



BALLENAS BULLETIN

#5 January 19, 2026

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'na'as and Qualicum First Nations.

'uy' skweyul! (Good Day) to the Ballenas Community

Happy New Year, BSS families! January marks a new month and a new year—full of promise, hope, and a chance to renew as we prepare to wrap up Semester One and look ahead to Semester Two. We are excited for the year ahead and hope that all members of our BSS community are enjoying a positive start to 2026. As we move through this busy month, we encourage students to take care of themselves, engage in their learning, and take advantage of the many supports available at school.

January has been an important month of reflection and preparation across the school. Our focus has been on supporting student learning as semester one comes to a close, with particular attention on graduation assessments. Students and staff have been working diligently to ensure everyone feels prepared and confident writing these ministry assessments.

We encourage all Grade 10 and Grade 12 students to continue practicing and preparing for their graduation assessments. Helpful information, practice materials, and timelines can be found on our [school website](#).

Career Life Connections is an important graduation requirement for our senior students, and January is a key time for staying on track.

- **Grade 11 students** should be completing their required surveys in MyBlueprint as part of their CLC coursework. An IE on your Communication of Student Learning is an indication that these have not yet been completed.
- **Grade 12 students** should be actively preparing and making progress on their Capstone Projects, which are a central component of graduation. An IE will be in place on the Communication of Student Learning until the Capstone project is completed in May.

All grade 10-12 students are reminded to regularly monitor their **grade-based Google Classrooms** for important updates, deadlines, and information related to graduation requirements and CLC expectations.

FLEX time in January is focused on helping students finish semester one strong. This is an important opportunity for students to connect with their teachers, ask questions, receive extra support, complete missing work, and prepare for upcoming assessments. We ask students to use FLEX time purposefully and responsibly, ensuring they are accessing the supports they need to be successful.

Thank you to all of our student athletes and coaches who continue to represent BSS with pride, commitment, and sportsmanship. Athletics play an important role in building school spirit, teamwork, and healthy habits. More information about upcoming games, practices, and seasons will be shared as teams move forward this winter.

Our code of conduct focus this month is **Respect of Self**. January can be a demanding time academically and emotionally, and it is important that students prioritize their well-being. This includes getting enough rest, managing stress, asking for help when needed, and making healthy choices.

We also remind students to continue demonstrating responsible citizenship in our community. Please be respectful in public spaces and clean up after yourselves, particularly when walking to and from Wembley Mall, McDonald's, and surrounding areas. How we conduct ourselves beyond the school grounds reflects who we are as a BSS community.

Upcoming Events/Happenings:

- **YDI Surveys** – Grade 11 students
- **Prevention Groups** – Selected Grade 8 students
- **Grade 12 Assembly** – February 3rd in A Block
- **Footloose** – at the Whalebone Theatre Feb. 17th to 19th & Feb. 24th to 26th
- **Course Selections** – For students in Grades 8–11
- **BSS Open House** - February 5th

More details about dates and times will be shared through [announcements](#) and our [school website](#).

As winter weather continues, families are reminded to review our [inclement weather procedures](#). Updates regarding school closures or schedule changes will be communicated through district channels. Please ensure students dress appropriately for the weather and allow extra travel time when conditions are challenging.

January brings a renewed sense of possibility, and we are grateful to begin the year together as a strong and caring school community. As we wrap up the semester, we encourage families and students to reach out to teachers, counsellors, or administration with any questions or concerns. We look forward to the weeks ahead and wish everyone continued success, wellness, and joy as we move into the new year.

Finally, we are pleased to welcome Ms. Kelly to our administration team. Ms. Kelly has been supporting École Ballenas Secondary while Ms. Cathrine has been away; we are very thankful for the leadership and care that she has brought to our school community. Ms. Kelly brings a wide range of experience and knowledge to the team, and we are grateful to have her work alongside staff, students, and families during this time.

