

# THE WHALE'S TALE

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



## CONTACT US:

250 743-6916

fkss.sd79.bc.ca

**School Facebook page:**

Frances Kelsey Secondary  
School – FKSS

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

May 3, 2021

Vol. 26/No. 7

## What's Been Happening at Kelsey?

Feedback from students has told us that there is inadequate outdoor seating, which was especially evident during the stretch of nice weather in April. Since we encourage students to take their breaks and lunch hours outside, especially in these COVID times, seating is at a premium. Thanks to Mr. Pimenta's Grade 10, 11 and 12 shop classes, three square benches were constructed and installed in front of the school, with our students digging the holes to sink the pier blocks. These are prototypes and a modified style will be built by the Grade 8 students in quarter four.

Despite these challenging times, band continues at Kelsey. Since early in quarter one, the Grade 9-12 Concert Band has been rehearsing socially distanced before school, with Band 8 students meeting after school. In the absence of performances and field trips, these musicians meet mostly because they enjoy playing their instruments and exploring a variety of musical styles with friends. Unfortunately, in-person music festivals are cancelled this year. Instead, arrangements were made to have a music festival adjudicator/clinician come work with the concert band in March. It was an exciting time working with Mr. Scott MacInnes as the band explored technical and artistic aspects of band performance. His teaching, playing, and insights into musicianship were well received by our students.

Mrs. Carmichael's Social Studies 10 took full advantage of the fact that they were able to be together in class for current events presentations, simulation games, graphic projects such as timelines, and even created a class World War II newspaper. Of course, the current situation meant that some students were forced to stay at home on some days, and so every video, worksheet, and activity was posted in a class notebook accessed through Teams. Some students handed in their work by working directly in their electronic notebook, even when they were in class. Students also had quizzes and assignments that they could complete and self-score. Since Mrs. Carmichael had been teaching English 8 - 10 online in quarter two, it gave the class the best of both worlds. Students also appreciated that time was given to complete all work in class, so the



## *Kelsey Calendar*

**Monday, May 3**

Whale's Tale newsletter issued

**Wednesday, May 5**

Report Cards issued

District Scholarship applications due

**Friday, May 7**

Non-Instructional Day/Pro-D Day

**Tuesday, May 11**

7:00 pm – PAC Zoom meeting

**Sunday, May 16**

FKSS Dry Grad Bottle Drive

**Wednesday, May 19**

2:15 pm – Early Dismissal (PLC)

6:30 pm – Dry Grad Zoom Meeting

**Monday, May 24**

Victoria Day

**Monday, June 7**

Whale's Tale newsletter issued

**Wednesday, June 9**

Grade 8-11 Awards distributed during  
class time

**June 12 & 13**

Red Carpet Event at Cowichan  
Exhibition Grounds (further  
information to come)

**June 15 – 17**

Graduation ceremonies at FKSS  
(further information to come)

**Friday, June 18**

Last day of classes

**Monday, June 21**

"I" Day

**June 22 & 23**

Non-Instructional Day

**Thursday, June 24**

Final Report Cards issued

3:15 pm – buses leave

**Friday, June 25**

Administrative Day

students who attended regularly often didn't have much homework, if any. This "blended" approach of doing more work in class time, but having lots of ways to learn rather than a single lesson on one day, is probably a sign of the way things will be in our post-COVID world.

When Grade 11 student, Meghan Lewthwaite, brought her idea of creating a garden project for Earth Week to Student Parliament, she immediately had their support. As a Member of Parliament and Minister of Finance, Meghan co-ordinated with the Administration; received funding from Student Parliament to buy plants and seeds; then invited interested teachers to register their classes to adopt a raised bed. The plants and seeds were selected specifically to attract bees and pollinators. Many hands made light work and we will soon enjoy a variety of colourful flowers which will enhance the back of the school grounds. This project provided practical experience; raised sustainable gardening awareness; and made use of an unused space, all while being involved in something that was fun!

In Mr. Owen's English 9 class, students completed a novel study on Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games*. As part of their study, the students wrote an essay on how bread is used as a symbol in the novel. Next, they completed a unit on journalism and non-fiction writing that included a project where the students wrote their own pieces modeled on examples of professional journalism that they researched.

