

# 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

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

**March 1, 2021**

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## What's Been Happening at Kelsey?

As the mornings and afternoons are busy times of day, we would appreciate it if parents could please drop off or pick up their students without taking up a parking spot, as staff members and buses are also trying to arrive and park or leave the school lot. Whenever possible, please drop off or pick up in the lower lot or closer to the main road.

In September, 2020, the School District changed its software program for cataloging and circulating library and textbooks. Unfortunately, the changeover of the library data was unsuccessful, which resulted in Ms. Baker, our Teacher-Librarian, and Mrs. Bonner, our Library Clerk, having to re-inventory most of the library collection – almost 10,000 items! As a result, the library has been closed for circulation until recently. Ms. Baker and Mrs. Bonner are now busy processing new books and they are both very excited about promoting reading, research and literacy again. Watch for the grand opening!

Initiated by Grade 12 student Jayda Lauzon and sponsored by Ms. Wright, the Senior Peer Counselling Club meets every Thursday at lunch in the library and focuses on communication and connecting skills, as well as self-care and mental health. The group has been learning about healthy relationships and planning workshops to deliver to Grade 8 classes. There will be volunteering and community service opportunities, including Compassion Week and Youth Action Day.

To encourage school spirit, Student Parliament recently promoted Teacher Tuesday where students dressed as their Block A teacher to win prizes such as Bru-Go's gift cards and a pizza party. For a Valentine's fundraiser, they sold Candy Grams where students could send a message and a sweet treat to a friend. They successfully encouraged Mr. Rowan to bring back Music Trivia where he plays snippets of three songs over the P.A. system. Advisor groups which correctly identify the artists and the names of the songs are entered into a draw to win a prize. Sponsored by Ms. Baker and Mr. J. Hart, this group is presently planning events for Compassion Week which will include campaigning against racism and



## *Kelsey Calendar*

**Monday, March 1** – Whale's Tale newsletter issued

**Wednesday, March 3**

Band Clinic with Adjudicator  
11:45 am – Student Parliament meeting

**Tuesday, March 9**

11:45 am – Grad Council meeting

**Wednesday, March 10**

11:45 am – Student Parliament meeting

**March 15 – 26** – Spring Break and District Closure

**Wednesday, March 17**

6:30 pm – Dry Grad Zoom Meeting

**Monday, March 29** – Classes resume

**Wednesday, March 31**

11:45 am – Student Parliament meeting

**Friday, April 2** – Good Friday

**Monday, April 5** – Easter Monday

**Tuesday, April 6**

11:45 am – Grad Council meeting

**Wednesday, April 7**

11:45 am – Student Parliament meeting

**April 12 – 16**

Numeracy 10, Literacy 10  
Assessment Window

**Wednesday, April 14**

11:45 am – Student Parliament meeting

**Friday, April 16** - 2:15 pm – Early Dismissal

**Monday, April 19** – Professional Development Day

**Wednesday, April 21**

11:45 – Student Parliament meeting

hate; focusing on student and community involvement; and environmental awareness. Look for photos of these fun events in your yearbook which can still be pre-ordered on-line.

Students in Ms. Hoffman's Applied Design, Skills and Technology 8 classes have been diving deep into the Design Thinking Model – a 21st-century approach to creating innovative solutions to real-world problems. In these projects, students created cardboard model prototypes and included a detailed exploration of the technology that could make these design solutions possible. There were quite a few groups that were concerned about pollution in our world. Their solutions included complex filtration systems for factory smokestacks, and filtering plastic waste out of the ocean using creative robotic filtration systems. One group was passionate about providing more access to education, and their solution was to come up with a handheld holographic teacher device. This first round of projects is just wrapping up and students are excited to learn some skills in circuitry, coding, and robotics that can apply to their next round of design projects at the end of the quarter.

The International Program and Ms. Boudreau have welcomed 15 new students in quarter three. They have come from Germany, Austria, Italy, Spain, Belgium, China, and Japan! After two weeks in quarantine in Lake Cowichan, they are now attending classes here. We know they will be warmly welcomed by everyone. In the international classroom, students are learning the elements of short stories, reading, speaking, listening, and writing each day. They are fully immersed in the English-speaking environment.

Grade 9 students in Mr. Tattam's social studies class have been learning about the history of Canada. Critical events from the past have shaped political borders, culture, and technology in the present day. Evidence and historical significance are studied to encourage critical thinking about the world around them. They are also looking at Earth's population of one billion people in 1804 through to the industrial revolution in Europe and North America. They are trying to imagine what life was like without all the modern conveniences humans have today!

With instruction by Mr. Warren Mearns, a journeyman carpenter, three Indigenous students from Frances Kelsey are planning, designing and building a shelter in one of our courtyards. The shelter will provide cover over one of our picnic tables and will be a permanent structure with metal roofing. It is designed with post and beam construction and will have a shed style roof, so will give protection for outdoor activity projects. The group is looking for ideas for artistic designs for the three bare walls so this is an opportunity for people to give input. Thanks to the Indigenous Education department for funding this practical project that benefits us all.

Field work is important in every business venture and is often the more interesting part of the job. Students on the graduation program can sign up for Outdoor Education which, over the three years, includes credit for PE 10-12, Social Studies 11, Geography 12, and Urban Studies 12. It is a partnership program with the CVRD where students do classwork with Mr. Groicher, Mr. J. Hart, Ms. Roach or Mr. Niessen for half the time, and then head out to Polara Hill to work on cutting and maintaining community trails and look at planning the future of our regional district. They learn skills with tools, GPS, plant identification, physical exercise, community planning, and much more.

