompaniment, prayers, reflections and readings by the students.

On Easter Monday found our students running through and around our school like a herd of elephants in search of chocolate Easter eggs amid gales of laughter, followed by a brunch of freshly made waffles. Everyone enjoys an egg hunt when there is chocolate and candy involved! The weekend was a great mix of relaxation, catching up on sleep, and celebrations; the weather even held out nicely until the inevitable “snow after Easter” came right on cue on the morning of Easter Monday – **welcome to a Canadian spring!**

## Our Mascot - Merrick Prep Wolves

With the amazing dedication and skill of our students and staff over the past 4 months, **we proudly present a new mural in our snack bar** showcasing our mascot – The Merrick Prep Wolf! Nicholas Lee, Residential Life Supervisor & Teacher, worked with a group of students on this mural, a daily visual reminder of the strength and tenacity of “The Wolves” who, working together, can achieve anything they put their minds to.

Thank you for your hard work, Eruvw, Miyuki, Safa, Abdallah, Ghsan and Nick!!! **#gowolvesgo**



## Track and Field Tournament in May

Our Track and Field team competed at the Terry Fox Athletic Facility in Ottawa against other private schools from the greater Ottawa region. A lot of athletes competed, and our students did incredibly well placing first, second and third in several categories. Track and Field is one of the sports Merrick Prep students can compete in against other schools. We offer over 40 co-curriculars throughout the year and students can join competitive teams against other schools in soccer, basketball, volleyball, badminton cross-country, and track and field.



## Overnight Adventure

Our students spent two days at the Queen's University Biological Research Centre, Elbow Lake Outdoor Education Centre. It was an overnight trip and our students loved it. They partook in a variety of scientific, writing and observation exercises and programs, as well as some cooperative games, night hikes, wildlife observation and plant studies ... and of course the obligatory evening campfire with treats cooked over an open fire under the starry sky. When they returned on campus, they had so many stories to tell – and asked, “can we go for three days next year!” Yes, we certainly can!







## Graduation – Congratulations to our Graduating Class of 2022!

**On June 24, 2022**, we held our Graduation Ceremony – a very special event each year and particularly this year as it was the first in person graduation ceremony since June 2019!

Families and students joined us in person and online – the joy of technology allowing families from around the world to celebrate with those here on campus. This year was special as our students had to overcome and navigate through the ongoing pandemic. This didn't stop our graduates from being one of the most successful

classes in Merrick Prep history receiving **61 university offers** and bringing in over **\$235,500** in scholarship offers!

There were lots of smiles and a few tears as we parted – and most importantly it was a chance to acknowledge the hard work of our students, and the exceptional work invested by our teachers to make such a positive and enriching experience for all!

Merrick Prep's valedictorian Ekefeoghene closed the ceremony with a tearful yet inspiring speech and then

our students departed in their own ways. This year every MPS staff member took a moment to say "All the best and see you soon". What this looked like you can see **here**.

We will miss our graduates very much – it was an amazing group of students, but we are super excited to see what bright future lies ahead for them! We look forward to keeping in touch and hearing of their many successes in the future!

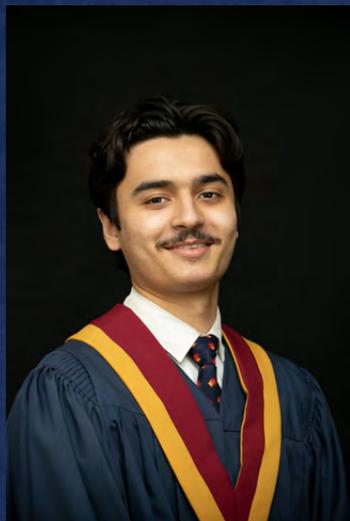




# 2022 Graduates



**KHALED ALADAWI**  
UAE  
Military Service  
UAE



**ABDALLAH AL-FARSI**  
Oman  
Attending Manchester University,  
UK (Chemical Engineering – Focus  
in Energy and Environment)



