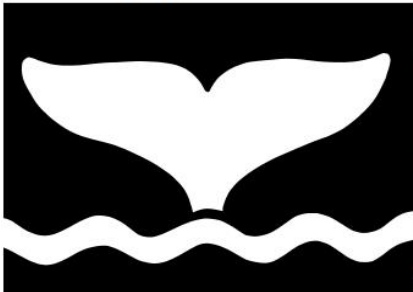


THE WHALE'S TALE

Frances Kelsey Secondary's
latest breaking news and views



CONTACT US:

250.743.6916

fkss.sd79.bc.ca

School Facebook page:

Frances Kelsey Secondary
School – FKSS

PAC Facebook page:

Frances Kelsey Secondary PAC



January 16, 2018 Vol. 23/No4

What's Been Happening at Kelsey?

We would like to acknowledge the work of parent Michelle Weckesser who has been volunteering her time directing the choir for the past four years. Michelle has a wide range of vocal experiences, directing and singing all over Vancouver Island. Our choir of over 40 members meets twice a week at lunch and performed beautifully at our Remembrance Day Assembly, at a concert with Cowichan Consort Orchestra and Choir and at last month's winter concert held at the school. Thank you, Michelle.

A lunch hour drop-in co-ed basketball club has just formed by teacher-sponsors Mr. Kelly, Mrs. Webb and Mr. Hardman. See our website for a complete list of Kelsey clubs and activities.

The Global Issues Club is for those interested in current events and issues, and for those who want to create change. Sponsored by Mr. Snyder, the club decided to adopt an elephant in Kenya through The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. The idea began with a \$50 cash donation made to FKSS by 2016 Kelsey grad Sarah Kaufman. Global Issues received a further \$150 from Student Parliament, which together with a donation from Mr. Snyder to cover the shortfall of converting to U.S. funds, was enough to adopt four elephants. In appreciation, the Trust sent the school a water colour painted by Angela Sheldrick, a copy of which is on page 6.

In each of Ms. Blacoe's Photography 8 exploratory classes, students explore different photography assignments that include portraits, nature photography, black and white, light painting, trick photography and stop-motion animation. Using only cellphones or iPads, students learn about and practice different composition techniques that teach them how to take a photo other than a selfie. Each new rotation starts off the exploratory with a photography scavenger hunt, so if you see a number of Grade 8's wandering the halls taking pictures with their cellphones, it's okay, Ms. B gave them permission!

Coached by Mr. Reed, the Frances Kelsey Boys Basketball program



Kelsey Calendar

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Student Parliament Spirit Day
Whale's Tale newsletter issued

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

English 12 Mock Exam

7:00 pm – PAC meeting in dining room

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

6:00 pm – Dance Show in theatre

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

1:15 pm dismissal – Professional
Learning Community

Thursday, January 25, 2018

End of Term 2

Exams and "I" Day

English 12 Provincial Exam

Friday, January 26, 2018

Turnaround Day

Communications 12 Provincial Exam

Monday, January 29, 2018

Semester 2, Term 3 begins

Grade 8 Exploratory 4 begins

Friday, February 2, 2018

Report Cards issued

Monday, February 5, 2018

Whale's Tale newsletter issued

February 6 & 7, 2018

Grad Portrait retakes

Friday, February 9, 2018

4:00 pm – Band trip to UVic

Monday, February 12, 2018

Family Day

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

Student Parliament Spirit Day

7:00 pm – Dry Grad Parents meeting
in library

Thursday, February 22, 2018

Grade 8/9 Winter Activity Day

Grade 10-12 Mt. Washington Ski Trip

9:00 am – Concert Band to Cowichan
Music Festival

For complete information about the school, visit our website at fkss.sd79.bc.ca

has three teams this year: Junior A, Junior B and Midget (Grade 8). The teams have each played several games and are progressing in their development as the season moves into the busy month of January after the Winter Break.

