



BALLENAS BULLETIN

#5 JANUARY 2024

School Website: <http://www.sd69.bc.ca/school/BSS>

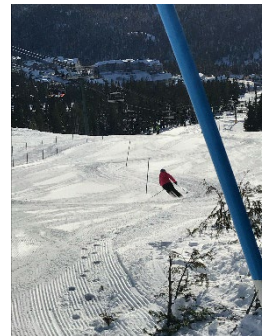
We would like to acknowledge that École Ballenas Secondary exists on the shared traditional territory of the Snaw'naw'as and Qualicum First Nations.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to the start of a New Year! For us, it means our school year is nearly half complete - yikes! While January has a focus on new beginnings - for us, it signals the end of Semester One. We want to support our school community in ending this semester on a positive, successful note.

Ballenas, as always, is a hub of activity - here a few highlights from our first week back in this "New" year:

- Basketball is in full swing - come on by and check out a home game! The gym is always alive with energy, no matter the time of day. Home games can be found on our school calendar via the [website](#) - come on out and cheer on our Whalers!
- Ballenas' new Ski and Snowboard team took to the hills this past week



- Our Musical Theater group is preparing for their February Production of "Mamma Mia" - tickets are on sale now and can be purchased [here](#). Get your tickets early!
- Clubs are in full swing - and growing each week. Students: be sure to keep your eyes on the calendar in the front foyer about clubs and meeting times – and they're also posted on the [website](#). Some clubs are also held during FLEX time. Check them out!
- Student voice is in action. This is a group of students representing each homeroom grouping at Ballenas who have come together to provide input into. We last met in December – gathering input regarding future changeroom renovations planned for Ballenas. Thanks, as always, for the thoughtful and specific feedback gathered from Ballenas students. We'll meet again in Early February during FLEX.
- Appreciation to our Global Roams students – after mountain biking on the Dumont trails before the break, Global ROAMS students were surprised and saddened to see the amount of garbage that has been illegally dumped there. They returned, and collected 1575 kg of waste! That's over 1.5 tons and nearly 3500 lbs!



While all of this is happening, we are also beginning to think ahead and plan for our *next* school year! Stay tuned for information regarding our Open House (especially if you may have a Grade 8 student at home joining us next year). This event will be held on February 8th at Ballenas. More information and details to come in the coming weeks.

Finally, FLEX Learning (every Wednesday morning) is in full swing and we encourage all of our students to make use of this time. Please see the note later on in our newsletter regarding FLEX (especially during the month of January!)

Time really does fly; let's make the most of it!

That is all for now - thank you for your continued support. We were so glad to see everyone back this past week. We are very grateful for our community and are looking forward to longer, brighter days ahead.

As always, please keep an eye on the district and our school website for updates as shared. If you have any questions, you are always welcome to reach out to us at the school.

LUNCHTIME AT BSS

Since Parksville has launched DoorDash Deliveries we have noticed an increase in food deliveries to the school. Please note that we will not call students out of class for these deliveries. We appreciate cooperation from parents/caregivers and students that if you need to use these services, please do so in the allotted lunch time provided. To view the school bell schedule please visit our [website](#).

FLEX LEARNING

FLEX is an invaluable time for students to meet with their teachers, receive extra support, and connect with an area of interest or passion. Flex takes place each Wednesday morning from 8:35 – 9:56. Please talk with your child about FLEX learning and how they are using it. As our year progresses, teachers may be reaching out to you and requesting your child's attendance in a specific learning space. All teachers are available in their learning spaces in January to support students, and some of our clubs will take a pause until February. We have a variety of spaces available each week including:

French Immersion	Guitar Club
Humanities 8/9	Gym/PE Space
Math/Science 8/9	FSL/Spanish
English and Social Studies 10 – 12	English Language Learning
Math 10 – 12	Open Computer Labs
Science 10 – 12	Library Space
Shops (Metal, Electronics, Art)	Foods Room: Homework Space
Art	Post-Secondary Planning
Theatre	MPR Games and Connections
Chess Club	

