

# THE WHALE'S TALE

*Frances Kelsey Secondary's  
latest breaking news and views*



## CONTACT US:

250 743-6916

[fkss.sd79.bc.ca](mailto:fkss.sd79.bc.ca)

**School Facebook page:**

Frances Kelsey Secondary  
School – FKSS

**PAC Facebook page:** Frances  
Kelsey Secondary PAC

October 5, 2020

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## Welcome

**By Jeff Rowan, Principal**

I am grateful for our students, staff and parent community for the support shown during the re-start of school this September. We have had to re-plan all of our schedules and protocols to follow the strictest safety measures. At the same time, our goal has been to provide the best experience we can for our students. I also appreciate our students' and parents' understanding as the safety measures have meant that some course choices have not been possible.

In terms of the extracurricular activities, we do what we can safely. This may mean virtual meetings or meeting in our cohort groups. One example is how Frances Kelsey will honour Terry Fox's legacy. Instead of one big event at the start of the day, we will run class-by-class instead. Classes will make a separate walk/run around our school track, staggered over the whole day.

We want to work with parents to make sure all of our kids are successful. Please contact teachers and administration via email or phone if you have questions or concerns. Staff email addresses and phone extensions can be found on our webpage under the "Contact Staff" menu and 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](http://fkss.sd79.bc.ca) We encourage you to maintain contact throughout the year.

It has been great to see all of our students back at school and we look forward to the rest of the year. 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 [mkirchner@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:mkirchner@sd79.bc.ca)

M - Z: Ms. Wright [nwright@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:nwright@sd79.bc.ca)



## Kelsey Calendar

### Monday, October 5

Whale's Tale newsletter issued

### Wednesday, October 7

2:15 pm – early dismissal

### Monday, October 12

Thanksgiving Day

### Wednesday, October 14

6:30 pm – Dry Grad Parents' Meeting  
(see related article – page 4)

### Thursday, October 15

10:15 – Great BC ShakeOut

### Tuesday, October 20

P.A.R.T.Y. Program

### Friday, October 23

Pro-D Day

### Wednesday, October 28

2:15 pm – early dismissal (PLC)

7:00 pm – PAC AGM via Zoom (see  
related article – page 4)

### Monday, November 2

Photo Retake Day

Whale's Tale newsletter issued

### November 2 – 6

Numeracy 10, Literacy 10

Assessment Window

### Tuesday, November 10

Virtual Acknowledgment of  
Remembrance Day

### Wednesday, November 11

Remembrance Day

### Friday, November 13

End of Quarter 1

### Monday, November 16

Quarter 2 begins

### Monday, November 23

Report Cards issued

### Wednesday, November 25

2:15 pm – early dismissal (PLC)

## **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 and our regular daily schedule have all been adjusted so the agendas don't reflect the timetable blocks accurately. They are still useful for planning weekly homework, however.

## **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](http://www.sd79.bc.ca)

## **ATTENDANCE**

Students who arrive late or leave early must provide either a note, a phone call or an email to [fkssfrontdesksecretary@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:fkssfrontdesksecretary@sd79.bc.ca) to be excused. Texts will not be accepted. Late arrivals should go directly to class and teachers will record their attendance. Those leaving early must sign out at the main office on their way out.

## **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 us to support student events, purchase items for students and other benefits for students. We will be doing spirit activities as they will be especially important this year! The Textbook Deposit, if no books are lost or damaged, will be returned when the student leaves Kelsey, or if students stay and graduate with us, it is used to purchase cap and gowns so there are no separate grad fees. These fees are due now and should be paid online via our webpage. If there are any problems with making payment, please contact me at 250 743-6916, extension 229 or at [jrowan@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:jrowan@sd79.bc.ca)

## **BUILDING ACCESS**

With the coming of inclement weather, students will be allowed in the building at 8:45 am. They should enter the school through the door which is closest to their Block A classroom and must go directly to that room. Students may remain in their Block A classroom/cohort during lunch if the weather is bad. It is important that students stay in their classroom during this time and not visit other classrooms or wander the hallways.

# **Good Byes and Hellos**

Since our June Whale's Tale, we said goodbye to Ms. Jenn Macdonald who took a teaching position at Cowichan Secondary School. We also saw the departure of Mr. Mike Greenslade and Mrs. Karen Rainey, both of whom taught in the International Education program. As well, Mr. Kit Cassidy and Mrs. Dorothy Littau, Education Assistants, unfortunately did not retain their positions at Kelsey.

