

THE WHALE'S TALE



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

February 5, 2007 Vol. 12/No. 5

The Transition to Term Two Questions and Answers

By Marilyn Sandford, Principal

February 5th marks the mid-point of the school year and the beginning of the second term at FKSS. It is not uncommon for questions or concerns to arise from students and parents about what will happen to a student's timetable while making the transition to second term.

This article is designed to address some of the more frequently asked questions about this transition period. If your particular question or concern is not addressed in the "question and answer" format that follows, you are encouraged to contact your son's or daughter's advisor, a counsellor, or an administrator by phoning the school at 743-6916 or the counselling department at 743-6980.

Q. My son or daughter has worked hard but he/she has not finished an academic subject (e.g. Math, English, Socials, Science) that was started in September. What will happen if he/she does not complete this subject by the beginning of the second term (February 5th)?

A. With very few exceptions, the

student will simply carry on with the course until it has been successfully completed. In some cases, the student will continue with the same teacher. If there is a change of teacher or classroom after February 5th, the student will be notified.

Q. My son or daughter has not completed an elective subject (e.g. Home Economics, Business Education, Fine Arts, Technical Education, Modern Languages) that was started in September. What will happen?

A. In most elective courses, students who have not completed a course by the end of the term may have to complete it by arranging to meet with their teacher in a flex block time. Students should check with their teacher to determine which flex block time is most suitable. This arrangement will allow the student to receive continuous support while completing the required course work. If a student has a lot of work remaining in the

For complete information about the school, visit our web site at fkss.ca.



Kelsey Calendar

Mon. February 5, 2007

Term 2 begins. Monthly report issued with newsletter

February 5-10 and 12-17, 2007

School production of West Side Story

Fri. February 9, 2007

Pro-D Day (school not in session)

Tues. February 13, 2007

7:00 p.m. Dry Grad Parents' meeting in library

Wed. February 14, 2007

7:00 p.m. PAC meeting in library

Thurs. February 15, 2007

1:05 p.m. District-wide Early Dismissal

Wed. February 21, 2007

Balance Day Health and Wellness Conference

Wed. February 28, 2007

1:05 p.m. dismissal. Professional Learning Community

Sat. March 3, 2007

Grad bottle drive

Mon. March 5, 2007

Second formal report issued with newsletter

Fri. March 9, 2007

FKSS hosts Family Fun Literacy Night 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Duncan Mall

Wed. March 14, 2007

7:00 p.m. PAC meeting in library

Thurs. March 15, 2007

1:05 District wide early dismissal.
1:30-4:30 p.m. and 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences

course, they may be rescheduled in a mandatory block with a teacher. As soon as the course is completed the student should see their counsellor to discuss the best options for the remainder of the school year.

Q. My son/daughter has not completed a course but is anxious to pick up another course at the beginning of the second term. Is this possible?

Students in Grades 9-11 who have not completed an academic subject that was started in September, may not pick up a second term academic subject until the first term subject has been completed. Our experience shows that students who take on additional courses tend to get "bogged down" with this additional work. Personal timetables become too difficult to manage and all course work tends to suffer.

Generally, the same rule applies to elective courses - complete one subject before picking up another elective subject; however, there are some elective courses where group work is important and all students should start together. Advisors have told their advisees which courses these are and students must see a counsellor to ensure they begin these courses at the start of the second term.

Grade 12 students who are

scheduled to begin a Ministry examinable course in the second term MUST see their counsellor to ensure that the course is activated (registered with the Ministry to write the exam).

Q. My son or daughter has been recently withdrawn from his/her course. What action is necessary?

A. If students fail to attend classes regularly and/or fail to produce a reasonable amount of work, they may be withdrawn from a course. The "vacancy" created by the withdrawal is usually filled by another student who is ready to start the course.

Under normal circumstances, the withdrawal of a student is usually preceded by a minimum of two written "Action Alerts" to the advisor over a period of several weeks. A third alert usually results in a withdrawal from the course.

The student who has been withdrawn from a course may only re-enter the course by making an appointment with a counsellor. If space is available in the class, the student may re-enter the course after undertaking a promise to attend regularly and to produce a reasonable amount of work. If the student is unable to re-enter a class immediately because classes are full, the student will

be expected to spend the time focusing on the courses that remain active in the timetable.

Q. Are some courses scheduled to run for the full year?

A. Yes, some courses started in September are scheduled to run for the full year. For example, PE 9-12, Band, Choir, Journalism 11, Acting 11-12 all run for the full year and therefore they will continue with the same teacher at the same time until June.