With gratitude,

Thank you | Hay cep qa' | Merci

Ballenas Administration

DATES TO REMEMBER

<u>JANUARY</u>		<u>WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE</u>	
21	DPAC Meeting 6:30 PM		JANUARY
23	Semester 1 Ends	14	Day 2
23	S1 x 3 Ends Grade 8s	21	Day 1
24	Prom Bottle Drive	28	Day 2
26	Turnaround Day – Students do not attend		
26	Semester 2 Starts		FEBRUARY
27	S2 x 4 Starts for Grade 8s	4	Day 1
27	Regular Board Meeting 6:00 PM	11	Day 2
		18	Day 1
		25	Day 2
<u>FEBRUARY</u>			
2-4	Grad Photos		
3	Grade 12 Assembly A Block		
5	Grade 9 Immunizations (and Grade 10 catch ups)		
5	Open House 6:30 – 8:00 PM		
6	Learning Updates Home		
12	PAC Meeting 6:00 PM		
13	MATA School-Based Professional Development Day – Students do not attend		
18	DPAC Meeting 6:30 PM		
26	Grade 10/11/12 Health Fair		
28	Prom Burger & Beverage Fundraiser		

GRAD PHOTOS

Happening at Ballenas February 2-5. Book now here: [Concept Photography](#)

FROM THE LIBRARY LEARNING COMMONS

All semester 1 textbooks and workbooks are due to be returned on Wednesday, January 21st. If students have chosen to write in the workbook they signed out, the \$35 replacement cost will be added to their School Cash Online account for payment. We appreciate your support in reminding students to return resources on time so others can use them.

THERE WILL BE NO PAC MEETING IN FEBRUARY

Please join us on March 12, 2026 beginning at 6pm in the Learning Commons/Library for our next PAC meeting.

DONUT DAY

PAC Sponsored Fundraiser with **ALL PROFITS** going towards purchasing new lounge furniture for the Learning Commons.

Please **BRING CASH - \$2 per donut**, we'll have chocolate glaze and vanilla with sprinkles available.

February 24th, 2026 from approximately 11-1 - Please find us in the foyer across from the vending machines. If we don't sell out, we'll be back on Feb 25 with leftovers.

PROM 2026

Less than six months until Prom 2026!

Prom fees are now on School Cash Online through the Ballenas website, please pay \$75 by March 15th and the second \$75 by May 15th.

Our second bottle drive will be on **Saturday January 24th 9:00-2:00** in the Ballenas parking lot - please bring your bottles and cans, tell everyone you know, and come help out!

We are hosting a Burger & Beverage night at QF Upstairs on **Saturday February 28th 5:00-10:00** - enjoy a great burger & beverage, watch the Canucks play the Kraken, and bid on some amazing silent auction items! Tickets are \$35 and available online only
- <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beverage-burger-prom-fundraiser-tickets-1980491603700>.

We have some wonderful sponsorship opportunities available if you or someone you know wants to donate items, services, experiences, or cash - please contact lisa@bettermousetrap.ca for more information and help support our amazing grads!

Reminder: Prom 2026 will be at Tigh Na Mara on Saturday June 27th! Sign up for grad emails at bssgradinfo@gmail.com.

Grade 9 Immunizations

Students in grade 9 will be offered immunizations in school-based clinics. Immunization consent packages for grade 9 students will be sent home shortly. Follow the instructions inside the consent package and **return the signed consent form to the school as soon as possible**. Please discuss the information in the consent package with your child and include them in the decision to provide consent for immunization.

Students in grade 9 can make an informed decision about immunization regardless of their parent/guardian/representative decision to consent or refuse immunization. For more information visit HealthLinkBC: [The Infants Act, Mature Minor Consent and Immunization](#).

Immunizations will be provided at the school for grade 9 students on

Contact the local Health Unit at [if you have any questions.](#)



BSS Open House and 2026-2027 Grade 8 Information Session

Thursday, February 5th 6:30—8:00 PM

All parents and students who plan to attend Ballenas in the upcoming 2026-2027 school year are invited to our annual Open House. All Ballenas programs and departments will be on display throughout the school.

In addition, **next year's** Grade 8 students and families are invited to attend a special information session at **6:30 PM** in our **Auditorium**.



Phone: 250-248-5721

Web: <https://www.sd69.bc.ca/school/BSS/Pages/>

WHALEBONE THEATRE PRESENTS

Footloose



Ballenas Secondary

FEB 17, 18, 19

24, 25, 26

7PM

\$15 @ Ballenas Online Store

BALLENAS PROM BOTTLE DRIVE DONATIONS WANTED!

