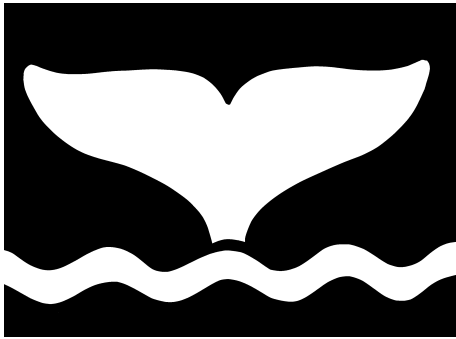


# THE WHALE'S TALE



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

*December 7, 2009 Vol. 15/No 3*

## Balance Day 2009

**By Sharleen Impett, PAC President**

Monday, November 30, 2009 marked the Frances Kelsey Secondary School's fifth Annual Balance Day. This year's theme was "Get Real".

Balance Day grew from our School Planning Council (SPC) goal which is "to increase student performance by improving WELLNESS (physical, emotional and social health). Through community contact from previous Balance Days, from people we know in the community and from input from people who approached us, the Balance Committee of parents, students and staff were able to put together an amazing selection of various health and career-related topics. Student choices included session topics ranging from climate control, commercial diving, physiotherapy, animal health to Jazzercise, overseas volunteering and tea leaf reading. There were even sessions for students who just wanted to do their school work. Students were able to choose from the 30 sessions offered during the two afternoon workshop sessions. Students received learning guide credit for their attendance.

Once again, Balance Day organizers combined the day with Post-Secondary Liaison Day. Grade 11 and 12 students were able

to choose from a variety of university presentations in the morning sessions. Grade 9 and 10 students attended a seminar on Cyber Bullying and went to Kerry Park for a skating event.

The students left the day having had an opportunity to attend some very interesting and unique workshops and even had a chance to win a prize.

The parent organizing committee would like to extend a huge thank you to all who supported the event either by attending, by presenting, doing some of the necessary background work or by making donations. Our event would not have been nearly as successful if it wasn't for the help and support of the school and community. A special thank you to support staff Teresa Matthews, Norma Wheeler, Darlene Witt and Deb Melnyk, to parents Wendy Thomas, CJ Kubica, Deanna Wright, Kinga Menu and Shannon Walker, as well as to the school 'techie's', who made themselves available throughout the day. Of course none of this would have been



### *Kelsey Calendar*

**Mon. December 7, 2009**

Monthly report card issued with newsletter

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

**December 7 - 14, 2009**

Red Cross Food Hamper Drive

**December 7 - 18, 2009**

Yearbook pre-sales at lunch

**Wed. December 9, 2009**

7:00 p.m. PAC meeting in library

**Thurs. December 10, 2009**

7:00 p.m. Annual Christmas Concert featuring Kelsey Choir, Concert Band and Jazz Band

**Mon. December 14, 2009**

Annual Grad Skate in X Block

**Wed. December 16, 2009**

Kelsey Kafé hot turkey lunch for students  
Limited tickets in advance from cashier

**Fri. December 18, 2009**

Last day of classes before Christmas Break

**Mon. January 4, 2010**

First day of classes

**Mon. January 11, 2010**

Monthly report card issued with newsletter

**Wed. January 13, 2010**

1:00 p.m. dismissal - Professional Learning Community

7:00 p.m. PAC meeting in library

**January 25 - 29, 2010**

Provincial exams

**Fri. January 29, 2010**

Turnaround Day (no classes)

**For complete information about the school, visit our website at [fkss.ca](http://fkss.ca)**

possible without the never ending support of our administration, Marilyn Sandford, Kevin van der Linden and Mike Martin. We also want to thank our student

liaisons, including Peer Tutors whose input was invaluable to helping make this day the best possible for our students. Thanks to everyone.

The next PAC Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the school library.



