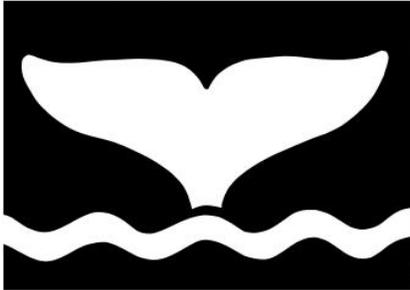


THE WHALE'S TALE

Frances Kelsey Secondary's
latest breaking news and views



CONTACT US:

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Frances Kelsey Secondary
School – FKSS

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Frances Kelsey Secondary PAC



December 2, 2019 Vol. 25/No. 3

What's Been Happening at Kelsey?

Our students again made us proud at last month's special Remembrance Day Assembly. The event included a dramatic vignette; a number sung by three male students; performances by our choir and concert band; and bagpiping by a Kelsey grad. Thanks to those who contributed to this important annual event, including an unprecedented number of cadets, the Armed Forces/CFB Esquimalt and members of our local Royal Canadian Legion. We also appreciate the behind-the-scenes work by those who prepared and served the luncheon to our guests.

For the last two years, as part of the Kelsey Cancer Campaign, our administration agreed to participate in a *Principal vs Principal Mystery Challenge* if more than \$1,500 was raised in September for the Terry Fox Run. This year we met the challenge by collecting \$1,779.60; so at lunch on Halloween, Mr. Rowan, Mr. van der Linden and Ms. Parker agreed to play the *Are You Smarter than a Kelsey Kid?* trivia question game. They were asked questions from courses and kid culture, and for every correct question, they selected a tasty ingredient of their choice to make a smoothie (banana, blueberries, asparagus, etc.). For every wrong answer, they had to choose a disgusting ingredient (relish, bacon fat, tomato juice, etc.)! The ingredients were blended into a very unusual smoothie which our admin either had to drink (Mr. Rowan) or dump on themselves (Mr. van der Linden and Ms. Parker). They were very good sports about it all and it was a hilarious and entertaining way to end the Halloween festivities!

Every year, our library sponsors an author visit for our Grade 8 students, and this year, we were thrilled to welcome Eric Walters, one of Canada's best known young adult authors. He has written over 100 books and our library has 50 of his titles. He spoke in detail about his inspiration and how he researches his topics before writing. He was very engaging and dynamic, and our students enjoyed asking him questions. His books have always been extremely popular but they have been flying off the shelves since his visit!



Kelsey Calendar

Monday, December 2

Whale's Tale newsletter issued

Tuesday, December 3

P.A.R.T.Y. Program

Law 12 Field Trip to Victoria Court House

7:00 pm – Winter Band Concert in dome

Everyone welcome

Wednesday, December 4

Div 81 Bake Sale for Angel Tree Project

7:30 pm – PAC meeting in library

(note change of time)

Thursday, December 5

Law 12 Field Trip to Victoria Court House

SS 9 – Understanding the Village

Monday, December 9

Start of Red Cross CMS Food Drive

Tuesday, December 10

7:00 pm – Dry Grad parent meeting in

library

Wednesday, December 11

6:00 pm – Grad Food Drive

Friday, December 20

Last day of classes before winter vacation

End of Red Cross CMS Food Drive

Monday, January 6

First day of classes 2020

Grade 8 Exploratory 4 begins

Monday, January 13

Whale's Tale newsletter issued

Malahat students on Victoria Carving Trip

Tuesday, January 14

7:00 pm – Dry Grad parent meeting in

library

Wednesday, January 15

7:00 pm – PAC meeting in library

January 20 – 24

Numeracy 10 and Literacy 10 Assessment

Window

Wednesday, January 22

End of Term 2 (Grade 9 – 12)

