



BALLENAS BULLETIN

#8 April 21, 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'naw'as and Qualicum First Nations.

April has arrived, and with it comes the fresh energy of spring. This time of year is all about transition—longer days, new growth, and a sense of momentum—which feels very much like where our students are right now. As they continue to learn, grow, and prepare for what's next, we're excited to support them through this season of change and possibility.

We've had a busy lead up to and return from Spring Break. Here are a few highlights:

- We appreciated Leadership welcoming us back from the break with a daily school wide Easter egg hunt – we've never seen so many students coming to school so early in search of those eggs! We know Leadership is preparing for the Spring Carnival happening on May 22nd – stay tuned for more information about this yearly, student-run event which promises lots of fun for all
- Soccer, track and field, and golf are all up and running/swinging
- Whalers Football is back for Spring practices and conditioning
- Mountain Bike Club is getting set to kick off - see Mr. Balogh for more information
- Grade 12 students are gearing up for their Capstone presentations on May 20th
- ICBC was here to present to our Grade 12s and will be back to present to our Grade 11 students in May
- We thank the Parksville Fire Department for coming to our recent grad assembly to connect about safety in the community during this busy (and exciting) time of the year
- We are busily building the timetable for next year based off student requests from this year. Our goal is to have timetables out to students before they leave in June – more info to come on this
- Following our very successful Open House in February, we've had a chance to meet with all incoming Grade 7 students at our family schools - we can't wait to welcome these students in September!
- We congratulate all of the band students who recently participated in the Vancouver Island Concert Band Festival in Port Alberni – they performed very well and we are very proud of them!

GRAD 2026 is quickly approaching. We had a grad assembly this past week and have updated the list of [dates](#) posted on our website. Grads need to ensure they are checking the **Grad 2026 Google Classroom** regularly to ensure they are up to date with the latest information. Grad parents, please make sure you're checking in with your grad, and remember the Parent/Caregiver group (planning Prom) has a spot on the [website](#) and an email you can use for information and to ensure you're receiving their updates).

With the great weather we've had recently we are noticing many students taking wheels of all sorts to school. A few reminders:

- If you are driving to school, ensure you are registering your vehicles with the office and getting a parking pass. Please park in the front lot only
- If you are taking a bike, scooter, or skateboard, a reminder of our safety expectation around "walking your wheels" while on school property. This is to keep you and everyone else safe here on site. Please know that we cannot charge e-bikes/scooters here in school
- Please make sure you're bringing a lock for your bike/scooter
- Skateboards are not to be out in the school – they need to be in your locker during instructional time and not in hallways/classrooms
- Please see information further on in the newsletter re: use of e-bikes/scooters and other age and safety requires as set out by the Province

Ballenas Got Talent is back! Auditions happening in the theatre during FLEX on May 6th – showtime on the 13th!

April Code of Conduct Highlight - “Respect Is an Action”

Spring is a time for fresh starts and growth—and a great reminder that our **Code of Conduct isn’t just a list of rules, it’s how we show up every day.**

Respect in real life looks like this:

- **Respect Others:** Using kind words, giving people space, standing up when something’s not right, and following staff guidance—even when no one’s watching.
- **Respect Ourselves:** Coming to school ready to learn, taking care of our mental and physical health, and making choices that help our brains and bodies grow.
- **Respect Our School:** Keeping shared spaces clean, using materials responsibly, moving safely around campus, and remembering we’re part of a bigger community.