JANUARY PROVINCIAL ASSESSMENTS

Provincial Assessments are scheduled throughout the year, and dates are set out by the Ministry of Education. This January, assessments will run from the 15th to the 26th for the following students/assessments:

- Grade 10 students currently in a Math class will write the Numeracy 10 assessment
- Students in English First Peoples 10 will write the Literacy 10 Assessment
- Information about these assessments was shared via assemblies in CLC. CLC classes and Math/EFP 10 classes have been asked to practice the assessments in preparation for the assessment
- Grade 12 students who are in English Studies 12 or English First Peoples 12 will write the Literacy 12 assessment. Information was shared with Grade 12 students and their English teachers
- Any Grade 12 student can write the Literacy assessment if they would like. Students need to sign up in counselling for this if they are not in an English Studies 12 or English First Peoples 12 class this semester
- Grade 12 students who have their required English 12 class next semester will write the assessment then
- A list of student numbers for Grade 11 and 12 students who have not yet written a Grade 10 assessment (Numeracy or Literacy) has been posted in the main foyer. Please sign up for an assessment via the counselling office
- French Immersion students in Grade 12 will write the Évaluation de littératie – Français langue seconde-immersion 12 assessment. This includes an oral and written component. Specific information regarding this assessment was shared with students via their FRAL 12 class

- Students are encouraged to practice these assessments as much as possible. We have posted a [link](#) on our school website to the Ministry of Education’s information site, which includes sample assessments
- The schedule for assessments has been shared with students and dates are on our [school calendar](#). It is each student’s responsibility to ensure they know when they are to write the assessment and to be on time and prepared

BALLENAS WHALEBONE THEATRE

Mamma Mia will be playing at the Whalebone Theatre February 13, 14, 15 and 20,21,22. The show starts at 7pm and tickets are available for purchase through our [Ballenas Online Store](#). For more information, please visit the [Whalebone Theatre Facebook Page](#).

INCLEMENT WEATHER REMINDER

As the weather gets colder, we would like to remind you of the district inclement weather procedures.

[Inclement Weather Reminder for Parents-Guardians-Caregivers](#)

STUDENTS, ARE YOU TAKING A CEAP CLASS?

Do you have a student enrolled in a CEAP class? CEAP is open from 8:45 to 2:45 daily at the Winchelsea Learning Centre behind BSS. Please contact your CEAP teacher directly for their support hours.

MY SCHOOL DAY APP

We are excited to announce that BSS has officially launched the “My School Day” app. Students were given the opportunity to download, explore and troubleshoot the new app during CLC/HR. This is an informative communication app that will help students (and staff) know what day/block rotation it is, what their timetable is, and eventually, what is happening in the school. This is part of a focus on clear and effective communication for this year. For more information on how to download the app see the attached poster at the bottom of the newsletter.

DATES TO REMEMBER

JANUARY

11 th	PAC Meeting – Library 6:30 p.m.
17 th	DPAC Meeting – 6:30 p.m. Zoom (link on website calendar)
15 th -26 th	Provincial Assessments
26 th	Semester 1 Ends
29 th	School Semester Change (students not in attendance)
30 th	Semester 2 Starts

FEBRUARY

8 th	BSS Open House
9 th	Learning Updates Home
13 th - 16 th	Grad Photos (Book online)
19 th	BC Family Day
21 st	DPAC Meeting – 6:30 p.m. Zoom (link on website calendar)

FRIDAY SCHEDULE

Friday, January 12 th	Day 2
Friday, January 19 th	Day 1
Friday, January 26 th	Day 2
Friday, February 2 nd	Day 1
Friday, February 9 th	Day 2
Friday, February 16 th	Day 1
Friday, February 23 rd	Day 2

GRAD

Grad portraits will take place at Ballenas February 13th - 16th. To book your session click here > [Grad Portrait Bookings](#).

Save The Date:

- Saturday, May 4th, 2024: Golf Scramble Fundraiser at Morningstar Golf Club – more information to come in the following months
- Ongoing Bottle Donation Fundraiser at the Parksville Bottle and Recycling Depot – use account “Ballenas Grad 2024”.

SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS

Safer Schools Together is pleased to announce that in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Childcare, we have opened up four more dates for our “Social Media Awareness” Family Sessions. These sessions were designed to support families and caregivers navigate the digital world.

Dates, times and information to register can be found in the link below.

[Family Sessions](#)

BSS PAC

All schools in School District 69 have a Parent Advisory Council, and any parent with a child in school is a member of the school PAC. The PAC serves in an advisory capacity to the school to further enhance and support the education of all students within the school.

The Ballenas PAC meets on the **second Thursday evening of each month at 6:30 in the school library** and meetings are open to all members of the school community. Parents are the only voting members of the PAC. The Ballenas PAC discusses and makes recommendations on issues which are brought forward by parents, students, staff and administrators. The PAC holds a Bingo license which benefits many groups in the school and PAC members also participate whenever they can in school spirit activities such as Christmas crafts and decorating and Halloween. Parents wishing to discuss issues with a PAC representative may attend our monthly PAC meeting or email: ballenaspac@gmail.com

All parents/caregivers are invited - you can come and go as you please and as fits your schedule and we promise...we won't "sign you up for anything" :O) This is truly your chance to be a **"fly on the wall"** and be part of the extended Whaler family (or you can totally sit at the table and yap along with us!) Everyone is invited -- even if it's your first meeting and your kid is in grade 12!

If you can't make the PAC meeting but have a burning question or request for PAC -- let me know! Click [here](#) a great write up on the BCCPAC page that outlines how **parents/caregivers are stakeholders in your child's education**.

School Trustees will be visiting schools on the first Wednesday of each month beginning in October (2nd Wednesday in January) to make themselves available to parents/caregivers, staff and students for some

informal information sharing.

COFFEE WITH TRUSTEES 2023-2024 SCHEDULE	
OES	October 4
AES	November 1
SES	December 6
PASS/CEAP WINCHELSEA LEARNING CENTRE	January 10 (2nd Wednesday)
QBES	February 7
BSS	April 3
KSS	May 1
BES	June 5

SD69 COMMUNITY PAGE

There is lots going on in the community! Too much in fact that we cannot post all of it in our newsletter. Did you know that the School District has a community page on their website? Please see the link below for events and workshops happening in the community.

<https://www.sd69.bc.ca/Community69/Pages/default.aspx#/>

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

If your student is absent for the day, please call the attendance line to let us know. If they need to leave for the day, or have an appointment, we do require a phone call to the office or attendance line, otherwise your student will be marked absent/unexcused. We expect students to sign in/out of the office, so in an emergency, we can look at the clipboard and clarify if a student has left the building. We asked our teaching staff to reach out proactively and offer support when they notice an attendance pattern emerging. By doing this, we hope to gain a better understanding of what may be happening for our students that may be contributing to an inconsistent attendance pattern, and work with families to help. If you need support in this, please contact us here at school.



My School Day

Quick Start for Students
and Parents

Fall 2023



1. Download the app

You can find the app - **it's free to download!** - on the App Store (iOS) or Google Play (Android) by

- Searching in the store for "My School Day"
- Going to <https://myschoolday.app/download> in the browser on your phone
- Using the QR code at right.



Make sure to allow it to receive notifications when asked - the school will use them to send out important reminders, information and alerts.

2. Select your school

The first time you start the app you will need to select your school. Choose a province, school district, and finally your school from the lists provided, and tap "confirm". *This only needs to be done once.*

3. Follow channels.

Channels let the school administration and teachers send out information specific to your classes and activities, so you get only those notifications for your classes and those of interest to the entire school. To subscribe to channels:

- Tap on the "Classes" icon
- Tap "Follow Channels" in the menu
- Tap the checkboxes for the channels you are interested in
- Tap on the "Done" button.

Remember to check back regularly for new channels that your teachers may have added.



4. Enter your classes

Tapping on the classes icon also gives you an option to set up your timetable. Select that option and enter your class names and select colours and icons. You can also enter morning, lunch, and after school activities. When you tap on "Done", the app will fill in your timetable.

