

# THE WHALE'S TALE

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



## CONTACT US:

250 743-6916  
[fkss.sd79.bc.ca](http://fkss.sd79.bc.ca)  
School Facebook page:  
Frances Kelsey Secondary  
School – FKSS  
PAC Facebook page: Frances  
Kelsey Secondary PAC

October 4, 2021

Vol. 27/No. 1

## Welcome

By Jeff Rowan, Principal

Welcome to a new school year! Schedules are in place, routines are being established, and it is great to see students working in their classes and getting involved in extra curricular activities.

September has already been a busy month. Our student population is higher than expected so classes are full with lots of students and activities. We are also following the BC COVID K-12 school guidelines to make sure we have a safe environment.

The administration team have met with all grades and our message to students was to engage with their studies and stay current in their courses, while enjoying their school and taking advantage of all the clubs, sports and opportunities available.

We want to work with parents to make sure all of our kids are successful and Advisors will be working closely with both students and parents. Please feel free to contact either teachers or administration via email or phone if you have questions. Staff email addresses and phone extensions can be found on our webpage under the "Contact Staff" menu. Our daily announcements, the *Kelsey NewsBreaker*, are uploaded regularly and are available on our website at [fkss.sd79.bc.ca](http://fkss.sd79.bc.ca) We encourage you to maintain contact throughout the year. We look forward to the rest of the year and all the exciting upcoming opportunities.

Some important information to note:

### COUNSELLORS

Students are assigned to a counsellor by their last name. Please email your counsellor if you have any concerns. If last name is:

A - L: Ms. Kirchner [mkirchner@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:mkirchner@sd79.bc.ca)  
M - Z: Ms. Wright [nwright@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:nwright@sd79.bc.ca)

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## Kelsey Calendar

**Monday, October 4**  
Whale's Tale newsletter issued

**Monday, October 11**  
Thanksgiving Day

**Tuesday, October 12**  
7:00 pm – PAC Zoom Meeting

**October 18 – 21**  
Mental Health Awareness Week

**Thursday, October 21**  
Great BC ShakeOut

**Friday, October 22**  
Professional Development Day

**Wednesday, October 27**  
1:15 pm early dismissal - Professional Learning Community

**Thursday, October 28**  
Photo Retake Day

**Friday, October 29**  
Student Parliament Halloween Parade at lunch

**Sunday, October 31**  
Last day to order a Yearbook at our lowest price of the year (see page 6)

**Monday, November 1**  
Whale's Tale newsletter issued

**November 1 – 5**  
Literacy 10, Numeracy 10, Literacy 12 Assessment Window

**Wednesday, November 10**  
Remembrance Day Assembly – Period 2

**Thursday, November 11**  
Remembrance Day

**Friday, November 12**  
End of Term 1 (Grade 9 – 12)

**Monday, November 15**  
Start of Term 2 (Grade 9 – 12)

**Wednesday, November 17**  
1:15 pm early dismissal - PLC

## **STUDENT INSURANCE**

All students are covered with basic insurance for school activities. It is highly recommended that you make sure that your child is adequately insured. Please see the information on our school district website at <https://insuremykids.com/>

## **ATTENDANCE**

Students who leave early must provide either a note, a phone call or an email to [fkssfrontdesksecretary@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:fkssfrontdesksecretary@sd79.bc.ca) to be excused. Those leaving early must sign out at the office on their way out. Late arrivals go directly to class and teachers will mark their attendance.

**STUDENT FEES** are due as soon as possible and thanks to those who have already paid. If there are any problems with making payment, please contact me at 250 743-6916, extension 229 or at [jrowan@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:jrowan@sd79.bc.ca). We encourage students/parents to pay online through our School Cash Online account (see below).

## **ONLINE PAYMENT**

We are encouraging parents and guardians to create a School Cash Online account. If you haven't already done so, please follow these instructions to create your School Cash Online account. It is a parent portal that offers a safe, fast and convenient way to pay for most things available for sale at Kelsey, including school fees, yearbook, Kelsey gear, field trips, lost library/textbooks and Kafé punch cards. You can pay with credit card or echeque. Please note that this is the preferred method of payment.

1. Create your profile: <https://sd79.schoolcashionline.com> and click on "Get Started Today"
2. Confirm your email and check your inbox for the email confirmation, then click on the link inside. Sign in with your new login details. Stay connected by selecting "Yes" to email notifications about upcoming fees
3. Add a student: click "Add Student" and fill in the required fields with your student's details.