**Support our Grads!
Saturday, January 24th
9:00 am to 2:00 pm**



ÉCOLE BALLENAS SECONDARY SCHOOL

135 PYM ST, PARKSVILLE



**Want to make a cash
donation? Scan this code!
Select initiative,
Dry Grad/Prom**

Ballenas Grad Burger + Beverage

**TICKETS
\$35
EACH**

Help support
2026 Ballenas
PROM!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28 DOORS OPEN @ 5PM

AT QUALITY FOODS UPSTAIRS IN PARKSVILLE

Scan here
for tickets!





2026 GRAD CLASS SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



**ÉCOLE BALLENAS
SECONDARY**

HELLO BUSINESS COMMUNITY!

On behalf of the **École Ballenas Secondary School Graduating Class of 2026**, we are reaching out to invite your business to become a valued community partner in supporting this year's graduating students.

Each year, our **Parent/Caregiver Prom Committee** works hard to provide a safe, memorable, and inclusive celebration for our Grade 12 students. These events are made possible through the generous support of our local business community.

For 2026, we are offering **Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities** that provide meaningful recognition for your business while helping our grads reach their fundraising goals. Your contribution will help fund prom celebrations, student activities, and two upcoming **Fundraising Dinners**—community events that include Silent Auctions and other activities to support our grads.

A tax receipt will be immediately issued for any donations \$25 or more when donation is done through the school website. See additional information on next pages.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

VALEDICTORIAN SPONSOR

\$2,500+

Recognition Benefits:

- Logo on all event signage, posters, and promotional materials
- Feature post on all Grad Class social-media accounts
- Logo & link on Grad website sponsor page
- Verbal acknowledgement at both Fundraising Dinners and Prom night
- Framed certificate of appreciation

HONOUR ROLL SPONSOR

\$1,000

Recognition Benefits:

- Logo on select event signage
- Social-media shout-out
- Logo & link on Grad website sponsor page
- Mention at one Fundraising Dinner
- Certificate of appreciation

SPIRIT SPONSOR **\$500**

Recognition Benefits:

- Business name on event signage
- Shared social-media thank-you post
- Name listed on Grad website sponsor page

COMMUNITY SPONSOR **\$250**

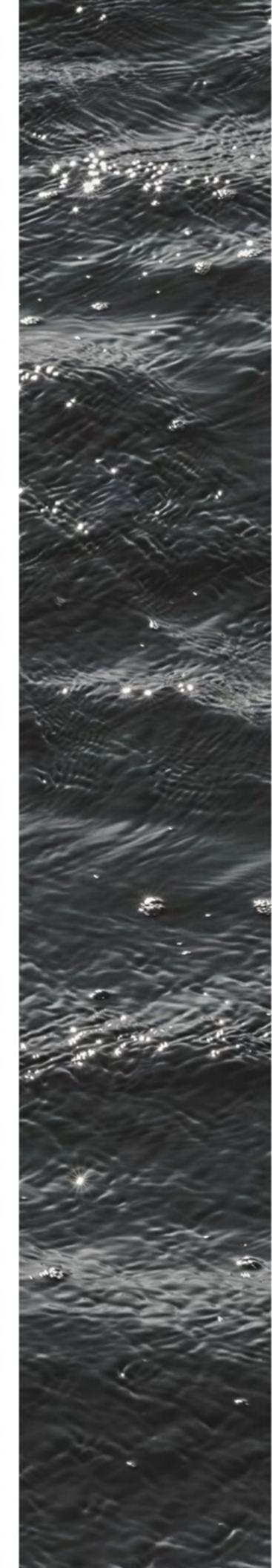
Recognition Benefits:

- Business name listed on Grad website and social-media thank-you post

Scan here to donate now!

Choose “Initiative” Dry Grad/ Prom
Tax receipt provided after donation.





SILENT AUCTION & PRIZE DONATIONS

In addition to sponsorship, we welcome contributions of items, services, or experiences for our Silent Auctions held at the Fundraising Dinners. These donations are an excellent way to showcase your business to local families and community members.

