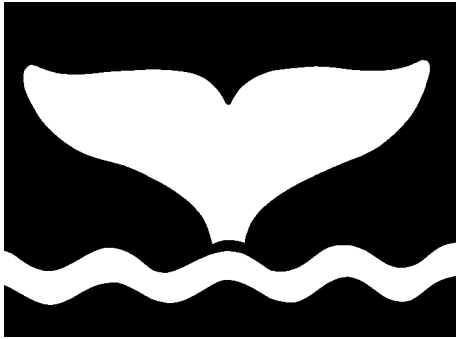


# THE WHALE'S TALE



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

*June 5, 2006 Vol. 11/No. 8*

## Grad Banquet 2006

There were some tense moments early in the day. Morning saw dark rain clouds hover menacingly in the grey sky. But... after hours of make-up, hair-sculpting, pedicures and goodness knows what else... the grads finally arrived at Kelsey to bright sky and sunshine. And what an arrival! We saw limousines, fire trucks, antique cars, scooters... all sorts of vehicles bringing the grads to the school. And do they ever clean up well. Tuxes, beautiful gowns, corsages, top hats, canes... absolutely wonderful.

After a brief time to mingle under the dome, the grads made a departure through the arbour and made their way into six waiting coaches. They arrived at Ocean Pointe and when all were there, the grads proceeded to the outdoor stairway leading from the lobby to the walkway along the water for their group photo. They were then free to wander the hotel grounds and facilities, visiting with each other, teachers and well wishers. They sure made an impression on the guests staying at the hotel.

The buffet banquet was superb followed by a welcome from the banquet committee chair, Jake McGaw, and a speech to the grads by Mr. Loutet. He received a standing ovation. When the time came for the grad council president, Rachel Paish, to speak, she instead broke into song, was

gradually joined by others seated throughout the room, and was eventually joined on the dance floor by the performing arts grads in a wonderful performance. Another standing ovation.

The grad video production this year, produced by Robby Thomas, was twenty-two minutes of wonderful memories of the year, and humorous fun poked at administration and students. The grads went wild at the end and gave Robby... wait for it... a standing ovation.

The rest of the evening was spent either on the dance floor, or relaxing in the wonderful ambience afforded us by Ocean Pointe.

After a year of planning to put this evening together, one cannot thank everyone who helped. A huge success is thanks to the hard work of many. We must, however, send kudos to Mr. Archer, Mrs. Mackay and Mrs. Robinson and their banquet committee who worked tirelessly throughout the year to make the whole evening come to fruition. A job well done. Thank you.

Did the grads have a good



<b>Monday, June 5, 2006</b> Monthly report issued with newsletter
<b>Thursday, June 8, 2006</b> 7:00 p.m. Dry Grad Parents' meeting in library
<b>Thursday, June 15, 2006</b> 7:00 p.m. Grade 12 Scholarship and Bursary Awards Evening and Reception
<b>Tuesday, June 20, 2006</b> Last day of mandatory classes
<b>June 21-29, 2006</b> Provincial Exams
<b>Wednesday, June 21, 2006</b> 7:00 p.m. PAC meeting in library
<b>Thursday, June 22, 2006</b> 7:00 p.m. Dry Grad Parents' meeting in library
<b>Tuesday, June 27, 2006</b> 7:00 p.m. Whole School Awards Evening
<b>Friday, June 30, 2006</b> 6:30 p.m. Walk-Up Ceremony with Dry Grad Party to follow
<b>Tuesday, September 5, 2006</b> School opens to grade 10, 11, and 12 students
<b>Wednesday, September 6, 2006</b> School opens to grade 9 students
<b>Thursday, September 7, 2006</b> First day of classes for all students
<b>Friday, September 22, 2006</b> District Implementation Day-no classes
<b>Monday, October 9, 2006</b> Thanksgiving Day - no classes
<b>Thursday, October 12, 2006</b> 1:05 p.m. - District-wide early dismissal

time? The feedback has been incredibly positive, and can be summed up by the words of one

of the young ladies who, at the end of the evening, when asked if she had had a good time said...

“It was magical.” That’s what it’s all about.