**STUDENTS WHO DRIVE VEHICLES** must have a pass to park on school grounds. Application forms, available from the office, must be completed and approved before a pass is issued.

# **Good Byes and Hellos**

Congratulations to Ms. Julie-Faye Parker, Vice-Principal, who retired over the summer. Ms. Parker joined our staff in September, 2016 and over the five years that she was with us, she was actively involved with our community garden and strongly supported the Career Centre, in particular, the TASK dual-credit program. Among other jobs, she also oversaw our students with special needs which had always been a real passion of hers, over her entire career. We will miss Ms. Parker's friendliness and enthusiasm, and especially her joyful singing and musicality! We send her our sincere best wishes in this special new phase of her life.

Due to other administrative changes over the summer, Mr. Darren Hart has returned to the office in the role of Temporary Vice-Principal. Mrs. Anita Ellison, Education Assistant, did not retain a position at Kelsey and we wish her luck in her new job at Bench Elementary School. We also thank Ms. Julie Smart who so capably filled the position of our temporary Career Centre Assistant until the end of June.

We welcome the following who have joined our staff:

**Administration:** Ms. Camila Bhandari – Vice Principal

**Teachers:** Mrs. Margaret Carmichael (English, Social Studies, Social Justice, Careers 8); Mr. Matthew Franko (Social Studies, PE); Mrs. Wendy Grymaloski who is substituting for Mrs. Zimmer; Ms. Christine Hoffman (English, Math, PE, Exploratory); Mr. Curt Knippelberg who is substituting for Mr. Reed; Mr. Mitch Knippelberg (Learning Assistance, Careers); Ms. Nicole Lorusso (Social Studies, Coast Salish 8,

Environmental Science); Mr. Gregory Owen who is substituting for Mrs. Carmichael; Mr. Brian Tattam who is substituting for Mr. D. Hart and Mr. Brendan Varro who is substituting for Mr. Cosford.

**Education Assistant:** Ms. Laurie Cooper

**Clerical:** Mrs. Anne Pimenta – Career Centre Assistant

## From Ms. Bhandari

Hello FKSS community! My name is Camila Bhandari, and I am one of the Vice Principals that your child will meet at our school. I am very excited to join Frances Kelsey after almost 20 years spent at other schools in the Cowichan Valley School District. This is a big school with lots of opportunities and I am motivated to immerse myself in the culture of the building. I have already enjoyed connecting with the students and want everyone to know that my door is always open. I am happy to help! Please reach out if you need anything [cbhandari@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:cbhandari@sd79.bc.ca)

## Scholarships and Bursaries

**By Darren Hart, Acting Vice-Principal**

The year starts early for our graduating students as they must now start thinking about university, college or other post-secondary choices for next year. Costs are a very important consideration when making these future plans. We will be working with our Grade 12 students this year to help them understand and to help them access all of the money that is available in the form of scholarships and bursaries.



We will be scheduling a session for all Grade 12 students after winter break where we will present information on the scholarship and bursary application process for all of our local awards (you can preview them right now on our website).

In September, Grade 12s were shown that a Microsoft Team was created called "Grad 2022 - CLC 12" that includes all students on track to graduate in June of 2022. Please ensure your student has checked that the Team shows up when they login and if it does not, have them see their CLC 12 teacher or Ms. Baker in the library to be added. The Team will have scholarship and bursary information updated regularly as we receive it; all the assignments for capstone projects as they are added; as well as reminders of important upcoming dates and events specific to graduation and graduating students. Students should turn on notifications for the channels they need so they are alerted when information is posted. There is a free mobile version of the Teams app for both Android and Apple to download from the App Store or Google Play if that is more convenient.

Scholarships are already being sent to the school. We advertise these opportunities on the daily *NewsBreaker* announcements and the Grad 2022 – CLC 12 Team under the Non-Local Scholarship & Bursary channel. We are very excited about the opportunities for our students and look forward to working with them this year!

Parents of students who are thinking about post-secondary education, please check out [Connecting Students with Opportunities - Post-Secondary BC \(postsecondarybc.ca\)](#) regarding virtual fairs and more!

Last June, our Graduates won over \$288,000 in scholarships and bursaries. After the publication of our June Whale's Tale, which listed those who won university entrance scholarships, we learned that the following students also received entrance scholarships: Tobin Bergman (University of Victoria) - \$2,000; Jackson Eacott (University of Victoria) - \$2,000; Amy Symes (University of Victoria) President's Entrance

- \$3,500, Faculty of Engineering Dean's Entrance - \$2,500, Women in Engineering & Computer Science Entrance - \$2,000.

