

ALEXANDER ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2020



END OF SEMESTER 1

What a successful first semester! In its last two months, students continued working on their academic goals and taking up volunteering opportunities in preparation for their post-secondary plans. Continue reading for a look at their dedication to curiosity, challenges, and self-exploration.

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AND MUCH MORE...

DECEMBER



Education & Career Fair

Our grade 12 students attended the Education and Career Fair at the Vancouver Convention Centre during a school day. They had the chance to inquire about admission requirements, rethink their university choices, and network with representatives.

Blanket BC

In addition to dropping by for an assembly, Gregory Ould from Blanket BC sent us a heartwarming note to thank us for the donations we gathered around various Skytrain stations for their cause. Our students' efforts at their annual Blanket Drive supported local shelter programs dedicated to people in need.



Warmth from the Heart

On behalf of Blanket BC Society, we would like to thank all of the volunteers from Alexander Academy for your recent contributions during our 11th Annual Drive on the Line campaign. Our event could not have been as successful without you. Because of wonderful people like those from Alexander Academy, we collected over 5,200 blankets, over 533 articles of warm clothing and over \$7,500.00 of which will help Blanket BC continue its focus of giving "warmth from the heart!" All donations that were collected along the Canada Line have already been donated to over 25 emergency shelters and more will be donated to shelter programs from Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley to the Sunshine Coast and Vancouver Island.

We look forward to your continued support in our future endeavors to make a difference to people in need, and we would invite you to follow us on all our social media pages to keep up with our upcoming events. Help us continue to **#SpreadTheWarmth!**

Once again, Blanket BC Society thanks you for your wonderfully warm contribution!

Warmest regards,

Gregory & Benjamin Ould
Co-Founders
Blanket BC Society
Info@BlanketBC.org
www.BlanketBC.org

DECEMBER



Georgia Strait Alliance Presentation

The Georgia Strait Alliance, a local organization focused on preserving local aquatic ecosystems came by to deliver an educational presentation on their efforts.



Film Class

Our Film class students wrapped up their production of their film interpretation of "Subtext". Students split up into several groups, and executed an impressive degree of team work.



Food Fair & Christmas Party

Led by our Student Council, students pulled together an end-of-the-year cultural food fair and Christmas party (yes, on the same day). For many of our international students, this was their first experience of both events. It was a definite highlight of the year - more photos available on our official Facebook!

JANUARY

REACH FOR THE STARS

Until January, the 100% student-led company "Reach for the Stars" sold two variations (stars and cranes) of their beautifully lacquered and hand-crafted jewelry to raise funds for the Georgia Strait Alliance.



Every year the Entrepreneurship and Marketing class works with Junior Achievement British Columbia (JABC) to come up with a student-run business to raise funds for a philanthropic cause. This past semester our students decided on handmade earrings made from eco-friendly paper, sold under their brand "Reach for the Stars". A project of this size requires week-long efforts of researching, sourcing, crafting, and marketing, and ultimately rewards individuals with both hard and soft skills.

JANUARY

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

Every January marks the beginning of a new school experience for some students. This year, we welcomed 20 new students! During Orientation

Day they were greeted by eager student volunteers who became a friendly, familiar face for the rest of the school year. The new students were also taught about the local transit options, and how to obtain their transit pass at the closest train station. We are especially glad to hear that some of our new students are sharing the same homestay. Welcome new students, we are so happy to have you!





UPCOMING EVENT: FEBRUARY

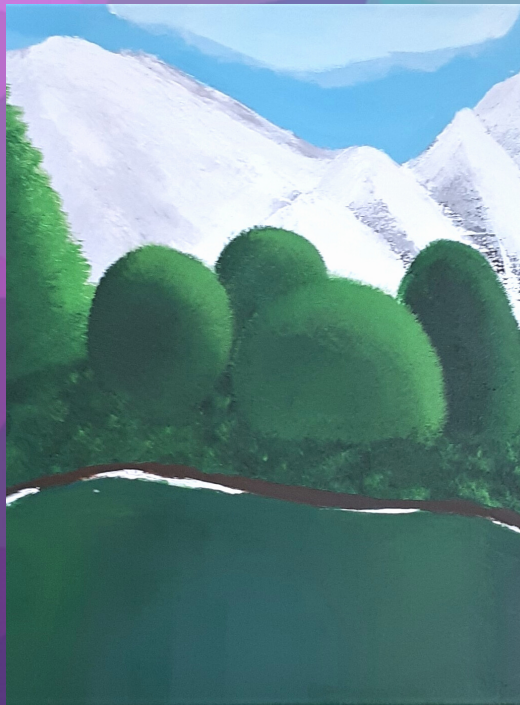


PINK SHIRT DAY!