With guidance from Ms. Parker, our two student groups did a fantastic job presenting to an audience of over 300 at the Cowichan Performing Arts Centre. While we did not walk away with any of the awards for the evening, those student groups who did win were truly well deserved in their community need. Kelsey placemakers are determined to continue both our garden and shelter projects. We are also happy to continue working with community volunteers who are developing the garden behind the school. If you get an opportunity, please come and see the progress that we have made. We are looking for more community involvement in the project, especially summertime gardeners who would like to maintain the vegetable garden over the months of July and August. Mr. Pimenta played a huge role in making the garden a reality and Mrs. Smith's involvement and support has also been integral to its success. Thank you to them both.

Division 87 update: from Mr. D. Hart - over the past month, students have been researching Viking culture, life and overall impacts on European society of the Early Middle Ages. Through this process they have been developing information booklets looking at the elements of Viking life. In English, the students have been working on a short story unit examining terminology and plot analysis. The students are working towards developing their own characters and short stories. From Mrs. Webb - in math class, students have been working on fractions and in science, they have been studying body systems; in particular the immune system. In Early December, division 87 was also treated to an afternoon of hands-on activity through involvement with Mr. Ron Glass from the School District's Youth in Trades and Career Education department. Students were given the opportunity to build bird houses in an effort to assist the Violet Green Swallow. The kids also had a great pre-Christmas break send-off by attending a viewing of the new Star Wars film at the end of December.

Students in Ms. Roueche's Spanish classes are having fun experimenting with a language acquisition method called TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling). We co-create stories with bizarre, exaggerated details to bring Spanish to life. Actions are paired with gestures and student volunteers play the parts of the story characters. Students quickly become proficient in understanding, retelling and re-writing parts of the stories through this immersion-like method.

The Art department has been taking part in Artist Trading Card Swaps, most recently with a high school in Ohio. Artist Trading Cards Swaps are 2½" x 3½" original pieces of mixed media art that are traded one-to-one all over the world. Although miniature in size, the Kelsey art work is exceptional. Cards are kept in a binder, similar to hockey cards, and are sorted into subjects such as scenery, animals, close-ups of people, etc. Mrs. Smith's students will be taking part in three more international swaps in the near future but students within Kelsey will also be swapping amongst themselves. What a great project!

Science students in Mr. Zeeman's classes are busy learning about the world we live in, our greatest ambitions and the challenges we face. In Science 9 we are trying to figure out how to survive on Mars. Science 10 students are making plans to cope with climate change. Meanwhile, in Chemistry 11 we are combining chemicals in test tubes, to create esters that mimic some of our favourite scents - strawberries, bananas, mint... and parmesan cheese - Yum!

For the first time at Kelsey, Philosophy 12 was offered this semester. Taught by Mr. Brewer, the students have studied units on existentialism, logic and general metaphysics. This included lots of lively classroom discussion, short writings and a few longer essays. The class has just started an interesting section on the ethics of driverless cars where they have been debating the merits of both sides and even challenging who is at fault in accidents. Students have also been working on their final project called "Philosophy in the Real World" by finding an example of how philosophical ideas show up in everyday life.

Scholarships and Bursaries

By Kevin van der Linden, Vice-Principal

All Grade 12's recently attended a local scholarship information session. Local scholarships are only open to FKSS Grade 12 graduates (June 2018). **We have over \$120,000 available and most of the awards are bursaries accessible to ALL students.** All local scholarships can be found by going to fkss.ca. Students are encouraged to peruse the local scholarships soon to see which ones they wish to apply for. Also of note, we have been working with the Grade 12's on non-local scholarships that are open to all students in British Columbia.



Strong Academic Resumes are an important part of an applicant's package, therefore students who would like help with writing their Academic Resumes, or who would like them reviewed, should see me as soon as possible.

