

# THE WHALE'S TALE

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



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School Facebook page:

Frances Kelsey Secondary  
School – FKSS

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## Hello FKSS Community

I have some exciting news to share: I have been offered the District Principal position at International Education starting February 1<sup>st</sup>. It is bittersweet as I have enjoyed being at FKSS, but I am quite excited for this new role. I want to send a huge thank you to everyone for making me feel so welcome and comfortable. I truly feel that I have been a part of the Frances Kelsey community for a long time.

Best wishes,  
Alison Keple

## New Staff

We are happy to welcome Mr. Mitch Knippelberg who is acting as a Resource Teacher/Learning Assistance Teacher until Ms. Race's return after Spring Break.

## Scholarships and Bursaries

By Alison Keple, Vice-Principal

Our local scholarships are available on our website. Local scholarships are only open to FKSS Grade 12 graduates (June, 2021). **We have over \$120,000 available and most of the awards are bursaries accessible to ALL students.** All local scholarships can be found by going to [fkss.sd79.bc.ca](http://fkss.sd79.bc.ca). Students are encouraged to peruse the local scholarships soon to see which ones they wish to apply for. Also of note, we have been working with the Grade 12's on non-local scholarships that are open to all students in British Columbia. Strong academic resumes are an important part of an applicant's package; therefore students who would like help with writing their academic resumes, or who would like them reviewed, should see me as soon as possible. As well, Mrs. Brinkman often helps students with academic resumes.

We will hold information sessions in Grade 12 classes later this month and



## Kelsey Calendar

### 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

### Tuesday, February 23

P.A.R.T.Y. Program

### Monday, March 1

Whale's Tale newsletter issued

### Friday, March 12

Last day of classes

### March 15 – 26

Spring Break and District Closure

there will be a parent information evening regarding scholarships and bursaries with Ms. Keple via Zoom in January. Date TBA.

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

- Terry Fox Humanitarian Award Program
- Beedie Luminaries Scholarships
- Pathway to Teacher Education Scholarship
- BC Excellence Scholarship



**Websites of interest:**

[www.scholarshipscanada.com](http://www.scholarshipscanada.com); [www.schoolfinder.com](http://www.schoolfinder.com); [www.bcscholarships.ca](http://www.bcscholarships.ca);  
[www.studentaidbc.ca](http://www.studentaidbc.ca)

## Dry Grad

**By Yvonne Van Ryk, Dry Grad Secretary**

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



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! Please email Michelle [mkennes@shaw.ca](mailto:mkennes@shaw.ca) if you wish to purchase some.

You can help donate, simply by using a Smile Card when you shop at Thrifty Foods. They will donate back to us 5% of every dollar loaded on to a Smile Card. It's super easy! Please contact Sheryl [theraymonds@shaw.ca](mailto: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.

Watch for exciting news about an upcoming raffle, chicken sales, a firewood sale and bottle drive. 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, to please take the time to make a monetary donation. You can do so by emailing: [franceskelseydrygrad@gmail.com](mailto:franceskelseydrygrad@gmail.com). Please help us get the word out about our fundraisers through word of mouth and sharing on your social media.

Our meetings are held via Zoom on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 [yvanryk@gmail.com](mailto:yvanryk@gmail.com). Please check our Facebook page as well: "Parents of 2021 Kelsey Grad Class" as we update it regularly. We encourage you to participate in our meetings and fundraisers as many hands make light work! Next Zoom meeting is **Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 pm.

**DRY GRAD**

Please join us at our next meeting on **Wednesday, January 20** 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

Our mission statement: “The Frances Kelsey Parent Advisory Council (FKSSPAC) is dedicated to promoting quality education for all students by working to enhance communication and by promoting the positive involvement of parents and other community members.” Come on out and help us to do just that at our next meeting, which will include our AGM, on **Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 pm via Zoom. The link to join the meeting will be sent out to all parents a few days before the meeting.

## 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)

Truly, it’s not nearly as boring as it sounds!

## 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). In all cases, the safety of students will be the first priority.

## Career Corner

By Julie Faye Parker, Vice Principal and Careers Support Administrator

We have a wonderful relationship with our post-secondary institutions, through what is called the South Island Partnership (SIP).

The purpose of this umbrella program is to bridge student coursework into their post-secondary and career aspirations. This is funded by districts and the Ministry of Education.

A student interested in trades, for example, who has completed their mandatory grad requirements (but still needs electives to graduate) can apply to enroll in a trade certificate program for their Grade 12 year. Trades range from horticulture, woodwork, to automotive - and many more. Start dates vary depending on the program. Unfortunately, due to ministry funding changes with the apprenticeship programs, financing cannot occur after a student has met graduation requirements. So a student interested in a certificate program, like hairdressing, needs to have completed English 12 (the program pre-req) before the start up

of the program. Often the start for certificate programs like Health Care Assistant or hairdressing is in September. So with the changes, it does require some planning ahead!

There are also academic courses, such as English 100 and Psychology 100 courses, that a student in Grade 12 can complete prior to graduation. Many of these begin mid-year and are easier to register in. The only rules are that the student must be in Grade 12 to participate, and the course times must work with their study and school schedule. Most of these academic courses are pretty easy-access as they are online. Many of these more academic dual credit post-secondary courses require English 12 to be completed, so students interested in dual credit should be planning while in Grade 11. But tuition is free while you are in Grade 12, and you get credit for grad and the post secondary credits as well!

If you are in Grade 10, 11, or 12, and interested in any of this, come see your friendly folk in the FKSS Career Center. And if you are currently working, come see us to pick up some extra credit as a WEX 12 course. It is a fun way to get your credits!

## Attention, Grads and Parents

Kelsey students are invited to join the CUE BC Winter Edition to connect with nearly 50 Canadian Universities all in one place at [cuebc.org](http://cuebc.org) on Wednesday, January 20 and Thursday, January 21 from 4:00-7:00 pm. Cost is free but registration is required through [cuebc.org](http://cuebc.org)



### For Parents & Caregivers of Teens From Discovery Youth & Family Substance Use Services



Navigating the teen years is challenging. **We offer free support, consultation and counselling to parents, caregivers and/or youth involved with drugs and alcohol.** Discovery provides:

- Support and counselling to parents/caregivers of teenagers who are using/experimenting with drugs and alcohol.
- Counselling to teenagers ages 13-19.
- Support and counselling to parents and/or caregivers who are using drugs and alcohol.
- Groups and workshops for parents and caregivers of teens using drugs and alcohol.
- Referrals to youth detox, treatment centers & stabilization programs, as needed.

**For further information, please call 250-737-2029**

## Celebrating Student Success

Congratulations to Grade 10 student, Kyra Richardson (left), who won \$25 by placing third in the Royal Canadian Legion Remembrance Day Literary Contest in the Senior Poem category. Congratulations are also extended to Grade 12 Jayda Lauzon (right), Rotary Student of the Month for December.



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