

THE WHALE'S TALE

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



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What's Been Happening at Kelsey?

We are thrilled with the updated furniture in the dome and library that was purchased in July. Our thanks to the Grads of 2020, the FKSS PAC and the library budget for their financial contributions. Students now have modern, functional chairs and very attractive tables which replaced the original furniture from when the school originally opened in 1995.

We recognized Orange Shirt Day on September 30th. This day opens the door to global conversation on all aspects of Residential Schools. Students and staff honoured survivors by wearing orange shirts and watched various videos about this topic. This provided an opportunity to create meaningful discussion about the effects of Residential Schools and the legacy they have left behind.

Our fire drills look a little different this year, staggered by cohort throughout the block, to avoid congestion while still practicing evacuation procedure. Likewise, the entire school participated in the Great BC Shakeout, the province-wide earthquake drill.

Grade 10 students in Mr. Brewer's and Ms. Janes' classes participated in a virtual PARTY (Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth) program last month when the presentation was streamed into classrooms. PARTY is an injury prevention program that provides students with a realistic look at the impact of poor decision-making and the immediate and long term consequences of trauma. Health care professionals and community volunteers shared their experiences and provided students with strategies for mitigating risk. The program referred to real life scenarios and concrete ways students can stay safe.

Mr. Rowan and Ms. Baker have now visited all the Grade 12 classes with an introduction to the CLC 12 course and have also held a make up session. There is a PDF of the very short slideshow in the Files section of the CLC 12 Grads of 2020-2021 Team, if students or parents want to refer to it. There is a link to the video with examples of capstone projects done by students in the past. Grads should check this Team regularly.



Kelsey Calendar

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

Saturday, November 14

Post Secondary Virtual Fair (see p. 5)

Monday, November 16

Quarter 2 begins
Post Secondary Virtual Fair (see p. 5)

Tuesday, November 17

Post Secondary Virtual Fair (see p. 5)

Monday, November 23

Report Cards issued

Tuesday, November 24

7:00 pm – PAC Zoom meeting

Wednesday, November 25

2:15 pm – early dismissal (PLC)

November 25 – 30

Grad Portraits (see p. 4)

Monday, November 30

Last day to order Yearbook before
price increases. *(Don't delay - it will
never be cheaper!)*

Tuesday, December 1

P.A.R.T.Y. Program

December 1 – 4

Grad Portraits (see p. 4)

Monday, December 7

Whale's Tale newsletter issued

Grad Council held a Spirit Week recently, which saw students dressed in themes for Maui Monday, Twin Tuesday, Western Wednesday and Throwback Thursday. Watch for great pictures in the yearbook!

With team teaching help from Ms. Baker, students in Ms. Janes' Science 10 class have been busy working on Inquiry Projects that have been both challenging and rewarding. With topics ranging from Space Junk to Nuclear Power to Concussions and Coral Reefs, students were encouraged to find a science topic that piqued their interest, addressed some key science concepts, and encouraged themselves to question the unknown. They are learning key skills of how to form higher level critical thinking questions; research and cite sources using electronic databases; assess the credibility of online sources and avoid fake science; and to put all their findings into a comprehensive and visually appealing presentation. When the teachers learn alongside the students, it truly models life long learning!

This week, Ms. Burr's especially talented French 9 class are putting on their Halloween and/or Christmas themed plays. Students are feverishly writing their original screenplays and fantastically fashioning costumes and sets. They are creatively drawing from their hard earned French knowledge to capture their audience's imagination while challenging the French language rules. The much anticipated performances will be delivered Friday.

In Quarter 1, approximately 100 students have been taking part in the Outdoor Education program under the supervision of Mr. Groicher, Mr. D. Hart, Mr. J. Hart, Mrs. Middleton and Mr. Niessen. Over the past two months, students have been working at Polara Hill, building almost two kilometers of multi-use trails for hiking, mountain biking and horse riding. As well, they have been on eight hikes, from Goldstream Park to Maple Mountain and many places in between. In the classroom, the program offers coursework in Cowichan Valley history, physical geography and urban studies, along with introductions to first-aid, search and rescue, map reading and compass use. While the program is heading into hibernation for the next five months, it will be returning in Quarter Four with another group of about 90 Grade 10, 11 and 12's.

Students in Ms. Grant's Visual Journaling class have been actively engaged in expression of self through multimedia and graphic production. Regardless of art experience, art journaling gives students the opportunity to experiment with mediums on a smaller scale, allowing for maximum exposure to art techniques and expression. By the end of the course, students will have a journal of their process and two final pieces of artwork based on what they have learned.

On October 26, the whole school participated in the annual DEAR exercise (Drop Everything And Read) and had the opportunity to enter a draw for great prizes. All students and staff were asked to unplug their devices and read from a book for twenty minutes. Congratulations to Laina Allen for winning a \$30 meal card for the Kelsey Kafé and Alyra Kostiuick for winning a \$20 gift certificate to the local bookstore, Volume One!