Did you know - students who attend Camosun College or Vancouver Island University can have tuition paid for by the District after graduation? Students enrolling in a trades program must begin their trades program no later than February the year after graduation. Students wishing to be sponsored for academic courses must begin in September and must have completed a dual credit course in their final year of high school. Need more information? Please come to the Career Centre.

Application forms for the following scholarships and bursaries, which have deadlines in January and February, are available in the library filing cabinet:

- Kin Canada Bursary (Kinsmen, Kinette, Kin Club)
- Pathway to Teacher Education Scholarship
- BC School Superintendents Association

Websites of interest:

www.scholarshipscanada.com; www.schoolfinder.com; www.bcscholarships.ca; www.studentaidbc.ca

2017-2018 Dry Grad

DRY GRAD
Please join us at our meeting on Tuesday, February 13 at 7:00 pm in the library. For more information contact Loretta at 250.710.4614 or at taylortrucking@live.ca

Our metal recycling program continues and the Malahat Recycling bin remains on the left side of the Kelsey driveway. Spread the word! Accepted items include appliances, hot water tanks, golf clubs, bicycles and car batteries. Mattresses, couches or garbage of any kind are not accepted.



Important Dates to Note

By Jeff Rowan, Principal

Academically, our expectation is that students are completing their first semester courses right now and starting their semester two courses on January 29th. While we remain committed to meeting the individual

needs of our students, we also expect students to be managing their workload and to be completing their courses.

While it seems very early, we will be starting our course selection process for the 2018-19 school year at the end of February. This is important as it allows us to build a timetable and to apply for staffing for next year that is based on the choices of our students. We will run sessions for the students that will explain course content, graduation requirements and post-secondary planning to help them make their choices.

For those students graduating this year, the dates have been confirmed and our Graduation Banquet ("Red Carpet") event will be on Saturday, June 16th and the Graduation Ceremony ("Cap and Gown") will be on Friday, June 22nd this year.

Frances Kelsey Parents Advisory Council

By Tanya Friese, President FKPAC



Parents are an integral part of the team that supports student achievement at Kelsey and the PAC is an easy way for parents to get involved and stay informed. Our school has over 900 students yet most of the decisions made by the PAC are voted on by only a handful of parents. Come on out and make your voice heard and your vote count. And don't forget to 'LIKE' us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/fksspac>) to get parent information, updates and events.

FKPAC
Please join us at our next meeting on **Wednesday, January 17** at 7:00 pm in the dining room. For more information call Tanya at 250.732.6492 or email tanyarick@shaw.ca

Please note that our next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 17** at 7:00 pm in the dining room.

Reduce the Stress and Be Prepared for End of Term

By Mary Kirchner, Counsellor

It is no wonder that the anxiety level is beginning to rise at Kelsey because the end of the term is drawing near, which means that students will be working hard to complete Term 1 courses.

Physical exercise, managing time by prioritizing tasks, eating a balanced diet and talking with others when needed, help to reduce stress. Parents can help! Ensure that your son or daughter has at least two hours each night to do homework and exam preparation. Make the homework setting a quiet, well-lit place with no distractions. Your teen should have a well-balanced diet, drink plenty of water and get 9 – 10 hours of sleep each night.

Finally, remember that it's not all about school work. When you have attained a goal, reward yourself, then tackle the next piece of work.

Please know that your school counsellors can help alleviate some stress that might occur. Book an appointment and come in to speak with Ms. Kirchner or Ms. Wright.

Grade 8 and 9 Winter Activity Day - February 22, 2018

By Heather Roach and Brad Niessen, Teachers

This year, students in Grades 8 and 9 will be given an opportunity to participate in a variety of activities. Some possibilities we are considering are listed below. We also have other activities that we are currently developing. Please note that prices listed below are estimated costs at this point. Detailed information and prices were sent home with students on January 10. Permission forms will come out on January 22 and will be due back on February 6, 2018.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Downhill Skiing at Mt. Washington (helmets required)	\$35 - \$100
Snowboarding at Mt. Washington (helmets required)	\$35 - \$100
Rock Climbing (Romper Room)	\$25
Vancouver Trip to Vancouver Aquarium or Science World	\$55
Duncan - swimming and bowling	\$20

We encourage all students to participate in Winter Activity Day and thank you for your support.