To contribute, please email lisa@bettermousetrap.ca.

In your email, include:

- Your business name and contact information
- Description and approximate value of your donation
- Preferred pick-up location and time

TOGETHER FOR OUR GRADS

On behalf of the École Ballenas Secondary School Graduating Class of 2026, thank you for considering this opportunity to celebrate and support our grads.

Warm regards,

2026 Ballenas Grad Fundraising Committee

Lisa Henderson

lisa@bettermousetrap.ca - 250.792.1294

Scan here to donate now!

Choose “Initiative” Dry Grad/ Prom
Tax receipt provided after donation.



COMING SOON

OCEANSIDE MINOR
BOX LACROSSE

FREE TRY IT SESSIONS

EVERY MONDAY
JAN 12TH - MAR 2ND

U7
-
U11

5PM - 6PM

U13
-
U17

6PM - 7PM

LOCATION:
ERRINGTON SCHOOL
GYM



Tuesdays
JAN 13 - MAR 3, 2026
5:00pm - 6:00pm

Karate



Ages 8 - 99+

Join Sensei Brian Purves for this introduction to martial arts, which will focus on basic Karate and self-defense techniques in a fun and safe environment. Gain strength and confidence.

Register:
arrowsmithrecreation.ca/classes

\$100 per 8 sessions

Coombs Fairgrounds Gymnasium
1014 Ford Rd, Coombs

Sandra Poelzer: sandrapoelzer@yahoo.com or 250-802-1308
Kristine Stephenson: stephenson@live.ca or 250-927-3985



TUESDAYS
JAN 20 - APR 21, 2026
6:30pm - 8:00pm

FREE DROP-IN YOUTH BASKETBALL

AGES
11-15

All levels welcome! Come build skills, shoot hoops, play games and have fun!

More information

<https://arrowsmithrecreation.ca/classes>

COOMBS FAIRGROUNDS GYMNASIUM
1014 FORD ROAD, COOMBS, BC



Kristine Stephenson: stephenson@live.ca or 250-927-3985
Tracy Cargo-White: tracy.cargo@outlook.com or 250-947-5272



FEB - MAY, 2026

6:00PM - 8:00PM

MID ISLAND PROGRAMMING CLUB

with Matt + Jonas

FEB 4- HOW TO MAKE A VIDEO GAME

FEB 25 - PROGRAMMING WITH GO

MAR 25 - VERSION CONTROL IN GIT

APR 29 - BASICS OF VIM TEXT EDITOR

MAY 27 - LEARN VS CODE

Book 3
Save 15%

Bring your own laptop. No programming experience required. Intended for confident computer users. Ages 15+

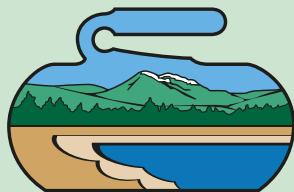
\$15 per workshop

arrowsmithrecreation.ca/classes

BoMé Cheese - 1876 Alberni Hwy, Coombs, BC

Kristine Stephenson: stephenson@live.ca or 250-927-3985

Junior Curling



Parksville
Curling Club



Fun for everyone
8-17 years old!

\$50
Winter
season



Mondays 3:45-5:15 pm January to March

For more information or to register
email juniorleague@parksvillecurling.com
Reserve your spot!



250-248-3764



parksvillecurling.com

No experience necessary.
All equipment provided.





KIDOVATE

Youth Entrepreneurship Experience

**Earn Your Own Money
& Build Your Resume**

**On Kidovate Market Day
sell products you make,
repurpose or buy**

April 18th, 2026

Nanaimo North Town Centre Mall

**It's free! Learn more at
www.kidovate.ca**



@Kidovate_Nanaimo
KidovateNanaimo



Gustavson
School of Business
University of Victoria



**Community
Futures**



Writing Contest

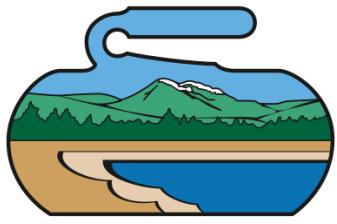
KIDS
WRITE
4KIDS

CALL FOR ENTRIES
FOR GRADES 4-8
DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2026



Educational Charity
ripplefoundation.ca/contest





**Parksville
Curling Club**



Learn To Curl

**ONLY
\$99***
*plus GST

**5 X FRIDAYS
FROM JAN 16**

A 5-week Learn To Curl program to help you unpack the basics of curling in a fun, friendly and welcoming setting. Suitable for all ages and all fitness levels.