Expectation Matrix		
We Respect Others by:	We Respect Ourselves by:	We Respect this Place by:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Treating others with respect and dignity ✓ Respecting others' privacy ✓ Communicating respectfully and using kind words ✓ Following the guidance and direction of school staff ✓ Being an upstander vs a bystander ✓ Understanding that any form of discrimination will not be tolerated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Striving to get adequate sleep and proper nutrition ✓ Prioritizing our mental health and learning ✓ Prioritizing attendance and engagement in class ✓ Staying home when we are sick ✓ Recognizing that vaping, smoking and substance use is harmful for our growing brain and body ✓ Accepting policies that are in place to keep everyone safe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Using school materials, library books and devices with care. ✓ Keeping our classrooms, shared spaces, playgrounds and community clean and free from litter and vandalism. ✓ Moving safely around the campus and respecting the personal space of others – this includes walking your wheels ✓ Being aware that we are members of the community and need to contribute positively to our neighbourhood and town.
<p>When we make mistakes we: We take responsibility for our actions and impact. We work to make amends to whomever or whatever was harmed and we solve conflicts peacefully. We move forward and learn from our mistakes.</p>		

And because we’re human—**mistakes happen**. What matters most is what comes next: owning our impact, making it right, and learning so we can move forward together.

Bottom line: Respect isn’t just expected—it’s practiced. Every choice counts.

As always, we appreciate your ongoing and continued support of the Ballenas Community. We are grateful for where we live and learn. Please stay connected with us via our school website, and reach out should you have any questions. If you are ever curious about what is going on within the school, please check out our website where you can find our daily announcements - they will give you a good idea of the many opportunities and happenings here at Ballenas.

DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL	20	Term 4 Begins
	22	Lip Dub
	28	Regular Board Meeting 6:00 PM
MAY	1	Learning Updates Home
	8	S2 x 5 Ends Gr. 8s
	11	S2 x 6 Starts Gr. 8s
	14	MATA District Professional Development Day – Students do not attend
	15	Conferencing Adjustment Day – Students do not attend
	18	Victoria Day
	19	Special Public Board Meeting 6:00 PM
	20	DPAC Meeting 6:30 PM
	21	PAC Meeting 6:00 PM
	22	Spring Carnival
	26	Regular Public Board Meeting 6:00 PM

PROM 2026 – SATURDAY, JUNE 27TH

Only two months until prom! Thank you so much to everyone who has helped fundraise and organize this year, we are looking forward to a great event! Prom will be on Saturday June 27th at Tigh Na Mara.

If you have not done so, please pay the first \$75 fee on School Cash Online or in the office as soon as possible. The second payment of \$75 is due on May 15th. No student will be denied a prom ticket for financial reasons - please see school administration if payment is a problem. If your student is graduating this year and you haven't signed up for emails yet, please send a message to bssgradinfo@gmail.com.

GRAD COMMENCEMENT FEES

Commencement Fee	\$100
Prom Fee Payment #1 past due	\$75
Prom Fee Payment #2 due May 15 th	\$75

Pay online <https://qualicum.schoolcashionline.com/> or with cash/cheque at the school office.

PAC INFO



The BSS PAC Executive has been busy working to update the BSS Constitution and Bylaws.

- Please find a DRAFT of the new BSS Constitution and Bylaws linked here: [BSS Constitution and Bylaws April 13, 2026](#).
- Please direct your concerns, comments, or suggestions to the BSS PAC by May 1st.
- Final draft will be sent out with the May Agenda and will be voted on during the May 21 PAC meeting.



Next PAC meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2026, beginning at 6pm in the Learning Commons/Library. All parents/caregivers are welcome to attend.



2026/27 BSS PAC Executive Team Nominations are open!

- All PAC Executive positions are open
- Nomination MUST be received in writing by May 20th, 2026 by 3pm
- Elections to take place on May 21, 2026 during the PAC meeting
- Please reach out to the BSS PAC if you have any questions about the election, roles or responsibilities.
- Nominations may be emailed to ballenaspac@gmail.com

ERASE FAMILY SESSIONS

Due to high demand, Safer Schools Together is continuing to offer complimentary FAMILY Sessions on the topics of “**Establishing Safe, Caring, & Respectful Digital Communities**” as well as “**Establishing Family Practices for Safeguarding Against Cyberbullying and Sextortion**”. There is one training per month. [erase Family Sessions](#)

THE STUDENT LEARNING SURVEY IS FOR PARENTS TOO!

