

# THE WHALE'S TALE

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



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## Course Selections 2022 - 2023

**By Mr. Jeff Rowan, Principal**

It is again the time when students need to choose courses for the next school year. At this point, we do not know the health and safety requirements for next September, so we will be following our usual process and will adjust later if necessary. We strongly encourage parents to engage in discussion with their children regarding the courses being chosen. *Students are expected to take a full course load* of eight courses per school year; however, graduating students may opt to take seven courses and use the unscheduled block as an extra work block. Our experience in the past has strongly proven that students who are on partial schedules accomplish much less and are not as successful as those with a full load. Humans tend to be more efficient and productive when we are busy and have to use strategic time management.

Students' requests for courses determine what electives are offered, as well as the number of classes run in each elective; so it is *very important to choose carefully*. Requests from students to change their choices later in the process are difficult, if not impossible, as some options may have been eliminated due to low enrollment numbers. We thank you for your close attention to this process and wish you all the best as we move into course selection time!

## What's Been Happening at Kelsey?

Thanks to everyone who donated to our Interact club's January bottle drive in support of the Bikes for Cambodia project. In order to travel the long distance to school, children in Cambodia require bicycles, and without them, they cannot attend. The Interact club, sponsored by Ms. Bhandari, raised \$500. Very impressive! We also wish to acknowledge the South Cowichan Rotary Club for donating \$100. Each bike costs \$50,



## *Kelsey Calendar*

### **Monday, February 7**

Report cards issued

Whale's Tale newsletter issued

### **Tuesday, February 8**

6:30 pm – Dry Grad parents meeting  
via Zoom

### **Thursday, February 10**

7:00 pm – PAC meeting via Zoom

### **Saturday, February 12**

Dry Grad bottle drive

### **Monday, February 14**

7:00 pm – Hockey Academy Parent  
Zoom meeting

### **Tuesday, February 15**

8:30 am – Hockey Academy  
registration

12:00 pm – Grad Council meeting in  
library

### **Friday, February 18**

Professional Development Day

### **Monday, February 21**

Family Day

### **Tuesday, March 1**

12:00 pm – Grad Council meeting in  
library

### **Monday, March 7**

Whale's Tale newsletter issued

### **Friday, March 11**

Last day of classes

### **March 14 – 25**

Spring Break and District Closure

### **Monday, March 28**

Classes resume

### **Tuesday, March 29**

12:00 pm – Grad Council meeting in  
library

### **Monday, April 11**

District Implementation Day

so when the monies were combined, there was enough to purchase 12 bicycles.

In early February, the science department will receive 100 coho eggs from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The students will carefully monitor our tank's temperature and record the number of fry that hatch. In March or April, the students will take the fry down to the Shawnigan-Mill Bay creek to release them. In several years, hopefully, some of these fish will be brought upstream by the Mill Bay Salmon Enhancement Program.

This semester in Mr. Owen's Social Justice 12 class, students explored a number of social justice issues, rights movements, and historical events. Highlights included an Indigenous Studies unit focused on Canadian Indigenous women's cinema, a chronological survey of feminist literature and thought, and an investigation into multiculturalism in Canada and the historical experiences of different ethnic minority communities. Near the end of the semester, students used historical archives to research contemporaneous depictions of the Komagata Maru incident in BC newspapers.

*Having a Blast in Science 11!* Ms. de Graaf's Science for Citizens 11 has completed the Forensic Science unit with a blast – a shotgun blast! Students visited the crime scene of a mock homicide at Frances Kelsey. Working against the clock to find the killer, students collected and analyzed evidence, and met with detectives. Final projects were "Evidence Boards" that allowed students to quickly eliminate a large pool of suspects and quickly deduce "who done it"! Special thanks to Mr. Abbott for the amazing resources for the Kelsey Caper!

This term in Philosophy 12, Mr. Brewer's students will learn how to pose meaningful questions, inspect and scrutinize their deeply held beliefs, and work out their own ideas with care and rigor. The course is done through examining the "big" questions in life such as "Is free will real or just an illusion?"; "Is there a meaning to life?"; "How can we tell what's real?"; and "What does it mean to live a good life?"