School District #79 presented scholarships of \$1,250 each to 27 of our graduates: Tahara Brown, Caitlin Burdet, Jake Dorby, Paige Hart, Emmy Hoffman, Branden Howe, Taylor Johnston, Serena Lalani, Luke Larminay, Jayda Lauzon, Julia Lawrence, Savonah MacAdam, Kaia Martin, Sam Mellemstrand, Veronica Meyer, Gia Neumann, Brad Nielsen, Bridget Pimenta, Tori Raymond, Jenaya Shaw, Amy Symes, Rian Tapp, Lillian Thomas-Brown, Mason Towle, Zohra Verduin, Maya Weckesser and Zoe Williams-Tuomi.

Notable recipients of additional scholarships and bursaries were: Kyla van Ryk (\$5,500); Veronica Meyer (\$4,800); Jake Dorby (\$3,450); Emma Muller (\$3,300); Julia Lawrence (\$3,000); Brad Nielsen (\$3,000); Ryan Hindle (\$2,550); Sam Mellemstrand (\$2,500); Serena Lalani (\$2,300); Kaia Martin (\$2,000); Vina Nguyen (\$2,000) and Maya Weckesser (\$2,000).

Of the 188 graduates this June, 142 students received Honours graduation certificates – which means that all students received a letter grade of B or better in all of their Grade 11 and 12 subjects.

All of us at Frances Kelsey Secondary School wish to sincerely thank all of our local donors for their generosity and hard work. Without their contributions, many students would not have the opportunity to pursue their studies at this time. For information about any scholarship or bursary, please see Mr. Hart.

Information regarding the Loran Scholars Foundation scholarship is available on the Grad 2022 - CLC 12 Team under the Non-Local Scholarship & Bursary channel.



## The Magic Wand Project



Although 'Grad Banquet 2022' is far off in the future, many secondary school students are already thinking about their gown or tuxedo. Every year there are young adults graduating who do not attend their banquet because of lack of financial means. Our school would like to try to identify these families in need of assistance to help their children enjoy this wonderful and deserving night. Any parent, student, teacher, or friend may anonymously call our Principal, Mr. Rowan, or our Counsellors, Ms. Kirchner or Ms. Wright, at 250 743-6916 if they know of a student who is in need of our support.

**The project is open to everyone** – instead of buying, *any* student may rent his or her complete grad outfit from the “Magic Wand Project” for a nominal fee. There is a great selection of gowns and tuxedos available for loan, as well as a variety of shoes and accessories available. **Why buy when you can borrow?**

For an appointment for Grad or winter formals, contact Elizabeth at [esurerus@telus.net](mailto:esurerus@telus.net), or view the website at [www.themagicwandproject.ca](http://www.themagicwandproject.ca) or check out their information on Facebook. We want to make sure every child has the opportunity to attend Grad festivities with pride and the wonderful sense of accomplishment that he/she deserves.

## Dry Grad

**Welcome all Graduate Parents!** Please check here monthly for updates on our fundraisers, meetings and all other important information. For now, we would just like to inform you of our ‘ON *YOUR* TIME, ZERO CONTACT BOTTLE DRIVE’ happening all year long. Drop off your bottles and cans ANYTIME, day or night, at 3876 McAlpine Road in



Cobble Hill – Telegraph onto Aros Road then left onto McAlpine... follow McAlpine to the end of the road, it becomes gravel and turns left down a hill. The drop off location is in front of the large black open tent on the right at the bottom of the hill. Please also save your Country Grocer and Great Greens receipts for us as these generous local businesses donate back a percentage of all sales to our fundraising efforts. Receipts can be dropped off with your bottles or at the school office. *Contact Tanya at 250-732-6492 if you have any questions, and stay tuned for LOTS more info to come.*

## Frances Kelsey Parents Advisory Council



By Tanya Friese, Current FKSS PAC President

Welcome to YOUR Parent Advisory Council. By virtue of having a student at Kelsey, every one of you is a PAC member and we would love to have your input at our monthly PAC meetings. High school PAC is VERY different from Elementary - we do NO fundraising at all, leaving that to the various student-led clubs/sports groups. At meetings, we decide how to spend our yearly gaming grant funding and discuss with our principal what has been happening at the school lately. It is a great way to stay informed of school events, express your accolades or concerns, and meet other like-minded parents.

