

THE WHALE'S TALE

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



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November 1, 2021

Vol. 27/No. 1

What's Been Happening at Kelsey?

In May, Mr. Niessen submitted an application on behalf of the FKSS Outdoor Education Program to Shimano Canada Ltd. and was selected to receive two Shimano 100 year trail building tool prizes. As his application was among the top 20 submissions, the school will also receive a custom trail etiquette sign with the school logo. In Shimano's announcement, they said "We believe your trail work has high potential to improve the off-road cycling in your region and we thank you for your efforts. We appreciate the hard work you have put in so far and we encourage you to keep up the great work. Building more places for riders to ride will increase the health of the community and encourage more people to live an active lifestyle. Your group's involvement in trail building is an important part of a much bigger movement and we are happy to provide you with some tools to continue this great work." Congratulations, Mr. Niessen!

As part of the CIVIX/Elections Canada Student Vote program, all students were invited to vote on Canada's federal Election Day in September. The polling station and ballot management were handled by Social Studies 10 classes as part of their unit on government and law. The polling booths were set up in the dome and were open in A, B and C blocks. The ballots, boxes and screens were Elections Canada materials to mimic actual voting as accurately as possible. We have been participating in this program in provincial and federal elections for the last twenty years. The program was created after research into low voter turnout amongst 18 to 25 year olds showed that young people, introduced to voting early, participate in elections as adults at a much higher rate. If students did not wish to vote, they did not have to do so, and 52% of the student body participated.

Students in Ms. Borrett's and Mrs. Smith's Studio Arts classes are finishing their clay work projects by glazing them in the kiln. The most exciting part of the course is the big reveal, when items such as masks, animals, and fairy houses are seen for the first time in their final form,



Kelsey Calendar

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

10:30 am – everyone welcome

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)

Tuesday, November 16

7:00 pm – PAC meeting by Zoom

Wednesday, November 17

1:15 pm early dismissal – PLC

Monday, November 22

Report cards issued

Tuesday, November 23

6:30 pm – Dry Grad Meeting (likely
in Evergreen School Pavilion - to be
confirmed)

November 25–26, 29–30

Grad Portraits (November sitting)

Friday, November 26

Professional Development Day

December 1 – 3

Grad Portraits (December sitting)

Monday, December 6

Whale's Tale newsletter issued

Friday, December 17

11:00 am – Grad Skate at Kerry Park
Last day of classes before Winter
Vacation

Tuesday, January 4

First day of classes 2022

with lots of colour. Senior students are completing their pencil crayon drawings of exotic faces, using photo references from magazines, books, and the internet. Grade 10 students have just finished their pencil portraits of famous people or people they know. All of these projects will be on display in the art room cabinets, for viewing from the hallway.

On the recent October 22nd Professional Development Day, all staff participated in a variety of different learning. The Principals and Vice Principals of the Cowichan Valley met as a group to be a "hub" for the Provincial BCPVPA "Connecting Leaders - Leading For Equity" Zoom broadcast. Joining other administrators from the Cowichan Valley, Mr. Rowan, Mr. Hart and Ms. Bhandari watched speakers Anna Maria Tremonti (CBC journalist), Candy Palmater (Indigenous lawyer and comedian) and Nouman Ashraf (Rotman School of Business in Toronto), then discussed how we continue to focus on equity in our schools. It was an engaging day that provoked much thought.

Power Technology 9 is in full gear. For the last two weeks, students in Ms. Hoffman's and Mr. Page's classes have been painstakingly dismantling old laptops. They are now beginning to take these parts to make new devices. For example, one group is trying to take the optical lens to make a laser sight, and another group will try to make a lamp with a fan. Please check your houses for any broken or unwanted electronics. Donations are always welcome and can be left at Mr. Page's classroom 138.

Last Thursday, Ms. Lorusso's Environmental Science 11 class took a walking field trip to Shawnigan Creek to learn about the Mill Bay and District Conservation Society Salmon Enhancement Program. Students had the opportunity to discover why the society has been working for years to help Coho salmon gain access to spawning areas above the waterfall. Students were also able to witness the monumental effort required by countless volunteers to make it happen during this year's record-breaking run. They observed the process of catching salmon in nets, passing them through a trap-door to a trough above the holding tank before being transferred into a metal tank that was transported up to the road above where salmon were counted and their sex determined. Some students were excited to get their hands dirty (and slimy) by volunteering to transfer the Coho by hand into a tank on a truck so they could be brought to their spawning habitat above the falls. It was a great opportunity for students to take their learning out of the classroom and into our surroundings and explore some local ecological issues.