## Scholarships and Bursaries

By Jeff Rowan, Vice-Principal

Frances Kelsey is having our Scholarships and Bursaries Presentation night on Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the gym. The local scholarships and bursaries will be presented that evening in

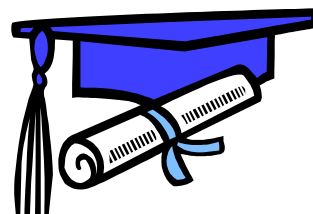
a formal ceremony followed by a reception in the Dome with the award donors, students, parents and staff. We again want to congratulate all those graduating students who

applied for scholarships this year. Although most of the scholarships and bursaries will be announced on the evening of the Presentation night, the awards listed below have already been made public knowledge.

Felicity Conrad	McGill University	\$3,000 (4 year renewable)
Madelaine Gierc	University of Alberta	\$7,500
Stacey Pritchett	Malaspina University-College	\$1,000
Lia Sampson	University of British Columbia	\$2,000
Nicole Toth	University of Victoria	\$2,000
Leigh Wicki-Stordeur	University of Victoria	\$4,000
Melissa Yeaman	Simon Fraser University	\$ 500

A reminder that some other scholarships are still being offered through [www.bcawardsonline.sd61.bc.ca/](http://www.bcawardsonline.sd61.bc.ca/) Application forms for the following scholarships and bursaries, which have deadlines in June, July, August and September, 2006, are available in the library filing cabinet:

- Saint Mary’s University’s Entrance Scholarship Program
- Canadian Health Care Academy
- Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists Foundation
- Muscular Dystrophy Canada
- University of Alberta Academic Excellence Scholarships, Eldon Foote Track and Field, International Baccalaureate Diploma and Advanced Placement
- Monsanto Canada Opportunity Scholarship
- University of British Columbia (Gord Robson Scholarship)
- Apple Scholars Award Program
- Edmonton Rodeo Cowboy’s Benevolent Foundation
- British Columbia Institute of Technology
- Khalsa Credit Union for youth of the Sikh community
- Piolat Foundation for students showing outstanding interest and ability in French



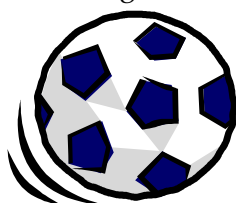
Websites of Interest:

- BC Colleges/Universities scholarships: [www.scholarshipscanada.com](http://www.scholarshipscanada.com), [www.studentawards.com](http://www.studentawards.com), [www.bcawardsonline.sd61.bc.ca](http://www.bcawardsonline.sd61.bc.ca)
- Online applications in BC: [www.pas.bc.ca](http://www.pas.bc.ca)
- Canadian Universities and Colleges: [www.schoolfinder.com](http://www.schoolfinder.com)

## Soccer Season Update

Three Frances Kelsey girls have made important contributions to the success of the Cowichan Division 1 Ladies’ Soccer team this season. Without the efforts of Kim Bakker, Coleen Dougan, and Samantha Schroeder, the Cowichan team would not have made it to the Doug Day Cup

finals. Five straight wins in cup



play ensured the team a place in

the finals as well as a spot in the Provincial playoff in June. Coleen Dougan and Samantha Schroeder shared the Rookie of the Year Award while Samantha was also honoured as Most Valuable Player for the team. Congratulations, ladies!



# Summer School

School District #79 will again be offering a summer school program at Frances Kelsey Secondary School for students enrolled in the following subjects:

Mathematics 9, 10, 11  
Social Studies 9, 10, 11  
English 9, 10, 11  
Science 9, 10

Additional courses may be offered if student demand and staffing allow this to occur. We reserve the right to limit the size and number of classes. We cannot guarantee additional classes when enrolment passes expectations.

The main purpose of summer school at Kelsey is to give students an opportunity to complete learning guides. Students must enroll and work on one course at a time. If that course is finished before the end of the program, a second course may be completed providing space is available.

Summer school will run from Wednesday, July 5<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 8:15-10:15 a.m. The cost is \$200.

Registration forms will be available in the counselling office. Payment must be included as noted on the registration form. Deadline is Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, to facilitate staffing and organization of classes. For further information, phone Mrs. Mary Brinkman at Frances Kelsey Secondary (743-6916, local 268).

