

# THE WHALE'S TALE

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



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**December 7, 2020**

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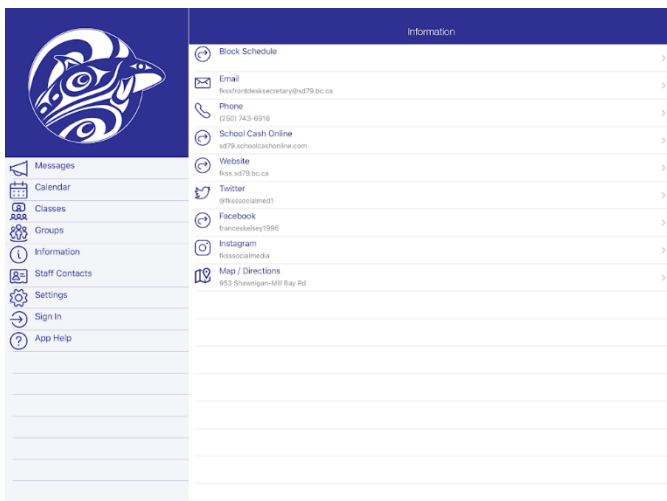
## There's an App for That!

**By Alison Keple, Vice-Principal**

We now have our own school app! This is a one-stop-shop for all things Frances Kelsey: our school calendar, information, digital agenda book, contact info, and more! For free download onto a mobile device, go to the App Store for iOS or Android and search for “Kelsey Breakers.” On a computer, go to [fkss.appazur.com](http://fkss.appazur.com) and click the “web app” button.

For a parent account: Tap “sign up”, then create an account. In the main menu, tap the menu choice with your name and the gear icon, and pick how you want to receive notifications. You will automatically receive all of our public messages. You can also tap “classes” then the gear in the upper right hand corner. Toggle on the grade(s) of your children to get grade-specific announcements. You can also select classes, clubs, and groups your children are in, if you wish.

This app will increase our ability to communicate with families by sending important updates right to you by text, email, or app notifications. It also collates our different sources of information (website, emails, social media and more) into one central place to make info easier to find and access. We hope you enjoy our new Kelsey Breakers app!



## Kelsey Calendar

### Monday, December 7

Whale's Tale newsletter issued

### Wednesday, December 16

6:30 pm – Dry Grad Zoom meeting

### Friday, December 18

Last day of classes before Winter Vacation

### Monday, January 4, 2021

Classes resume

### Monday, January 11

Whale's Tale newsletter issued

### Tuesday, January 19

7:00 pm – PAC Zoom meeting

### Wednesday, January 20

6:30 pm – Dry Grad Zoom meeting

### January 25 - 29

Numeracy 10, Literacy 10

Assessment Window

### Wednesday, January 27

2:15 pm – early dismissal

### Thursday, January 28

End of Quarter 2 (Grade 9 – 12)

### Friday, January 29

“I” Day

### Monday, February 1

Quarter 3 begins (Grade 9 – 12)

Whale's Tale newsletter issued

### February 3 – 4

Grad Portrait Retakes

### Monday, February 8

Report Cards issued

### Friday, February 12

Non-Instructional/Pro-D Day

### Monday, February 15

Family Day

### Wednesday, February 17

6:30 pm – Dry Grad Zoom meeting

## Good Byes and New Staff

Congratulations to Mrs. Laurie McGrade, Education Assistant, who recently retired after working at Kelsey for 22 years. When she began, she was one of just three EA's for the whole school. Laurie made deep relationships with students and used humour to help them navigate their lives at Kelsey. We all will miss her happy personality and we wish her our best.

Mrs. Rebecca Moreland, our Career Centre Assistant, has taken the position of head secretary of Ecole Cobble Hill for the rest of the school year. She will be a great asset to Cobble Hill and we will miss her here.

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Curt Knippelberg who is teaching Learning Assistance until Mr. Reed's return; Ms. Christine Hoffman who is teaching Tech 8 until Mr. Page's return; Mr. Tim Van Vliet who is teaching Math 9 until Mr. Brewer's return; and Ms. Julie Smart, our new Careers Clerk.

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

By Alison Keple, Vice-Principal

Grade 12 students will have an information session on local and district scholarships in January. Students can begin to look at our local scholarships under the "Graduation" tab on our website. Applying for a district scholarship satisfies the criteria for the 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](http://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 Ms. Keple 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 Ms. Keple. Further websites can be found through the school website. Important: Grade 12's are encouraged to sign in to our school app and enroll in the "Grade 12" list under "Courses" to get Grade 12 specific announcements, including scholarship info.