Although there is still frost on the ground, we cannot help but dream of spring weather. Likewise, even with pandemic restrictions in place, we're looking forward to more opportunities to enjoy live music. A group of dedicated students from Mr. Ludwig's Composition and Production 12 class has been working on a combination of cover songs and original music that they plan to perform in the theatre at lunch sometime in the near future. Stay tuned for more details. Finally, a new course is being offered this term, Contemporary Music, which focuses on preparing students to perform together as bands with shows being planned when spring is in full bloom.

Mr. Launder and Mrs. Grymaloski are again sponsoring a team of Kelsey runners for the Times Colonist TC10K run on Sunday, April 24. We welcome all students, staff, community members, and alumni to join this year's Kelsey TC10K team. Registration includes a performance T-shirt, race medallion, beautiful scenery, lots of food and drinks at the end of the race, and bragging rights. All walkers and runners are welcome. A great opportunity to get out and get some exercise! Please register for the Kelsey TC10K team at: <https://runsport.ca/2022-tc10k>

Wanted – if you have clean bubble wrap, especially the kind with bigger, 1" bubbles, please donate it to the library. Thank you!

Lastly, two new clubs have recently formed: **Badminton Club**, Tuesdays and Thursdays at lunch in the gym. Open to all students and staff. Sponsor: Mr. Mearns. **Silent Book Club** meets at lunch on the second to last Thursday of the month in the library. A chance to regularly read anything of your choice, in silence, without interruption. Bliss! Sponsors: Ms. Baker and Mrs. Bonner. For a complete listing of clubs, see [fkss.sd79.bc.ca](https://fkss.sd79.bc.ca), then click on the Students & Parents tab, then open Clubs & Activities.

## New Staff

For our second semester, we say ‘Welcome Back’ to Mr. Matthew Franko (PE 8, Leadership 9, support); Ms. Christine Hoffman (English 10 and 12, PE 8, PE 9); Mr. Mitch Knippelberg (learning assistance); Mr. Gregory Owen (SS 9, Geography 12, PE 12 trails program) and Mr. Brendon Varro (French 8, French 9, Foundations of Math 10). We are also happy to announce that Ms. Natalie Dickson (Science 10, Workplace Math 10, Foundation of Math 11, Coast Salish 8) and Mr. Liam Edey (Math 8, Science 8, Math 9) have joined our staff. Welcome to you both.

## Scholarships and Bursaries

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

Through the generous donations of many groups and organizations, we have approximately \$120,000 available in the form of local scholarships and bursaries. These awards are available for high achievers as well as trades and practical arts students and individuals who show excellence in service to their community.



During our Q block classes, our Grade 12’s have been shown the Kelsey scholarship and bursary website, as well as where to find applications. Please note that all local scholarship and bursary packages are due in the counselling office by Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> (the day before Spring Break). To view our local scholarships, visit [fkss.sd79.bc.ca](http://fkss.sd79.bc.ca) and toggle the “grad” link. Students should remember that a monthly listing of non-local scholarships (open to all students in British Columbia), is available at [www.scholarshipscanada.com](http://www.scholarshipscanada.com) and I encourage all Grade 12’s to look at this award information. As well, [www.educationplanner.ca/plan/finance/scholarship](http://www.educationplanner.ca/plan/finance/scholarship) is a good resource.

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

- Pathway to Teacher Education Scholarship
- Coastal Community Credit Union Scholarship
- Trevor Linden Community Spirit Scholarship
- BC Transplant Society Scholarship

## Dry Grad

Our next parent Dry Grad meeting will be held at **6:30 pm on Tuesday, February 8** via Zoom: <https://sd79.zoom.us/j/66053195121>. Please join us to help plan the fundraising and grad events for your upcoming graduate. BRING A FRIEND!



**BOTTLE DRIVES** - Thank you to everyone who supported our second bottle drive last month. Mark your calendars:

· February 12, March 26 & April 30 - bottle drives will be happening at Evergreen School

· Tell your family: donations can also be taken to the Fisher Road bottle depot anytime and ask for the funds to be deposited to FKSS Dry Grad account

· Drop off anytime: 3578 Garland Ave, Cobble Hill (leave by the garage-easy!!)