## A Huge Success

**By Hannah Lishman, Student**

On behalf of the Frances Kelsey Current Global Issues Club, I am thrilled to say that the first Night of a Thousand Dinners held at Frances Kelsey was a huge success!!! Through the fundraising night, the Landmine Awareness Week, and other generous donations, we were able to raise over \$3,500 for landmine victims and de-mining in Cambodia through the organizations Adopt-A-Minefield and Mines Action Canada. It is safe to say that the Night of a Thousand Dinners was informative, enjoyable, and beyond any of the organizers' wildest dreams! We would like to

give a huge thank you not only to all those who attended but to the many people who helped and were involved in organizing this event. And for those who wanted to come but could not get a ticket, there is always next year's dinner to look forward to! Thanks again and keep a look out for more exciting Current Global Issues Club events to come!

The *Whale's Tale* is distributed on the first Monday of each month, excluding holidays. Layout by Nancy Bonner, Library Assistant. Edited by staff and Administration.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO BUS STUDENTS

All students requiring school bus transportation must register with the Transportation Department each school year.

Completed Registration Forms to be returned to your school office by June 15, 2006.

Bus Registration Forms are available in your school office.

One Registration Form per student.

2006/07 Bus Routes will be posted at your school by 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2006.

## Gourmet A la Carte Luncheons

at Frances Kelsey Dining Room  
(Closed as of June 10)

Join us for a gourmet dining experience at a reasonable price while supporting students enrolled in Malaspina University-College's Culinary Arts Program. Under the supervision of professional cooking instructors, students prepare and serve gourmet cuisine made from many locally produced ingredients!

Reservations recommended - call 250 743-0548

S  
PAC  
C



By Jane Morris, President  
FKPAC

## FKSS Mission Statement

*Frances Kelsey Secondary School, in partnership with students, parents and the community, is dedicated to developing the individual potential of each student. By providing a cooperative, individually-paced, safe and caring environment, we encourage students to be self-directed, responsible citizens and life-long learners.*

Another school year is drawing to a close and amongst all the hustle and bustle of year-end activities and exams I would like to take a moment to reflect on the past year.

We are in the very fortunate position of having a steady income from two gaming sources, one a yearly deposit each fall of approximately \$24,000 and the other a monthly income of over \$1,400 from Bingo funds. These funds enable us to support a wide variety of activities that the students at FKSS are involved in.

Following is a list of the various events, clubs and activities your PAC has helped fund: Encounters With Canada in Ottawa, Red Cross Global Symposium, Sr. Girls' Volleyball Tournament, Balance Day, all

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Candidates' Forum for the School Trustee Election, Zoom Student Film Festival winners to Vancouver to collect their scholarships, money for 23 teams and clubs, UN Model at Malaspina, Provincial Curling Championship attendees, National Jr. Wheelchair Basketball attendees (Montreal), BC music Provincials (3 attendees), Starskate Provincial championships, 14 students to the Midget AA Hockey Championships in Whitehorse, Red Cross Club 30 Hour Famine, 35 students to the "Reaching Beyond" Leadership Conference in Nanaimo, 11 Students to Skills Canada Competition, Night of 1000 Dinners (Global Issues), and four \$500.00 PAC bursaries to be awarded on June 15 at the Awards night. This is only a partial list to give you an idea of the scope of fabulous things our students are involved in from the arts to technology and sports and everything in between. We have more fun than I can ever tell you in being able to encourage these ventures with some needed capital.

PAC is not just about spending money (although it is one of the best parts)! Our objective as stated in our constitution is to "enhance communication between the parents, the community, the students and the school staff and administration." "To review, discuss and make recommendations to the school staff and administration on: school policy and procedures; programs and services; facilities and equipment; parent/community education; learning resources." "To promote cooperation between the home and the school in providing for the education of children. To contribute to the effectiveness of the school by promoting the positive involvement of parents and other community members."

## FKPAC

Please come and join us at  
our next meeting on:  
Wednesday  
June 21 at 7:00 p.m.  
in the school library

We continue to strive to achieve our objectives and as such have instituted sending out the minutes from PAC meetings via email to the addresses the school already had. If you would like to be included on that list, send an email to [fkpac@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:fkpac@sd79.bc.ca) with your child's name and grade and the correct email address to use. I would be happy to add you to the list! We will also be sending out the Agenda for the upcoming meetings to give people a chance to see what is coming up.

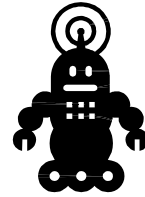
We are planning a parent orientation evening in September (most likely the third week) for our new parents. This will give new parents an opportunity to meet with parents who have 'been around' for a while, to ask questions and find an understanding ear. Bring your child's agenda book and come with questions.

