

KWALIKUM OBSERVER

September 2023

House Colour Chaos

By Lina Janeski

On Wednesday, September 20th the KSS student body participated in a real-life Mario Kart style balloon pop. The objective of the game was to pop as many of the opposing teams' balloons as possible until only one was left standing. After a brief homeroom, approximately 700 students flooded the field with vibrant bursts of colour. Team pink, blue, green, and yellow gathered their forces in the corners of the upper field, teeming with energy, ready for the competition. With music blasting and students raring to go, Mrs. Reid gave the signal and the game began. Students commented that the competition was chaotic and fun and many onlookers found it hilarious to watch. It lasted around 40 minutes. The riveting event resulted in 800 points to green, 300 points to pink, 450 to yellow, and 300 to blue. To minimise the environmental impact of the event, teachers and leadership students conducted a very thorough clean-up of the balloons. However, due to the waste the competition produced, it will likely be a one-time event. The balloon pop event brought out the competitive spirit in both students and staff and was a great morale boost during the first month back. This event is only a small taste of what's to come. The Gym Riot, taking place October 19th, will be a full-scale battle of the house colours, bringing out the team-colour pride in KSS students and teachers alike.



Photos by Lina Janeski



Photo by Dekaiah Haupt

Tour de Rock Fundraising

By Imogen Brown

Every September, Kwalikum Secondary School participates in its biggest fundraising event of the year - supporting Tour de Rock, an annual 14-day 12,000 km cycling fundraiser for kids with cancer. On this grueling tour, Cops for Cancer (first responders in partnership with the Canadian Cancer Society) rely on schools and other organizations to cheer them on and donate to their cause.

Last September, the KSS student body was able to present the Tour de Rock riders with a cheque for \$8,000. This year KSS had a strong start with money raised from events like the Spring Fling dance, the Bartathon, Teacher Torture, and more, adding up to nearly \$2000 by the end of last school year. By September, Leadership teacher, Ms. Reid, felt confident that KSS could raise enough money in the last two weeks to beat the previous total and donate \$10,000 dollars to Tour de Rock.

To achieve this ambitious goal, Kwalikum students participated in a Class vs. Class fundraiser which raised \$3201, Chuck it in a Bucket which raised \$134, and some students even took on door-to-door fundraising. Ms. Reid noted “It’s heartwarming to see students signing up to help just because they know it’s a good thing to do. There are good people in the world and events like this bring those people together.” Some students and teachers volunteered to shave their heads as a fundraiser, which contributed around \$260 to the total and Ms. Stevens even pledged to get a tattoo of the student body's choosing if the school reached its \$10,000 goal!

A bottle drive, which took place last weekend, was a new fundraiser this year. It relied heavily on staff, students, and community volunteers. “We made a large sum of money to go towards our total,” commented Ms. Reid. The bottle drive was mutually beneficial - helping the community, and the environment, and raising \$1838 for Tour de Rock. Finally, the Golden Gala Dance, last Tuesday night, raised nearly \$800 from ticket sales and raised the spirits of all who attended.

With all these efforts, the day before Tour de Rock arrived, KSS was only a few hundred dollars away from their goal. In the end, thanks to many generous online donations, Kwalikum Secondary was not only able to reach its goal but exceeded it, raising a total of \$10,546. This money can make a huge impact on the lives of children with cancer and their families. “We make a difference with what we’re doing. Our efforts benefit children on Vancouver Island who are going through experiences no child or family should have to face,” said Ms. Reid.

When the Tour de Rock riders pulled into the parking lot on September 28th, KSS students cheered loudly - proud to contribute to such a worthwhile cause.



Introductory Assembly

By Shyla Resatz

A Kondor cheer helped to kick off the 2023-2024 school year. The students sat in four house-colour sections, giving students a taste of what's to come during the Gym Riot next month. The assembly started with the concert choir performing a KSS-themed parody rendition of “Welcome to Duloc” from Shrek. Continuing on, the Grade 12 students battled against their teachers in a very competitive dodgeball game, in which the grads put up a good fight but the teachers emerged victorious. Students showed their team spirit in a 4-way tug-of-war with grade 10-12 students fighting for those first house points of the year. Team Yellow showed excellent strategy and teamwork to attain their first win putting themselves in the lead.

To conclude the first school-wide assembly of the year, Ms. Reid organized a mini-game called “Chuck it in the Bucket”. Students were encouraged to throw spare change into their house team’s bucket upon exiting the gym. All of the proceeds from this went towards our main annual fundraiser, Tour de Rock/Cops for Cancer.

The Assembly was a chance for new students to get to know KSS, for this year's grads to have their first big event, and for everyone to reignite their house-colour pride and school spirit.

Editor’s Note

After a long summer, and a seemingly longer first month back, the Kwalikum Observer team is proud to bring you the first issue of the 2023-2024 school year. The goal of any school newspaper is to report on current events and keep the student body informed. The purpose of the Kwalikum Observer is to go beyond that, by using journalism to connect our school and strengthen our sense of community. The Kwalikum Observer is dedicated to sharing inspiring student stories, recognizing school achievements, calling out injustice, as well as entertaining and informing you. Our team is made up of hardworking students, passionate about journalism, photography, art, and more. We look forward to seeing you at school events, sports games, and in the hallways — working with you to tell KSS stories.

- Imogen Brown, Chief Editor



Photo by Ana Lucia Ronna Cabral

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and honour the original people of this land, the people who have stories of this land and have been in a respectful relationship with this land for thousands of years. We have the privilege to live, work, and play on the land of the Qualicum First Nations in Coast Salish territory.