The Kelsey Kafé is Mill Bay's best kept secret! From Monday to Friday, our hard-working Cafeteria Program is well underway, selling healthy lunch options at very reasonable prices. An example of our menu is ***Turkey Vegetable Soup - \$2; Pizza Roll - \$2; Roast Beef Bunwich - \$2.50; Taco Salad - \$4.50; Smoothie - \$2; Carrot Cake - \$1.*** Menus rotate regularly and are posted in advance on the Kelsey website. There's always something yummy! We accept cash but we also offer a \$31 punch card for \$30 which can be purchased through our school website. As punch cards are like cash, the school is not responsible for lost cards.

In last month's newsletter, we appealed for the return of last year's textbooks. While some have been received, there are still hundreds of textbooks that weren't returned in June. Statements have now been distributed to students to remind them what is on their account. Please ask your student if they have received a reminder, and if so, arrange to return these resources or pay for them as soon as possible. Thank you.

Good Byes and New Staff

We would like to acknowledge Mr. Jason Leslie who retired over the summer. Mr. Leslie taught at Kelsey for the last 20 years and he will be missed for his calm demeanour, subtle sense of humour and broad knowledge base. As well as teaching Science 9 and 10, he enjoyed revealing the secrets of physics and the joys of chemistry to hundreds of students. We wish him well in this new phase of his life and thank him for his years of service.

We also send our best wishes to Mr. Kirby Edwards, Indigenous Support Worker, who has worked at Kelsey since March. Kirby developed strong relationships with students and fellow staff, and he brought wisdom and caring to his work. We appreciate all that he did for us and know that he will bring those skills to all the schools in our district.

We are happy to welcome the following who have recently joined our staff: Ms. Mariko Ihara who is teaching PE 9 in Quarter One; Mrs. Dorothy Littau - Education Assistant; Mr. Warren Mearns – Indigenous Support Worker.

Scholarships and Bursaries

By Alison Keple, Vice-Principal

Grade 12's should now be preparing academic resumes, cover letters and applications for scholarships and bursaries which are open to students throughout BC and Canada. Examples of applications are available on the CLC 12-Grads of 2021 Team in the Non-Local Scholarship & Bursary channel. Students should be aware that academic resumes are different from employment resumes. Graduates presenting high quality packages are often successful in obtaining post-secondary funding; therefore, students requiring help should seek assistance as soon as possible. Grade 12's are encouraged to peruse all local scholarships that can be found at fkss.sd79.bc.ca



We are starting to receive scholarship application forms. Please be aware that many of these are specific and the competition for them is intense. For large scholarships, a student is often in competition with students across Canada. Sometimes the competition runs throughout North America. See www.scholarshipscanada.com and www.studentawards.com for more details.

By using the Career Centre, college and university calendars, internet sites and visiting the college personnel, students should be:

- deciding on which program of study they wish to take next year
- deciding on which college/university they wish to attend next year
- finding out about application deadlines, residence deadlines and scholarship deadlines
- finding out about any unions, groups or affiliates to organizations that their parents and grandparents have belonged to
- requesting reference letters.

Admission applications for Vancouver Island University, BCIT, Camosun College, UBC, Vancouver Community College and **many other universities and colleges in BC** are now being accepted.

Key websites for graduates

- Graduation program: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation
- Career planning and post-secondary options in BC: www.educationplanner.bc.ca, myblueprint.ca

- Your guide to post-secondary education programs and institutions in BC - offers students and parents information on post-secondary education, careers and the workforce: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/careers
- Student financial aid - your online guide to information about financial assistance programs including grants, loans and interest relief: www.aved.gov.bc.ca/studentaidbc/
- BC colleges/universities scholarships: www.scholarshipscanada.com
- Canadian universities and colleges: www.schoolfinder.com

For more information about any scholarship or bursary, please see Ms. Keple. Further websites can be found through the school website.

Information regarding the following scholarships, which have deadlines in December and January, is available on the CLC 12-Grads of 2021 Team under the Non-Local Scholarship & Bursary channel:

- Nathan Alexander Bursary
- BCIT Entrance Awards

Another update from UVic with further entrance scholarships just awarded to the Grads of 2020: Nicklaus Badyal (\$1,500); Amelia Beaugard (\$1,000); Brynn Birtwistle (\$4,000); Mia Butcher (\$2,000); Marissa Dehoop (\$1,000); Kennedy Derksen (\$2,000); Harrison Elam (\$1,000); Madison Novak (\$2,000); Lexen Klassen (\$2,000); Taryn Neligan (\$1,000); Breannae Regan (\$3,000); Zoey Richter (\$18,000); Payton Webber (\$2,000). Congratulations, Grads!



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, 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.

Grad Portraits



Grads should sign up online now for their formal portrait appointments with Lifetouch Canada at schedule.prestigeportraits.ca. Appointments are scheduled between November 25 – 30 and December 1 – 4. A message from Lifetouch: “We provide white shirts and ties for the gentlemen but we recommend they bring their own white shirt if they have one. There are no Buddy photos this year and we are limiting only one set of casual clothes due to cleaning time in between sittings. Proofs will be mailed directly to your home or emailed”.

Dry Grad

As at the date of publication, this group is still forming. Please watch this space for future information!