Our last meeting for the year will be held on June 21 at 7:00 in the library with coffee (decaf!) and goodies. Please come out and join us for our farewell meeting (not too much business hopefully!) and have a restful, safe and happy summer!

## ATTENTION BOOKWORMS!

Write a 500 word review of a book and you could win a fabulous prize, including \$1,000 or a trip to Toronto. See Mrs. Bonner in the library for details - then get reading!

# South Island Robotics Competition 2006



**By Ken Hamilton, Teacher**

A team of eight technology students designed and constructed a complex robot to compete in the Camosun Robotics Challenge on May 17 in Victoria. The team members included Ryan Brabander, Regner Blok-Andersen, Jesse Crayston, Jordan Hepburn, Graham Jones, Dan Moody, Dan Saunders, and Nick Schroepfer. The materials to construct the robot were

sponsored by the PAC, Victoria Metal Supermarket and Superior Cycle.

The students had to design a robot that could pick up a bocce ball, climb a 128 cm Mayan tower and deposit the bocce ball on the top. This was an extremely difficult challenge, due to restrictions on size and equipment imposed by the contest rules. As a result many other schools dropped out of the competition at the last minute. The

competition was fast and furious with the Frances Kelsey team making a few design and construction alterations to their robot between heats. The team from Frances Kelsey did a great job, tying with another team for third place overall and winning an honourable mention award from the panel of judges. Well done, Team!

## Blood. It's in You to Give

**By Amanda Dodd and Taylor Winfrey, Students, on behalf of the Red Cross Club**

Many people feel that the only way they can help cure others is through financial donations, but they might not know that there is another option: donating blood. This is a fairly simple process, which anyone can participate in. By donating blood just once you can save 3 lives. You must be at

least 17 years of age and in good health to donate.

National Blood Donor Week takes place from June 12 to June 16, 2006. World Blood Donor Day takes place on June 14. This is a day when countries all around the world recognize those who give a

part of themselves to help others.

If you are interested in donating blood, plasma, or bone marrow, please contact Canadian Blood Services at 1-888-2-DONATE (236-6283) to make an appointment.

## Filmmakers Strike Gold Again!

**By Tom Geoghegan, Teacher**

Frances Kelsey had two video teams competing in the recent Skills Canada Regionals for the South Island. Tori Pearson and Erin Rooke captured the Gold Medal while Erik Horn and Connor Taiji took the silver medal. These achievements earned these students a trip to the Skills Canada Provincial Championships held in Abbotsford April 26<sup>th</sup>. Tori and Erin placed again earning a bronze medal! Well Done!

## "In Confidence" Takes More Awards!

This short film has won more awards this May at the BC Student Film Festival. Erik Horn and Andy McGrath's winning entry at last fall's Zoom Film Festival also has taken a very prestigious film craft award - Best New Original Music for the soundtrack from the band andbrownleaves.

Congratulations All!

Global Awareness Video Night

**RWANDA**

Tuesday June 6th

6 - 8 p.m.

Frances Kelsey Theatre



Guest Speakers

Refreshments

Entrance by Donation

All Proceeds go to "Building  
Bridges with Rwanda."



With the end of the school year rapidly approaching, the Dry Grad Committee is very busy planning a memorable "jungle" Dry Grad party, scheduled to begin after the Walk-Up ceremony Friday, June 30.

Dry Grad is a drug- and alcohol-free event planned and chaperoned by parents. At Dry Grad students can savour their graduation in a safe and enjoyable atmosphere. Since the inception of Dry Grad in 1989, there have been no fatalities on

grad night in the Cowichan Valley.

Parents are still needed, especially on June 30! If you can help a little, or a lot, please contact Frank Minchin, Dry Grad President, at 743-7490.

Our valuable volunteer coordinator needs an assistant for the next few weeks! Please consider helping out by contacting Vicky Fugitt at 743-7565.

Grads - Tickets are now available for Dry Grad. Check the morning announcements - tickets will be on sale for \$10 for the next few days at lunch time, in the foyer. Please have your parents or guardians sign and return the waiver form on the

## Dry Grad

An invitation to parents of all 2005-2006 graduating students: please come and join us at our next meeting on Thursday, June 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the school library

ticket to ensure you have unlimited fun at Dry Grad!