Thursday, January 23

"I" Completion Day

During our recent Careers/University/College Liaison Day, all Grade 8's were involved in building and testing wind turbines and then competed with one another to see whose was most efficient. It was a great day for our Grade 8's to work collaboratively and to be hands-on learners. Our Grade 9 students took part in Take Our Kids to Work Day, job shadowing a variety of careers such as cardiology technologist, elevator repairman, education assistant, lifeguard, court house clerk and coffee shop barista. Completed job shadow forms **must be returned as soon as possible. Students who do not return them will get zero for Learning Guide 3 in Careers 9.** For those who did not participate in TOKTW Day, a **mandatory make-up assignment** is available from the Career Centre. Grade 10 students toured both the VIU trades and academic campuses in Duncan. Students heard about dual credit opportunities that will be available to them in their Grade 12 year and after graduation. Many dual credit opportunities are in the trades. Further information is available in our Career Centre. Positive feedback was received from our Grade 11's and 12's after they attended their choice of three university and college presentations. We heard comments such as "It took the mystery out of universities and made me feel more comfortable with the whole process", "I am going to consider applying to Quest as it seems to be a system that may work well for the way I learn", "It made my thoughts on post-secondary a little less scary" and "I feel better prepared".

On Monday, November 18, Grade 8 students and some Grade 9 classes were selected to participate in interactive sessions by Health Canada to discover the negative health consequences of vaping. With the use of electronic cigarettes among Canadian teenagers on the rise and the associated health risks, Frances Kelsey Secondary was fortunate to have this group come to our school. Participants began with a small discussion from one of the Health Canada presenters and then had to walk through a maze and make good choices to be able to get to the exit. These students remarked that the sessions were very engaging and that they learned quite a bit being on their feet rather than having someone simply present to them.

Grade 12 dome passes have been handed out to those students who have shown academic progress and general responsibility. Students who met the criteria were awarded a special pass by their advisor to be allowed to study in the dome during work blocks. Another batch of dome passes will be available to deserving students in the new year.

Ms. Chester's programming classes have been having a lot of fun coding for Augmented and Virtual Reality worlds, creating and coding animated scenes they could put themselves into using the AR/VR goggles. Her Grade 9 class spent additional time creating and coding complex animated mazes which they challenged other classmates to attempt to complete as they played each other's mazes. Challenges such as invisible walls, moving walls, decoys, and illusions added to the fun. A few staff members had the opportunity to experience the Virtual Reality worlds as well!

Another club has just formed: Robotics Club, Wednesday at lunch in room 138, with Mr. Page as sponsor. A complete list of all clubs can be found on our school website. (See fkss.sd79.bc.ca then click on the Students & Parents tab, then open Clubs & Activities)

Mrs. Smith and her student teacher, Mrs. Allan, have developed a unique textiles unit in Art 11 called "Painting with Thread". Students are learning beautiful embroidery stitches, then creating a design using fibre art as a medium. The theme of the project is memory and students selected a person, place or thing they remembered, or they chose a more metaphorical subject. Next, they selected appropriate floss to make a pleasing colour pallet and transferred their idea to either a piece of fabric or even an object such as a canvas tote bag, a sweatshirt or a jean jacket. Students are engaged with something once considered old fashioned, now with a modern twist, and now have an appreciation for something from the past. Thanks to this project, the art of traditional embroidery is continuing. Donations of embroidery floss, needles, hoops, and plain, unprinted cotton are most gratefully received. Please drop off at the front office labelled for Mrs. Smith.

New Staff and a Farewell

We celebrate with Ms. Shawn Braun, one of our Education Assistants, who has just retired after working with students at Kelsey for the last three years. Shawn's quiet approach and helpfulness will be missed by students and staff alike, and we wish her the best for a long and enjoyable retirement. We welcome Mr. Kit Cassidy who has taken her position.