Q. Are there waiting lists for second term courses?

A. Most students will have little difficulty beginning a course they are scheduled to start second term. However, space in some courses may be limited as first term students attempt to complete their coursework while other students who have completed first term courses sign up through their counsellors to start a new second term course.

For students who find themselves on a waiting list, the time is usually short. Students on the waiting list will be notified by their counsellor as soon as the space opens up. In the meantime, waiting students can focus more time and energy to work ahead on the courses they have underway.



Scholarships and Bursaries

by Jeff Rowan, Vice-Principal

The time to apply for our Local Scholarships, those awards only open to FKSS Grade 12's graduating in June 2007, is upon us. We have over \$120,000 available, and most of the awards are bursaries which are open to ALL students, not just the highest academic achievers.

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Information sessions with the Grade 12's will be held on Friday, February 23rd during Z and F blocks. I will also be available on Tuesdays at lunch for help with Academic Resumés, Cover Letters, and information on how to apply. All Grade 12's must attend an information session. The awards are listed under the

www.fkss.ca website, in the "Grads" tab and then "Scholarships".

Also of note, the Grade 12's have been made aware of Non-Local Scholarships (open to all students in British Columbia). A complete listing of these awards can be found at www.bcawardsonline

.sd61.bc.ca/ . I would encourage these awards using the "Deadline apply to them.
all Grade 12's to be looking at Search" tool to see if any would

Application forms for the following scholarships and bursaries, which have deadlines in February and March, 2007, are available in the library filing cabinet:

- American Musical and Dramatic Academy (Los Angeles and New York campuses)
- BC Government and Service Employees' Union
- University of British Columbia Major Entrance Scholarships and Entrance Bursaries
- Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific
- Elder & Leemaar Publishers: Voice of the Future
- University of Alberta Scholastic Distinction Scholarships
- University of Alberta Leadership Scholarships
- BC Amateur Hockey Association Scholarships



Websites of interest:

BC Colleges/Universities scholarships: www.bcawardsonline.sd61.bc.ca , www.scholarshipscanada.com
www.studentawards.com

Online applications in BC: www.pas.bc.ca

Canadian Universities and Colleges: www.schoolfinder.com

Red Cross Heart and Stroke Awareness

By Erica Swain, Student

February is Heart and Stroke Awareness Month. Please support the Red Cross bake sale on February 14, 2007.

A Heart Attack or Stroke could occur at any time of the day or night and at any age.

A Stroke is an attack affecting the brain. Some signs to watch for are sudden:

- Weakness or numbness
- Trouble speaking
- Vision Problems
- Severe Headache
- And Dizziness.

Some ways to reduce your risks of stroke are:

- Watching blood pressure
- Not smoking
- Know if you have ever had a mini-stroke
- Recognising and treating diabetes
- Eating healthy, low-fat food
- Being physically active
- And if you have ever had a heart problem or disease to learn more about it.

Remember that a Stroke is a medical emergency and needs to be reacted to immediately. DO NOT wait for the symptoms to pass. Call 911 immediately.

Some signs of a Heart Attack are:

- Chest pain or discomfort
- Pain in arm, neck, jaw, or back
- Sweating
- Nausea
- Or difficulty breathing.

Some of the ways of reducing the risk of a Heart Attack are the same as with a Stroke.

If any signs are apparent in yourself or anyone else call 911 immediately.

For more information call 1-888-HSF-INFO (1-888-473-4636) or see www.heartandstroke.bc.ca

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.



Dry Grad

Save your Spring Cleaning castoffs! Our Silent Auction & Garage Sale will be held April 14th, and we'll be asking for your great and "interesting" spare items soon, for the garage sale. If you have an item for the auction or would like to donate cash, please email Kelly Slade at dslade@telus.net

The Dry Grad Raffle will be coming up soon too. The Grand Prize this year is a wonderful 1993 Daytona which is donated

by Bow-Mel Chrysler! Watch for information as to how grads can get their hands on tickets for this great prize.

Mark your calendars. The date for Dry Grad has been set for June 29th. The Decorating Committee is busy planning work sessions for their creative projects. If you'd like to get involved, contact Karin Simons at karinsimons@shaw.ca

We are collecting Canadian Tire money, Island Farms UPC codes and have certificates available from Country Grocer as well as

2006-2007 DRY GRAD MEETING

Tuesday, February 13
7:00 p.m. in the
Kelsey library
Everyone welcome
For more information
please call 743-4747

Smile Cards from Thrifty Foods. Every time you use one, Thrifty Foods and Country Grocer will donate a percentage back to our Dry Grad fund. It costs you nothing! Call Karen Coward at 743-9895 to collect yours.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 13th at 7 p.m., in the Kelsey library. Come on out and have fun helping our Grads! Meetings end by 8 p.m.

