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

October 7, 2019 Vol. 25/No. 1

Welcome

By Jeff Rowan, Principal

Welcome to a new school year! Schedules are in place, routines are being established, and it is great to see the students working in their classes and getting involved in extra curricular activities.

September has already been a busy month. Our Terry Fox run was very successful and our "Meet the Advisor" evening was well attended.

We have met with all grades and the message was to be engaged with their studies and stay current in their courses while enjoying their school and by taking advantage of all the clubs, sports and opportunities available.

We want to work with parents to make sure all of our kids are successful and Advisors will be working closely with both students and parents. Please feel free to contact either teachers or administration via email or phone as well if you have questions. Staff email addresses and phone extensions can be found on our webpage under the "Contact Staff" menu and also at the beginning of the Agenda. Our daily announcements, the *Kelsey NewsBreaker*, are uploaded regularly and are available on our website at fkss.sd79.bc.ca We encourage you to maintain contact throughout the year. We look forward to the rest of the year and all the exciting opportunities that will be coming up.

Some important information to note:

COUNSELLORS
Students are assigned to a counsellor by their last name. Please email your counsellor if you have any concerns. If last name is:

A - L:	Ms. Kirchner	mkirchne@sd79.bc.ca
M - Z:	Ms. Wright	nwright@sd79.bc.ca

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Kelsey Calendar

Monday, October 7
Whale's Tale newsletter issued
October 7 – 11
Mental Health Awareness Week
Tuesday, October 8
12:00 pm – Grad Council meeting
7:00 pm – Dry Grad parents meeting in library
Monday, October 14
Thanksgiving Day
Tuesday, October 15
Grade 8 Exploratory 2 begins
Last day to purchase yearbooks before price increases
Thursday, October 17
ShakeOut BC
Tuesday, October 22
12:00 pm – Grad Council meeting
Wednesday, October 23
15 minute afternoon bus delays (see related article on page 8)
7:00 pm – PAC monthly meeting and AGM in library
Thursday, October 24
Cello performance and workshop for music students by Francois le Roux
Friday, October 25
Non-Instructional Day (Pro-D Day)
Monday, October 28
Photo Retake Day
Tuesday, October 29
P.A.R.T.Y. Program
Wednesday, October 30
1:15 pm – Early Dismissal PLC
Thursday, October 31
Student Parliament Halloween Parade at lunch
Monday, November 4
Whale's Tale newsletter issued
November 4 – 8
Numeracy 10 and Literacy 10 Assessment Window

STUDENT AGENDA BOOKS
Every student has received an Agenda Book from their advisor. **We urge parents to ask to see the book and read the information contained in the first nineteen pages.** Please note that our bell schedule is printed on page 1 and shows our regular daily schedule, our schedule with long advisor and our schedule with a two hour early dismissal.

STUDENT INSURANCE
Information regarding student insurance plans was available for all students in September. Please note there is no School Board coverage for accidents or injuries incurred by students. Refer to www.sd79.bc.ca

STUDENT/STAFF I.D.
All staff and students have been issued a personal I.D. photo. This idea is not unique to Kelsey and serves several valuable purposes. Important amongst these are easy identification of unauthorized visitors and much quicker sign out of resources. The use of this means of identification is strongly supported by the PAC as well as staff.

STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES
All students are asked to pay a $25 Student Activity fee each year and all new students pay a one-time $25 Textbook Deposit fee. Student Activity fees help defray costs of student government, intramural activities, photo identification, speakers, special assemblies and other benefits for students. If no books are lost or damaged, the Textbook Deposit will be returned when the student leaves Kelsey, or upon graduation, it will be used to defray graduation expenses.

These fees are now due and should be paid at the office. We accept cash or cheques and we also have a debit/credit machine for your convenience. Thank you to those who have already paid their fees. If there are any problems with making payment, please contact me at 250 743-6916, extension 229 or at jrowan@sd79.bc.ca

New Staff

We welcome the following staff who have joined Frances Kelsey Secondary:

Teaching Staff: Mr. Adrian Achurch (English), Ms. Stephanie Burr (Social Studies), Ms. Corina Fitznar (Grade 8), Ms. Susan Maynar (Grade 8), Ms. Sarah Race (Resource/Learning Assistance Teacher), Ms. Sara Woodruff (Foods).
Education Assistant: Ms. Marilyn Crosby

Ms. Michelle Weckesser, who volunteered as our choir director for many years, retired from that position at the end of June. We sincerely appreciated the time she gave our students and always enjoyed the lovely musical results. Ms. Robyn Walker has just taken a teaching job in Victoria and she will be missed for her gentle approach, by students and staff alike. Finally, we send our best wishes to Mrs. Dorothy Littau, one of our Education Assistants, who returned to casual/on-call status in June but now has a position at Bonner.