All curling equipment provided.

 250-248-3764

 parksvillecurling.com

7-9PM



INSTRUCTED BY IMOGEN MCPHERSON-FORSTER
Creative Kids at The MAC

After School Art Club



FEBRUARY-APRIL

THURSDAYS 4-6 PM

Ages 8-15

\$25
PER CLASS



IN THE MAC STUDIO



McMillan Arts Centre (MAC)
133 McMillan Street, Upper Level
Parksville, BC V9P 2H5
(250)248-8185
www.mcmillanartscentre.com
Gallery & Gift Shop Hours: Tuesday-Sunday, 11am to 3pm

School
for the
**Creative
Arts**



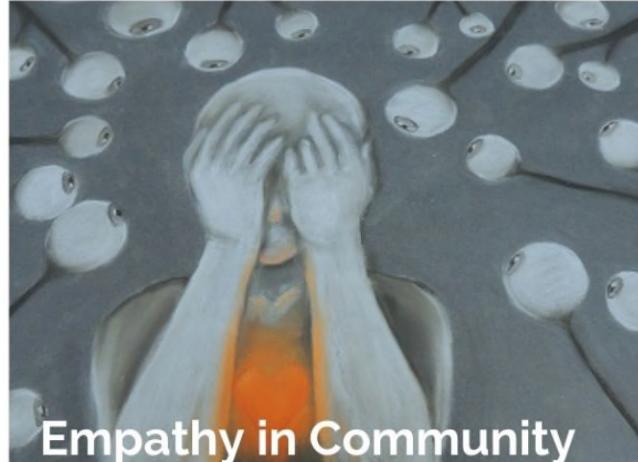
Mindfulness in May

The Art of Empathy and Kindness 2026

Open Call to Youth for Submissions

Grades 5-12 in SD 69 and Surrounding Area

Including Home Learners



EARLY SUBMISSIONS BY FEBRUARY 14TH FOR A CHANCE TO BE FEATURED ON THE EXHIBIT POSTERS AND WIN EXTRA PRIZES

Visual Art: drawing, fabric art, painting, mixed media, sculpture.

Literary Art: poetry, song, music. **Photography:** digital, and print.

ALL WORKS DUE BY MARCH 13TH

Submissions will be displayed at the Qualicum Library during BC Youth Week and National Mental Health Week

SUBMIT ONLINE HERE:

<https://mindfulmay.artistquarter.com/>

Sponsored By:



Rotary
Qualicum Beach



Stephanie Higginson MLA
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA
Ladysmith - Oceanside