Quarter three was a fun, engaging experience for Ms. Chester's ADST9 computer course, creating projects and extending their learning. Students engaged in a variety of concepts such as new technology, cryptography, cybersecurity, Photoshop and iMovie Trailers, to name a few. As well, several programming languages were introduced: Scratch, Swift (for app development), CoBlocks (for AR/VR - virtual reality), and JavaScript (for robotics). Nearing the end of the quarter, Ms. Chester's students would be seen in the lab wearing VR goggles to experience the virtual worlds they created as well as having fun attempting to complete the challenging mazes classmates created! Much fun was also had with the Ollie Robots. With the beautiful weather, her students expanded their learning from the classroom walls to the outdoors, challenging classmates along the sidewalks and programming the Ollies using the block coding and JavaScript text. The enthusiasm, energy and laughter was brilliant learning in action!

With a recent move into the more spacious room 126, the Resource Department has been able to expand its reach to our students, providing one-on-one and shared help for all. For those who may not have known, the room is a collaborative space where students can come with the permission of their classroom teacher to work in a quiet atmosphere and seek out additional assistance with their studies. Mr. Dhami, Mr. Groicher, Mr. Reed, and Ms. Race (formerly Mr. Knippelberg) have their desks set up in the room, so at all times of the day you will find at least one of them present, with many Educational Assistants around to help as well. If your child or student needs an alternate space to work, encourage them to come check it out. Our spaced-out desks allow for safe, COVID-friendly, socially distanced studying.

In Ms. Grant's visual arts classes, students explored many different mediums and learned all about the elements and principles of art. These crafty students used their knowledge to create a final multi-media collage project to convey who they are as artists and individuals. They also designed cartoon heroes and villains that were truly unique and full of humour. Frances Kelsey has very creative and imaginative students.

We have recently re-initiated the Orca program. Staff can submit an Orca ticket to the office with the name of a student who has done something noteworthy or has been noticed being helpful. Eight Orca tickets are drawn every week for a free slice of pizza on Fridays. Yum!

"Scent-Awareness" reminder: if you are bringing in personal use hand sanitizers, a reminder: some people do have allergies to perfumed products. Let's all be 'scent considerate' and only use products that do not have fragrance. Thanks so much!

## New Staff

We are pleased to welcome Ms. Jenn Pryor (Gardening) and Ms. Susanna Longridge (English 9) to the Kelsey teaching staff for quarter four. Thank you to Mr. Mitch Knippelberg, Ms. Kathryn McCormick, Mr. Gregory Owen and Mr. Bill Watt for their great work with us in quarter three.

## Scholarships and Bursaries

By **Darren Hart, Vice-Principal**

Thank you to our many bursary and scholarship donors and good luck to all of our students who have applied for this year's local awards. Unlike in years past, we will not be holding our regular awards evening. We will notify individual students who win awards and ask them to reach out and thank the donors. ***If your son or daughter receives notification that he/she has won any other scholarship or bursary*** (post secondary entrance scholarship, non-local scholarship or bursary, or any scholarship or bursary he/she may have applied for independently of the school), please advise Mrs. Bonner so that these winners may also be recognized.



Graduating students also have the opportunity to make and submit a video presentation for a District Scholarship. The submission deadline for this is Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Application information and submission instructions have been made available to students. Further information can be found at <https://fkss.sd79.bc.ca/district-79-scholarships/> Questions should be directed to Mr. D. Hart.

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

- BC Transplant Society Scholarship
- BC Government & Service Employees' Union (BCGEU) Scholarship
- Pacific Leaders Scholarship
- BC Association of Healthcare Auxiliaries' Bursary Program
- Clean Energy BC Scholarship
- Paper Excellence Métis Scholarship Program

## Dry Grad



Please join us at our next meeting on **Wednesday, May 19** 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**

A wonderful month for Careers, with over 65 students completing work experience credits this quarter. Students completed seminars with Ms. Parker and then applied their skills in various workplaces in our

community. These hard-working students each completed 90 hours, and with a short final unit, gained four credits of the Grade 12 level course called WEX 12. If a student is interested in getting credit for volunteer or paid employment, please drop by the Career Center to register for this dual credit program. A great site for any person looking for work or an apprenticeship is Workbc.ca. Another great resource and connection for all our community is <https://www.workbc.ca/Training-Education/Trades-Training.aspx>

On the transitions front, more than 80 of our Grade 12's are already registered for post secondary at Vancouver Island University, with others registered at Camosun and the University of Victoria. Grade 12's at Frances Kelsey are future-focused and have spent some time exploring and planning what is next on their horizon. While there are so many challenges with the current pandemic and its impact on our learning institutions, what I am noticing is the increase in opportunities available via on-line learning or blended learning with our colleges and universities.

### **Dual Credit in Trades**

Deadlines are moving up. If you are in Grade 11 this year and want to enter a trade program next spring, we need to get you registered ASAP. Registration is open NOW for dual credit trades but closes before the end of September. Whether carpentry, HVAC, welding or automotive - if you are interested in a trade, or if you already have work with a tradesperson - don't miss out. Register with Careers ASAP.