Scholarships and Bursaries

By Kevin van der Linden, Vice-Principal

The year starts early for our graduating students as they must now start thinking about university, college or other post-secondary choices for next year. Costs are a

very important consideration when making these future plans. We will be working with our Grade 12 students this year to help them understand and to help them access all of the money that is available in the form of scholarships and bursaries.

In the near future, we will be scheduling a session for all Grade 12 students dealing with scholarships and bursaries, where we will present information on the scholarship and bursary application process.

Scholarships are already being sent to the school and these will be available at all times in the Scholarship/Bursary filing cabinet which is located in the library. We will be advertising these opportunities on the daily *NewsBreaker* announcements, as well as posting notices on the scholarship board outside of the Career Centre. We are very excited about the opportunities for our students and look forward to working with them this year!

Last June, our Graduates won over $278,000 in scholarships and bursaries. Many of our students received Entrance Scholarships: Liberty Jensen ($45,000) – Vancouver Island University; Eileen Wallgrove ($40,000) – UBC Entrance Scholarship; Lauren Weckesser ($35,000) – University of Alberta; Bennett Meyer ($20,000) – Vancouver Island University; Frank Li ($11,000) – University of Alberta; Laura Brancato ($3,000) – University of Victoria; Maia Copley ($2,750) – University of Victoria; Jizelle Balae ($2,500) – University of Victoria; Larissa Grymaloski ($2,500) – University of Victoria; Cassidy Marat ($2,500) – York University; Jordan Hall ($2,000) – University of Victoria; Miranda Holliday ($2,000) – University of Victoria; Camryn Lee ($2,000) – University of Victoria; Jackson Stephen ($2,000) – University of Victoria; Madeline Swain ($2,000) – University of Victoria; Justin Frazer ($1,500) – University of Alberta; Pierce Jones ($1,200) – Vancouver Island University.

School District #79 presented 25 scholarships of $1,250 each to the following Kelsey Graduates: Jizelle Balae, Blaze Bateman, Hayley Berg, Maia Copley, Robin de Valk-Zaiss, Trinity Egles-McKinnon, Larissa Grymaloski, Miranda Holliday, Angelina Hollihn, Pierce Jones, Jarrett Juch, Asah Leppan, Orion Manke, Cassidy Marat, Bennett Meyer, James Meyer, Marissa Morris, Mischa Onassis, Rowan Parker, Evan Pywell, Isaac Reid, Jackson Stephen, Madeline Swain, Lauren Weckesser and Jamieson Wickham.

Notable recipients of additional scholarships and bursaries were: Jizelle Balae ($6,350); Nicole Barry ($5,750); Cassidy Marat ($3,250); Cheyenne Riggs ($3,000); Pierce Jones ($2,450); Rebecca Jones ($2,400); Anna Paulson ($2,275); Eileen Wallgrove ($2,250); James Meyer ($2,050); Robin de Valk Zaiss ($2,000); Angelina Hollihn ($2,000); Katelyn Parsons ($2,000) and Lauren Weckesser ($2,000).

Of the 164 graduates this June, 116 students received Honours graduation certificates – which means that all students received a letter grade of B or better in all of their Grade 11 and 12 subjects.

All of us at Frances Kelsey Secondary School wish to sincerely thank all of our local donors for their generosity and hard work. Without their contributions, many students would not have the opportunity to pursue their studies at this time. For information about any scholarship or bursary, please see Mr. van der Linden.