(continued next page)

**PANAGO PIZZA VOUCHERS** - Make dinner options easy - stock up for the year so the kids can easily take care of dinner themselves. Email [franceskelseydrygrad@gmail.com](mailto:franceskelseydrygrad@gmail.com) with your student(s) name, advisor name and # of vouchers. We will deliver to the school for pickup by the student. Cost # tickets x \$12 (\$4 from every \$12 goes to Dry Grad). Vouchers do not expire - unlimited toppings – redeemable for ANY medium pizza from ANY Panago location – order anytime as this is a year long fundraiser.

### **DRY GRAD**

Please join us at our next meeting on **Tuesday, February 8** at 6:30 pm via Zoom:

<https://sd79.zoom.us/j/66053195121>

For more information, please contact [franceskelseydrygrad@gmail.com](mailto:franceskelseydrygrad@gmail.com)

**COUNTRY GROCER RECEIPTS** - Send your Country Grocer receipts to school with your student(s). We are collecting receipts for Dry Grad and we want yours! Receipts can be handed in at the office at the drop box.

**FIREWOOD SALES** - Mark your calendars: we will be selling firewood in APRIL to prepare you for next year's winter warmth. Watch the Facebook Dry Grad page for further details

on dates/times. Tell your family and friends.

## **Providence Farm and Magic Wand Project Grad Wear**

Did you know that Providence Farm has a selection of formal wear and would love to help any female student who may not have the means to afford an outfit for this special occasion? Please contact [thriftstore@providence.bc.ca](mailto:thriftstore@providence.bc.ca). Also remember that through the Magic Wand Project, any student facing adversity may borrow a complete grad outfit, and *all students* can rent for a nominal fee. There's a great selection of gowns and tuxedos available, as well as a variety of shoes and accessories. Contact Elizabeth at [esurerus@telus.net](mailto:esurerus@telus.net) or view the website at [www.themagicwandproject.ca](http://www.themagicwandproject.ca)

## **Important CLC 12 Information for Grade 12's**

**By Ms. Alana Baker, Teacher-Librarian**

Career Life Connections 12 is a year long Ministry requirement for graduation. Assessment consists of a Capstone Project and tasks on the MyBlueprint website which were both assigned in September. The MyBlueprint work should be complete by now. Capstone is intended to show continuous learning so hard deadlines have been set and students must journal regularly online through assignments on Teams from their CLC 12 teacher. The student-created Capstone Project consists of a proposal and four journal entries documenting learning progress with a final presentation to their advisor group in May. The proposal and first two journal entries are now past due, and the remaining two entries are due before the end of March.

The final presentation should be completed by May 15. Due to the pandemic making the mandatory connection with mentors for this project challenging, we have allowed virtual methods and family members to serve as mentors. If students need assistance on any of the course work or expectations, they should see or message their CLC 12 teacher.



## **Frances Kelsey Parents Advisory Council**

**By Ms. Lizzie Johnson, PAC President**

Hello from the PAC! We have already held our first meeting for 2022. Our next one is scheduled for **Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup>**. Details will be emailed and posted on Facebook. We usually hold the meetings on every second

Tuesday, but for February and March, we are holding them on the second Thursday. At this time, we continue to hold our meetings via Zoom as this has proven to be very convenient for PAC members and the administration.

The PAC continues to support the interior upgrades, the Kelsey bus and sports. It's been great to see so many kids getting involved with sport again.

A few of the PAC members were able to celebrate the last day of term in December by handing out candy canes and lollipops to the students. It seemed to be appreciated (the pots were empty at the end of the rampage!) and we hope to do something again for the students very soon.

As we approach graduation time again, we invite ALL graduating students to review the bursaries available through PAC. 10 available for \$500 each.

As always, all parents, caregivers and guardians are welcome to join us at our meetings. We don't have to do any fundraising, the meetings are a good way to get an insight to Kelsey, and we get to decide where the money is needed most.