Mr. Franko's PE 9 class has completed a variety of units including basketball, ultimate Frisbee, and volleyball. Up next is a handball unit, which is quickly becoming a class favourite. During long blocks, students also have a chance to access the MEZZ where they are being shown the basics of weight training. These nines are an eager group and have shown that they can use the equipment responsibly. With any luck, we'll have some good weather soon so the students can participate in a much anticipated game of capture the flag on the bunny trail.

An important housekeeping reminder - when a student is absent from class, our automated system emails parents then calls home. Please let us know if you have a new email address or phone number. This is especially important in case of an emergency. Please email updates to fksscounsellingsecretary@sd79.bc.ca

Remember to pre-order a yearbook on our website. The price increases as the year unfolds, so buy one now!

The Kelsey Kafé is Mill Bay's best kept secret! From Monday to Thursday, our hard-working Cafeteria Program is well underway, selling healthy lunch options at very reasonable prices. An example of our menu is ***Bowl of Chili - \$3; Ultimate Stuffed Roasted Potato - \$1.50; Caesar Salad with Chicken - \$5.50; Roast Beef Bunwich - \$3.00; Smoothie - \$2.00; Apple Crumble - \$1.50.*** Menus rotate regularly and are posted in advance on the Kelsey website, but there's always something yummy! We offer \$10, \$20 and \$30 punch cards which can be purchased from the main office, and the \$30 card has a \$1 bonus (worth \$31). As punch cards are like cash, the school is not responsible for lost cards.

New Staff

Congratulations to Mrs. Denise Haley, our office receptionist for the last four years, who retired last month. We appreciate her organization and thank her for her hard work in being on the very busy front desk. We will fondly remember her favourite expression, "Oh, my stars!" and we wish her all our best in the future.

Ms. Jenn Pryor has just re-joined our Learning Support team and Ms. Ramona de Graff will be teaching Math 9 and Science for Citizens 11 for this semester. As well, Ms. Caitlin Whittaker has joined our E.A. staff and Ms. Julie Smart has re-joined our clerical team as front desk secretary. Welcome to you all!

Scholarships and Bursaries

By Mr. Darren Hart, Acting Vice-Principal

The year is well under way and we have been encouraging our Grade 12 students to start planning for the future. A couple of items to do:



Scholarships

There are three types of scholarships - please see our website fkss.sd79.bc.ca and look under the GRADUATION tab for more information

1. Local - these are open to FKSS or students in the Cowichan Valley only. We will open this process and explain it in January. Applications are due in March before Spring Break.
2. District Scholarships - each school in BC is given scholarships by the provincial government for students who have a special interest to apply
3. General Scholarships/Bursaries (non-local) - these are open to students across the country and come in regularly. As we receive information, they are advertised in our daily NewsBreaker and the GRAD 2022 Team, under the Non-Local Scholarship & Bursary channel. We also encourage students to ask questions in organizations and activities that they belong to as there are often scholarships available that kids are not aware of. Some sites that are helpful to search are ScholarshipsCanada.com or studentawards.com

Another good idea is to look at websites for institutions and then search "Financial Aid". VIU, Camosun, UVIC and other schools all offer supports to students once they apply.

Speaking of applying to universities or colleges, some of the early entrance applications are now open with closing dates as soon as December. In our "Q" block in November, we will be encouraging Grade 12s to look at programs and schools they might be interested in. Some tools:

- all students have a myblueprint.ca account which has some great tools to look at interests and match them to programs
- look at the websites for schools that are of interest. A good place to start is VIU, Camosun and UVIC as many of our students tend to start there
- There is also information at search sites such as schoolfinder.com for other institutions

A very important step that all Grade 12s also need to do is to register for the Student Transcript Service (go to FKSS website and look under "Graduation") as this enables universities and colleges to receive student transcripts for application. Again, we will explain this in our next Q block, but students can register any time and select schools they want to receive their transcripts.

There is a lot of information here and we will break it down for the Grade 12s as the school year progresses,

but wanted to share with parents now. If you have questions, please do give us a call so we can help.