The Dry Grad committee is very appreciative of the many individuals and businesses sponsoring our event.

Upcoming Dry Grad Meetings: Thursday, June 8 and 22 at 7 p.m. FKSS Library. Your help is appreciated!

## Odd Looking Caps!

**By Phil Archer, Teacher**

The odd-looking caps worn at school graduation ceremonies have a name with a surprising origin. Their design can be traced to the sixteenth century, when church dignitaries wore hats with tops that, although floppy and relatively small, were square in shape. By the 1700s, the traditional garb of



university students included a skullcap, to which was attached a stiff, square top. Stonemasons likened the hats to the boards that held mortar for bricks. Initially intended as a joke, the name "mortarboard" has stuck, like mortar, for centuries.



So... grads... now you know why.

## ALS Awareness Week

**By Marie Miller, Student**

ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease is a rapidly progressive disease that attacks the motor neurons that send electrical impulses from the brain to the muscles in the body. When the muscles fail to receive these messages they lose strength, atrophy, and die. ALS does not affect the intellect and it leaves the senses unimpaired. Over 2000 Canadians are currently living with this disease and it claims more lives in Canada than AIDS.

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There is no known cause or cure for this disease.

From June 3<sup>rd</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> 2004, my uncle, Rick Wilkinson took part in a fundraising journey for this terrible disease. The fundraiser is called "On A Roll for ALS". During this trip he took his wheelchair from Campbell River to Victoria and raised money and awareness. The "On A Roll" team is continuing with its journey this year. Bob Phillips, a 35 year old man from Port Alberni, will be rolling for his

second time this June.

To show our school's support for ALS, we will be doing our annual fundraiser again this year. Over the past two years we have raised over one thousand dollars for the cause. We will be holding various fundraising events to raise money to present to the "On A Roll" team. Bake sales will be held both June 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. This year we have decided to put together a basket of summer goodies to raffle off as well. The fundraising will wrap up on June 16<sup>th</sup> when we will have a

school wide greet for Bob and the rest of the team. All donations would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you to the Red Cross Club, my mom (Kathy Miller), Ms. Ciofani, Ms. Sanford and the staff and students at Frances Kelsey for

all of your help and support.

For more information on ALS, or to make a donation online, please visit the "On A Roll" website.  
<http://www.alsbc.ca/onaroll.html> or [onaroll@shaw.ca](mailto:onaroll@shaw.ca)

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## Rotary Exchange

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**By Katreena Bennett, Student**

A Rotary Exchange can change your life – literally, and in every aspect. 'Amazing' is a word that often comes off the lips of those who have experienced a Rotary Exchange. Rotary Exchanges are fun and exciting, and everything becomes so new.

My year (2004-2005) was spent in Milan, Italy. While I was in Milan, a fashion capital of Europe, a lot of my time was spent in a store, but the majority was spent seeing a great city, and a great country. Train travel is very accommodating in Europe, and because of this I was fortunate enough to see a lot of Italy including Rome, Venice, Siena, Bologna, Verona, Cinque Terre, Sicily, and many other small towns and villages, as well as the French Alps, and Switzerland. Also, Rotary usually arranges small trips with the other Rotary students in the district. There is also a Euro-tour that students from all over the world, on exchanges in European countries, can participate in. In other continents there are similar trips.

There is a process that exists along with everything else in the world

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for a Rotary Exchange: an application process, interviews, acceptance, and finally preparation and take off. They call a Rotary Exchange a three-year process. The first year is for preparation; the second the actual exchange, and the third, the coming home part, and the readjustment to your life at home again.

A year away from home will most likely incorporate three host families, but each country varies.

The Rotary club also varies in the participation that they expect from students in each country. For instance I stayed in the country of Italy, and I met my club twice. They did however assign me a counsellor, whom I visited for language lessons. I can now speak Italian!



Rotary has many rules that the students must follow while on an exchange. They are called the '4 Ds'. These include no Drinking, no Driving, no Drugs, and no Dating. Yes I agree it seems harsh for a teenager in a foreign country, but they are enforced for good reason.

Although a Rotary Exchange is a great experience that benefits you so much, there are also other things that you have to keep in mind, such as losing an academic school year.