## Scholarships and Bursaries

**By Mike Martin, Vice-Principal**

- All Grade 12 students should be regularly checking the [www.bcawardsonline.org](http://www.bcawardsonline.org) website for updated scholarship and bursary information.
- Information sessions for local scholarships and bursaries, which are available only to Kelsey students, will be offered beginning in February, 2010.

Application forms for the following scholarships and bursaries, which have deadlines in December and January, are available in the library filing cabinet:

- House of Commons Page Program
- University of Alberta Academic Excellence Scholarship Competition
- BCIT Entrance Awards
- BC Government and Service Employees' Union (BCGEU) Student Scholarships



## Dry Grad 2009-2010

Party plans are underway! At the end of next June, parents of graduating students will host this year's Dry Grad – a safe, all-night party for our kids, with terrific events, food, and prizes.

Sale, a raffle for a Cruise and our annual Silent Auction. Smile Cards are now available at Thrifty Foods. Every time you use one, the store will donate a percentage back in cash to our Dry Grad fund. Sounds easy and it doesn't cost anything.

Upcoming fundraisers for Dry Grad include a Firewood Brick

Our next meeting will be Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00

### 2009-2010 DRY GRAD MEETING

Monday, December 7  
7:00 p.m. in the  
Kelsey library  
Everyone welcome  
For more information  
call (250) 743-4044

p.m. in the Kelsey library. We are looking for more volunteers. All parents of Grads are welcome, so bring a friend and your ideas. Meetings are over by 8:00 p.m.

## A Reminder to Parents

When your child is absent, please remember to telephone the office and leave a message on our

answering machine. Please also remember to speak clearly and slowly! Every day we receive 30

to 40 messages and there are always several that we cannot understand.

## Looking For a Christmas Present?

The Business Education program sells clothing with the school name and logo.

Check out the display cabinet near the Foods Room. Order forms are available in Room 229 or contact Miss Coulthard at (250)743-6916, local 309

Russell Hoodies	\$38.00 - \$40.00	Russell Pants	\$33.00
Long sleeve T-shirts	\$30.00	New style T-shirts (boys or girls)	\$20.00
Kelsey Water Bottles	\$ 6.50		

# Notes from the Kelsey Library

We are pleased to say that our collection is growing daily. We are also encouraged to see so many students making use of the reading area and reading for the Stellar Book Awards program. If you have an author or title that you think other readers would be interested in reading, please give the details to Mrs. Bonner at the Circulation Desk. Certainly, some of the new titles have been very popular, especially those attached to recent movies such as *New Moon*, *Julie and Julia*, *Slumdog*

*Millionaire*.

We encourage you to come in and browse our selection, check out the catalogue and enjoy a few minutes of quiet reading during the day.

Remember that books make the best Christmas gifts. . . On that note, we wish you the best for the holidays, no matter how you celebrate the season.

Mrs. Emblem, Teacher-Librarian  
Mrs. Bonner, Library Clerk

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.

## FKPAC

Please come and join us at our next meeting on Wednesday, December 9 7:00 p.m. in the Kelsey library

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## Winter School Bus Information Notice From the Superintendent of Schools

With the winter season fast approaching, there may be times when bus routes will not be operating.

The most likely reason for cancellation will be for severe winter weather conditions, in which case one or more bus routes in the district may be cancelled. After consultation with staff who (after severe weather warnings) go out to assess road conditions between 3:30 a.m. and 5:30 a.m., I will determine by 5:45 a.m. whether or not to cancel one or more bus routes, and will advise local radio stations.

In other circumstances, such as significantly higher than normal driver absences, only affected routes will be cancelled. It is very important that parents have

taken note of what routes their child rides on.

The local radio stations assist us by announcing on the radio when there are cancellations. Usually, these announcements begin after 6:00 a.m. The radio station will report any routes that are not operating.

Your local radio stations are:  
CKWV (102.3)  
CBC (90.5)  
SUN-FM (89.7)  
CFAX (1070)  
A Channel will also be notified.

