

# THE WHALE'S TALE

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



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**June 7, 2021**

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## Goodbyes and Hellos

**By Jeff Rowan, Principal**

The end of the school year is fast approaching. It is always a time of mixed emotion as we feel both the excitement for our Grade 12 students as they leave high school and enter the next phase of their lives, yet know we will also miss them. The same feeling goes out to all of the parents who have been with Frances Kelsey for a number of years, often with more than one child who has gone through the school. If this is your last child to be in the school system, you are also graduating from Frances Kelsey and we wish you the best!

Special thanks to all of the parents who have worked to make graduation memorable for the students, be that via the graduation banquet or the dry grad events. Our PAC has also been a wonderful, supportive group of people with which to discuss school plans and issues, so thanks to all of you who have been on our PAC.

We have also had a very active group of students who have worked hard to make Frances Kelsey a better place. Special thanks to our Student Parliament and Graduation Committee students. Your spirit and enthusiasm have been appreciated.

The dedicated, skilled staff at Frances Kelsey has also been a pleasure to work with. Our teachers are going the extra mile to make sure the students are successful, both academically and personally. The Kelsey educational assistants, secretaries and custodians work hard to make the school a better place for our kids. Thank you to all staff for your work this year.

We optimistically prepare for and look forward to meeting the students who will be with us as new Grade 8's next year. From all of us at Kelsey, best wishes and we are sure the end of the year will go well...as will your summer!



## *Kelsey Calendar*

### **Monday, June 7**

Whale's Tale newsletter issued

### **Tuesday, June 8**

7:00 pm – PAC Zoom meeting

### **Wednesday, June 9**

Grade 8-11 Awards distributed during class time

11:45 – Student Parliament Meeting

### **Friday, June 11**

Year end celebration sponsored by Parliament

### **June 12 & 13**

Dry Grad Parents' Red Carpet Event at Cowichan Exhibition Grounds

### **Monday, June 14**

2:00-3:00 pm – Caps, gowns, yearbooks distributed to Grade 12's currently in classes at FKSS

### **Tuesday, June 15**

9:30-11:30 am – Group Cap and Gown Graduation for students currently in classes at FKSS

1:00-3:00 pm – Caps, gowns, yearbooks distributed to Grade 12's not currently in classes at FKSS, followed by Cap and Gown Graduation for students not currently in classes at FKSS

### **June 16 & 17**

9:30-2:30 – Cap and Gown individual drive up event for grads and families

### **Friday, June 18**

Last day of classes

Yearbooks distributed to Grade 8 - 11

### **Monday, June 21**

"I" Day

### **June 22 & 23**

Non-Instructional Day

### **Thursday, June 24**

Final Report Cards issued

### **Friday, June 25**

Administrative Day

**Tuesday, Sept 7** – First day of classes

## What's Been Happening at Kelsey?

COVID regulations prevented us from including the Musical Theatre class in our Course Selection book, but we can now confirm that it will be offered next year. Musical Theatre is an acting, singing and dancing course where we put on a full-scale, Broadway-style musical production. Contact the Counselling Department as soon as possible if you wish to enroll in this course.

Two classes of Indigenous students have been working with Mr. Warren Mearns, our Indigenous Support Worker who is also a journeyman carpenter, on the creation of square benches made from composite material (recycled plastic) in one of our courtyards. Three have been completed and the fourth is almost done. Colourful umbrellas have been added, giving the feeling of brighter days to come! Two more benches in the same style will be built in the adjacent courtyard. The students who are constructing the benches had absolutely no experience in construction but now are quite comfortable using electric saws and other power tools. Funding was provided from a grant for outdoor learning spaces from the federal government.

In Mr. Niessen's Grade 10 social studies class, the students participated in creating a wall-sized map of Canada from about 70 sheets of poster paper. When the map was glued together and mounted on the classroom wall (80 square feet!), each student adopted a province or territory to research various statistics and information...about the 1970's! We explored change in population along with various other features, such as provincial and territorial animals, flowers, and flags. We now have a map displayed in the upper hallway with some interesting (if not up to date) visual information!

