

THE WHALE'S TALE

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



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December 6, 2021

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What's Been Happening at Kelsey?

Save the Date! Ms. Roberts' musical theatre class is thick in rehearsals of Disney's musical, "The Little Mermaid", which will play January 6-8 and 13-15, with all the awesome goodness that you remember from the movie. This family-friendly production involves well over 50 students and is our first full stage production since 2019 (because of COVID). Watch for ticket sales later this month – a perfect stocking stuffer!

There has been great interest in basketball this year. The season starts in early December and concludes in mid-February. The Grade 8/9 boys' team, coached by Mr. Launder, plays in the junior league this year against Queen of Angels, Shawnigan, Lake Cowichan, Sunrise Waldorf and Brentwood. Their first game of the season will be December 8 at Queen of Angels from 4:00 – 5:00 pm. Meanwhile, after a season lost due to COVID, Mr. Franko and the senior boys' team is more eager than ever to get started. Tryouts were last month and now the fun begins. Ms. Chester, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Garriock and Mr. Rowan are running our girls' teams, which have their first games on Tuesday. GO BREAKERS!

This year in the International Program at Frances Kelsey, overseen by Mrs. Boudreau, we have welcomed 62 students from 15 different countries. The countries and number of students represented are: Argentina – 1; Belgium – 3; Brazil – 4; China – 6; France – 2; Germany – 11; Italy – 5; Japan – 11; Mexico – 4; Norway – 1; Spain – 6; South Korea – 3; Switzerland – 2; Thailand – 2 and Turkey – 1. Some of these students are here to graduate from high school while others are here for a language and cultural experience. Students may stay here for three months, one semester, one year or longer. During their time here, we try to go on field trips. So far this year, students have been able to go to Vancouver twice, to Galey Farms corn maze and haunted house for Halloween, and hopefully to Victoria soon. We have had one pizza party lunch to welcome all of them and in the new year, we look forward to ski trips as well. It can be a very rewarding experience having one of these



Kelsey Calendar

Monday, December 6

Whale's Tale newsletter issued

Tuesday, December 7

8:00am-Grad pancake breakfast/pj day

12:00 pm – Grad Council meeting

Wednesday, December 8

International student luncheon

Saturday, December 11

Dry Grad bottle drive

Wednesday, December 15

7:00 pm - Band Concert in the dome

Friday, December 17

11:00 am – Grad Skate at Kerry Park

Last day of classes before Winter
Break

Tuesday, January 4

First day of classes 2022

12:00 pm – Grad Council meeting

Monday, January 10

Whale's Tale newsletter issued

Tuesday, January 11

7:00 pm – Zoom PAC Meeting

Tuesday, January 18

12:00 pm – Grad Council meeting

January 24-28

Literacy 10, Numeracy 10, Literacy

12 Assessment Window

Wednesday, January 26

1:15 pm early dismissal –

Professional Learning Community

Thursday, January 27

Last day of regular classes in Term 2

Friday, January 28

"I" Day; End of Term 2/Semester 1
(Grades 9 – 12)

Monday, January 31

Start of Term 3/Semester 2 (Gr 9–12)

Tuesday, February 1

12:00 pm – Grad Council Meeting

students in your home and we are always looking for host families. For more information, please contact Brenda at 250 510-1436 or email blanglois@sd79.bc.ca.

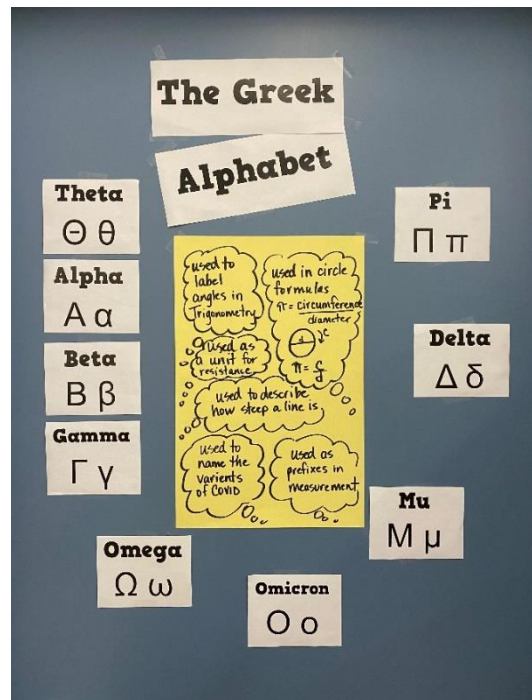
There was incredible participation and enthusiasm shown by more than 40 girls from Grades 8 through 12 who showed up to practice twice a week for volleyball. Coached by Ms. Mayner, students gained skills, made new connections, and had the opportunity to play a couple of games with Quamichan School, one at home and one at Quam. They finished up the season with ice cream sundaes to celebrate! Special thanks to Melissa in Grade 12 who led the seniors' practice every week!