## Library Resource Centre Update

Bookmark the Library home page. It has a large number of links with curricular connections and can be accessed from the school homepage: <http://www.fkss.ca>

All of the online encyclopedias we subscribe to have home access. Students can pick up the passwords at the library circulation desk. Also, the database eLibrary (BigChalk) is now accessible from home. These are all valuable research tools. Encourage your sons and daughters to start their research using the Library home page, especially if they are at a loss as to where to start their searching. This page has been developed with the students' needs in mind.

This is sometimes a problem. However, in my case I was able to complete grade 11 and grade 12 in the same year, thanks to the Kelsey school system.

Not only does Rotary enlighten you with more knowledge about the world, it is the chance of a lifetime. A student meets other students from all over the world, and makes friendships that will last a lifetime, and connections that will help you, and accommodate you whenever you are in another country.

I would suggest a Rotary Exchange to anyone who is willing to risk a little, and not be afraid to leave friends and family for a year. It's worth every tear, every cent, and every bit of reality that a student may face along the way. If anyone has any other questions about a Rotary Exchange that weren't answered in the article, feel free to ask me anything.



# FKSS Career Centre News

## Planning 10 Activities:

**June 6** P.A.R.T.Y. trip for Block Y students currently with Ms. Coulthard & Ms. Brinkman

## Current Advisor Activities:

**Capp 9, 11, 12:** Finishing up Learning Guides as in the back of their agenda

**Capp 12:** Students completing the 30 hours of work experience required for Graduation.

**Planning 10:** Students are doing LG 1, 2, 3 with advisors and completing the last module with their Planning 10 teachers and finishing up any other overdue learning guides.

## Recent Career Program Work Experience Placements:

- **People's Pharmacy** - pharmacist
- **Pacific Energy** - welding
- **Bow Mel Chrysler** - mechanic
- **Discovery Elementary** - teacher
- **Victoria BMW** – Business Applications
- **Alex Aitkin** - Gr 2 teacher
- **Island Fitness** - trainer
- **Acacia TyMawr** - RCA & Nursing

## Check out the FKSS Job Board!

It has moved to the short hallway between Counselling and Career Centre

- Carpenter's Helper Trainee - Surespan
- New postings are put up as they come in!

## Hire A Student Office is Now Open!

Alyece & Georgia are ready to help students find work.... Call them at **748-5231 Ext. 333** or go to **211 Jubilee St., Duncan, BC V9L 1W8**

## Campus News:

### **UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA**

- **August 21 - Sept. 1, 2006** University Learning Skills two week intensive course to help with advanced learning techniques, time management and more. [www.coun.uvic.ca/learn](http://www.coun.uvic.ca/learn)

### **MALASPINA UNIVERSITY-COLLEGE - Nanaimo**

- **June 8<sup>th</sup> - Student Loan Applications** Information session - 3:30 p.m. in Bldg. 200, Room 107

### **LANGARA COLLEGE**

- Recreation Diploma will soon lead to a Bachelor of Recreation Management degree.

### **OKANAGAN COLLEGE**

- New: Recreation Vehicle Service Technician program

### **FLY THE SKY - Helicopter School in Alberta**

- Info in Career Centre or look at [www.flythesky.ca](http://www.flythesky.ca)

## Portfolio Opportunities

### **Work Experience 4.1 & Volunteering 3.1 Aspects:**

- **Duncan Disability Resource Centre:** looking for volunteers for their New Adaptive Sailing and Hiking Programs
- **Career Programs at FKSS -- Work Experience 12A, 12B, SSA** - Sign up with Mrs. Munday

### **Aspect 3.2; 3.4; 3.5**

- **UBC Connect:** Gr 10 & 11's can spend a week on Campus - register online [www.welcome.ubc.ca/connect](http://www.welcome.ubc.ca/connect) Deadline Jun 15
- **Gulf Islands Film & Television School Summer & Fall Courses** - details on [www.GIFTSfilms.com](http://www.GIFTSfilms.com)
- **UVIC Go West** - Engineering & other summer camps for grades 9 - 12 <http://www.engr.uvic.ca/~go-west>
- **\*\*\*June 7<sup>th</sup> U.Vic Engineering Science Venture at Kelsey** (previously called "Go West") Students can participate in hands on workshops in blocks C & D Rm 217.

### **Aspect 2.2; 2.4; 3.2 Encounters with Canada - Ottawa**

- See Mrs. Munday about applying for next year! Great portfolio evidence!