We would like to welcome the following who have joined our staff:

**Administration:** Ms. Alison Keple – Vice Principal

**Teachers:** Ms. Heather Boudreau – International Education program; Ms. Stephanie Burr who is filling in for Ms. Dayton; Mrs. Margaret Carmichael – English 8 and 11, Social Justice 12, French 8, Social Studies 8; Ms. Amber Grant who is substituting for Ms. Borrett; Ms. Lindsay Janes who is substituting for Mr. Wilkinson; Mr. Brian Tattam – English 10, Social Studies 9, Photography 8, 11 and 12; Mr. Brendan Varro who is substituting for Mr. Heath.

**Education Assistants:** Ms. Emma Croasdale and Mrs. Beth Eacott

## **From Ms. Keple**

Hello FKSS community! My name is Alison Keple, and I am one of the Vice-Principals here. I am very excited to join Frances Kelsey after almost 20 years elsewhere in the district. There is a steep learning

curve with almost 900 students to get to know, about 80 staff members, and new hallways to get used to! My primary role here is to support...so if there is anything I can do to support student learning, staff development, help brainstorm solutions, or just simply listen, please feel free to contact me anytime.

## Scholarships and Bursaries

**By Alison Keple, 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.



We will be scheduling a session for all Grade 12 students after winter break where we will present information on the scholarship and bursary application process for all of our local awards (you can preview them right now on our website).

Scholarships are already being sent to the school. We will be advertising these opportunities on the daily *NewsBreaker* announcements and the CLC 12-Grads of 2021 Team under the Non-Local Scholarship & Bursary channel. 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 \$317,000 in scholarships and bursaries and those who received university entrance scholarships were listed in the June Whale's Tale. After its publication, we learned that the following students received further entrance scholarships: Dhowa Husrevoglu (\$24,000) – University of Victoria Excellence Scholarship; Brynn Scott (\$24,000) – University of Victoria; Jamie Pollard (\$14,000) – Carleton University; Marissa Dehoop (\$2,000) – University of Victoria Excellence Scholarship and (\$1,400) – Franc R. Jouban Entrance Scholarship; Mia Butcher (\$3,000) – University of Victoria.

Shima Brooks was another notable recipient, winning the Beedie Luminaries Scholarship of \$4,000.

School District #79 presented scholarships of \$1,250 each to 25 of our graduates and those names were also listed in the June Whale's Tale.

Of the 174 graduates this June, 123 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 Ms. Keple.

Information regarding the following scholarships is available on the CLC 12-Grads of 2021 Team under the Non-Local Scholarship & Bursary channel:

- Re/Max Quest for Excellence Award
- Schulich Leader Scholarship

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



## The Magic Wand Project



At this point, not only is the 'Grad Banquet 2021' far off in the future, but unfortunately, we don't know yet how it will unfold. However, in past years at this time, 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 is open to everyone** – instead of buying, any student may rent his or her complete grad outfit from the “Magic Wand Project” for a nominal fee. There is a great selection of gowns and tuxedos available for loan, as well as a variety of shoes and accessories available. **Why buy when you can borrow?**

For an appointment for Grad or winter formals, contact Elizabeth at [esurerus@telus.net](mailto:esurerus@telus.net), or view the website at [www.themagicwandproject.ca](http://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 initial Dry Grad parents' meeting will be **Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 pm at the Evergreen School pavilion. Please bring your own chair.



## Frances Kelsey Parents Advisory Council



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By Tanya Friese, FKSS PAC Chair

Welcome to YOUR Parent Advisory Council. Our Annual General Meeting will be held via Zoom on **Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>**. More details to follow. We hope to welcome you all and meet you (virtually) then.

## Parents and Students: Help! Help! Help!

Parents, we need your help. There are still hundreds of textbooks signed out from last year that weren't returned in June. These resources are needed **now** - please return them as soon as possible to avoid being billed.

## 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](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](mailto:abed@sd79.bc.ca) Please go to <http://abed.sd79.bc.ca/faq/> for more information.

## **Food for Kids, Food for Thought**

We are continuing our connection with Nourish Cowichan. Our school is a drop off point of non-perishable items for some of our families who continue to experience financial hardship. We also have healthy snacks and light lunches supplied to us for our students who come to school without food for lunch, as our cafeteria cannot run at this time. Students can connect with our Student Support Worker, Ms. Chapman, for more information. The fruit and granola bar trolley is always available at lunch near our front entrance.