Information regarding the following scholarships and bursaries, which have application deadlines in November and December, is available on the Grad 2022 - CLC 12 Team under the Non-Local Scholarship & Bursary channel:

- Loran Scholars Foundation Scholarship
- Terry Fox Humanitarian Award
- TD Scholarships for Community Leadership Scholarship



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, or view the website at 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

Our next Parent Dry Grad meeting will be held at **6:30 pm on Tuesday, November 23**, likely in the Evergreen School Pavilion. Please join us to help plan the fundraising and grad events for your upcoming graduate.



BOTTLE DRIVES: Thanks to everyone who supported our first bottle drive last month. Bottle drives will also be happening on **December 11 & February 12**, so mark your calendars now. Donations can also be taken to the Fisher Road bottle depot anytime for deposit to the FKSS Dry Grad account, or you can drop off at 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. **NO SORTING REQUIRED!!**

PUB NIGHT: Sunday, December 5th - 5:30 – 8:00 pm at The Cobblestone Pub. Always a fun night with loads of great deals from our generous local community available at the silent auction. Tickets will be available for sale from the school office two weeks before the event or by emailing franceskelseydrygrad@gmail.com Only 125 tickets will be available, so don't wait!

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PANAGO PIZZA VOUCHERS: “What Goes Around, Comes Around” Many of you have already discovered how great these vouchers are. Stock up for the year so the kids can easily take care of dinner themselves with just a phone call, without breaking the bank. Email your student’s name and # of vouchers requested to franceskelseydrygrad@gmail.com to place your order. Vouchers do not expire, come with unlimited toppings and are redeemable for ANY medium pizza from ANY Panago location. \$4 from each \$12 voucher goes towards Dry Grad... and dinner is served! This fundraiser will be ongoing all year so you can order anytime, although availability of the vouchers may not be immediate dependent on our supplier.

DRY GRAD

Please join us at our next meeting on **Tuesday, November 23** at 7:00 pm, likely in the Evergreen School Pavilion. For more information contact Tanya at 250 732-6492

Frances Kelsey Parents Advisory Council



Our AGM was held on October 12th and at that meeting, a new Executive was elected as follows:

President: Lizzi Johnson	Vice President – Jennifer Thom
Secretary – Taryn Johnson	Treasurer – Erin Egelund
DPAC Rep – Cindy Youdon	

Thanks to outgoing Board members Tanya Friese (President) and Anne Pimenta (Secretary) for their many years of dedicated service. Next PAC meeting will be held via Zoom on **Tuesday, November 16th** at 7:00 pm. Always informative and time well spent, so please join us for the hour if you can.

FREE Text to Speech for ALL Students

Kurzweil is a text to speech program available to all FKSS students. The program also features study skills, word prediction, writing templates, concept maps and templates, text to MP3, definitions, pronunciations (great for students with English as a Second Language) and many more tools. If you would like to learn more about this program and/or have a demonstration or workshop, contact Mr. Dhami in room 126. There are lots of solutions that can be explored on an individual basis – see Mr. Dhami to discuss your concerns.

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) 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.

Club Update

Six additional clubs have formed since our list of clubs appeared in last month's newsletter. A complete list of all clubs can be found on our school website.

AUTOMOTIVE APPRECIATION ASS'N

For people who like cars, to get together and talk maintenance, vehicle identification, and more
Tuesday at lunch in room 138
Sponsor: Mr. Page

COMPASSION CLUB

To develop compassion for self and others
Thursday at lunch. Room tba
Sponsor: Ms. Trotter

ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

Tuesday at lunch in room 222
Sponsor: Ms. Lorusso

GRANDMA ACTIVITIES CLUB

Knitting, crocheting, card/board games, tea and conversation
Thursday at lunch in room 212/213
Sponsors: Mrs. Van Hell, Ms. Lewthwaite

HANGOUT CLUB

Come have fun and hang out with peers to make new connections
Wednesday at lunch in room 158
Sponsor: Ms. Wright

TECH/ROBOTICS CLUB

Wednesday at lunch in room 138
Sponsor: Mr. Page

Current and Upcoming Sports

Jr Girls Volleyball (Gr 8, 9) - Drop-in recreational/intersquad - Monday 3:30-5:00 pm/Thursday @ lunch - Ms. Mayner

Sr Girls Volleyball - Drop-in recreational/intersquad - Monday 3:30-5:00 pm/Thursday @ lunch - Ms. Hoffman

