



# BALLENAS BULLETIN

## #4 DECEMBER, 2023

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

It is hard to believe that December is upon us. The season started off on a festive note here at Ballenas with thanks to Ms. Spence and the Leadership team, Mr. Seidel and the Yearbook class and Ms. Holman and team in the Library Learning Commons for the decor and fun. Leadership sponsored a Food Drive in conjunction with students at KSS. We are still tallying up items and are proud of our schools for coming together in support of our local community.

One of my favourite traditions at Ballenas is the 1000+ names of every student and staff member hung around the building - this year on individual snowflakes. Thanks to Mr. Seidel and his helpers for making these and carefully placing them around the school - BSS students and staff - have you found yours yet?



Highlights for December include the start of basketball season, a staff versus student hockey game (see information below in this Newsletter), the Winter Evening of Music for band students and their families AND our incredibly special whole school Turkey Lunch. Sprinkled in are various spirit days and lots of Ballenas cheer.

As this year ends, we would like to thank our community for their continued support of learning here at Ballenas - it is appreciated. **We would like to send a special recognition out to our PAC for their support this year of all we do here at Ballenas, and to all our volunteer coaches, parent drivers, and team supporters. Your time and dedication do not go unnoticed - we appreciate you all very much.**



Please continue to check the website for updates. Remember - our daily announcements are posted here each day, and available on the "My School Day App," so if you are ever wanting to get a feel for the day-to-day happenings at Ballenas (or what is for lunch) - check them out!

With gratitude,

Trish Cathrine

### 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. When we return in January, all teachers will be available in their learning spaces 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

Art

Humanities 8/9

Theatre

Math/Science 8/9

Chess Club

English and Social Studies 10 – 12

Guitar Club

Math 10 – 12

Gym/PE Space

Science 10 – 12

FSL/Spanish

Shops (Metal, Electronics, Art)

English Language Learning

Open Computer Labs

Post-Secondary Planning

Library Space

MPR Games and Connections

Foods Room: Homework Space

## ONLINE ACTIVITY/AWARENESS

### ***The following message was sent out to all parents last week:***

We have become aware of several students in our school community who have been contacted online via a variety of platforms (namely Instagram and TikTok) from an individual or individuals they do not know. This activity happens, and seems to be on the rise. The nature of this contact ranges from messages, requests, and some students have also experienced accounts being made about them. We have worked with students who have come forward on this to cease contact, block these individuals, and to report any contact that needs to be reported.

Ongoing education about the online world is important to us at Ballenas. Last year, we brought in [The White Hatter](#) for presentations to all of our students, and topics like this are discussed in our school on a regular basis. This week and next, all students at Ballenas will have presentations from [erase British Columbia](#) regarding online activity.

Please check in with your child(ren) about their online activity, and have open conversations with them about the lives they may live online. This may be difficult, and some may be reluctant to share, but it is important. If your child has been contacted by any unknown individual(s) requesting information, we are here to help. It is important that students:

- Do not communicate with unknown individuals online, at any time
- If contacted by someone unknown, block account(s) and report the accounts to the platform directly
- Report any threats or acts of extortion to RCMP

Please reach out to us here at Ballenas if you have any questions. We appreciate your support and conversations at home.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER REMINDER

As the weather gets colder, we'd like to remind you of the district inclement weather procedures. [Inclement Weather Reminder for Parents-Guardians-Caregivers](#)

## LEARNING UPDATES

Learning updates were sent home with students last Thursday. Please take a look and review with your child. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you have any specific questions. All contact information for our staff can be found on the school website: [BSS Staff Directory](#)

## 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.

## 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

### DECEMBER

1 <sup>st</sup>	District Wide Planning Day – School Not in Session
14 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Meeting – Library 6:30 p.m.
20 <sup>th</sup>	DPAC Meeting – 6:30 p.m. Zoom (link on website)
20 <sup>th</sup>	BSS Staff/Student Turkey Lunch

