

THE WHALE'S TALE



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

February 2, 2009 Vol. 14/No 5

The Transition to Term Two Questions and Answers

By Marilyn Sandford, Principal

February 2nd marks the midpoint 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 local 230.

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 2nd)?

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 2nd, 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 course, he/she may be rescheduled in a mandatory



Kelsey Calendar

Mon. February 2, 2009

Term 2 begins (Day 1)

Monthly report card issued with newsletter

6:00 p.m. Current Global Issues Club
Peace Tiles Potluck

7:00 p.m. Dry Grad parents meeting in library

Mon. February 9, 2009

8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Grad Skate

Wed. February 11, 2009

7:00 p.m. PAC meeting in library

Thurs. February 12, 2009

6:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m. School Dance

February 16-19, 21, 24, 2009

Grad Photos at FKSS

Thurs. February 19, 2009

1:05 p.m. District wide early dismissal

Fri. February 20, 2009

Pro-D Day (school not in session)

Wed. February 25, 2009

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

Mon. March 2, 2009

Second formal report card issued with newsletter

7:00 p.m. Dry Grad parents meeting in library

Wed. March 11, 2009

7:00 p.m. PAC meeting in library

Thurs. March 12, 2009

1:05 p.m. dismissal. Parent/Teacher Conferences 1:30-4:30 p.m. & 6:00-8:00 p.m.

March 16 - 20, 2009

Spring Break

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

block with a teacher. As soon as the course is completed, the student should see his/her 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 his/her 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 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 a 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 Mike Martin, Vice-Principal

During the month of February, the school website (www.fkss.ca) will be open for student access for local scholarships and bursaries. As previously stated, through the generous donations of many groups and organizations, we have approximately \$120,000 available in the form of 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.

Information sessions with the Grade 12's will be held on Monday, February 9th during W and X blocks. All Grade 12's must attend an information session.

Any students who miss this seminar may contact me and make arrangements for help. The awards are listed under the www.fkss.ca website, in the "Grads" tab, and then "Scholarships".

Students should remember that a monthly listing of non-local scholarships (open to all students in British Columbia), is available

at www.bcawardsonline.sd61.bc.ca/ . I encourage all Grade 12's to look at this award information using the "Deadline Search" tool to see if any would apply to them.

Application forms for the following scholarships and bursaries, which have deadlines in February and March, 2009, are available in the library filing cabinet:

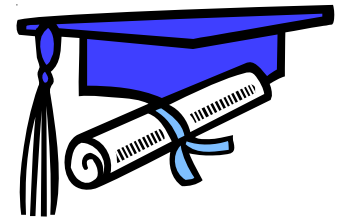
- BC Government and Service Employees' Union Scholarship Awards
- Bishop's University Entrance Scholarships
- University of Ottawa
- Simon Fraser University Entrance Awards
- RE/MAX Quest for Excellence Bursary
- Vancouver Island University President's Entrance Scholarships and other Scholarships and Bursaries
- The Miller Thomson Foundation
- Talk About Canada Scholarship Quiz
- Lakehead University Entrance Scholarships
- Garfield Weston Award Program

Websites of interest:

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

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

Canadian Universities and Colleges: www.schoolfinder.com



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**By CJ Kubica, President
FKPAC**

In the January Whale's Tale, we asked for your input regarding a possible change of start time for Kelsey students from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. I would like to thank you for your input. Most responses have been favourable, and with the exception of a very small percentage, all responses were in favour that more information should be made available. A letter has been sent to the School Board Trustees with a request to review the feasibility of a change in start times. Again, this is not a change that would

happen immediately, but is currently only a topic of discussion. If you have any comments or questions, please contact me at fksspac@sd79.bc.ca

Candace Spilsbury and Julie Thomas have been appointed as trustee liasons for Frances Kelsey Secondary. We look forward to the opportunity to have them join us at one of our future PAC meetings.

George Bonner PAC has invited several Kelsey students to attend their March PAC meeting in order to answer questions and to introduce Grade 8 students and their parents to a day in the life of a Kelsey student. It is only a few months until these Bonner students will begin their registration as Kelsey students for September 2009.

The Board of Education of School District #79 has recently adopted a policy concerning personal use of electronic devices including cell phones. The policy can be found

on the School District website at <http://sd79.bc.ca> or on the Kelsey website at www.fkss.ca .

Our next PAC meeting will be held on February 11th at 7:00 p.m. in the Kelsey library. We look forward to seeing you.