If you have time, we'd love to hear from you! The parent version of our Student Learning Survey is still open – please take the time to provide us feedback from your perspective on your child's experience at Ballenas:

1. Go to: <https://www.awinfosys.com/SurveyFull1/central/main/access.asp>
2. Click on the Parents icon for Direct (logon-free) Access
 1. District: the name of your child's district
 2. School: the name of your child's school
 3. Language: the language of your choice
3. Complete the survey by clicking on the appropriate circle to answer each question and click "NEXT".
4. When you are finished the survey, you will get a message "Thank you for sharing your views".
5. Once complete, your school will have the results immediately.

LATE CROSS BOUNDARY APPLICATION PROCESS FOR 2026/2027 SCHOOL YEAR

On-line Applications for LATE Cross Boundary Requests for students who wish to attend a school outside of their catchment area, as based on their home address, are now available to complete on the district website at:

<https://www.sd69.bc.ca/About/StudentRegistration/Pages/Regxbound.aspx#/=>

LATE Applications will be considered at intervals throughout the remaining school year; however, a decision may not be made until after the first week of school in September.

Submitting an application form **DOES NOT GUARANTEE APPROVAL**. Acceptance will depend on space availability and school capacity.

Please be aware that if approved, the district reserves the right to rescind approval by September 30th if space is required for students who move into the catchment area school.

Transportation for a student choosing and approved to attend a non-catchment area school or program of choice is the responsibility of the parent.

If you have moved out of a school's catchment area since registering and the student wishes to remain at their current school, a cross-boundary form must be completed.

Once approved to attend a cross-boundary school, that becomes the student's catchment area school. If the student wishes to return to their original catchment area school, a LATE Cross-Boundary Form must be completed to request a return. Acceptance will depend on space availability and school capacity at that time of the request.

SCHOOL BUS REGISTRATION FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR

School Bus Registration for the 2026/27 school year is now open! Go to the Qualicum School District Transportation [website](#) to access the online application form. Get your application in **before the end of this school year** for the best opportunity to secure a spot for you child and to **avoid extra fees**.

Busing Fee Summary Table

	ELIGIBLE RIDER FEES	COURTESY RIDER FEES
Early - between April - June 30th	Free	\$175.00*
Late - between July 1st - July 31st	\$25.00*	\$225.00*
Late - after August 1st	\$50.00*	\$275.00*

**Parents and caregivers who believe these fees will cause financial hardship in their household are encouraged to speak to their school principal about fee relief. Confirmation will be forwarded from the school principal to the Transportation Department.*

REGISTRATION PROCESSING TIMELINES

April – June 30 only Eligible bus pass applications will be processed, on a first come/first served basis.

- If a bus reaches capacity, an Eligible Rider wait list will be created. You will be notified if you are put on a wait list.
- Courtesy rider applications received during this time will not be processed until after July 1.
- Exact bus route information will be distributed to families before the first day of school through My Ride K-12 website and App.

July 1- onwards Courtesy, as well as late Eligible bus pass applications will be processed on a first come/first served basis as space is available on the bus route(s) requested.

- Courtesy riders that are offered a space on the bus will be notified and asked to pay the necessary fees. When payment is received the application will be finalized. If payment is not made within 5 business days of being offered the space, the application will be re-dated and put back into the queue.
- If a bus reaches capacity, a wait list will be created. You will be notified if you are put on a wait list.
- Exact bus route information will be distributed to families before the first day of school through My Ride K-12 website and App.

Applications received after Sept 1 will be considered on a wait list and only accepted on a first come first served basis as space on buses allow.

ELECTRIC KICK SCOOTERS (E SCOOTERS) & ELECTRIC BIKES (E BIKES)

In British Columbia, children under 16 are generally prohibited from riding electric kick scooters and standard e-bikes. E-scooter riders must be 16+, while e-bike riders must be at least 14 (for light e-bikes) or 16 (standard). Helmets are mandatory, and parents can be held responsible for violations.