### JANUARY

6 <sup>th</sup>	Grad Bottle Drive
8 <sup>th</sup>	Schools Reopen After Winter Break
11 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Meeting – Library 6:30 p.m.
17 <sup>th</sup>	DPAC Meeting – 6:30 p.m. Zoom (link on website calendar)

## FRIDAY SCHEDULE

Friday, December 8 <sup>th</sup>	Day 1
Friday, December 15 <sup>th</sup>	Day 2
Friday, December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Day 1
Friday, January 12 <sup>th</sup>	Day 2
Friday, January 19 <sup>th</sup>	Day 1
Friday, January 26 <sup>th</sup>	Day 2

## GRAD PARENTS

The Ballenas website is a great place to get information regarding dates, important events, graduation resources etc. The Grad Parent page can be easily accessed through this link.

<https://www.sd69.bc.ca/school/BSS/students/graduation/gradparents/Pages/default.aspx#/>

If you want to ensure you are looped in on Parent Communication, please email: [bssgradinfo@gmail.com](mailto:bssgradinfo@gmail.com)

*Please note the next Grad Bottle Drive on January 6, 2024. Save those holiday bottles!*

## BSS PAC

BSS PAC and DPAC (District Parent Advisory Council) would like to invite all Whaler Families to complete the "DPAC Learning Opportunity" survey.

As discussed at the November 2023 DPAC meeting, DPAC is asking for input from Qualicum School District parents/caregivers on how to spend this year's \$2,500 BC Gaming Grant funds that are allocated to DPAC.

Please complete the survey by December 15th, 2023 and join the DPAC Zoom Meeting January 17th at 6:30pm to find out the results.

[DPAC Learning Opportunity Inquiry November 2023](#)

School Trustees will be visiting schools on the first Wednesday of each month beginning in October (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday)
QBES	February 7
BSS	April 3
KSS	May 1
BES	June 5

## BSS SPIRIT OF HOCKEY 2023!

We are excited to invite you to the 2023 Spirit of Hockey Cup! For those who are new to Ballenas, this is an annual staff vs. student hockey game, featuring students from our Hockey Academy.

The event will take place on December 14<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon. The specifics of the afternoon are detailed below.

### Game time logistics:

- 1:45 Ice Time Begins
- 1:45-1:47 Warm Up
- 1:48-1:50 O' Canada
- 1:50 Ceremonial Puck Drop
- 1:52 Opening Faceoff - 1 – 25 Minute Run Time Period
- 2:17 Intermission Entertainment – Sr. Football Players – Human Bowling or Crazy Carpet Races
- 2:20 Ice scrap
- 2:30 – 2:32 Second Period warm up
- 2:32 – 2:57 1 - 25-minute run time period
- 2:45 PA announcement that Bus students are dismissed to walk back in time for the bus
- 2:57-3:00 Trophy Presentation and Dismissal
- 3:15 Ice Time Ends



Tickets are needed (no cost) for this event so come to the BSS office anytime after Dec. 11 to get yours!



# 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.



# LITERACY AND NUMERACY FAMILY NIGHT



Hosted by  
District Teaching & Learning Teachers  
Denise Spencer-Dahl (K-5) & Ruth Stefanek (6-12)

## THE DETAILS

**When:** Dec. 5th from 5:30-7:00 pm

**Where:** Winchelsea Learning Center

**What:** Literacy/Numeracy Games K-9

**Who:** Parents/Caregivers and their children in Grades K to 9

## GIVE AWAYS

Children must be supervised by their  
accompanying guardian/parent.

*Life is more fun if you  
play games*

*~ Roald Dahl*

QUALICUM SCHOOL DISTRICT



# Oceanside Volleyball Club

15U/16U Girls Club Team Tryouts

Mon Dec 4 and Thurs Dec 7

Exact time TBA (Between 5 - 9pm)

Location: Springwood Elementary



Must register prior to tryouts at:  
[www.oceansidevolleyballclub.com](http://www.oceansidevolleyballclub.com)

f  OVCEagles

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f  OVCEagles

# SOS Caring for Community at Christmas

Creating the magic of Christmas  
for local residents since 1968



## Drop-in to register

Starting Nov. 15, low income families and individuals can register at the SOS Community Services Centre in Parksville from 9:15 am - 11:30 am and 1:15 pm - 2:45 pm, Monday - Friday. Parents and grandparents receive help providing gifts for children and youth, and grocery gift cards are provided to adults, seniors and families.