### **Portfolio Resources:**

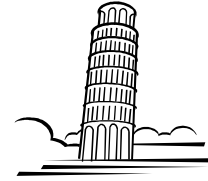
- Parents & Students can get more insight into the Portfolio process by accessing the online program, **Graduation Portfolio Primer** linked to the [www.sd79.bc.ca](http://www.sd79.bc.ca) web site
- BC Ministry site <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/portfolio>
- Aspect Marking Sheets and Log Sheets now online [www.sd79.bc.ca](http://www.sd79.bc.ca)
- **NEW Grade 12 Portfolio Presentation booklet** [www.sd79.bc.ca](http://www.sd79.bc.ca)
- Aspect Response Sheets now online [www.fkss.ca](http://www.fkss.ca)



# Spring Break Opportunities

A number of opportunities were offered to Kelsey students over Spring Break in March. The following conclude our series of accounts of several students' experiences.

## Italy, 2006



### By Sterling Travers, Student

On March 10, the first day of Spring Break, a group of students and teachers from Kelsey met at the Victoria airport. After much anticipation we were finally going to Italy! We landed in Fiumicino, not too far from our hotel. We had a short drive into the city of Rome, however, and we arrived in the evening so our tour didn't begin until the next day.

On our first day in Italy we took a guided tour of Rome, through Venice Square and the Roman ruins, to the Colosseum, the Pantheon, Saint Peter's Basilica and, during the evening, the Trevi Fountain. Unfortunately, we were in Rome on a Sunday so we weren't able to see the Sistine Chapel or Vatican Square as they were closed to the public for mass.

After our two nights in Fiumicino, we drove south to Naples and caught a ferry to the island of Capri where we had a short tour, which included Anacapri. The views were spectacular, absolutely postcard perfect; Capri was definitely one of our most scenic stops, contested only by Assisi. After our excursion to Capri, we drove to Sorrento for the night; from Sorrento we travelled north to Pompeii.

When we arrived in Pompeii, we found the tour guides on strike, so we had a few hours to wait

before we could actually see the ruins. We spent the time in the market square, which was just outside the entrance to the city of Pompeii. We were also given a tour of a cameo factory. Finally, the tours of Pompeii began and we were able to start.

The following day we toured the medieval town of Assisi. We had a few hours to explore, and to shop. It was amazing. While Capri was beautiful because of its natural magnificence, Assisi was picturesque. The architecture of the churches, and around the town, created such a quaint, rustic atmosphere - it was enchanting. After our excursion to Assisi, we travelled north to Florence where we had the opportunity to tour a leather factory, before either going shopping or to the Uffizi gallery.

Our fifth day in Italy began with a guided tour of Florence, after which we were given the option of touring the Accademia Gallery or going shopping once again. Later on we travelled to Pisa to see the leaning tower, as well as the baptistery and the cathedral, which are located in the same square. That evening most of our group went to a disco, but in order to get to the club we needed to take a taxi. A word of advice: if you value your life, it's a really good idea to wear your seatbelt while driving with an Italian cabbie!

We passed most of the next day on

the bus to a little town near Venice. When we arrived we were given a few hours to 'explore' the town... All in all there wasn't much to see. However, the beach was beautiful with white sand and the blue water of the Adriatic.

Our final day was spent in Venice. When we arrived we were taken for a tour through the Doges Palace and to a glass blowing demonstration, and afterwards we had the opportunity to take a ride in a gondola. Although the canals were rather putrid, the experience was incomparable; the view of the Rialto from the main canal is exceptional. The pigeons in Saint Mark's Square were incredible - at time it was difficult to walk because you practically had to wade through the birds. There were vendors selling birdseed, and if you held out a small amount in either palm you could attract an entire flock of birds, some of which would happily perch on your arms.

We flew out of Venice after 8 days in Italy and, although we had all had a wonderful time, most of us were ready to go home. Still, after talking to a few of the people who were on the trip, most are sorry to be home and can't wait to go back.

## Thailand, 2006!

### By Karoline Ploeger and Jasmin Parmar, Students

After thirty-six hours of non-stop travel, thirty-five drained Canadians stepped off the plane in Thailand. After a beautiful Thai

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woman dressed in traditional clothing greeted us, we met our tour guide Pipop - it would not be long until he ensnared our hearts!