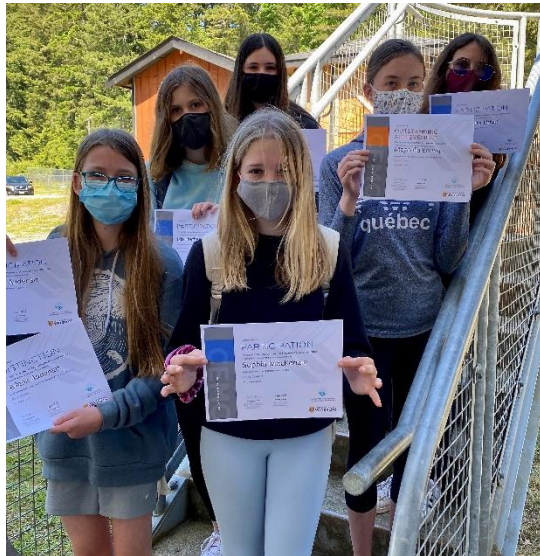
Last quarter, the seniors in Ms. Roberts' drama class produced some amazing car plays. The outgoing Grade 12's each created an audition package of monologues and songs which were all incredible. This quarter, the Grade 8's have just finished a lip sync project, they are presently involved in a big costuming project, and are about to start studying *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Murals are the focus for students in Mrs. Smith's art class and several are being painted around the school. As many of the artists are in Grade 12, the rush is on now to get the murals completed. Outside the music room is a musical-themed mural; inside the art room is one with an underwater ocean theme; outside the computer lab is a fantasy wall; and inside the music room is a mural of music through the years. There is also a two part sunflower mural on either side of the staircase beside Tech Ed, and a hummingbird mural outside on one of the garden sheds. The senior students have been busy making beautiful bags out of a donated leather couch, two side chairs and a loveseat! (Thanks, Mr. Kelly!) On that note, if you have any leather that you are willing to donate, it will be put to good use.

Students in Social Studies 10 in Mr. Cosford's and Mr. Hart's classes participated in a simulation of the committee stage of passing a bill through parliament. Bill C-99 Classroom Harmony Act, to regulate the use of social media in the interests of classroom peace and harmony, was debated vigorously by the students who took on the roles of government, opposition, clerks, and media. Students learned the real-world procedure of passing a bill and appeared to enjoy and have fun in the process. Students developed some appreciation for the challenges in the functions of our democracy, and reflected on their own roles in our government.

Ms. Longridge's English 9 class has been exploring ways of telling a story and their first project was to read and describe the Dragon Caves in the DART reading assessment. This led them to further 'explore caves' by watching two documentaries regarding the Thai cave rescue of a boys' soccer team trapped by monsoon rains. Students wrote from the perspective of one of the many people involved in the events, rescue, and support. This involved research, imagination, and the production of both a short story and an

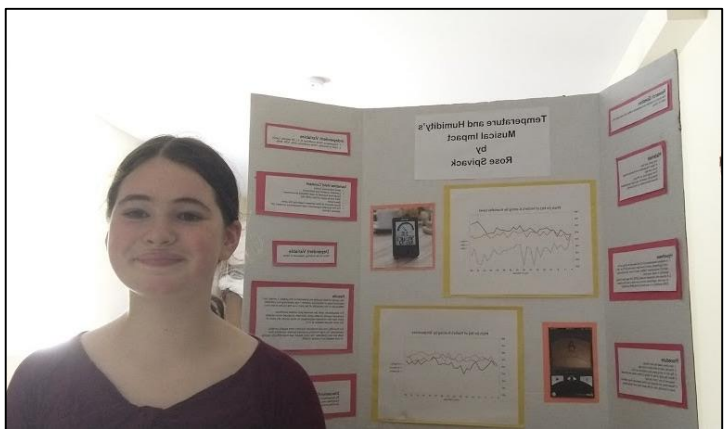
art piece that reflected the narrative. The descriptive language kids used and the immediacy they created in their narratives were skillful and effective.



Sponsored by Ms. Mayner, six Grade 8 students took part in the annual Gauss Math contest put on by the University of Waterloo. This is a national competition with entrants from all provinces and territories in Canada. These six students made a very good showing in the competition and can be proud of their efforts put into preparing for the competition.

Front to back (left to right): Aviana Audenart, Sophia MacKenzie, Isla Hughes, Maggie Brown, Rose Spivack, and Casey Littau.  
Photo by Ms. Mayner

Congratulations to Grade 8 student, Rose Spivack, who took part in the 2021 BC/Yukon Virtual Science Fair sponsored by the BC Science Fair Foundation. Rose was one of 280 students from Grades 4 through 12 who took part in this event. Her project explored the effects of temperature and humidity on a musical instrument (violin).  
Photo by Rose Spivack



## Goodbyes to Staff

A big 'Thank You' to Mr. Darren Hart who has capably filled the role of acting Vice-Principal since February, 2021. Mr. Hart has been active in planning for graduation and obtaining the outdoor learning spaces grant. We look forward to working with Ms. Venessa MacDowell in September when she joins our administration team.