The Magic Wand Project

Although 'Grad Banquet 2020' seems far off in the future, many secondary school students are already thinking about their gown or tuxedo. Every year there are young adults graduating who do not attend their banquet because of lack of financial means. Our school would like to try to identify these families in need of assistance to help their children enjoy this wonderful and deserving night. Any parent, student, teacher, or friend may anonymously

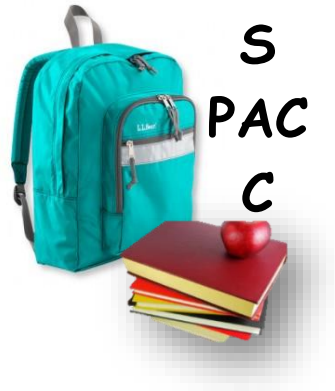
call our Principal, Mr. Rowan, or our Counsellors, Ms. Kirchner or Ms. Wright, at 250 743-6916 if they know of a student who is in need of our support.

The project has a great selection of gowns available for loan, access to free tuxedo rentals, as well as price-reduced hair and makeup services and a variety of shoes and accessories available. As well, **any** student may rent his or her complete grad outfit from the "Magic Wand Project" for a nominal fee instead of buying one.

For an October appointment or for one after February 1, 2020, contact Elizabeth at esurerus@telus.net. For a November, December or January appointment, including winter formals, contact ajinbc@shaw.ca or view the website at www.themagicwandproject.ca or check out their information on Facebook.

We want to make sure every child has the opportunity to attend Grad festivities with pride and the wonderful sense of accomplishment that he/she deserves.

Dry Grad



The next Dry Grad parent meeting will be Tuesday, October 8 at 7:00 pm in the library. Everyone welcome! We currently have a couple of fundraisers underway: Thrifty Foods smile cards and the $2000 travel voucher raffle tickets. Both can be picked up in the main office.

DRY GRAD
Please join us at our next meeting on **Tuesday, October 8** at 7:00 pm in the library. For more information contact Holly at franceskelseygrad@gmail.com

Frances Kelsey Parents Advisory Council

Welcome, parents, to a new high school year. By virtue of having a student at Kelsey, every one of you is a PAC member and we would love to have your input at our monthly PAC meetings. High School PAC is very different from what you are used to at Elementary. WE DO NO FUNDRAISING AT ALL. Instead, we spend our time at meetings deciding how to spend our annual gaming grant (approximately $20,000), and discussing with our principal what has been happening at the school lately. It is a great way to stay informed of school events, express your accolades or concerns and meet other like-minded parents.

Our next meeting and AGM will be held on Wednesday, October 23 at 7:00 pm in the library. We are very much in need of someone with bookkeeping experience to fill the position of PAC Treasurer this year. Please consider stepping up for this position if you have the necessary experience. Hope to see you there.

FKPAC
Please join us at our next meeting on **Wednesday, October 23** at 7:00 pm in the library. For more information contact Tanya at tanyarick@shaw.ca

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

Clubs, Activities and Sports Teams

One of our school-wide goals is to increase connections and engagement. Our student-led clubs promote and celebrate leadership, learning, and community connections. On September 30 during our long advisory block, our big gym was filled with tables manned by our club leaders. Students from every grade travelled through this club "fair", learning about the variety of offerings spearheaded by our own students. Through their leadership role, our Club leaders are also connected with student parliament, and serve as an active group who can support school-wide fundraising initiatives. Please talk to your student about the clubs listed below. Are there any Clubs that might suit their interests? With so many opportunities to be connected, lunch times are a-buzz at Kelsey!

If you have lunch times free once or twice a month, we are also happy to consider parent volunteers to club activities or noon hour sports to work with our sponsor teachers. Contact Ms. Parker at jparker@sd79.bc.ca if you are interested in volunteering.

Clubs and Activities

(some dates and times may change)

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLUB
Alternate Mondays at lunch in room 213
Sponsor: Mr. Page

ART CLUB
Wednesday at lunch in room 212
Sponsor: Mrs. Smith

DROP-IN BADMINTON CLUB
Monday at lunch in the small gym
Sponsor: Ms. Rainey, Mrs. Grymaloski

DROP-IN BASKETBALL CLUB
Open to all
Wednesday at lunch in the small gym
Sponsors: Mrs. Bell/Admin

BOOK BUZZ
Promoting reading and literacy
Last Thursday of the month at lunch
in the library
Sponsors: Ms. Baker, Ms. Butler, Mrs. Bonner