"KINDNESS is one size that Fits All"

At Alexander Academy, every February is known as "Pink Month" - a month dedicated to acts of kindness and lifting each other up. Classes will be exploring these themes through special lessons, and both staff and students will be partaking in the giving away of pink carnations in downtown Vancouver on February 26 (Wednesday) morning to put a smile on strangers' faces. This day, known as Pink Shirt Day, began as an anti-bullying effort in 2007 in Canada and is now a global movement to promote solidarity and resilience.

Visual Arts & English



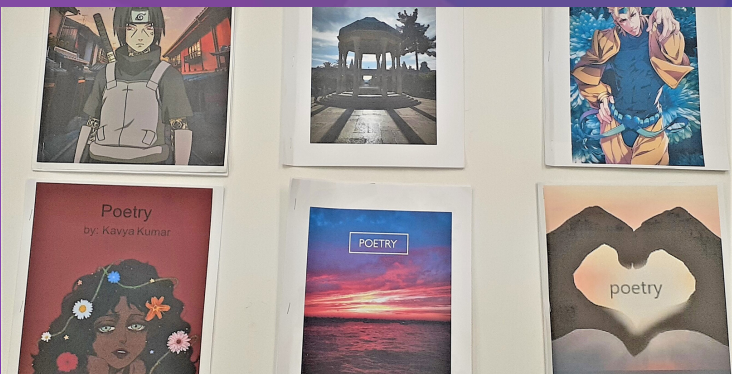
VISUAL ARTS

The Grade 10 and 11 Art students have been working enthusiastically on many projects. They have completed magnificent paintings as well as beautiful clay sculptures. The students have also worked on drawings pertaining to natural landscapes and world issues. Many of their art pieces expressed their concerns for the destruction caused by the Australian bushfire crisis.



ENGLISH

The Composition 11 and English 8/9 students have been exploring the genre of poetry by developing Poetry Booklets. In these booklets they analyzed a poem or a song by a famous author and also tried their hand at writing their own. The Poetry Booklets, complete with lovely illustrations, allowed students to hone their writing skills while also gaining a deeper appreciation for the genre.