Day One: Bangkok! We discovered a hot bright bustling city, filled with racing tuk tuks, street vendors, night markets, shopping malls, and pieces of nature trying to take back what was once jungle! Our first stop

was the jewel encrusted Grand Palace, never fully appreciated until you see it yourself. We also saw the Temple Of Dawn and the Wat Po which were equally breathtaking. One of the most exciting things we did in Bangkok was the Chao Phraya river cruise. We all travelled in a bright red and yellow boat looking into the backyards of both wealthy and middle class citizens. As we passed we saw small boys swimming, families at lunch, dogs barking as we passed, but most of all, people smiling and greeting us as we passed.

Day Two: Kanchanaburi! The next day we travelled to this wonderful city where we saw the bridge over the River Kwai and stopped at the Thailand Burma Railway Center where we learned the horrible process during the building of the bridge. Once we had learned the history behind the bridge we finally set our eyes upon it. Re-built after it was bombed, the black bridge over the River Kwai looks like any other bridge except now we all understand its secrets. In the late afternoon we arrived at the River Kwai Resort, which had a beautiful jungle landscape along the River Kwai.

Day Three: Phitsanulok! After travelling all day and spending a good two hours in the hotel pool, our highlight was a night ride on bike rickshaws. Our first stop was to savour the flavour of high-class deep fried bugs, which were in range from crickets to scorpions, YUM! The next was to enjoy Thai whiskey while watching the "Flying Vegetable Show" in which a few of our fellow students took part, catching the veggies.

Day Four: Lampang! We spent the first half of the day at the Sukhothai Historical Park viewing the ruins of an old city with proud Buddhas standing tall

against the ravages of time. Our next location was the Si Satchamalai ruins. Although they were beautiful, we were all distracted by a 46-year-old elephant whom we had the pleasure of feeding bananas and melons. For ten cents we could purchase this fruit and hand-feed our elephant friend.

Day Five: Chiang Rai! Some of us choose to cross the border to Burma while others remained in Thailand. It was quite an experience to see the poverty in Burma, quite different from Thailand. Our next stop was a boat ride across the river to the country of Laos.

Day Six: Chiang Mai! Our main stop for the day was at the Mae Fah Luang Gardens, very similar to Butchart Gardens, yet with an exotic Thailand feel. Next, we made our way to Chiang Mai, the shopping capital of Thailand with its Night Bazaar, where you can find any knock-off designer item you want for under \$15.00 if you bargain properly.

Day Seven: Chiang Mai! This was one of the most fun-filled days of our trip and also the busiest, beginning our day with an elephant ride. With two people to a seat and one driver, our elephants took us through ravines, rivers, and jungle. Our ride ended much too soon, and we found ourselves being pulled in a cart by two white oxen back to the main camp. Soon elephants of all sizes began to come into the ring, holding one another's tails. The elephants had been trained to do many tricks as well as paint pictures for our entertainment. Our next activity was a river bamboo raft ride. One raft could hold six people and two drivers, who led our voyage.

That evening we enjoyed a Khantoke dinner and dance

show, where men and women dressed up in elaborate costumes to entertain us during dinner. We were all given the choice of attending a tasteful transvestite show, which half of our group attended. At the show the "girls" loved our boys!

Day Eight: Chiang Mai! Before flying back to Bangkok we were able to enjoy more of Chiang Mai, which included a visit to a beautiful temple on top of a hill called Wat Phra That Doi. It was absolutely stunning and we saw many monks clothed in orange robes, then visited an Orchid farm and the Zoo. Can you believe it takes up to 15 years till an orchid flowers?

Day Nine: Hua Hin! Our hotel was a five-minute walk to the beach where almost all of us spent our day relaxing, tanning, swimming, and getting henna tattoos, nail treatments, and full massages, right on the beach. Though we were all very good at putting on our sunscreen, many of us still received bad sunburns.

Day Ten: Hua Hin/ Bangkok! Our last full day was spent relaxing again, and many of us got up early to see the temple, which was at the end of the beach. For our final dinner, we ate a large traditional Thai meal while watching a dinner dancing show which many of us joined in for a dance.

Wake up call was at 4 a.m. and we pulled ourselves from our beds, wondering just how long it would take us to get down to the lobby taking the Baiyoke Suite elevators (wink wink). With many hugs to Pipop and those lucky people who chose to stay behind, we reluctantly passed through our airport gate with fond memories and not so fond thoughts of the 36 hours of travelling to return home. Thailand will always be in our hearts, and the friends and experiences in our minds.