Information regarding for the following scholarships, which have deadlines in December and January, is available on the CLC12-Grads of 2021 Team in the Non-Local Scholarship & Bursary channel:

- Nathan Alexander Bursary
- Beedie Luminaries Scholarship Program
- BCIT Entrance Awards
- Terry Fox Humanitarian Award Program

## Dry Grad

By Yvonne Van Ryk, Dry Grad Secretary

We wanted to update you on the upcoming events that are happening in preparation for our Grade 12 Graduation Celebration June 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> at the Cowichan Exhibition Grounds. Thank you for your support of the November



bottle drive! It was a big success raising \$3500. We also want to thank Panago for donating pizza for the helpers! Much appreciated. We plan to have another in February and in May so please keep saving your bottles! PANAGO VOUCHERS: We have Panago vouchers available for ONLY \$12 each. This voucher will get you a medium size pizza of your choice! Loaded with whatever you want and on whatever crust you choose at any location across Canada! These are great stocking stuffers/Christmas gifts for friends and family near and far! Please email Michelle Kennes at mkennes@shaw.ca if you wish to purchase some. THRIFTY SMILE CARDS: You can help donate, simply by using a smile card when you shop at Thrifty Foods. They will donate 5% of every dollar loaded onto a Smile card. It's super easy! Please contact Sheryl Raymond at theraymonds@shaw.ca if you would like a Smile Card that is set up to support our Grads. SAVE YOUR COUNTRY GROCER RECEIPTS. Country Grocer is a great supporter of our community and will donate 1% of the total of all receipts we bring them, so save your tapes! There is a box at the office where you can drop them off and Jen Baker has volunteered to handle them. OTHER: We will be having a raffle, a firewood sale and chicken sales in the New Year so watch for more exciting news!

We do understand that for some people, finding time to volunteer is not possible and we would ask that if you are not able to help with fundraising for the year end celebration, please take the time to make a monetary donation. You can do so by emailing franceskelseydrygrad@gmail.com Please help us get the word out about our fundraisers through word of mouth and sharing your social media. Our meetings are held via Zoom, the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm and the link is emailed out the day before. If you would like to be added to our email list, please contact Yvonne Van Ryk @ yvanryk@gmail.com Please check out our Facebook page as well: Parents of 2021 Kelsey Grad Class as it will be updated regularly. We encourage you to participate in our meetings and fundraisers as many hands make light work!

**DRY GRAD**

Please join us at our next meeting on **Wednesday, December 16** at 6:30 pm via Zoom. For more information contact Shannon at 250 929-7271 or at [info@bearcovecottages.ca](mailto:info@bearcovecottages.ca)

## Frances Kelsey Parents Advisory Council



By Tanya Friese, FKSS PAC Chair

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

**FKPAC**

Please join us at our next meeting on **Tuesday, January 19** at 7:00 pm via Zoom. For more information contact Tanya at [tanyarick@shaw.ca](mailto:tanyarick@shaw.ca)

over 900 students, yet most of the decisions made by the PAC are voted on by only a handful of parents. Join our meetings virtually 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. There will be **NO MEETING IN DECEMBER**. Our next meeting, **which will include our AGM**, will be held via Zoom on **Tuesday, January 19, 2021** at 7:00 pm.

## 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. Any notice of official closings due to weather will be posted to the @CowichanSchools Facebook and Twitter accounts. Juice FM (89.7 FM), CBC Radio (90.5 FM), CFAX (1070 AM), The Zone (91.3 FM) The Q! (100.3 FM), CTV Vancouver Island, CHEK

News, and Global BC will all be informed. The school district website ([www.sd79.bc.ca](http://www.sd79.bc.ca)) will also be updated with a banner informing of the closure.

**When road conditions are poor, some of the less maintained and more dangerous roads (i.e. winding, steep) may be determined unsafe to drive. We recommend that parents/ guardians on these roads make a plan now with the Transportation Manager (250-748-1066 ext. 275) for a safer pick-up and drop-off location.** If buses are running more than fifteen minutes late, drivers will radio in to notify the Transportation Department. You can also sign up to get Transportation Department updates on Twitter ([@TransportSD79](https://twitter.com/TransportSD79)). In all cases, the safety of students will be the first priority.

## Governor General's Award

We are proud to announce that the recipient of the 2019-2020 Governor General's Academic Medal is Celeste Borjeau. The Academic Medal recognizes outstanding academic achievement and is awarded annually to the student graduating with the highest average. Celeste is in her first year at McGill University in Montreal taking physics, biology, calculus, linear algebra and geography, with the intention of graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Geography. Congratulations, Celeste!



Photo by Lifetouch Canada

## Career Corner

**By Julie Faye Parker, Vice Principal and Careers Support Administrator**

Another great month in the Career Center at Kelsey! Careers is a busy place with the addition of Mr. Dan Norman, a District Careers teacher, who will be school-based on Friday mornings here. Mr. Norman is a great resource on the topics of trades and training and is meeting with students both in and out of classes. Questions about finding work as a student? Email [fksscayerssecretary@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:fksscayerssecretary@sd79.bc.ca). Interested in trades programs or working in a trade? Email [dnorman@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:dnorman@sd79.bc.ca). Questions about getting credit for Work Experience or applying for academic dual credit? Book an appointment with Ms. Parker in the Career Center.

By graduation, all students require 30 hours of work experience as a component of their graduation program which can start in Grade 10. You can count volunteer hours as well as paid work. Don't leave it too late - check out our local job board in Careers, or take a look at our web page and connect with the many career and job resources out there. One place to find jobs locally is through the job board search engine at WorkBC.ca.

### Moved? New Phone number?

It is important, for absence reporting and in case of an emergency, that we have updated and correct contact information for parents/guardians and emergency contacts. If you have changed your address, or are planning a move, please do not forget to inform the school. An address change form is available from Ms. Wheeler in the counselling office, and a student can simply request this form, which is returned to Ms. Wheeler. You can also inform us via email at [fksscounsellingsecretary@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:fksscounsellingsecretary@sd79.bc.ca) with any changes. Please include proof of residence verifying your new address.

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