CHESS CLUB
Drop in to play
Daily at lunch in room 122
Sponsor: Mr. Grbavec

EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES
Ongoing all year, including Encounters with Canada and Rotary Club Youth Exchange Information in the Career Centre

FRANCES KELSEY CHOIR
Day to be announced
At lunch in band room
Sponsor: Ms. Roberts

D AND D - DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
To play and discuss the game while reinforcing basic math and social skills
Monday and Thursday at lunch in room 120
Sponsor: Mr. Heath

ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB
Alternate Tuesdays in room 220
Sponsor: Mr. Parker

GARDEN CLUB
At various lunch times in the garden area
Sponsor: Ms. Parker

G.S.A. - GENDER SEXUALITY ALLIANCE
Tuesday at lunch in room 123
Sponsor: Ms. Chapman

GLOBAL ISSUES CLUB
For those interested in current events and issues, and wanting to create change
Wednesday at lunch in room 127
Sponsor: Mr. Cosford

GRAD COUNCIL
Alternate Tuesdays at lunch in the library to discuss student-planned activities. Academic information is given during Q blocks on Fridays
Sponsors: Mr. Rowan, Mrs. S. Robinson, Mrs. M. Webb, Mr. D. Hart

HECTOR McINTOSH PUBLIC SPEAKING
(Spring)
Sponsor: Mrs. Van Hell

INTERACT CLUB
International Action, a service club for youth sponsored by the South Cowichan Rotary Club
Monday at lunch in room 135
Sponsor: Mr. van der Linden

COMPETITIVE LEAGUE OF LEGENDS TEAMS
Teams for both beginners and experienced players
Practices Monday at 3:30 in room 137
Games Wednesday at 3:30 room 137
Sponsor: Mr. Heath

MAGIC THE GATHERING CLUB
To play fantasy card games
Monday at lunch in room 127
Sponsor: Mr. Cosford

AFTER SCHOOL MATH HELP
Tuesdays and most Wednesdays
3:20 – 4:30 pm
Sponsors: current math teachers

ME TO WE CLUB
Empowering students through local and global philanthropy
Thursday at lunch in room 127
Sponsor: Ms. Parker

MODEL UNITED NATIONS CLUB
Friday at lunch in room 123
Sponsor: Mrs. Grymaloski

OPEN DOOR WORKOUT
Alternate Fridays at lunch in the mezzanine weight room
Sponsor: Mr. Groicher

PING PONG CLUB
Friday at lunch in small gym
Sponsor: Ms. Steele/Ms. Rainey

RED CROSS CLUB
Tuesday at lunch (as required) in room 131
Sponsors: Mrs. Thompson, Ms. Dayton, Mr. Grbavec

ROCK BAND
Monday, Wednesday, Friday at lunch in room 137
Sponsor: Mr. Ludwig

ROLE PLAYING CLUB
Fun, interactive role-playing games
Wednesday at lunch in room 158
Sponsor: Ms. Roberts

SELF LOVE CLUB
To spread awareness of wellness, self-care and mental health
Monday at lunch in library
Sponsor: Ms. Wright

SOCIAL SCALE UP CLUB
Helping other clubs succeed and filling needs within the school community
Thursday at lunch in room 132
Sponsor: Mrs. Webb

STUDENT PARLIAMENT
Wednesday at lunch in library
Sponsors: Mr. Hart, Ms. Baker

SUPER SMASH BROS. CLUB
To play, create a community and provide competition to all Smash Bros. fans
Wednesday at lunch in room 120
Sponsor: Mr. Heath

FKSS TECH CLUB
Monday at lunch in room 122
Sponsor: Mr. Grbavec, Mr. Heath

TIMES COLONIST 10K RUN (Spring)
Sponsor: Mr. Launder

VITAL YOUTH CLUB
Sponsoring charities; supporting the community
Friday at lunch in room 135
Sponsor: Mr. Abbott

DROP-IN VOLLEYBALL CLUB
Thursday at lunch in small gym
Sponsor: Ms. Mayner

VOLUNTEER MENTOR CLUB
Senior students helping younger students with study strategies
Once a month at lunch in room 166
Sponsor: Ms. Parker

WEST COAST TRAIL TRIP
(Spring) Sponsors: Ms. May, Mr. Wilkinson
Notify sponsors ASAP if interested