Last year we awarded Nourish Cowichan with our Frances Kelsey Community Award, for all the team's work in helping our local community. We so appreciate the healthy food supplied by Nourish!

## **Early Bird Yearbook Sales**

Yes - we are still producing a yearbook despite this new isolated world we currently inhabit! There will be portraits of all the students and highlights for the grads of their last year in high school. We are planning candid shots of students in their small "bubble groups" enjoying life inside and out of school, and we will be capturing the events happening within each of our learning groups. 30 years from now you will want to reminisce about the memories of your CoVid year and all the friends you shared it with! This year's price will be lower than usual so take advantage of a great offer! Available for purchase through our [online payment system](#). Early bird price of \$40 until December 1, 2020.

## **Careers Corner and Post-Secondary Connections**

**By Ms. Julie Faye Parker, Vice-Principal**

Our Career Centre has been a hopping place these last two weeks! Big thanks to Ms. Moreland, our Careers super-secretary. We have 23 Train in Trades (apprentices) who are currently working in a trade and are sponsored for Trades programs. This year, the Career Centre has tripled the number of students registered in Dual Credit courses. 26 students were registered by this time last year in post-secondary courses. This year, 78 students have applied! That means 78 students could complete a college course before they even graduate, and the cost is covered by our district! This year, our students selected options such as psychology, English, and criminology - and other options. Students in Grades 10-12 just need the pre-requisites to succeed. For further information, please contact Ms. Moreland in the Career Centre (extension 236).

Are you a business with some need for extra help? Are you willing to sponsor a young person for a minimum of 30 hours of volunteer work? **We are looking for businesses who can support grade 11's wanting to work in the trades when they graduate.** If you have a Worksafe registered company and can provide supervision and help train a young person in your area of business, please contact Ms. Parker in Careers. We are particularly looking for worksites for students who are interested in carpentry, metalwork, welding and electrical. These students need a minimum of 30 hours to apply to apprenticeship programs when they reach Grade 12. All of our grads need 30 hours of volunteer time, or 30 hours of work experience, as part of their graduation requirement. If you would like to add your company to our roster of work site sponsors, you are helping our grads! (Students can collect these hours starting in Grade 10.)

For further information on Work Experience, Dual Credit, the trades, volunteering, MyBlueprint or anything careers related, including writing a work resume or an academic resume, please telephone Ms. Moreland or email [jparker@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:jparker@sd79.bc.ca), [fksscaredsecretary@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:fksscaredsecretary@sd79.bc.ca) or [mbrinkman@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:mbrinkman@sd79.bc.ca).

## Show School Spirit and Get Outfitted for Cooler Weather!

The Business Education program sells Kelsey Gear clothing with our school name and logo. Hoodies, crewnecks, long sleeved T's and more. Check out what's available on the FKSS website under the Students and Parents tab and pay online.

<https://fkss.sd79.bc.ca/kelsey-gear/>



## From the Vancouver Island Crisis Society

With so many changes in the world around us, Vancouver Island Crisis Society is excited to share our popular program **COPE** as an **ONLINE** version.



This will give families and schools across Vancouver Island access to life-affirming activities and information in support of personal resilience and mental health.

Learners of all ages, will “strengthen their coping muscles” with information about the importance of **C**ommunication, both with themselves and others; the power of making choices and uncovering **O**ptions; how to control overthinking and automatic thoughts to keep things in **P**erspective, and finally, a mindful approach to **E**njoying Life.

Parents, caregivers, and teachers are encouraged to participate in the program alongside young learners in order to generate further conversation. To more easily facilitate this, the Crisis Society has also created an activity booklet entitled *Action Plans for Coping (After-COPE Activity Guide)*, that students will be encouraged to work on in between sessions and after the program’s conclusion. To learn more about this exciting new program, please watch this short video: [COPE Program Description](#)

Please contact us for more information about how to bring this ground breaking program into your schools and homes!

Vancouver Island Crisis Society, Toll Free: 1 877 753 2495, Office Hours: Mon to Thurs 9-12 & 1-4

*Vancouver Island Crisis Society -- Helping People Find Their Way*  
Crisis Lines, Crisis Chat and Crisis Text Services at [www.vicrisis.ca](http://www.vicrisis.ca)