Electric Kick Scooters (e-scooters)

Minimum Age: 16 years old.

Safety Requirements: A helmet is required, and scooters must have a bell or horn.

Where to Ride: Allowed on streets, in cycle lanes, and sometimes on sidewalks (depending on municipal bylaws), but they must be ridden in single file.

Restrictions: It is illegal for children under 16 to operate them.

Electric Bikes (e-bikes)

Age 14-15: May operate "light" e-bikes (maximum 250W, top speed

Age 16+: May operate standard e-bikes (maximum 500W, top speed

Passengers: A rider under 16 must not tow or carry passengers on a light e-bike.

Requirements: A bicycle helmet is mandatory.

Key Safety Rules

Helmet Use: Proper, properly fitted helmet is required by law for all e-scooter and e-bike riders.

Follow Traffic Laws: E-bike riders must follow the same rules as vehicle drivers.

Safe Operation: Do not ride in a manner that puts yourself or others at risk.

Note: Rules can vary slightly by municipality. For instance, in some areas, e-scooter pilot projects may not be in effect, making them illegal on roads and sidewalks, per the [Royal Canadian Mounted Police \(RCMP\)](#). Always check local municipal bylaws, notes the [Province of British Columbia](#)



Qualicum School District

2026-2027 Budget Development Survey



The Qualicum School District Board of Education follows an annual Budget Development process each school year in order to establish the final annual budget for submission to the Ministry of Education.

To support the Qualicum School District Board of Education in their decision making during the annual Budget Development process, they are seeking input from educational partners, including administrators, employees, parents/caregivers, students and community members, to help inform priorities for the 2026/27 school district budget.

This short survey focuses on understanding what matters most to partners and where funding could make the biggest differences for students. Your responses are anonymous and will be shared in summary form with the Board.

Click [HERE](#) to access the 2026-2027 Budget Development Survey

**HANDS-ON TRADES EXPO
FOR YOUTH**

Grades 10-12 Hands-On Trades Exposition For Youth

The event will be held at
Timberline Secondary School in
Campbell River on Friday, May 1st

There is no cost to this event and
bussing will be provided

Scan the QR Code if you are
interested in joining on the field
trip

Hands On Trade Expo





National AccessAbility Week Design Contest 2026



Easter Seals BC/Yukon Design Contest

In Celebration of National AccessAbility Week in BC and Yukon, **May 31 – June 6, 2026**, Easter Seals BC/Yukon is challenging you to submit a T-shirt design.

Create Your Own AccessAbility T-Shirt Design

Easter Seals invites students from British Columbia and the Yukon in Grades 5-12 to create a design that symbolizes the theme:

Reimagining Play, Learning, and Community Through Accessibility

Canada's National AccessAbility Week celebrates the valuable contributions of Canadians with disabilities and recognizes the efforts of individuals, communities and workplaces that are actively working to remove barriers to accessibility and inclusion. For 79 years, a core mission of Easter Seals is to make the lives of people with disabilities better in British Columbia and the Yukon.

Two Grand Prizes Include (Age Group A – Grades 5-8; Age Group B – Grades 9-12)

- \$200 honorarium for the winning student
- \$750 for the winning student's classroom to purchase learning materials
- T-Shirts will be produced with the winning designs and will be given to the winning students.
- Finalists will receive a pizza lunch for their classrooms, generously donated by Panago Pizza.
*Pizza parties are subject to delivery availability at school locations, and while we will do our best to provide this lunch to winning classrooms, some limitations may apply.

Who Can Enter

British Columbia and Yukon youth in Grades 5-12.

Submission Deadline

Midnight on **Friday, May 1st, 2026**.

