

GRAD DONATES \$10,000 TO VIC HIGH'S SCIENCE PROGRAM

Dr. A.J. Stewart Smith, a celebrated particle physicist at Princeton University, has donated \$10,000 (US) to Vic High's science program.

A member of Vic High's class of 1955, Dr. Smith was honoured as one of the school's Illustrious Alumni at the Black and Gold Dinner in May 2016. He traveled to Victoria from Princeton, New Jersey, to attend the function.

The world-renowned scientist, who credits the school with sparking his interest in physics, met with Principal Randi Falls after the dinner to discuss a potential donation. A few months later, Ms. Falls informed the Alumni Association of Dr. Smith's very generous gift.

Vic High's Science teachers, delighted with this opportunity, spent some time consulting with one

another about how best to use this money. Finally they recommended that the school develop a new course in Astronomy, which requires equipment not available in most high schools.

Dr. Smith's donation has been used to purchase industry-standard telescopes, cameras, and ancillary equipment for this new course – far beyond the quality of hobbyists' equipment. At the same time, the administration is working with the School District for authorization for the course to count toward graduation credits. The school is designing the new course to have crossover topics not only in the provincial Physics curriculum, but also in existing courses in comparative civilization and religions and in indigenous ways of



Dr. Smith (VHS 1955) at the second Black and Gold Dinner, May 2016.

knowing and learning.

Dr. Smith is very pleased that the new course has the potential to spark students to feel the same joy in pursuing scientific inquiry that he felt as a teenager at Vic High.



REMEMBERING A GREAT VICE-PRINCIPAL

by King Lee (VHS 1958)

Reginald H. Reid, who spent 16 years of a 37-year career in education at Victoria High School, died in April 2017 at the age of 92.

VHS valedictorian of the class of 1943, Reg Reid began teaching English at Vic High in 1957 and continued there until 1963 when he became vice-principal at Central Junior High. He returned to Vic High in 1967 as vice-principal under Principal J.D. Lorimer.

In 1977, the school district transferred Mr. Reid to become vice-principal at Mt. Douglas Secondary. "It hurt him when he left," teaching colleague Gus McTavish recalls. "He bled black and gold."

Mr. McTavish, who was later a Vic High vice-principal too, taught at the school for seven years while Mr. Reid was the vice-principal. "He was really, truly respected," he said. "It was a big job and he handled it seamlessly." He viewed Mr. Reid and Mr. Lorimer as an incredibly good team, adding that former Mt. Doug principal Jack Lowther described Mr. Reid as the best vice-principal he ever had.

Another teaching colleague, Tommy Mayne, remembers Mr. Reid as a member of the "Vic High Navy." This was a group of Vic High staff members who, for some years, would board a small armada of boats on the first Friday after classes were finished in June and camp on various Gulf Islands locations for the weekend.

Mr. Reid's future wife, Iris Chapman McIvor, was a grad of VHS Class of 1941. They were married for 70 years and had four children, including two daughters who are also Vic High grads.

Mr. Reid maintained a lifelong connection with the school, joining the Board of the Victoria High School Alumni Association. He was later made an Honorary Director.

A celebration of Reg Reid's life will be held in Vic High's Lawrie Wallace Auditorium on Saturday June 3 at 2 pm.