All Grades Boys Volleyball - Drop-in recreational/intersquad - Tuesday @ lunch - Mr. Page, Mr. Johnston

Grade 8/9 Boys Basketball - Competitive - Wednesday 3:30 - 5:00 pm - Mr. Launder

Jr/Sr Boys Basketball - Competitive - Tuesday/Thursday 3:30 - 5:00 pm - Mr. Franko

All Grades Boys Basketball - Drop-in recreational/intersquad - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday @ lunch - PE staff

All Grades Girls Field Hockey - ending soon - Mr. Johnston (sponsor), Karalyn Joyce (coach)

Intramurals - TBA

Jr/Sr Ice Hockey - Mrs. Gillis

FKSS 2021 Cross-Country Season

By Ms. Karen Welwood, Coach

Cross-Country was up and running this year! Congratulations to the following athletes: Rhiannon W, Frankie S, Alexa D, Logan S, Antonio I, Chloe W, Juliette D, Miles P, and Grayson S. We had runners in all grades participate in the Cowichan Valley Race Series that consisted of four Meets - Bright Angel, Shawnigan, Glenora, and Cobble Hill. Runners that competed in all the meets earned a special series shirt. The Islands Meet was held at Beaver Lake in Victoria on October 20th and our runners represented FKSS with speedy performances. Congratulations and good luck to our two runners who have qualified to compete in the Provincial Cross-Country Championships on November 6th in Vancouver - Alexa Dow (Junior Girls) and Miles Powell (Senior Boys).

Career Corner

Post Secondary - reminder to all Grade 11 & 12 students that the Post-Secondary Virtual Fair is on now until the beginning of December. There are 29 post-secondary schools that offer virtual information sessions about their respective school. They cover a variety of topics that are important, including how to apply to the school and how to access support in choosing the right program for you. The virtual fair will be open

from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm and parents are welcome to log on as well. **Dates: November 3rd, 9th & 18th, December 1st & 7th.** Register now at <http://postsecondarybc.ca/virtual-fair/>

VIU Virtual Recruitment Sessions – don't forget the 2021/2022 virtual information sessions have been scheduled and are open for registration. Connect with a recruiter by joining the Zoom drop-in, Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Password: 441587 Meeting ID: 666 0802 0912

UVIC Virtual events for prospective students – the following virtual events are offered:

1) **Discover UVic Presentations** are designed for students applying to UVic for September 2022, but everyone who is thinking about studying at UVic in the future is welcome.

2) **Parent Nights** will guide parents and guardians on how to help their students succeed and thrive in their first year of university. Prospective students are welcome too.

3) **Faculty Open Houses** will allow prospective students to explore our faculties, their programs, and the unique opportunities available in those areas of study.

Registration for virtual events is open now on UVIC's Events website.

Capilano University Applications are open – applications to all programs are open for Fall 2022. See Mrs. Pimenta for info.

Thinking about applying to Emily Carr? Get valuable feedback on your portfolio before you apply with a quick 15-minute review of your work with a member of their Admissions team.

Portfolio Tips – get tips from Emily Carr University faculty members, including Photography professor Birthe Pointek and Communication Design professor Cameron Neat.

Looking for a Christmas Present?

Show your school spirit! Get outfitted for cooler weather! The Business Education program sells clothing with our school name and logo. See Mrs. Brinkman in room 229 or call 250 743-6916, local 268. It's easy to order online through our website: <https://fkss.sd79.bc.ca> On the gold bar, select Pay Online and it will take you to the School Cash Online program. Follow the prompts to register. **Grad Gear is also available for pre-order on the Kelsey website.**



Our Journey is **BEYOND EDUCATION**

Cowichan Valley School District is hiring on call school bus drivers. Our drivers play an integral role in the day of our students. This is a great opportunity to work early mornings and afternoons getting students safely to and from school. Qualifications: Grade 12 diploma; Class 1 or 2 Driver's License with Air Brake endorsement; clean Driver's Abstract, WHMIS training. Hourly wage of \$28.35. If interested, please email your resume to Jen Christenson jchristenson@sd79.bc.ca or drop off at the School Board Office, 2557 Beverly Street, Duncan.

Homestays Needed for High School International Students

If you are an active family interested in hosting an international student from Europe and around the world, contact us! Call Brenda at 250 510-1436 or email blanglois@sd79.bc.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.