Our next meeting and AGM will be held virtually by Zoom on Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Link to join has already been sent out and will be again a few days before the meeting. We would love to have you join us!

## Parents and Students: Help! Help! Help!

Parents, we need your help. There are still hundreds of textbooks signed out from last year that weren't returned in June. These resources are needed **now** - please return them as soon as possible to avoid being billed.

## From the Indigenous Education Department

‘Uy’skweyul! Tansi! Welcome to a fantastic year of growth and learning. Indigenous education staff work throughout the district to foster inclusive classrooms where every student feels a sense of belonging and experiences academic success.

If your child has Indigenous ancestry - First Nations, Métis or Inuit, (documentation is NOT required) and you would like to self-identify, please see the school secretary for a self-identification form. Each year your child will be funded for and included in Indigenous Education programs. Almost all programs will be delivered in the regular classroom, to ALL students. You will be asked to give permission for any activities offered outside of the regular class. If you have self-identified with the school in previous years, you do NOT need to do a new form each year.

You can opt out of Indigenous Education services at any time by notifying the Indigenous Education staff in person or in writing either at your school or through the district office 250 748 0321 ext 235, or email at [ined@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:ined@sd79.bc.ca)

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As you may know, in 2017, the Federal Government changed from using the term Aboriginal people to using Indigenous Peoples when referring to First Nations, Métis & Inuit peoples. This change acknowledges the rights of Indigenous Peoples as outlined in the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. [https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wpcontent/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP\\_E\\_web.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wpcontent/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf)

It will take us some time to transition to the new language so you may see the terms Indigenous and Aboriginal both used. We are looking forward to a positive school year together!

## Early Bird Yearbook Sales

Your first officially published moment of fame is in your yearbook! Capture those memories to look back years from now. Laugh at hairstyles and fashion trends and remember all those awkward and fun times through high school. Yearbook early bird price of \$50 until October 31<sup>st</sup>. Buy early online and save! Link is on our website or here: <https://sd79.schoolcashionline.com/>

## Show School Spirit and Get Outfitted for Cooler Weather!

The Business Education program sells Kelsey Gear clothing with our school name and logo. Hoodies, crewnecks, long sleeved T's and more. Check out what's available on the FKSS website under the Students and Parents tab and pay online. <https://fkss.sd79.bc.ca/kelsey-gear/>



Our Journey is **BEYOND EDUCATION**

## Cowichan Valley School District is hiring

Casual, On Call, Noon Hour Supervisors. This position is ideal for anyone who is looking for meaningful work with students. If you, or someone you know, would love to spend an hour a day with students, we would like to hear from you. Qualifications: Grade 12 education; First Aid/CPR – Occupational First Aid; Valid Driver's Licence.

Hourly wage: \$25.50 If interested, please email your resume to Jen Christenson [jchristenson@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:jchristenson@sd79.bc.ca) or drop off at the School Board Office, 2557 Beverly Street, Duncan. Full Job Description #34 is available at [www.sd79.bc.ca](http://www.sd79.bc.ca)

## Career Corner

Are you a local business that needs extra help? Are you willing to sponsor a young person for a minimum of 30 hours of volunteer work? All of our grads need 30 hours of volunteer time or work experience as part of their graduation requirement. If you would like to add your company to our roster of work site sponsors, you are helping our grads! Students can collect these hours starting in Grade 10.

We are also looking for businesses who can support Grade 11's wanting to work in the trades when they graduate. If you have a WorkSafe registered company and can provide supervision and help train a young person in your area of business, please contact Mr. Knippelberg in Careers at 250-743-6916 ext. 236. We are particularly looking for worksites for students who are interested in carpentry, metalwork, welding and electrical. These students need a minimum of 30 hours to apply to apprenticeship programs when they reach Grade 12.

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Are you in Grade 10, 11 or 12 and working at a part-time job? You can get 4 credits for Work Experience 12 by signing up and keeping track of your hours. Details in the Career Centre. Don't have a job but want to get one? Sign up in the Career Centre with Mrs. Brinkman to get help with your resume and cover letter!

There are dual credit opportunities for high school students to earn post-secondary credits in business, health, technology, and trades programs. Please stop by our Career Department to find out more.

Registration dates are fast approaching for some post-secondary schools. View books are now available for UVic, Camosun, and SFU. Please stop by the Career Centre for more information.

For further information on work experience, dual credit, the trades, volunteering, MyBlueprint or anything careers related, including writing a work resume or an academic resume, please call or stop into the Career Centre to book an appointment.