**GHSAN AL-HARSOUSI**  
Oman  
Attending Warwick University,  
UK (Mathematics)



**MIYUKI MORISHIGE**  
Japan  
Attending Trent University,  
Canada (Health Science –  
Biology)



**ERUVWUOGHENE  
OHWODIASA**  
Nigeria  
Attending Carleton University,  
Canada (Civil Engineering)



**EKEFEOGHENE  
OHWODIASA**  
Nigeria  
Attending University of Waterloo,  
Canada (Mechanical Engineering)



**TEMITOPE SOWUNMI**  
Nigeria  
Attending University of  
Calgary, Canada (Law and  
Society)



**KONSTANTIN SWIENTEK**  
Germany  
Attending Concordia University,  
Canada (Psychology)





# 2022 Awards

## **Residential Life Award**

The Residential Life Award is awarded to one male and one female student who participated in the community and worked towards integration and inclusion in our school.

***Miyuki Morishige and Ghsan Al-Harsousi***

## **Academic Award**

The Academic Award, awarded to a grade 9, a grade 11 and a grade 12 student with the highest overall average, based on all courses taken over the school year.

***Grade 9: Marianna Shumelda***

***Grade 11: Safa Lecaillon***

***Grade 12: Ekefeoghene Ohwodiasa***

## **Faculty Award**

The Faculty Award for Diligence and Academic Achievement. This trophy and certificate is presented to a grade 12 student who has achieved superior grades due to a positive work ethic, well-refined organizational skills, and intellectual curiosity.

***Temitope Sowunmi and Ekefeoghene Ohwodiasa***

## **Headmaster's Award**

The Headmaster's Award for Integrity and Leadership. This trophy and certificate are presented to a grade 12 student who has demonstrated a sound moral compass, compassion towards fellow students, respect for teachers, and conspicuous involvement in various facets of school life, including community service.

***Abdallah Al-Farsi***

## **Valedictorian Award**

The Valedictorian Award, chosen by the graduating class, is presented to a graduating student who has embodied well-roundedness at the highest level: superior academic performance, strong contribution to co-curricular activities, positive leadership by example, and a gift of oratory.

***Ekefeoghene Ohwodiasa***



## Open House for Local Families

Would you like to meet us in person? Learn more about what Merrick Prep can do for your son/daughter? Tour our campus and meet our Admission Team?

### Join us for our Open House

**July 23, 2022**

**9:00a.m. to 1:00 pm**

**November 16, 2022**

**7:00 pm**

### Register

[admissions@merrickprep.com](mailto:admissions@merrickprep.com)

### Are you an international family interested in Merrick Prep?

Connect with our Admission Team to set up a personal virtual tour and Open House just for you.



## Message from Admissions

**It is never easy to find the right school** for your son or daughter. Our Admissions Team is here to guide you through each step of the process and show you how Merrick Prep can help each child to be the best they can be.

We prepare our students not only academically and culturally, but socially and emotionally for their future. We help them find their passion and how to create a work-life balance.

We are thrilled to announce that this September students will be joining us from Canada, USA, Mexico, South Korea, Germany, Italy, Panama, Venezuela, South Africa, Spain, Turkey, Senegal, Nigeria, France, Guinea Equatorial, UAE, Syria, Peru, Egypt, China, with a few more registering these coming weeks!

**Contact us today and become part of Merrick Prep Family.  
Your success starts here!**

## Important Dates

### First Day of classes:

Wednesday September 7, 2022

### Last Day of Classes:

Friday December 16, 2022

### Winter Holidays - School Closed:

Saturday December 17, 2022 –  
Saturday January 1, 2023

Follow us on our social media channels to keep well-informed of all that we are doing every day. Subscribe to our YouTube Channel to learn more about Merrick Preparatory School.

 [@MerrickPS](https://twitter.com/MerrickPS)

 [merrickpreparatory](https://www.instagram.com/merrickpreparatory)

 [Merrick.Preparatory.School](https://www.facebook.com/Merrick.Preparatory.School)



## JOIN MERRICK PREPARATORY SCHOOL

**Registrations are still open** for the 2022–2023 academic year, and we are accepting applications for the 2023–2024 year.

We look forward to continuing to provide a Distinctly Canadian and Uniquely Global experience to our students in preparation for them to enter their **first-choice world-ranked university**.

Don't forget about our **referral program**.

**We would love to hear from you.**