FKPAC

Please come and join us at
our next meeting on
Wednesday, February 11
7:00 p.m. in the
Kelsey library



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.



Dry Grad 2008-2009

We are still experiencing cold winter nights even though some of the days seem like spring is here. Wescom Fireside Bricks are still available. They are 100% natural, kiln dried wood bricks made locally. Contact Lael at (250)748-5575 to place your order.

Thrifty Smile cards and Country Grocer gift certificates are always available. Every time you use one, the stores will donate a percentage back to our Dry Grad fund. It costs you nothing! Please call Tracy at (250) 743-1868 to arrange to pick up your gift certificates.

The decorating committee is looking for more volunteers for this year's Dry Grad event held on Friday, June 26th. The more people who share their talents and time, the easier it is going to be to organize an unforgettable night for our kids.

Start saving your spring cleaning leftovers for the Dry Grad Garage Sale and Silent Auction planned for April. More information will be coming soon.

If you have a child graduating this year, look for your "graduation package" being sent home soon with your grad. Inside there will be information

2008-2009 DRY GRAD MEETING

Monday, February 2
7:00 p.m. in the
Kelsey library
Everyone welcome
For more information
call 743-9440

about what has been happening at the Dry Grad meetings, Thrifty Smile Card information, a letter looking for donations for the Silent Auction and Raffle Prizes, photo permission forms, etc. If you have not received yours by mid-February, please contact Karen at (250) 743-6148 or attend the next meeting on Monday, February 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in the library. Meetings are over by 8:00 p.m. Hope to see you there!

The Surprise Ottawa Gave Me

By Nikole Yaremus, Student

Recently I had the opportunity to travel to Ottawa with my best friend, Christina, to participate in Encounters with Canada. The program allows students ages from 14-17 to fly to Ottawa to explore career opportunities, to meet new people, and to see the capital city of Canada. The category that I selected to participate in was "Medicine and Health". I don't want to promote the program, just offer my insight.

As we boarded the airplane leaving Calgary, my stomach jumped into my throat, and I had the anxious feeling that whispered "what have I gotten into?" We arrived in Ottawa with two other island girls, and as we stepped outside at 11:00 p.m. our blood froze in our veins. That was our 'Welcome to Ottawa', a city under winter's

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siege, that we were all dreading and that we had expected to receive.

We stayed at the Terry Fox Center on the outside of the city, and there were between 25-35 girls to a dorm, 4 dorms and three-quarters of the participants were girls. It didn't take long for all of us to mingle about and get to know everyone; not many people were shy. Even though there were many girls in a room, there was no stealing or scamming of anyone's property. One of the funniest things that I remember was needing to get up a half-hour early just to get a semi-warm shower, and then seeing the counter fill with water, hair dryers, straighteners, makeup, hair products, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Travelling with a friend was really great, but during the whole



experience there were so many new people to meet. Both Christina and I wandered into different groups, which wasn't necessarily a bad thing because we both got to meet people, yet maintained our own friendship.

While we were in Ottawa there were numerous opportunities offered other than those strictly related to medicine. We visited the new museum of Civilization in Quebec, the National Museum of Nature, Parliament Hill (where we saw a debate between the Liberals and Conservatives) and many more places.

The last night was one of the most difficult nights that I had to deal

with. There was a variety show, and a dance which was held from 11:30 p.m. until 4:00 a.m. Our bus for the airport left at 4:40 a.m., so there was no reason to go to bed. At around 3:00 a.m. I felt the wave of exhaustion come over me. When the buses were loading it occurred to me that I would never see these people again. It really hit home. The funny part in all of this, even though we had only spent a week together, we

had spent every day and every night with one another. The participants were the last people you saw before you went to bed and the first people you greeted when you woke up or made your way downstairs. Only seven days prior to this week, we were all complete strangers!

This experience is like a security blanket for me in terms of knowing that it doesn't matter where you

go or who you are with, there is always someone out there who shares the same dreams and thoughts. Even though it seems impossible, the truth is that everyone experiences the same things in life. I managed to make some life long friends; we really got to talk and to understand one another. This is an experience I will never forget.



Notice to Math Students

By Ray Faught, Teacher

The annual Waterloo Math Contest is being held February 18th for grade 9's, 10's and 11's. See your math teacher or Mr. Faught if you are interested. Ms. Braunwarth has made practice questions available to help you prepare for the contest. Universities use the



results from these contests for entrance scholarships and the University of Waterloo expects students who wish to go there for Math to have participated.