From Mr. Van Vliet: My introduction to – and inclusion in – the Kelsey family has been amazing. I'm not saying the math department is the best department in the school, as that would be unfair and unfounded, but Team Abbott has something special going on! I'm feeling particularly blessed to be teaching math to this term's group of Grade 9's, as both classes are filled with some remarkable young people. This isn't to say they don't struggle against the workload, but strangely, we humans seem to be happiest when we suffer in some way in just the right amounts. Comfort, though preferable in the short term, leads us away from our best selves, and so, to that end, we must continue to strive!

# Scholarships and Bursaries

By Darren Hart, Vice-Principal

A reminder for our students planning to attend post-secondary institutions to be aware of specific deadlines and requirements for those applications. As many of these are on-going, it is up to individual student applicants to be aware of specific post-secondary requirements and deadlines. The best way to find this information is to look at the individual institution website, for example:



VIU.ca under future students

UVic under admissions

If you have any questions, please see your counsellor as soon as possible.

Mr. Rowan and Ms. Baker visited classes in early December explaining the scholarship and bursary application process. Opportunities were also made available to Grade 12 students for resume and scholarship application help in early to mid-February. Students at Frances Kelsey have access to approximately \$100,000 in local scholarships and bursaries offered from our community. One of the messages delivered to students, is that all Grade 12's should apply for as many of the bursaries and scholarships that they are eligible for, as they are not necessarily based on grades but rather a variety of factors. For more information, please refer to <https://fkss.sd79.bc.ca> Detailed scholarship and bursary information can be found under the "Graduation" tab. **The deadline for these is Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup> (the day before the start of Spring Break). Application packages will not be accepted after the 12<sup>th</sup>.**

Some Grade 12 students will also be doing District Scholarship Presentations in early May. Due to the current public health guidelines, it will again be done digitally this year. We are setting a deadline for video submissions of Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. More information will be forthcoming to students following Spring Break and can also be found at <http://sd79.bc.ca/students/scholarships/districtauthority-scholarship/>

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

- Coastal Community Credit Union
- Coast Capital Standing Tall Youth Education Award
- BC Transplant Society
- BC Public Guardian and Trustee Educational Assistance Fund Bursary
- Manufacturing Safety Alliance of BC/Daneen Skilling Scholarship
- Manufacturing Safety Alliance of BC/Julie Cole Bursary
- Ugglä Family Scholarship

## Dry Grad

By Yvonne Van Ryk, Dry Grad Secretary

Please help us get the word out about our fundraisers through word of mouth and sharing your social media. Thank you so much! We have Panago vouchers available for ONLY \$12 each. Please email [mkennes@shaw.ca](mailto:mkennes@shaw.ca) if you wish to purchase some. Simply by using a Thrifty Smile Card, Thrifty Foods will donate back 5%. Please contact Sheryl Raymond



[theraymonds@shaw.ca](mailto:theraymonds@shaw.ca). Country Grocer is also a great supporter of our community and will donate 1% of the total of all receipts we bring them, so save your tapes and deliver them to the box at the office. Support local farmers and the 2021 Grad class and fill your freezer with delicious farm fresh Island Poultry Chicken. Order deadline is March 4<sup>th</sup>. Just in time for Easter, we've partnered with Purdys Chocolatier. To support us by purchasing some very sweet Easter gifts for friends, family and yourself, please click the link: <https://fundraising.purdys.com/1310505-82472> Looking for some delicious dinner options? Let Epicure help you with that. Their awesome weeknight dinner collection is \$25 and is a great fundraiser for our grads. Please email Ben at [benshell@shaw.ca](mailto:benshell@shaw.ca). Genoa Laser Therapy has home options at affordable prices and will donate a portion of all sales to the Grads. Please check them out at <https://www.genoalasertherapy.com/> for drug free pain relief. Heal your body with light while supporting our grads and this local business. Treat yourself to some quality products while supporting our grads – one of our grad parents is donating the proceeds from the sales of a special campaign. Check out the following website: <https://paulasnails.gelmoment.com>

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 by emailing [franceskelseydrygrad@gmail.com](mailto:franceskelseydrygrad@gmail.com)

Our meetings are held via Zoom, 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 me at [yvanryk@gmail.com](mailto:yvanryk@gmail.com) Please check out 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, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

#### **DRY GRAD**

Please join us at our next meeting on **Wednesday, March 17** at 6:30 pm via Zoom. For more information contact Shannon at 250 929-7271 or [info@bearcovecottages.ca](mailto:info@bearcovecottages.ca)

## **Career Corner**

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

Spring Break is around the corner. Don't miss gaining valuable work experience credit...if you are working, you can sign up for a session with Ms. Parker that gets you started on collecting WEX12 credit. This is a Grade 12 level course that counts toward grad - while you are working anyway. See Ms. Parker and join the hundreds of students currently collecting credit (homework free).

We are looking for volunteer gardeners and horticulturists interested in maintenance and planting some of the boxes in our community garden over the holiday break. Call and speak to Ms. Parker if you can help. 250 743-6916 ext 227.

**Frances Kelsey Parents Advisory Council** There will be no PAC meeting this month due to Spring Break. We look forward to connecting again in April!

### **Learning Through Loss Support Group for Youth 13-15 Years**

**Wednesday, April 14 – June 9 from 5:00-6:30 pm virtually via Zoom**

A virtual 8 week support group for youth experiencing grief, loss or bereavement including illness, abuse, divorce, family separation, death or loss of a family member or friend. For further information, contact [info@learningthroughloss.org](mailto:info@learningthroughloss.org) or 250 413-3114.

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