ENCOUNTERS WITH CANADA Encounters With Canada is an exciting, low-cost program that allows students to travel to Ottawa to study themes of personal interest while learning about Canada and networking with other youth from across the country. Many Kelsey students have participated in Encounters With Canada and all have had positive experiences. The cost for a week in Ottawa is just \$675, including flight, lodging, meals, most planned activities and local transportation, thanks to Exchanges Canada, a program of the Department of Canadian Heritage. The following is the account of one of our three Grade 12 students from their November trip. For more information, contact our Career Centre.

Our Experience at Encounters With Canada

By Caelen Cook, Student

Upon my arrival at Nanaimo airport, I was greeted by two young faces who were equally as excited to be up at three in the morning. One was named Emily. She was a local advocate for SOGI rights at her school, as well as a history virtuoso. The other was Joe. Like me, he was the graduation class president, a volunteer firefighter, and deeply involved in global affairs politics. Interesting conversation made the six hours in flight a pleasure.

As we arrived at the airport, introductions commenced quickly. Joe, Emily, Mya, Kayla and I became fast friends over our mutual interests. As we were whisked away by the transportation team, we further engaged and integrated into the larger population. We were immediately thrown into the thick of things. We played volleyball outside in the sand, mellowed out on comfortable leather couches, and watched as the others trickled in.

(Continued next page)

We had many incredible opportunities to meet some amazing people from across Canada, as well as the many guests involved in our week's theme. Kayla, Mya and I met diplomatic ambassadors, a UN peacekeeping Major, watched a profoundly touching citizenship ceremony and toured many famous museums. With each event, guest, and speaker we encountered, the theme and importance of Canadian identity was evoked and explored. The experience is something that we are all grateful to have had, and hope to encourage others at our school to partake in.

On our leave from the center, we discovered a newfound respect for bilingualism, Canadian history and identity, as well as hope for Canada as a whole moving forward in global affairs. Besides all the fun we had and the connections we made, we most appreciated the diversity of Canadian youth. We believe that Encounters With Canada allowed us to learn more about our responsibility as Canadians on a local and international scale. We'd like to thank our school for the incredible opportunity and would encourage other students to get involved with this program.

The Kelsey Music Recording Studio

By Kris Vopnfjord, Teacher

Frances Kelsey has a new program for students from Grades 9 through 12 called "Recording Studio".

Through the generous and ongoing support of 100.3 "The Q" and 91.3 "The Zone", we have been able to purchase recording equipment, instruments and gear which allows students to create, record, mix, master and share music of their own creation.

Students in the "Recording Class" book time in the studio to record their classmates. During the class, a teacher guides them through the process, song and lyric writing, working successfully in a group, sharing and shaping ideas, translating ideas into a recording and sharing digitally with the world. It is an exciting time for students and educators in British Columbia! As our new provincial curriculum unfolds, we see great potential in new learning opportunities, new private/public partnerships, and the ability to inspire students with new courses that may not have been offered in the past.

In the near future, our students will manage the studio themselves. Although we are in early days, many songs have been written and recorded in Kelsey's Studio and the results are inspiring. Three school bands are currently slated to begin recording albums in the new year. Look for our Kelsey Recording Studio on our excellent school website and listen to the talent of our youth in the "South End" of the Cowichan Valley.



A copy of the watercolour painted by Angela Sheldrick for the FKSS Global Issues Club in appreciation of the adoption of four elephants. See full story on page 1.

The Whale's Tale is distributed on the first Monday of each month, excluding holidays. Layout and written by Nancy Bonner, Library Assistant. Edited by staff and Administration.