In Mr. Heath's Boxing and Gaming PE class, students traditionally split their time between boxing training in the gym and Esports training in the computer lab, but unfortunately, they were unable to get into a lab this year. The first half of the boxing portion of the course has been dedicated to learning the basic skills necessary to play the "game" of boxing. They have covered their fighting stance, the high guard, fundamentals of footwork, defensive tools such as blocking, slipping, dipping, and parrying, as well as the mechanics of the four fundamental offensive strikes (straights, hooks, uppercuts and overhands). The gaming portion of this year's course has been a bit of a runaround. After six weeks of chronic technology problems, the class was forced to give up on using Starcraft 2 as their Esport and Mr. Heath reframed the course around the study and training of chess. Thankfully, chess is a hard, unforgiving game that we are all terrible at so gives a great place to develop resiliency, examine how best to use time, and focus on improvement over perfection. In the limited time they have spent with it, they have covered the rules, the phases of the game and explored how to "spar" in chess.

Mr. Achurch's English 12 class has recently completed a presentation project where students chose a literary period or movement through history. They were responsible for elements that are associated with their literary period/movement, historical events that affected writers during that time, and famous writers/literary works of that period. They have now moved to a deeper dive into post-modernism literature and film.

With the recent discovery of the latest COVID-19 variant Omicron (O), we are adding to our knowledge of the letters in the Greek alphabet. All Kelsey students know about Pi (π) when calculating the area of a circle and volumes of cones, cylinders, and spheres. Science students have worked with Greek letters such as Omega (Ω – the unit for an ohm) and Mu (μ – a prefix used for a small measurement). Some math students know about Theta (θ), Alpha (α), Beta (β), and Gamma (γ) when labelling angles in a triangle. Many other Greek letters are used in upper level science and calculus courses. Omicron is the 15th of 24 letters in the Greek alphabet and was chosen by the World Health Organization.

Also, do you know how many quarts are in a gallon? How about how many cups in a pint? The tricky questions become, how many gallons in a quart or how many gallons in a pint? Some math classes used the "gallon bot" to help visualize the answers. The "gallon bot" helps us see that a gallon can be cut into 4, 8, 16, or even 32 equal parts (no room for the fluid ounces on the bot). Thinking of equal parts, can you now answer the tricky questions when dealing with Imperial measurements? In the end, we decided we are lucky to live in Canada with the metric system because in the metric system, the parts are all multiples of 10.



New Staff

Welcome back to Mr. Cosford who has just returned from his parental leave, and thanks to Mr. Varro for substituting in his absence. We hope to see him on staff again soon. Mr. Reed has also returned on a part time basis and we welcome him back as well. Mr. C. Knippelberg will continue to share the job on those days that Mr. Reed is absent.

Scholarships and Bursaries – A Great Time to Get a Head Start

By Mr. Darren Hart, Acting Vice-Principal

A Grade 12 assembly was held in early November to introduce students to the different types of scholarships and bursaries available. At this assembly, students were encouraged to look at our local scholarships under the graduation tab on our school's website. The site lists a large number of local scholarships/bursaries available to graduating FKSS students. The list will be updated in early January and the deadline will be March 11, 2022.



Information for the District Scholarship is also found under the graduation tab. Applying for a District Scholarship will also satisfy the criteria for the CLC Capstone 12 project. The deadline for this scholarship will be after Spring Break (exact date TBA).