### **Frances Kelsey Community Garden Update**

The community garden is a work of collaboration between departments, students and parent groups. Last month, we added the roof to the Thunderbird Pavillion. This project is a collaboration with the Malahat Nation, PAC, and the design genius of Kinsol Timber. Our woodworking groups, as well as our school board, have all been a support in the Pavillion's development. It is an important feature to reflect Indigenous ways of knowing. The roof of the Thunderbird Pavillion is shaped to reflect a great eagle, sheltering the garden's meeting place from overhead with its outspread wings.

Our woodwork teacher has spearheaded the upfresh of our garden benches and has added a greenhouse, which is getting great use! This month, our horticulture course is also gearing up. It is a delight to see our culinary, science and woodwork classes, Student Parliament, and the Garden Club doing work with the earth - weeding, planting, and coordinating what we will be growing and using. The irrigation system keeps our tender shoots growing, but people power is key!

We are always looking for summer volunteers to steward and harvest, so if you live in our community and would like to take part in the summer volunteer work, contact Julie Faye Parker, Vice Principal, at 250-743-6916.

Tuesday, May 18 – 6:00-7:00 pm – Saanich Police Information Session for students and families. Learn about Saanich Police's departments and sections; the process towards a career in policing; and ways to begin preparing yourself for this career pathway. Hear from recruitment officers, new recruits, and have your questions answered.

## **District Strategic Plan**

**By Jeff Rowan, Principal**

School goal planning involves everyone, and we are beginning a discussion to plan for a new cycle for next year. Our District Strategic Plan outlines four key areas to guide us as we look to the future: a Culture of Care, Learning, Indigenous Ways of Knowing, and Future-focus. Visit the district's website for the full document, which was the result of broad input over the last two years from our communities and

schools. <https://sd79.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/FINAL-5-x-7-Cowichan-Valley-School-District-Strat-Plan-2020-241-1.pdf>

## Frances Kelsey Parents Advisory Council

The next PAC meeting will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Please join us if can. For further information, please contact Tanya at [tanyarick@shaw.ca](mailto:tanyarick@shaw.ca)

### Talking with Teens About Vaping

(from Health Canada Tip Sheet)

**Vaping is not harmless.** It can increase your exposure to harmful chemicals and lead to nicotine addiction. The long-term consequences of vaping are unknown. It's rare, but defective vaping products (especially batteries) may catch fire or explode, leading to burns and injuries.



**Risks of nicotine:** nicotine is a highly addictive chemical. Youth are especially susceptible to its negative effects, as it can alter their brain development and can affect memory and concentration. Youth may become dependent on nicotine more rapidly than adults. Some vaping liquids have levels of nicotine similar to or higher than that of a typical cigarette. Quitting vaping can be challenging once a teen has developed an addiction to nicotine. Nicotine withdrawal symptoms can be unpleasant. Even if a vaping product does not contain nicotine, there is still a risk of being exposed to other harmful chemicals. *Vaping nicotine can alter teen brain development.*

**Vaping liquids:** the ingredients typically found in vaping liquids include glycerol, flavours, propylene glycol and varying levels of nicotine. The long-term safety of inhaling these substances in vaping products is unknown and continues to be assessed. There is no burning during vaping; instead, the liquid is heated. This process can cause reactions and create new chemicals, such as formaldehyde. Some contaminants, such as metals, might also get into the vaping products and then into the aerosol.

**Did you know:** data from a recent Health Canada survey showed that 23% of students in Grades 7-12 have tried an electronic cigarette; vaping devices may also be used for other substances such as cannabis; the *Tobacco and Vaping Products Act* prohibits vaping products to be sold or given to anyone under the age of 18. For further information: [Canada.ca/vaping-info](http://Canada.ca/vaping-info)



### Island Health Youth Week

You're invited to join Discovery's Youth and Family Substance Use Services online workshops over Zoom to play games, learn about substance use and ask questions. There is no charge for these programs.

**May 3** – 5:00-6:00 pm – Beliefs and Values Workshop

**May 4** – 5:00-6:00 pm – Continuum of Substance Use and Protective & Risk Factors Workshop

**May 5** – 5:00-6:00 pm – Safer Party Planning Workshop

**May 6** – 6:60-8:00 pm – The Drug Talk, a Workshop for Parents

Please pre-register by calling or texting 250-710-0004 or emailing [S01125@viha.ca](mailto:S01125@viha.ca)

*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.