Congratulations to Ms. Linda Dayton who has just announced her retirement. Ms. Dayton first joined Kelsey in 1994, teaching juniors at the Bonner campus until the school opened, and stayed at Kelsey until 1997. She returned in 2005 and has been with us ever since, teaching Active Health, Family Studies, Leadership 11 and all levels of French, which was her true passion. Over the years, Ms. Dayton co-sponsored the Red Cross Club, was a Staff Rep, and participated in the Canadian Coalition of Self-Directed Learners conferences. She says that she greatly appreciated our Advisory system and the opportunity to work individually with students in flex blocks. Ms. Dayton's strong work ethic and dedication to students will be missed. We wish her well in this new phase of her life.

Several teachers will not be returning in September and we send our best wishes and thanks to Ms. Stephanie Burr, Mrs. Margaret Carmichael, Ms. Amber Grant, Mrs. Wendy Grymaloski, Ms. Lindsay Janes, Ms. Susanna Longridge, Ms. Jenn Pryor, Mrs. Sarah Race, Ms. Soleil Switzer, Mr. Brian Tattam, Mr. Brendan Varro and Ms. Sara Woodruff.

# Scholarships and Bursaries

By Darren Hart, Vice-Principal

It was with heavy hearts that we had to cancel the annual Scholarship and Bursary Evening this year at Frances Kelsey. This event has always been a favourite at our school as it brings together students, staff and members of our community. Rather than an evening event, students were notified directly if they won a local scholarship or bursary. Nevertheless, we thank all donors for their continued generosity and encourage all recipients to do the same.



At the time of the writing of this article, we are aware of the following entrance scholarships and ‘non-local’ awards:

Sarah Carson	Vancouver Island University Chancellor’s Entrance Scholarship for Aboriginal Students	\$22,000
Paige Hart	University of Victoria Entrance Scholarship	\$3,000
Paige Henry	University of Victoria Entrance Scholarship	\$28,000
Ryan Hindle	University of Victoria Entrance Scholarship	\$24,000
Brandon Howe	Vancouver Island University Nora Fulton Gibson Entrance Award	\$2,000
Jayda Lauzon	University of Victoria President’s Academic Scholarship	\$3,500
Mackenzie Lee	University of Victoria Entrance Scholarship	\$1,000
Kaia Martin	University of Victoria Excellence Scholarship	\$24,000
Jacob Robilliard	University of Victoria Dean’s Engineering Award	2,500
	University of Victoria Entrance Award	\$3,500
Rian Tapp	Vancouver Island University Culinary Institute Entrance Award	\$1,000
Lillian Thomas-Brown	University of Victoria Entrance Scholarship	\$24,000
Zoe Williams-Tuomi	University of Victoria Entrance Scholarship	\$28,000
Frazer Willmott	University of Victoria Entrance Award	\$3,000
Joshua Wong	University of Victoria Entrance Award	\$2,000

If your son or daughter receives notification that he/she has won an entrance scholarship, non-local scholarship or bursary, or any scholarship or bursary applied for independently of the school, please advise Mrs. Bonner ([fksslibrary@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:fksslibrary@sd79.bc.ca)) so that these winners may be recognized.

A reminder that some other scholarships are still being offered through [www.scholarshipscanada.com](http://www.scholarshipscanada.com) For more information about any scholarship or bursary, please see Mr. D. Hart. **All dates** should be checked at each source’s site.

## Career Corner

By Julie Faye Parker, Vice Principal and Careers Support Administrator

**TASK** – We are currently accepting applications to our TASK program here at FKSS. TASK is an acronym for Trades Awareness Skills and Knowledge. It involves a Camosun instructor working with students at Kelsey to explore a variety of trades, hands-on and gaining dual-credit. This year we did plumbing, electrical, carpentry and welding. Time was also spent at Camosun College. Only 18 students are invited to take the program each school year. Your application and attendance will be reviewed; you will then be interviewed by the Camosun instructor as part of the acceptance to the program. If interested, please see

Ms. Smart in the Career Center for your application. Deadline to hand in completed applications is Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Frances Kelsey Parents Advisory Council

Please join us for the last PAC meeting of the year to be held on Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Always a great chance to catch up on the latest happenings at the school with principal Jeff and head into the summer being one of the parents ‘in the know’ about the plans for next year! For further information, please contact [tanyarick@shaw.ca](mailto:tanyarick@shaw.ca)

## Yearbooks Are Still Available

To those who have pre-ordered a yearbook, they will be distributed to grads on Monday, June 14 after their Cap and Gown ceremony and to all others on Friday, June 18. It’s not too late to buy a yearbook – limited numbers will be available. Please order and pay online through our school website, <https://fkss.sd79.bc.ca/>, then click Pay Online at the top of the page.