Additionally, other scholarships pop up throughout the year that are neither local nor district. These are posted in the Week at a Glance, Daily NewsBreaker and on the Grad 2022 Team. It is up to students to keep up to date with these as they emerge. Please see Mrs. Bonner in the library if you have any specific questions relating to these.

So..... all of this said, what can students be doing right now?

- Read through the local scholarships/bursaries under the graduation tab on fkss.sd79.bc.ca
- Begin preparing an academic resume. A template can be found under the same tab
- Create a generic cover letter that can be tailored to each bursary or scholarship that students wish to apply for
- Print and complete the Letter of Reference Request that can be handed to teachers/community members for letters of reference. This can also be found under the graduation tab

More information for local scholarships/bursaries and District Scholarships will come out following the winter break. If students have any specific questions, they are asked to see Mr. Hart. Remember, it is never too early to start preparing. All the best!

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

- Nathan Alexander Bursary
- Beedie Luminaries Scholarship
- Youth Skills Development Scholarships
- Youth Leadership Awards

Dry Grad

Grad parents – we urge you all to put your efforts into making our upcoming fundraisers a success. While it is exciting to make decisions about what grad will look like for our kids, raising the funds to make these events happen is equally as important. **WE RELY ON OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY**, Grade 12 parents especially, to volunteer for and support our fundraisers because if we aren't able to raise the funds needed to make our planned events go ahead, we will have to put these costs directly onto the grads and no one wants to see that happen. SO...



Our BOTTLE DRIVE is happening NEXT SATURDAY December 11th. If you and your grad did not volunteer for the last one, please consider stepping up to help that Saturday. Start asking your friends/neighbours now if they will donate their refundables so you have a collection to bring right away that Saturday morning. Refundables can also be dropped off anytime, day or night, at 3876 McAlpine Road in Cobble Hill – the very end of the road in the open black tent on the left.

PANAGO VOUCHERS are an awesome deal. \$12 gets you a voucher for a medium pizza, unlimited toppings, no expiry, good at any Panago location. Email \$12/voucher to franceskelseydrygrad@gmail.com Vouchers will be sent home with your student once the funds are received.

Don't forget to save and send your COUNTRY GROCER RECEIPTS with your student to the Kelsey office. We get 1% back through this program, so every penny counts.

And finally, a reminder that if you do have a grad and would prefer to ignore all of these fundraisers, you do have the opportunity to make a one-time donation to support our fundraising. Suggested donation amount is \$125, the amount we are hoping to raise for each grad.

Thanks from your FKSS 2022 Parent Grad Committee.

Frances Kelsey Parents Advisory Council



There will be no meeting this month. Our next meeting will be held **Tuesday, January 11** at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Happy Holidays to you all!

DRY GRAD

Please join us at our next meeting on **Tuesday, January 11** at 7:00 pm. For more information contact Tanya at 250 732-6492

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.

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.



Career Corner

Last month, all Grade 12's attended presentations by Camosun College, North Island College, University of Victoria and Vancouver Island University, being local institutions to Vancouver Island. After hearing from representatives from each institution, students had the opportunity to speak in person to those reps and have their questions answered.

Regional Skills Canada Competition - Friday, February 25 @ VIU Nanaimo. Please refer to the attached link for a complete list of competitions and supporting scope documents: <https://skillscanada.bc.ca/2021-regional-competition-documents/>

Jr. Competitions: Gearbots, Gravity Vehicle Race, Spaghetti Bridge, Sumo Robots, Wind Turbine.

Senior Competitions: Automotive, Architectural CAD, Cabinetmaking, Carpentry, Culinary Arts, Electrical Wiring, Fashion Technology, Graphic Design, Hairdressing, IT Software Applications, Job Search, Photography, Public Speaking, Robotics (VEX), TV/Video Production, Web Design, Welding, Workplace Safety.

VIU DUAL CREDIT – Seats still available for February 2022 start: Early Childhood Education 130, February 9 to May 18, Wednesday evenings. Also, Child & Youth Care 152. Stop by FKSS Career Centre to apply.

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! Short term (3 months) and longer term stays (5 months or 10 months) are needed. Remuneration of \$900 per month. Call Brenda at 250 510-1436 or email blanglois@sd79.bc.ca



Our Journey is BEYOND EDUCATION

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.