The Euclid Contest for Math 12 students will be run in April.

Peace Tiles: Connecting with Lesotho

By Monica Whitney-Brown, Student

Throughout this year, the Current Global Issues Club has initiated a number of events (such as No Speaking Day and the Chicken Card Fundraiser) and has raised about \$1,800 to support Mamello English Medium School in Lesotho, Africa. Later, Grads will also be foregoing the traditional limo ride to grad to support the school. Founded in 2007, this school meets the needs of 360 children, many of whom are AIDS orphans. Fifty-five of the students at Mamello English

Medium have special needs and the school believes that the integration of these students into the classroom fosters a culture of tolerance and compassion. For more information about the school, see www.phelisanong.com or check out the CGIC board in the Math hallway.

Our next event is a Peace Tiles Potluck. The project begins with an 8x8" panel of plywood. Each participant will decorate a tile in a personal way. You are encouraged to bring artifacts such as photos, letters, newspaper clippings etc. that will make your tile unique and all about you. The tiles made at the

Peace Tiles Potluck will travel with Julia Pakstas (a Grade 12 student) when she goes to Lesotho in February. There they will be made into a mural for the school, connecting the students of Frances Kelsey with the students of Mamello English Medium through art and the sharing about our lives.

We are hoping that the students at Mamello English Medium will send Peace Tiles that they have made back to us!

The event is on Monday, February 2nd at 6:00 p.m. It is a potluck, so please bring a dish to share. See you there!!

Frances Kelsey students Camila Gaza Manly, Kyla Trinczek and Emily Yarnold all have lead parts in South Island Musical Theatre Society's presentation of *Fiddler on the Roof* at the Cowichan Theatre in Duncan. For info phone (250) 748-7529 or (250) 748-6968

Feb. 6, 7, 13, 14 at 7:30 p.m. Matinee: Sunday, Feb. 8 at 2:00 p.m. Opening night only, all student tickets: \$8. All other shows, student tickets: \$25. EyeGo: Students Grade 8 - 12 can get in to any performance for \$5 with student ID at the Box Office. 35 tickets per show are available.

Career Centre News

CAREER PLANNING

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA ENGINEERING & COMPUTER SCIENCE TOUR: Wednesday, February 18, 2009. Students may sign up in the Career Centre – open for Grade 10's, 11's, and 12's.



BAMFIELD MARINE SCIENCES CENTRE YOUTH FORUMS – Students may get more information in Career Centre

1. "MARINE MAMMAL YOUTH FORUM – July 21-25 **Deadline: April 30**
2. "MARINE RESEARCH YOUTH FORUM – August 18-23 **Deadline: April 30**



AUDITIONS - VICTORIA
Actor, Singer, Dancer
February 28, 2009
www.ccpacanada.com

NEW HORIZONS SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST
\$2000 to each Top Singer, Top Actor, and Top Dancer

DIGITAL BOOTCAMP

CENTRE FOR ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY - March 30 to April 2

Application Deadline: March 6, 2009 www.digitalartschool.com

"Learning to Lead 2009"

A leadership experience for Grade 11 female students from May 29 – 31, 2009.

Applications in Career Centre.

Applications due to Career Centre by Friday, February 27.



SUMMER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

HEART & STROKE FOUNDATION OF BC: High School Summer Research Program – Grade 11

students interested in cardiovascular research summer internship. More information available in the Career Centre or the Science Department. **Deadline for applications is April 17, 2009.** Apply through the Career Centre.



St. George's University
THINK BEYOND

"Camp Medicine"

St. George's University, West Indies

Ten day premedical or preveterinary **summer camp – June 22 to July 1.** Receive college credit through the School of Arts and Sciences. Information in the Career Centre. www.sgu.edu

CURRENT VOLUNTEER AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

WEBPAGE DESIGNER

- Create a basic webpage with photos, links, graphics, and business cards for an accommodation rental.

WESTERN SPEEDWAY

- Cooks
- Cashier/Server

CAMP PRINGLE – Shawnigan Lake

- Volunteers needed for spring break
- Staff needed for summer camps

Applications in the Career Centre now

READY, SET, LEARN - Open House – February 27, 2:00 to 7:00 at Shawnigan Lake Community Centre. Volunteers needed to help with set up.

Gourmet Table d'Hote Luncheons



at the Frances Kelsey Dining Room

Wednesday - Friday 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Join us for a gourmet dining experience at a reasonable price while supporting students enrolled in Vancouver Island University'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

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: 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.