### WHEN BUSES ARE OPERATING DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER:

Drivers may opt not to go down some of the less travelled and more

dangerous roads (ie, winding, hilly). If families live down such roads, it would be a good idea to plan now with their driver, for a location at a safer, more-travelled stop.

If buses are running more than ten minutes late, drivers will radio in to notify the Transportation Office. Then the Transportation Office will send an email to the principals and vice principals of the affected schools.

In all cases, the safety of students will be the first priority.

Yours sincerely,  
Dan Boudreault  
Superintendent of Schools & CEO

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## Yearbook Deadline Information

Yearbook orders are being taken each day at lunch from now until December 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be no orders taken or yearbooks sold at the end of the school year. Please

avoid the disappointment of those who did not pre-order last year and did not get a yearbook. Cash or cheques made out to "Frances Kelsey Secondary School" will be

accepted and receipts will be issued. The cost is \$40.00 for this full- colour, hardcover book, filled with more pages and memories than ever before!

# Career Centre News

## TAKE OUR KIDS TO WORK

Congratulations to those Grade 9 students who participated in TAKE OUR KIDS TO WORK on November 4, 2009. These students have now received credit for Learning Guide 10 in Health & Career Education. **For those students who have not yet participated, please see the Career Centre for details.** A huge thank you goes out to all the businesses and parents that supported our Grade 9's and allowed them to spend the day experiencing the working world.

## WORK EXPERIENCE 12 – 4 CREDITS

Placements are currently being sought for grade 11 and 12 students wanting **experience in their Focus Area:** Business & Applied Business, Fine Arts Design & Media, Fitness & Recreation, Health & Human Services, Liberal Arts & Humanities, Science & Applied Sciences, Tourism Hospitality & Foods and Trades & Technology.

Thanks to all the participating businesses which help support this important program. Some recent work experience placements have been at the following businesses:

- Valley Health and Fitness Centre
- Cobble Hill Animal Hospital
- Oasis Hair Design and Esthetics
- Jean Crowder, MP
- Reitmans
- Matisse Day Spa

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### **Volunteers Needed:**

- Canadian Cancer Society – Daffodil Campaign  
Sign up in the Career Centre.

## APPRENTICESHIPS

Has your student been working in one of the more than 100 recognized apprenticeship jobs? They may qualify to be a Secondary School Apprenticeship (SSA) student and be given 16 credits and a \$1,000 scholarship towards their graduation – students may make an appointment to speak to Mrs. Munday in the Career Centre.

## APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING: DUAL CREDIT

Students can start their apprenticeship training before they graduate and get credit towards graduation and Level one certification: Examples

- Welding
- Cooking
- Carpentry
- Electrician
- Plumbing
- Sheet Metal
- Automotive

Students may make an appointment to speak to Mrs. Munday in the Career Centre

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## Planning 10 Career Fairs

**By Kevin van der Linden, Vice-Principal**

Two Planning 10 classes had the recent opportunity to attend a Marine Industry Career Fair at CFB Esquimalt. Students explored many career options and post-secondary opportunities. The students enjoyed the hands-on activities such as welding, drafting, carpentry and trying on some of the safety suits. They also had the unique chance to have a boat tour of the Esquimalt Harbour.

The Canadian Forces also presented exciting career choices. Students were provided with several pamphlets and brochures and had the



chance to discuss career choices at each booth.

Four other Planning 10 classes attended a Career Fair at the Nanaimo Conference Centre and had a guided tour of the Vancouver Island University Campus. Students were met by VIU student ambassadors who gave them an orientation of the Campus.

Both Career Fairs opened the eyes of our students to employment fields in an engaging, interactive way. The students left with smiles on their faces and many 'freebies' from both occasions.

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## Community Options Society

is offering a free course entitled *Understanding Teens* on Wednesday mornings, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, January 13 to March 3 and Monday evenings, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., January 11 to March 1 at their office at 200 Cowichan Way, Duncan. To register, call (250) 748-0232 [www.coscowichan.ca](http://www.coscowichan.ca)