Charity Registration No. 119217248RR0001
3981 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC V5H 4H5
www.EasterSealsBCY.ca

Easter Seals BC/Yukon is a service of the BC Lions Society for Children with Disabilities



National AccessAbility Week Design Contest 2026



2026 NAAW Theme: **Reimagining Play, Learning, and Community Through Accessibility**

Design inspiration ideas:

- How can we improve by re-thinking about play, learning and community?
- What barriers do you see for people with disabilities and how can we lend a helping hand?
- What does accessibility mean to you?
- How can we be more inclusive through play?
- How can we make learning more inclusive?

Artwork Guidelines

- design must incorporate the theme: **Reimagining Play, Learning, and Community Through Accessibility**
- we encourage original artwork, created and designed by students themselves
- no text or lettering elements
- one sided
- size – 1:1 aspect ratio; downloadable templates available on website.
 - If using Adobe Illustrator or similar, create an 8.5” by 8.5” square file
- all parts must be solid colors (any two-dimensional media such as markers, watercolors, acrylic, tempera, pastels, crayon, pencils, collage or computer graphics)
- design should be appropriate for a school setting
- a paragraph of 150 words or less, explaining the symbolism and/or story used in the design, is recommended, but not required.

Not Allowed:

- NO copyrighted material (such as comic strip characters, school or commercial logos)
- NO photography
- NO Metallic or fluorescent colours
- NO AI generated illustrations

How To Submit Artwork

- Entries will be accepted through the online submission site here.
- Files accepted include JPG and PNG and PDF.
- Please include a brief description of your inspiration and explanation of your design choices, 150 words or less



National AccessAbility Week Design Contest 2026



- Entries must be received by midnight on **Friday, May 1st, 2026**.
- Do not put your name or identifying information on the image itself. Include your name in the filename of your design and in the submission form only.
- No files larger than 9 MB please.

Entry Guidelines

- Only one entry per student. Entries that do not follow the above guidelines will not be considered. All entries become the property of Easter Seals BC/Yukon, and the student/teacher/school relinquishes all rights to the design.
- The original winning artwork will be required to produce the T-Shirt design.
- T-Shirts will be available for purchase.

Questions?

Email marketing@eastersealsbcy.ca and we will help as much as we can!

www.eastersealsbcy.ca

Charity Registration No. 119217248RR0001
3981 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC V5H 4H5
www.EasterSealsBCY.ca

Easter Seals BC/Yukon is a service of the BC Lions Society for Children with Disabilities



GRAD 2026 DATES

ACTIVITY	DATE
Grad Photos with CONCEPT Photography	February 2 nd – 4 th
Capstone Project Presentations	Late May
Grad Scripts Due	Monday, May 25 th via Grad Google Classroom
Pancake Breakfast & Grad Walk	Wednesday, June 10 th
FEES: https://qualicum.schoolcashonline.com/	
Commencement Fee Payment - \$100	Friday, April 3 rd
Prom Fee Payment #1 - \$75	Sunday, March 15 th
Prom Fee Payment #2 - \$75	Friday, May 15 th
Prom Guest Fee – \$150	Friday, May 22 nd
COMMENCEMENT:	
Commencement Date	Thursday, June 25 th
Commencement Sign up Opens	Monday, May 25 th
Commencement Sign up Closes	Friday, June 12 th
Commencement Tickets Handed Out	@ Pancake Breakfast/Grad Walk – June 10 th
Round 2 Commencement Ticket Request	Thursday, June 11 th
Round 3 Commencement Ticket Request	Friday, June 12 th
VALEDICTORIAN:	
Valedictorian Forms Available	Monday, May 4 th
Valedictorian Forms Due	Friday, May 8 th
Valedictorian Speeches and Vote	Wednesday, May 27 th
PROM/GRAD EVENT:	
Prom/Grad Event	Saturday, June 27 th
Prom Ticket Pick up	TBD
Prom Waiver Form Available	Tuesday, April 20 th
Guest Application Forms Available	Tuesday, April 20 th
Prom Waiver and Guest Forms Due	Friday, May 1 st



PHOTO, VIDEO & ART CONTEST FOR CANADIAN INDIGENOUS YOUTH



Celebrating the rich cultural & heritage traditions of Indigenous people, FORED sponsors this annual contest with cash prizes for Indigenous youth.