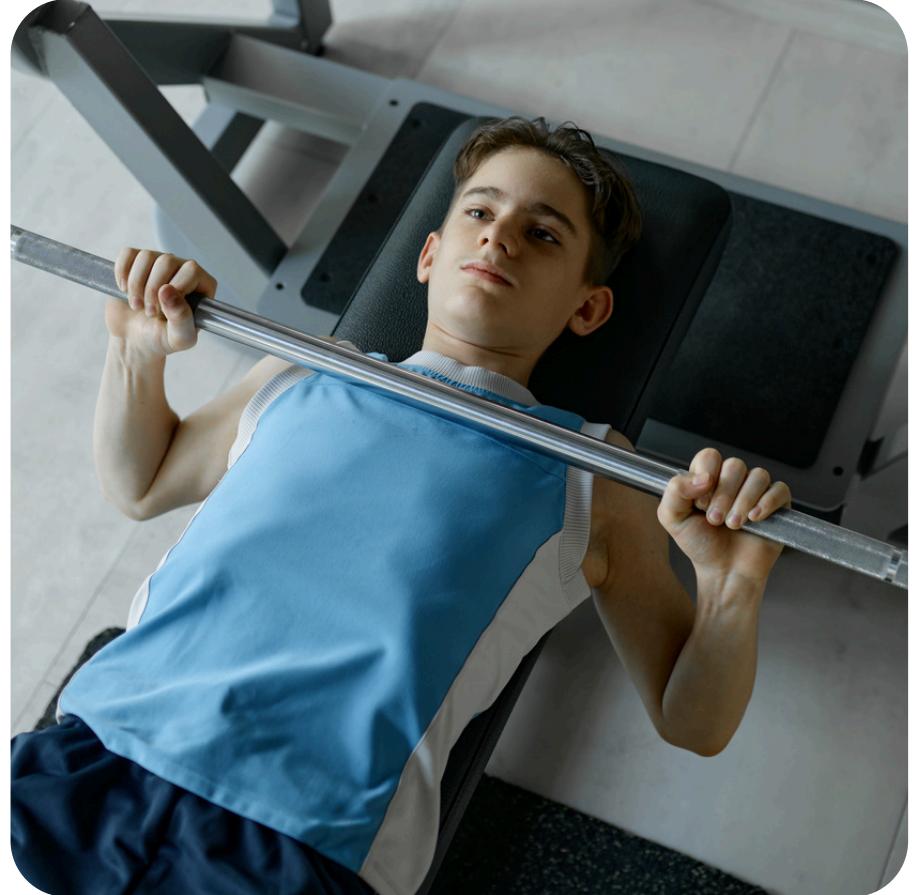
EXHIBITION: APRIL 28TH - MAY 10TH

For questions or more info, contact Diane at moraninthemoon@gmail.com

Teens in the Gym 12yrs+

Tu Jan 20-Feb 10
Tu Feb 17-Mar 10
6:15-7:15 p.m.
\$52

One on One Fitness Gym



Register today at rdn.bc.ca/recreation

Ravensong Aquatic Centre, 737 Jones St, Qualicum Beach ~ 250-752-5014
Oceanside Place Arena, 830 W Island Hwy, Parksville ~ 250-248-3252

Follow us on
 

Youth Wheel Chair Basketball 12yrs+

**Fri Jan 16-Mar 13
5:30-7:30 p.m.**

\$25

**People with and without
disabilities are welcome.
Sport wheelchairs are provided.**

Oceanside Elem School



Register today at rdn.bc.ca/recreation

Ravensong Aquatic Centre, 737 Jones St, Qualicum Beach ~ 250-752-5014

Oceanside Place Arena, 830 W Island Hwy, Parksville ~ 250-248-3252

Follow us on





22nd Annual Qualicum Beach

Seedy Saturday

'It starts with a seed'

Qualicum Beach Civic Centre
Saturday, February 7, 2026
10 am – 3:30 pm

- Seed Swap
- Master Gardeners answering questions
- Seed, Plant and Garden-Related Vendors
- Demos
- Educational Displays
- Children's Activity
- Door Prizes
- Seedy Café
- Raffle Draw (cash only)
- No ATM on site
- Pesticide/chemical drop off (in original package)



Admission: suggested \$5 donation

Qualicum Beach Seedy Saturday Association
www.qbseedysaturday.ca • qbsschair@gmail.com
 [qbseedysaturday](https://www.facebook.com/qbseedysaturday) •  [qbseedysaturday](https://www.instagram.com/qbseedysaturday)



Use
your
voice
for Safety



2026 WorkSafeBC Student Safety Video Contest

WORK **SAFE** BC

Submit your video and you could win a cash prize!

Have you ever seen something unsafe at work and kept quiet because you were afraid, or didn't feel confident enough, to speak up? Tell us how young workers can use their voice for safety to speak up when something feels unsafe.

The contest is open to all students in British Columbia enrolled in grades 8 to 12. One video will also be recognized with additional prize money from the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety and advance to their national Focus on Safety Youth Video Contest.

Bonus Prize: One lucky creative team will win the Actsafe Aspiring Filmmaker Award, which includes tickets to the 2026 B.C.'s Arts and Entertainment Safety Conference and Gala, a behind-the-scenes tour of a local motion picture and television production and more!

Deadline for submissions: Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 5 p.m. Find the entry form and contact details at worksafebc.com/studentvideocontest



manufacturing
Safety Alliance of BC