WHISTLER MOUNTAIN BIKE TRIP
(Spring) Sponsors: Mr. Niessen, Mr. Hillyard

WHISTLER SKI TRIP (Spring)
For Grades 8-11
Meetings begin in the fall
Sponsors: Mr. Niessen, Ms. Roach

Sports Teams

BADMINTON
Sponsor: tba

BASKETBALL – MIDGET BOYS
Sponsor/Coach: Mr. Launder

BASKETBALL – JR BOYS, A & B
Sponsor: Mr. Reed

BASKETBALL – SR BOYS
Sponsor: Mr. Reed

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING TEAM
Sponsors: Mrs. Welwood, Mr. Launder

FIELD HOCKEY – JR & SR GIRLS
Sponsor: Ms. Alyssa Davidson
Coach: Ms. Rayanne Pearson

RUGBY – JR & SR GIRLS
Sponsors: Mr. Kelly, Mr. Heath
Coach: Mr. Cosford

SOCCER – JR BOYS
Sponsor: Mr. Achurch

SOCCER – SR BOYS
Sponsor: Mr. Garriock
Coach: Mr. Zaiss

SOCCER – JR GIRLS
Sponsor: Mr. A. Johnston

SOCCER – SR GIRLS
Sponsor: Mr. B. Johnston

SWIM CLUB
The opportunity to represent Kelsey at swim meets
Sponsor: Ms. Roach

TRACK & FIELD
Coaches: Mrs. Zimmer, Mr. Launder

VOLLEYBALL – JR GIRLS A/B
Coaches: Ms. MacDonald, Ms. Parker

VOLLEYBALL – SR GIRLS
Sponsor: Mrs. Grymaloski
Coach: Mr. Reed

WHALERS' ICE HOCKEY – JR
Sponsor: Mrs. Gillis

WHALERS' ICE HOCKEY – SR
Sponsor: Ms. C. Webb

Last Chance for a Low-Price Yearbook!

Ms. Baker's Yearbook/Journalism class is busy producing another wonderful yearbook. Our yearbooks are high quality, hard cover, colour keepsake books which document every event throughout the school year. They are presently on sale for $48 **only until Tuesday, October 15**, after which time the price steadily increases every six weeks. This is your last chance to purchase a yearbook at the base rate before the cost rises. In June, your child will be thrilled to collect special autographs from friends and staff. As the years pass by, neither of you will be sorry to have permanent memories preserved in such a beautiful format. Order forms are available in the office and payment can be made by cash, cheque, debit or credit.

From the Transportation Department

The Transportation Department will be holding Bus Evacuation Drills on afternoon bus runs on Wednesday, October 23. These drills will be performed at the school where the bus departs fully loaded. These drills are important to better prepare our students and staff in the event of an emergency. The driver will instruct the students on how to unload and move to a designated safe spot as a group in a safe and orderly fashion. These drills will delay afternoon drop-off times by approximately 15 minutes. The Transportation Supervisor can answer all questions by email at transportationsupervisor@sd79.bc.ca or by phone at 250-748-0321, extension 275.

From the Indigenous Education Department

Uy'skweyul! Tansi! Welcome to another fantastic year of growth and learning. Indigenous education staff work throughout the district to foster inclusive classrooms where every student feels a sense of belonging and experiences academic success.

As you may know, in 2017, the Federal Government changed from using the term Aboriginal people to using Indigenous Peoples when referring to First Nations, Métis & Inuit peoples. This change acknowledges the rights of Indigenous Peoples as outlined in the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wpcontent/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf

It will take us some time to transition to the new language so you may see the terms Indigenous and Aboriginal both used.

If your child has Indigenous ancestry – First Nations, Métis or Inuit, (documentation is NOT required) and you would like to self-identify, please see the school secretary for a self-identification form. Each year your child will be funded for and included in Indigenous Education programs. Almost all programs will be delivered in the regular classroom, to ALL students. You will be asked to give permission for any activities offered outside of the regular class.

You can opt out of Indigenous Education services any time by notifying the Indigenous Education staff in person or in writing either at your school or through the district office at 250-748-0321 ext 235, abed@sd79.bc.ca Please go to http://abed.sd79.bc.ca/faq/ for more information.