Theme: **Traditional Knowledge & Medicine** Prize: **4 x \$150 prizes** with at least one national winner. *Group work shares prize.* 💰

DEADLINE:
MAY 22, 2026

Interview a local elder about homemade salal tea on video? All creativity is welcomed.



Contest Details: Use our easy [website entry form](#). Entries may be mailed to address at bottom.

- Eligibility: **youths aged 5-18 of First Nations, Inuit, Métis, or self-declared ancestry.**
 - Participants must include their name, band affiliation/ancestry, home address, phone & email, parent & teacher contact, grade & school on [website entry form](#) or by mail.
 - Please include a brief description of how your artwork relates to traditional knowledge and medicine.
 - **DEADLINE: May 22/26**
- All original work accepted: i.e. crayon, paint, collage, photos, animations, videos etc. (.jpg, .pdf, .png, .mp4, .MOV). **Minimum image size 2MB.** Videos must be less than 3 min. **Please have someone take a photo of you with your artwork if possible.**
 - By entering, winners agree their names & entries can be published in local & social media, or displayed on BC Ministry of Education sites for Indigenous People's Day & our [website](#).
 - All entrants qualify for complimentary, honorary youth membership. No commercial use of entries.
 - **Mailed entries won't be returned. Only winners will be notified.**
 - See how Indigenous volunteer mentors integrate traditional knowledge into natural resources practices on our [YouTube](#). **Follow us on social @foredbc.**
 - Complimentary teacher & youth activities by age group on Indigenous culture available [here](#).

Questions? Email education@foredbc.org.

FORED BC is a charitable association established in 1925. We work with volunteers on community-based sustainability projects. We thank our generous donors; the Province of BC & the Vancouver Foundation.



#213 - 4481 W.10th Ave. Vancouver, BC V6R 4R8
P: 604-737-8555 E: info@foredbc.org W: foredbc.org

Support balanced education about our environment & sustainable natural resources. Trusted since 1925.





Brant Wildlife Family Festival



Sunday, April 12, 2026

12:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Oceanside Place

830 West Island Highway • Parksville 

- ✓ Free Skating & Rentals
- ✓ Face Painting
- ✓ Light Show with Music
by DJ Connor
- ✓ Educational Displays & Activities

**Fundraiser supporting
local school food programs!**

Helping provide healthy meals for local students

**Bring your family & friends for a fun day of games,
music, and skating while supporting our community!**



**BRANT
WILDLIFE
FESTIVAL**

www.mabr.ca/brantfestival

 **MOUNT
ARROWSMITH**
COUNCIL OF GOVNS



Book by Claudia Shear and Tim Federle • Music orchestrated John Clancy • Vocal Arrangements by Chris Miller •
Ballet music arranged by David Chase • Lyrics by Nathan Tysen
Based on the novel Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt

Qualicum Beach School of Dance

presents

EVERLASTING

The Village Theatre, Qualicum Beach

MAY 14th-17th

[TICKETOWL.IO/QBSD](https://ticketowl.io/QBSD)

Originally Produced on Broadway by Grove Entertainment, Ariane Scarian & Michael Jackowitz, Howard & Janet Kagan, and Barry Brown
World Premier Produced by Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, GA Susan V. Dooth, Artistic Director The Alliance Theatre



PETE THE CAT

FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL FAIR

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026

5:00PM - 7:00PM

OCEANSIDE PLACE ARENA 830 WEST ISLAND HWY, PARKSVILLE



BOOK YOUR SPOT!



- Meet Pete the Cat
- Climb aboard a school bus
- Free fun activities
- Parent resources
- and lots more...

Registration is appreciated but
drop-ins are welcome!

www.oblt.ca



Ministry of
Education and
Child Care