Scholarships and Bursaries - A Great Time to Get a Head Start

By Kevin van der Linden, Vice-Principal

Grade 12 students had an information session on local and district scholarships on Friday, November 22. Students were shown the scholarship section of our school website and the application process was discussed. Students were also told that applying for a district scholarship satisfies the criteria for their CLC 12 capstone project. Please see some of the things below that students can be doing right now:

- Look up local scholarships/bursaries under the Graduation tab on fkss.sd79.bc.ca
- Begin preparing an academic resume. A template can be found under the same tab
- Create a generic cover letter that can be tailored to each bursary or scholarship that students wish to apply for
- Print and complete the Letter of Reference Request that can be handed to teachers/community members for letters of reference



Grade 12 students can see Mr. van der Linden if they would like help getting a jump start on applying for local scholarships and bursaries. For more information about any scholarship or bursary, please see Mr. van der Linden. Further websites can be found through the school website.

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

- Burger King Scholar Program
- Beedie Luminaries Scholarship Program

Dry Grad



The Dry Grad committee had its first Parent Social Pub Night and Silent Auction Fundraiser on November 17th and it was a great success! A huge THANK YOU to all those who donated, participated, volunteered and came out to enjoy the evening! The winner of the \$2000 travel voucher was Janis Wood. The travel raffle made over \$3500 and the Pub night over \$4000. This is a great start to our goal to pay for dry grad activities in June.

The next fundraiser is the bottle drive on Sunday, December 15th, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm in the parking lot at the school. A flyer has been distributed to all the grad students so they can go inform their neighbours they will be collecting bottles. Feel free to contact a grad to come to pick up your bottles that weekend, or come drop them off yourself. Any donations are welcome! The Panago Pizza

DRY GRAD

Please join us at our next meeting on **Tuesday, December 10** at 7:00 pm in the library. For more information contact Holly at holly.beauregard@gmail.com

fundraiser deadline is coming up soon as well. December 6th is the last day to get your order and money into the office. This is a great deal as 1/3 of the proceeds go to Dry Grad and the number of toppings you can add on a medium is a fantastic deal!

Lastly, a reminder of the ongoing ways you can contribute - the metal drop off bin, the Country Grocer receipts, and the Thrifty Foods smile cards. Send me an email if you have any questions. Thank you for all your support!

Frances Kelsey Parents Advisory Council



We will be having a special financially-focused meeting on **Wednesday, December 4th at 7:30 pm** to set up a budget for this year. We have some exciting larger projects in the works which, if successful, will see some of the main communal areas of the school (the dome, library, etc.) redesigned with new furniture and layouts. We have a team of volunteer teachers and PAC members working on grant writing now and PAC will be supporting these initiatives with as much funding as we can afford. Come out to this meeting to find out more and have your say in

how our money is spent this year.... and 'like' our Facebook Page (Frances Kelsey Secondary PAC) to get regular updates too.

FKPAC

Please join us at our next meeting on **Wednesday, December 4 at 7:30 pm** in the library. For more information contact Tanya at tanyarick@shaw.ca

A Reminder Regarding 'Snow Days'...

According to Board Policy 3500, we have been asked to remind you that in the event of inclement weather, the Superintendent may decide that schools will be closed. Announcements will be made over radio stations CKKQ (100.3), CBC (90.5), JUICE-FM (89.7), CFAX (1070) and CTV VI News channel. Information will also be posted on the district website: www.sd79.bc.ca

When buses are operating during inclement weather, drivers may opt not to go down some of the less travelled and more dangerous roads (i.e., winding, hilly). If families live down such roads, it would be a good idea to plan now with their driver for a location at a safer, more-travelled stop. If buses are running more than fifteen minutes late, drivers will radio in to notify the Transportation Office. Parents can also sign up to get Transportation Department updates on Twitter @TransportSD79 (<https://twitter.com/#!/TransportSD79>). Route cancellations will be posted on Twitter as well. In all cases, the safety of students will be the first priority.

Looking for A Christmas Present?

Show your school spirit! Get outfitted for cooler weather! The Business Education program sells clothing with our school name and logo. See Mrs. Brinkman in Room 229 or call 250 743-6916, local 268.

Also, Grad 2020 clothing orders are happening now! Items include hoodies, sweatpants, toques and long sleeve T's. They are customized with our Grad 2020 logo and individual student names. Order forms available in room 229 or the office. Makes a great gift for the grad in your family!

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.