5. Access school information, links and files

The school and teachers will add links and files that provide resources to the school community such as course materials for remote learning, health advisories, and other school, district, and provincial information. To access these school-wide and channel-specific resources:

- Tap the info icon at the right hand side of the tab bar:

Remember to check back regularly for new resources that your teachers may have added.





Get ready for CELPIP

Come join free webinars aimed to help you learn about the CELPIP Test and component-specific skills and strategies.

Learn about the CELPIP Test for Canadian Permanent Residency and Citizenship in a collection of free online classes on zoom. Ask questions, get answers, receive component-specific exercises and get an in-depth understanding of the test.

Date	Time	Session
Tuesday, January 16, 2023	6:00 - 7:00 pm	CELPIP Get the Facts For test takers looking for an overview of the CELPIP Test
Wednesday, January 24, 2023	2:00 - 4:00 pm	CELPIP Listening For test takers looking for an overview of the listening component of the CELPIP Test
Wednesday, January 31, 2023	2:00 - 4:00 pm	CELPIP Reading For test takers looking for an overview of the reading component of the CELPIP Test
Wednesday, February 7, 2023	2:00 - 4:00 pm	CELPIP Writing For test takers looking for an overview of the writing component of the CELPIP Test
Wednesday, February 14, 2023	2:00 - 4:00 pm	CELPIP Speaking For test takers looking for an overview of the speaking component of the CELPIP Test

register online at: virl.bc.ca/calendar
Or scan the QR code



Local Library Support

Please Note that, at this time, the public computers at Vancouver Island Regional Library's **Parksville Branch** are without working speakers or headphone jacks, and cannot be used to participate in the webinars. We are looking to resolve that deficiency with newer and better model computers at some point in the new year. VIRL's **Qualicum Beach Branch**, [like most VIRL branches](#), has a *limited selection* of public computers with headphone capability. [All VIRL branches](#) provide **free wifi** for use with personal devices.

Library collections include a *limited selection* of CELPIP study guides in print and electronic formats. Newer editions are only available as ebooks.

https://search.virl.bc.ca/iii/encore/search/C_SCELPIP_Orightresult_U?lang=eng&suite=def&ivts=H4l17uXR%2BeJ6D9iaRcynQA%3D%3D&casts=c8xEIhIVsnY5PsMrD6IZMg%3D%3D

**BALLENAS
SECONDARY
PRESENTS**



FEB 13,14,15

20,21,22

7pm

Tickets \$15 Adults \$10 Students

at the door or @

“Ballenas Online Store”

BSS GRAD 2024

Bottle
DONATION

ONGOING THROUGH APRIL 2024

Drop Off

Bottle & Recycling Depot

611A Alberní Hwy, Parksville

USE ACCOUNT NAME:

“BALLENAS GRAD 2024”

And all proceeds will go towards the 2024 Dry Grad celebration

Grand Gathering Workshops

Open to Kinship caregivers in BC

Tuesday, Jan 23, 2024 | 10 am - 11:30 am
Coaching our kids through life's obstacles

In today's world, children face life's challenges, and our role is to support and coach them as we co-regulate. As your child's primary defender, your self-care is crucial. This workshop will address how to reflect your child's emotions and help them regulate.

**Online
Workshop**



Tuesday, Jan 30, 2024 | 10 am - 11:30 am
Creating & deepening attachment with our children

Healthy attachments are essential for children to feel safe and secure. This workshop will explore various attachments and strategies to meet children's attachment needs, fostering deeper connections.

Workshop Presenter:
Brenda Dragt, MSW - CCI
Consultant & Lead Trainer,
Complex Care & Intervention
program with Complex Trauma
Resources.

Scan or Click
to Register



FREE

Registration required to
participate in this
workshop!

Register now -
Workshops Jan 23 & 30th 2024

www.bit.ly/psssbeworkshops

GOT QUESTIONS?
REACH US AT:
1-877-345-9777 (Toll-Free)
office@parentsupportbc.ca
parentsupportbc.ca

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