## Support the program

**Financial donations:** Donate online, by phone or in person.

**Gift donations:** New, unwrapped gifts can be dropped off at the SOS Community Services Centres in Parksville: Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 12 pm and 1 pm - 4:30 pm. Attend a local event benefitting the program, or locate an SOS Angel Tree at a participating business.

**Thank you for helping create magic for residents in need!**

### SOS Community Services Centres

[www.sosd69.com](http://www.sosd69.com) | 250.248.2093 ext. 229

245 Hirst Ave. W., Parksville | 744 Primrose St., Qualicum

[coordinator@sosd69.com](mailto:coordinator@sosd69.com) | [f](#) [@](#) [in](#) [d](#)



Society of  
Organized  
Services

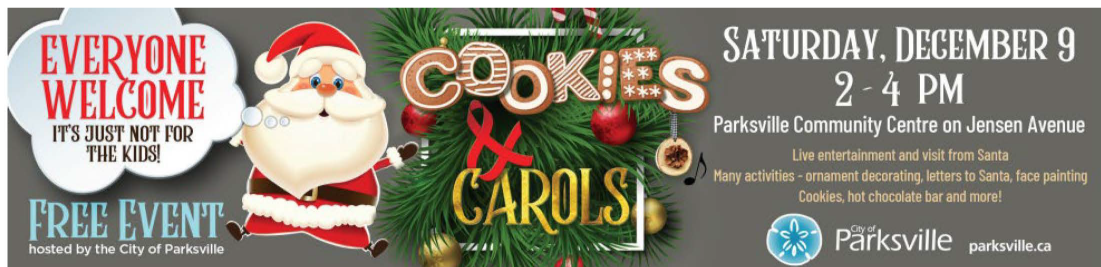


## Celebrate with the City at *Cookies, Carols and More!*

Wear your favourite holiday sweater or elf hat and celebrate the holiday season with the City of Parksville at *Cookies, Carols and More!* on Saturday, December 9 from 2 to 4 pm at the Parksville Community Centre on Jensen Avenue. Mark your calendars for this free, fun, full of holiday cheer community event. Everyone is welcome, it's not just for the kids!

The Christmas in the City event was cancelled last year due to the weather, so this year, we've moved indoors and switched to Saturday so more can attend. We are planning a great event with lots to keep you entertained, holiday music with a singalong, hot chocolate and eggnog bar, and of course cookies. Activities for kids, their families and the young at heart include ornament decorating, holiday colouring, special mailbox to write and drop off letters to Santa, and face painters. There will be a visit from Santa, and we have the perfect holiday photo backdrop, mistletoe, and props for your photos. Bring your camera and someone will be there to help you take the pictures.

Families, friends and neighbours, bring your holiday spirit to the Parksville Community Centre on Jensen Avenue. Should you wish, donations of non-perishable items will be accepted for the Salvation Army foodbank. Parksville Council looks forward to hosting our residents at *Cookies, Carols and More!*



###

**For more information:**

Deb Tardiff, Manager of Communications  
[communications@parksville.ca](mailto:communications@parksville.ca); 250 954-3073

*The City of Parksville is located on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish Nations,  
home to the Snaw-Naw-As First Nation and the Qualicum First Nation.*

City of Parksville | 100 Jensen Avenue East (P O Box 1390), Parksville, BC V9P 2H3  
Phone 250 248-6144 | [Parksville.ca](http://Parksville.ca)



**BSS GRAD 2024**

*Bottle*  
**DONATION**

ONGOING THROUGH APRIL 2024

*Drop Off*

**Bottle & Recycling Depot**

611A Albern Hwy, Parksville

USE ACCOUNT NAME:

**“BALLENAS GRAD 2024”**

And all proceeds will go towards the 2024 Dry Grad celebration