## **Camosun College Information**

Provisional admission applies to students enrolled in Grade 12 in a BC secondary school, and working toward meeting graduation requirements. You can qualify for this special admission category until May 15<sup>th</sup>. This conditional admission is tied to the student meeting the necessary program admission requirements with their interim and final grades. A few programs may have separate deadlines and processes – check with an Admissions Advisor. The student will need to include their Personal Education Number.

The application into the Nursing, Baccalaureate of Science (BSN) program at Camosun College is now open and will remain open until Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. BC/Yukon high school students are eligible to apply in their Grade 12 year. GPA will be initially calculated on interim grades to determine provisional qualification. Self-reporting of interim grades for current BC/Yukon high school students is due February 28, 2022.

## **Thank You**

A big “Thank You” to Bernie Dinter of B. Dinter Nursery Ltd. who kindly loaned us many live trees and plants to help decorate our front steps where we held our outdoor graduation ceremony in June. Bernie has been doing this for 20 years and the beautiful greenery really adds to the event.

Derek from Signology donates the time to always update our GRAD 2021 sign used in the gym. The banner is an important touch for our graduates and their families. Although our graduation was not held in the gym this year, other grad events took place in the gym, by cohort, and the sign was noticed and appreciated.

June 17 was our Indigenous Recognition Day. Richard at Accent Screen Printing deserves recognition as he donated an “Every Child Matters” insert that you will see on our school sign at the end of our driveway.

Late last year, Helmut Teunissen, a local musical performer, visited our school and gave permission for the lyrics to his song, "Where Are You?", to be shared for class discussions or poetry projects in the future. The song is written from the perspective of a student at a residential school. We appreciate Helmut performing for the student body. Warren Mearns and his wife Cori also joined the performance, as well as local musician, Ed Peekeekoot. Thanks to all of them for their special contribution.

Lastly, Frances Kelsey Athletics would like to say a big thank you to Mill Bay Towing and Bryan for their help with the Breakers bus.

# Clubs and Activities

As of October 4, 2021  
(some days and times may change)

## **BOOK BUZZ**

Promoting reading and literacy  
Last Thursday of the month at lunch  
in the library  
Sponsors: Ms. Baker, Mrs. Bonner

## **CHESS CLUB**

Drop in to play  
Daily at lunch in room 122  
Sponsor: Mr. Grbavec

## **D AND D - DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS**

To play and discuss the game while reinforcing  
basic math and social skills  
Tuesday at lunch in room 120  
Sponsor: Mr. Heath

## **ESPORTS CLUB**

Wednesday at lunch in room 120  
Sponsor: Mr. Heath

## **GRAD COUNCIL**

Tuesday at lunch in the library to discuss  
student-planned activities. Academic  
information is given during Q block on Fridays  
Sponsor: Mr. Rowan

## **G.S.A. - GENDER SEXUALITY ALLIANCE**

To provide a safe space for all folks in the  
LGBTQ2S+ community and allies  
Wednesday at lunch in room 148  
Sponsors: Brooke Chapman, Mr. Tattam

## **HECTOR McINTOSH PUBLIC SPEAKING**

In the Spring  
Sponsor: Mrs. Steele

## **INTERACT CLUB**

Community and International Action, a service  
club for youth sponsored by the South  
Cowichan Rotary Club  
Monday at lunch in the library  
Sponsor: Ms. Bhandari

## **MATH HELP**

8:10-9:00 am daily in room 135  
Sponsor: Mr. Abbott

## **OPEN DOOR WORKOUT**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday at lunch in the  
mezzanine weight room  
Sponsor: Mr. Groicher

## **RED CROSS CLUB (tentative)**

Date, time, room to be determined  
Sponsors: tba

## **STUDENT PARLIAMENT**

Wednesday at lunch in the library  
Sponsors: Mr. Hart, Ms. Baker

## **TIMES COLONIST 10K RUN**

In the Spring  
Sponsor: Mr. Launder, Mrs. Grymaloski

## Sports

If there is adequate interest, we hope to form the following:

Gr. 8 Boys Basketball  
Jr. Boys Basketball  
Jr. Girls Basketball  
Sr. Boys Basketball  
Sr. Girls Basketball  
Jr. Girls Volleyball  
Rugby

Ice Hockey  
Girls Field  
Hockey  
Track and Field  
Girls Soccer  
Boys Soccer

*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.

Intramural Lunch Hour Games – Opportunities to play, umpire and cheer