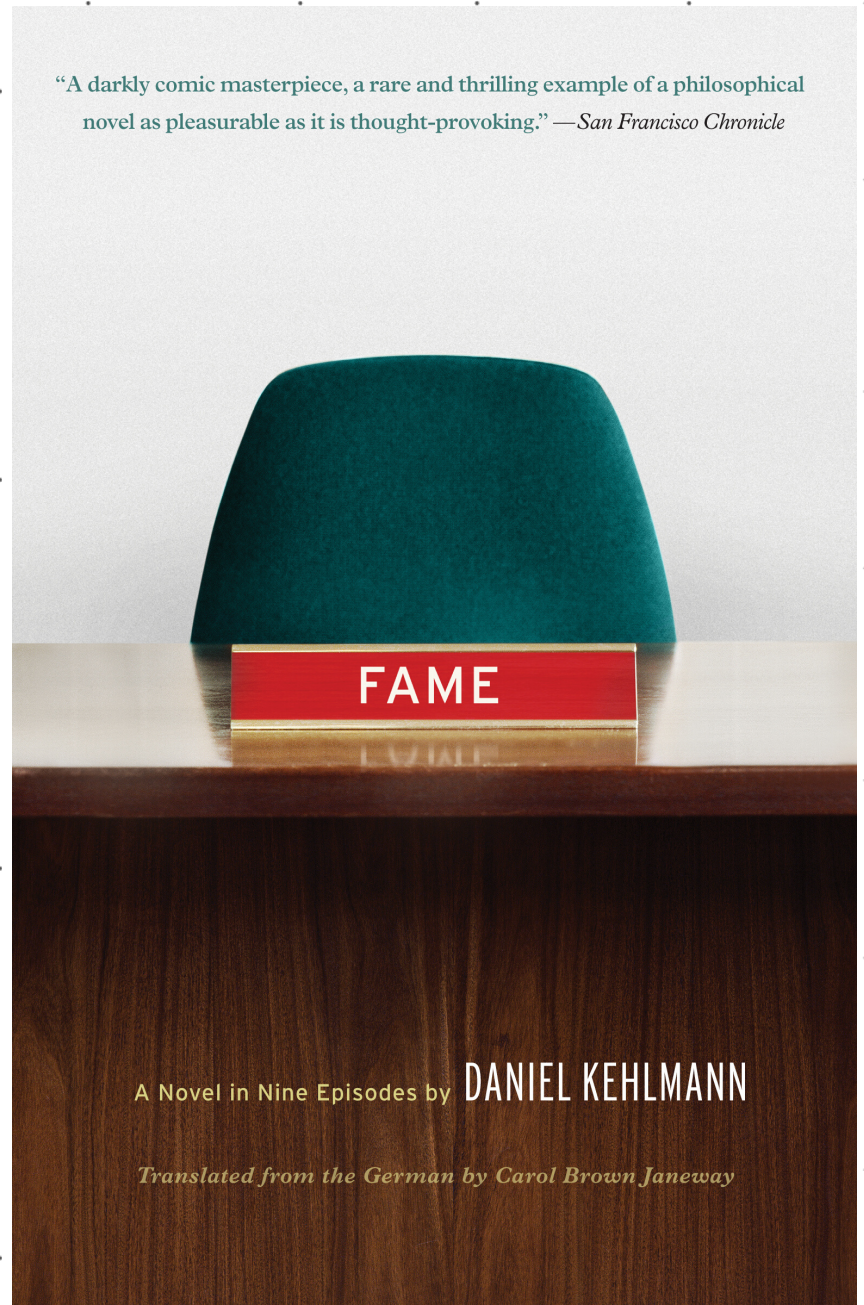
English Department: Book Review

The Higher Level IB Language and Literature class has finished exploring their first novel, *Fame*, by German author Daniel Kehlmann. See what one student thought about it!

REVIEWED BY WILLOW B.

Fame by Daniel Kehlmann is an intricate book with many twists and turns to portray the question of how fame affects one's identity. Daniel Kehlmann is a German writer from Munich, and his most popular book was "Measuring the World", written in 2005. Shortly after that, he wrote *Fame*, a book that is vastly different in terms of narrative technique and plot continuity. This collection of episodes takes you through a whirlwind of stories and climaxes; each story is related to one another in different ways and as the novel goes on, we see references to previous characters. The way this book was written goes against the basic rules and structure of short stories - we get to know each character through a different narrator and we even have a sense of Daniel Kehlmann himself incorporated in the story, possibly disguised as one of the characters we meet. This book is odd and somewhat confusing, but in the end it is a really good read, and I would recommend it if you like subtle, yet funny humour with a darker twist on life. Overall, this was an excellent novel, that I would definitely read again.

"A darkly comic masterpiece, a rare and thrilling example of a philosophical novel as pleasurable as it is thought-provoking." —*San Francisco Chronicle*





ACADEMIC INFORMATION

REPORT CARDS

Semester 2 final report cards are published on January 28 via the family portal (myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspen). All parents and custodians should have access to the portal. It is advised to download a copy of report cards as the file will only be available until June.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Starting next month, Ms. Guan will meet with all students to provide instructions for course selection for the next school year. It is important to keep graduation requirements in mind. Graduation requirements can be found here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/legislation-policy/public-schools/graduation-requirements>

COURSE CHANGES

January 29 marks the start of semester 2. Students have until February 13 to change their courses. Students are encouraged to review their graduation plan before making changes. They are also welcomed to see Ms. Guan for further instructions to make a change. Timetables will be finalized after February 14, 2020.

UPDATES ON POST-SECONDARY PREPARATION

Grade 12

Many graduating students have already submitted their application to different post-secondary institutions. They can now take a breather. Don't forget to keep an eye on your email inbox and application portals to provide universities with updates on your marks!

Grade 11

Before students enter their final high school year, it is encouraged that they keep up with their extracurricular activities. This is the golden time to do necessary research on programs and post-secondary institutions. Grade 11 students should make sure all university prerequisites courses are selected for their grade 12 year. Be reminded to also explore scholarship opportunities. To start, they may use websites such as: [Scholarshipscanada.com](https://www.scholarshipscanada.com), [Yconic.com](https://www.yconic.com), [Osap.ca](https://www.osap.ca), [Studentaidbc.ca](https://www.studentaidbc.ca)

Grades 8, 9 and 10

While exploring their interests and passions, students involve themselves in extra-curricular activities like volunteering, sports, math club...etc. These experiences will be helpful for university and scholarship application.

| 新年快樂 |

Happy Lunar New Year!



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