Frances Kelsey Parents Advisory Council



By Tanya Friese, FKSS PAC Chair

A bit of PAC trivia for you all: Each year our PAC applies for and receives grant money in the amount of \$20 per student from BC Gaming. This money can be used to enhance student's extracurricular and educational experience while at Kelsey - it cannot be used for curricular activities of any kind. At PAC meetings we get funding requests from the various sports teams, programs and other activities occurring throughout the year and we discuss how best to spend this money. We do NO fundraising at all and coming to PAC meetings ...or attending virtually as it is done these days, is a great way to stay informed of

all that is going on at the school. Our meetings generally last less than an hour so why not join us **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24th at 7:00 pm** for our AGM and meet the rest of us. Zoom link will be sent out a few days before the meeting. Hope to see you there.

FKPAC

Please join us at our next meeting on **Tuesday, November 24** at 7:00 pm via Zoom. For more information contact Tanya at tanyarick@shaw.ca

From the Career Centre

English Dual Credit (ENG 151) - Due to the high demand for English, we have created a second class. Consequently, there are some remaining seats available through Camosun College on-line. Dual Credit is a university course which also gives students high school credits and is sponsored by our School District. Many other Dual Credit courses are available and they all count at any BC university. All BC university students require an English course, so why not take it now and have it paid for?

Work Experience 12 - Students in Grade 10, 11 or 12 who are working part-time can get four credits for Work Experience 12 by signing up and keeping track of their hours. Sign up in the Career Centre. Students who don't have a job: sign up with Mrs. Brinkman in the Career Centre to get help with their resume and cover letter, to help you find work!

University Transitions – “EASY VIRTUAL FAIR” – In the past, we have hosted a number of universities on a one-day November Fair. This year, universities are reaching out to us, and meetings with post-secondary advisors and recruiters will be done remotely and based on student interest. See Ms. Moreland in Careers if you are interested in finding out how to connect with post-secondary institutions. **Virtual Fair Dates:** November 14 3:00 – 7:00 pm; November 16 2:00 – 6:00 pm; November 17 3:00 – 7:00 pm. Register on-line at <https://postsecondarybcvirtualfair.easyvirtualfair.com/prefair/#>

FREE Text to Speech for ALL Students

Kurzweil is a text to speech program available to all FKSS students. The program also features study skills, word prediction, writing templates, concept maps and templates, text to MP3, definitions, pronunciations (great for students with English as a Second Language) and many more tools. If you would like to learn

more about this program and/or have a demonstration or workshop, contact Mr. Dhami in room 165. There are lots of solutions that can be explored on an individual basis – see Mr. Dhami to discuss your concerns

How Does Attendance Work?

By Julie Faye Parker, Vice-Principal

When a student is absent from class, the automated system calls home and emails parents. Please let us know if you have a new email address or phone number! This is especially important in case of an emergency. Updated address? Email fksscounsellingsecretary@sd79.bc.ca

Graduation Assessments Update

Under the new Graduation Program, students graduating this school year must have written the Graduation Numeracy Assessment (now called the Graduation Numeracy Assessment 10) in order to meet the BC graduation requirements. Grade 11 and 12 students who have not yet written this are scheduled to write it on Monday, November 2 in the library. That week, all Grade 11 students will also be writing the Literacy 10 assessment. A schedule is posted on the notice board in the hallway outside the counselling suite.

As well, students in Grade 10 will be writing their Numeracy Assessment in January. In April, Grade 10 students will also write the new Literacy 10 Assessment.

These assessments differ from traditional provincial examinations in a few ways. Students are graded on a four point proficiency scale (Emerging, Developing, Proficient and Exceeding) and the mark is not blended with any subject. The Numeracy 10 assessment is not a math exam and the Literacy Assessment is not an English exam. Both assessments cover materials learned from kindergarten to Grade 10 and are cross curricular in nature. More information about these assessments can be found at <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/assessment/numeracy-assessment> and <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/assessment/literacy-assessment>.

Electronic Cigarettes (E-Cigarettes)



What are e-cigarettes? E-cigarettes are popular “high tech” devices on sale at many convenience stores and stand-alone e-cigarette retailers. They are sometimes marketed as a safe alternative to smoking and the advertising is aimed at hooking youth. E-cigarettes can look like pipes, pens, USB memory sticks or regular cigarettes, and are made up of a battery, cartridge and a heating element. E-cigarette liquid often has nicotine even though it is not legal to sell nicotine-containing fluid in Canada. The fluid comes in many attractive flavours, such as chocolate, mint, strawberry, grape and watermelon. This is another method of attracting youth to try the product. E-cigarettes send off a vapour, and the mist is inhaled into the lungs, much like a traditional cigarette.

The Vapors and Tobacco Act prohibits use of any product by any person on school property. It is against the law and contravenes District Regulations, School Codes of Conduct as well as Health and Safety guidelines. Island Health Tobacco Prevention does not support using electronic cigarettes by young people, as a way to quit smoking or in any place where regular cigarettes are not allowed to be smoked. For more information, contact the Tobacco Prevention staff at your local Public Health Unit: 250 709-3050.

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