Graduating Class of 2007: Help Build a School

By Foster Richardson, Student

Graduating is a big event and an important time in our lives. It is a time that we will remember forever, and a time that deserves recognition of some sort. Our Graduation should also be a time when we acknowledge and reflect on our privilege to have had an education.

One great way to recognize and celebrate our Graduation is to enable others to have an education. For just \$6,500 the

Grads of 2007 could fund the construction of a school in Sierra Leone, which is a severely impoverished nation in West Africa. We could leave a legacy from the Graduating Class of 2007 to the world.

In order to achieve this goal, I challenge all Grads who are going to be attending the May 26th Grad Banquet to forego hiring a Limo or other rented vehicle and arrive at the school en masse. If you pledge the money you would have spent on

the Limo or rented ride, we can easily achieve the goal of raising money for the construction of the new school in Sierra Leone. If just a few of us did this, we could raise a significant amount of money.

What better way to celebrate our graduation into the world than by giving someone else a chance at their own graduation? If you are interested in taking part in this challenge please contact me, Foster Richardson at foster_richardson@hotmail.com

Kelsey Grad Wins Student-of-the-Year Award

Congratulations are in order for a Kelsey Graduate (2003) who has just been named the winner of the University of Victoria Business Co-op Student-of-the-Whale's Tale V12/N5

Year!

Nick DiCastrì is now a fourth-year business student at University of Victoria, who has

recently been hired by the Shanghai branch of the Standard Chartered Bank. Nick said, "I'm honoured to have been selected as this year's award recipient".

Zoomfest; Bringing It Home!

By **Tori Pearson, Student** Co-Authored by **Erin Rooke, Student**

Some people think film is all the works of cameras, lights, and action but in reality it requires a lot more patience and time than most people would think.

Two months ago we entered a film festival called Zoomfest. Zoomfest is a film competition in which competitors are required to write, shoot, and edit a short film all in 48 hours. Participants are also presented with a theme and prop that must be incorporated into their film.

This year was our second year entering Zoomfest as contestants, without exceeding expectation the year before. But, even though we didn't win anything last year, we kept in mind that it was our first time to have entered. This year we had a good idea of what to expect from this competition and we were determined to make a film that would at least get a nomination. We told each other that if that was all we got out of the competition, we'd be happier than ever. We did however, think it would be nice to live up to the honours that Eric Horn, Andy McGrath and Bryce Warnes gave Kelsey the year before. Eric and Andy won the gold medal for producing, editing and directing their film, as well as a Vancouver Film School Scholarship of \$17,500 plus an additional \$7,500 to attend a program of their choice, while Bryce won Best Screenplay Award and a \$5,000 scholarship from the Art Institute in Vancouver. We had a hard act to follow!

So the day finally came when we were to begin our competition, and I don't think either of us had ever been more anxious or nervous in our lives. We weren't given our theme or our prop until

5:00 p.m., and in the minutes before, our hearts were beating madly and our stomachs were in knots. Five o'clock came, and we found out that the theme was "the road less travelled," and our prop was "a key". Ideas were buzzing in our minds instantly, and at first, we thought "there's tons of things we can do with this." We were right. The problem was trying to piece it together to make a story-line. We remembered this stress all too well from last year. After watching the hours tick by we had nothing to show for our work except a bunch of scribbled notes and comforting music droning in the background, and plenty of stress. Eventually we began to

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form a collection of characters and possible situations to put them into. We hoped all would be briefed out by midnight, so we could get a few hours of sleep before shooting our film the next day. Midnight came and went. We were at a standstill, and it seemed that everything we had thought of for our movie up until that point just wasn't working. Finally, shortly after midnight we decided we would have to restart and forget all the preliminary work that we had already planned. Our minds were blank and no ideas were forthcoming. We took a much needed, and well deserved



break and went to watch TV. We still don't understand what happened next, but as fate would have it, every single TV show we scanned through was somehow related to our original idea. Even the most unlikely shows seemed to be pointing us in the direction of our original idea...so that is exactly what we did.

Our story was about a young teenager Emma and her boyfriend Noah. The young girl of 17 got pregnant and as a result her boyfriend left her because he felt it would ruin his life. Later in the film, Emma recovers a "memory box" which reminds her of her past with Noah. In the end scene Emma goes to the park where she and Noah used to play as children, and Noah eventually comes back to help her through her pregnancy.