## Celebrating Student Success



Congratulations to Grade 12 student, Lillian Thomas-Brown, who will be our valedictorian at grad this year.



Congratulations are also extended to Grade 9 student, Ochiel Audenart, Rotary Student of the Month  
Photos by Lifetouch Canada

## Frances Kelsey Community Garden News: How Does Our Garden Grow?

**By Julie-Faye Parker, Vice Principal**

We are happy to continue our garden and we have kale and strawberries; and raspberries and peas, among flowers, and other bounty, pushing up to the sun this June. The challenge in the past for us has been maintenance during the summer months and we have relied in big part on our kind community to tend our garden.

Grade 11 student, Amelia Monsell, has been working every school lunch hour since the beginning of this year to coordinate, maintain, and plant our garden with a crew of students in the Garden Club. Ms. Pryor, the horticulture teacher, has spent the last quarter involved on all levels of garden sustainability. Mr. Pimenta, the key designer and builder of our greenhouses and boxes, is renowned for his tireless involvement in the construction of the garden. The Frances Kelsey culinary teachers, led by Mrs. Thompson, as well as our student parliament, and many classes and groups, have also been involved in part of the original planning to beautify this space and grow food for our school.

We are so thankful for the excellent irrigation system installed by David Pink and his crew at Warmland Irrigation. This has made the care and watering so much better for our garden when it grows warmer.

The Latest News! A new partnership with the Rotary Eco Club. Big thanks to Kim Barnard for reaching out and coordinating and inspiring the summer stewards of the FKSS Community Garden. Kim has also connected with the Mill Bay Garden Club, and thanks to Kim's efforts we have some eager volunteers. We want to ensure that Mr. Pimenta's gates are closed at night, to protect our garden from deer; that weeds are plucked; and the boxes tended and tidy. The stewards will also collect the fruits of the garden, some of which is donated and some of which is frozen for use by our Culinary Program. Want to get involved as a volunteer? Contact the Rotary Eco Club at [shawniganrotaryecoclub@gmail.com](mailto:shawniganrotaryecoclub@gmail.com). Grow strong, Cowichan!

**By Jenn Pryor, Teacher**

Down at the garden, things are really starting to ramp up! Students have been learning about soil nutrients, how to set up a sustainable homestead, food forests, the no-dig method, terrariums, square foot gardening and so much more! On Fridays, we've been collaborating with the Foods 8 students, exchanging knowledge and delicious foods with a contribution from the garden beds.

Right off the bat, students took a leadership role in removing invasive species from the chess courtyard, and moving on the back garden, and have successfully revitalized the daffodil bed which had become overrun with weeds and morning glory vines that threatened to choke out food bearing plants. A strawberry hill was planted and each garden bed is a thriving cornucopia of food that is growing more and more produce every day.

One of our most notable projects is a mini field experiment that we've been running for a few weeks. We wanted to find out how different soil types affected the growth rate of two different types of seeds – radishes which are fairly forgiving, and parsley which has particular growing conditions. Students set out together and sampled 11 different types of soil (the 12<sup>th</sup> being our control of store-bought topsoil), including: the current garden bed soil, gravel, grass compost, etc. So far, the results are both surprising and exciting for the students. We've been recording the growth rates daily and students have prepared a report on their findings.



Our class is also in the process of making native terrariums using locally sourced substrate and plant life. Watching students stop by the garden in the mornings before class, and seeing friends stopping by on their breaks to help weed the garden, has been a huge pleasure and I feel so incredibly grateful for my days here at FKSS.

Please follow along on our class blog and keep up to date with how the garden is looking online or in-person. [www.horticulture912.weebly.com](http://www.horticulture912.weebly.com)

Which soil is the best medium? Gardening students experimented with 12 different soil samples which clearly demonstrated the best growing conditions.

Photo by Ms. Pryor

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