Take care and we hope to see you on the screen soon!

**FKPAC**  
Please join us at our next meeting on **Thursday, February 10** at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Details will be emailed and posted on Facebook.  
For more information, please contact [franceskelseydrygrad@gmail.com](mailto:franceskelseydrygrad@gmail.com)

## **District Parent Advisory Council**

**By Ms. Cindy Youden, DPAC Rep for FKSS PAC**

Did you know that there are committees available to you through your District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) to provide you with support and guidance? Here are a couple to check out:

### **Parents for Inclusive Education (PIE) Committee**

The purpose of this committee is to provide support for our diverse learners and to connect parents on a monthly basis. Such support comes through parent education opportunities as well as resources around a variety of topics, including: Creating and working with an Individual Education Plan (IEP); Handling stress and anxiety in today's environment; Literacy and numeracy for our learners; Funding for children with diverse learning needs and how to advocate for them, to name a few. Your DPAC PIE Committee welcomes ALL parents, and topics are as dynamic as our learners!

PIE Committee meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30pm via Zoom. For more information, contact: [cowichanvalleydpac@gmail.com](mailto:cowichanvalleydpac@gmail.com)

### **Indigenous DPAC Committee**

The mission of this committee: To support the success of our Indigenous children through identifying the gaps in our system; building success through social, emotional and cultural aspects of Indigenous belief systems; and working towards a goal of inclusion.

Meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 via Zoom. For information, contact: [idpacsd79@gmail.com](mailto:idpacsd79@gmail.com)

## **Career Corner**

Looking for a job for the new year? Local employers are hiring! We have postings for Shawnigan Lake

School, Brentwood School, Thrifty's, Rona, Superstore, North Cowichan Aquatics and Parks and Trails. Dinter's Nursery is also hosting a job fair. Check out the job board in the Career Centre for details about these and many other jobs. You can also sign up for help with your resume at the Career Centre.

VIU Dual Credit Program - Going into Grade 12 in September? Are you interested in starting a trade? Or maybe taking a first year course at VIU? What does Dual Credit mean?

- You are taking post-secondary courses and/or training while still in high school.
- They are tuition-free and you get both high school and post-secondary credits for every VIU course you take. If you are interested in taking a course or program in 2022/2023 at VIU, now is the time to sign up. Details in the Career Centre.

## Parents and Students - Please Help

There are still many outstanding library and textbooks from first semester. Many go missing every year and the amount adds up to thousands of dollars. If you have any Kelsey books at home, we would appreciate their return as soon as possible. Many of our resources are not new, but the replacement cost is shocking and is something that we cannot easily afford. For example, in the senior grades, the Pre-Calculus 12 text is \$90, the Psychology 11/12 text is \$133, the Environmental Science 12 text is \$200, and graphing calculators are \$150. The small textbook deposit of \$25 does not begin to cover the replacement of lost books. It is never too late to return these resources and we appreciate any assistance.

## “The Little Mermaid” Update



By the skin of our teeth, a flexible and resilient group of student actors and tech crew made it through the successful performance of Disney's "The Little Mermaid". Ms. Roberts had to change performance plans at the last moment due to COVID, but students were still able to perform to their fellow students during the day instead of to the public. In some performances, we had up to 11 students missing! Due to illness, some students even took on major lead roles with less than two hours' notice. However, it was a fun show

to see and we invite you to watch this family friendly production via this link: <https://youtu.be/YDjn3eEbOL8>. As the show cost us over \$10,000 (the rights alone were more than \$5,000 US), please consider making a donation to help defray costs. ([www.fkss.sd79.bc.ca](http://www.fkss.sd79.bc.ca) – on gold bar at top, click Pay Online, sign in through your student's account. If you do not have a student account, at Pay Online, click Register. Follow the prompts and at the bottom of "Add Student" page, click on "I Don't Want to Add a Student". For assistance, please call 250 743-6916, extension 225) Thank you!

**Homestays Needed for International High School 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](mailto:blanglois@sd79.bc.ca)



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