Our film is incredibly emotional and it brought everyone to tears the first time they saw it. For effect we used two little children from across the street to play "little Emma" and "little Noah". This gave the film even more of an "awwww" factor. Our film was directed, shot, and edited by Tori Pearson; Erin Rooke played the girl, Emma, and Spencer Pearson played Noah. The screenplay was written by both Tori and Erin.

We hoped that our cinematography, editing, and script were all worthy of being nominated. Late in November Mr. Geoghegan came to me with the incredible news that we had been nominated for THREE awards; Best Picture, Best Actress, and Best Screenplay.

Erin and I were ECSTATIC! You would have thought we were going to the Oscars, with all the jumping and screaming we did together.

The awards night of Zoomfest was held at Mulgrave School in Vancouver. All three of us, Erin, Spencer and I got all dressed up. The evening was fantastic! Just knowing that we had been nominated made the gala event all the more exciting, but little did we know the surprises which lay ahead of us. The first award that we were nominated for was best Screenplay. "And second best

screenplay goes to, "Washed Away" from Frances Kelsey Secondary School". Well Erin and I didn't know what to do. We stumbled up on stage, dumbfounded, forgot all directions that candidates had been given on protocol and how to accept awards. "And BEST PERFORMANCE of an actress goes to, Erin Rooke." This also earned Erin a \$5,000 scholarship to the Art Institute of Vancouver. Well I don't think I've screamed so hard in my life and I didn't even win. I could only imagine the rush of glory that filled Erin. It makes you appreciate why

actresses always cry when they win Oscars. I remember looking over to Erin's dad while she was accepting her award and seeing tears rolling down his face. The rest of the night went extremely well. Unfortunately we didn't get best picture, but don't forget there is always next year! Our film had come 6th place over-all out of 90 entries and we couldn't be happier with the results!

And that's our Zoomfest story. Next time will be another great adventure, and hopefully we'll be bringing it home for Kelsey!

FKSS+Math Challenge=Winners!

By Carmen Brown, Teacher

Congratulations to **Ryan Mockford, Vlad Portik, Mike Poirier** and **Nicolas Jones** on winning performances in the Middle Years District Math Challenge.

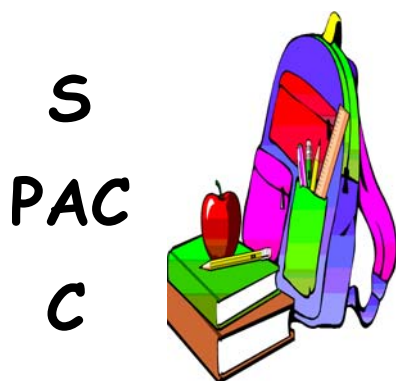
On January 18th this team of four travelled to Cowichan Secondary to compete against teams from Lake Cowichan, Chemainus, Cowichan, Bonner, Quamichan and Mt. Prevost. The morning event was split into three rounds. The 1st, Sprint round, was an individual event in which students had 20 minutes to answer

questions ranging from percent, to trigonometry, fractions, and factorial notation. The 2nd round was a team event. Students worked in pairs collecting points by solving 6 word problems. These points were then combined with their teammates' to get a team total. The final, Logic Challenge round, required all four brains to work together on 2 multi-step logic problems. Students were then given a break to meet with the other contestants, eat lunch, and allow the judges to mark and tabulate team scores.

Performances this year were

exceptional and our Kelsey team managed to beat out tough competition from Chemainus to win Top Individual Score (Ryan Mockford), as well as medals for 1st Place in the Team Challenge event and the trophy for Top Scores Overall! Congratulations boys. We look forward to your continued success!

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.



**by CJ Kubica, President
FKPAC**

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February is that transitional time of the year - Winter is not yet over, but the hope of Spring is on the horizon. Students have once again survived Provincials and Turnaround Day. Everyone is looking forward to the new term and what Spring will bring.

With Health and Wellness one of our School Planning Council goals, PAC is sponsoring the second annual Balance Day Health and Wellness Conference on Wednesday, February 21. All Kelsey students will participate

in their choice of a series of workshops throughout the day ranging from dealing with grief to belly dancing with a multitude of choices in between...and the good news for parents...lunch is provided. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Wendy Thomas, CJ Kubica, or Jeff Rowan for more information.

Monthly PAC meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month. Please bring your ideas, suggestions and questions and join us on Wednesday, February 14th!