



# BALLENAS BULLETIN

## #2 OCTOBER, 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.*

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### MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to Fall, and welcome to another school year! While it felt like September flew by in the blink of an eye, intentional, purposeful time was spent in September laying the foundation for a busy year ahead. Students returned, are reconnecting (or making new connections if they are new to us) and have settled into their classes; we are all finding our rhythm and routines again. We've connected through clubs, sports, musical theatre, intramurals and more - and there is a buzz of activity throughout our school. We thank you for your support this month and throughout the year, and we look forward to connecting with you in the coming weeks through parent-teacher conferences.

### WHALER NATION

Thank you to all our staff coaches, teacher sponsors, and community coaches for making Athletics possible at Ballenas. We want to recognize ALL of our Volleyball teams as well as our Senior and Junior Football teams. Want to watch a game? Check out the school calendar on our website for game schedules – GO WHALERS@



### CLUB FAIR

Ballenas hosted a CLUB FAIR to share opportunities with all our students. Students were able to see what Clubs are available and where/when they meet. COMING SOON: Club Tab on our website under "STUDENTS" - most are always listed in the announcements – so be sure to check those out!

### OUR CALLS TO ACTION

In preparation for September 30<sup>th</sup> this year, all students participated in a whole school lesson focused on both the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and on land acknowledgements. Stories and resources from the [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](https://www.nctr.ca/) were used. Acknowledging the territories at our school is one important first step in reconciliation that we can all take. We acknowledge our role in listening and will engage in several lessons throughout the year as a whole school to continue to build our understanding of the truth and begin to answer the TRC's Calls to Action on the path towards Reconciliation. We ask our school community: what can YOU do? What is one action, no matter how small, you can take?



### FLEX LEARNING

Flex learning is starting this Wednesday October 4th. This is flexible time for students to receive additional support, or to explore an area of interest and passion. Grade 8s and 9s will sign up for spaces via their homerooms, and Grade 10s - 12s can self-select a learning area of their choice. Flex learning takes place each Wednesday from 8:35 – 9:56 and **learning spaces will be posted throughout the school.**

## PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

As mentioned above, parent-teacher conferences are being held this month (October 11 and 12). This is a terrific opportunity to connect with staff here at Ballenas. Bookings can be made via <https://ballenas.schoolappointments.com/> - we look forward to seeing you then!

Thank you for all of your continued support and for such a great start – please do reach out if you have any questions. We are always more than happy to connect!

Principal Trish Cathrine [tcathrine@sd69.bc.ca](mailto:tcathrine@sd69.bc.ca) (Grade 12)

Vice-Principal Andrew Lee [alee@sd69.bc.ca](mailto:alee@sd69.bc.ca) (Grades 8 and 9)

Vice-Principal Heather Deering [hdeering@sd69.bc.ca](mailto:hdeering@sd69.bc.ca) (Grades 10 and 11)

## CAREER CENTRE CORNER

STUDENTS - are you a student looking for employment within our area? Be sure to check out our job board (located outside room 801) loaded with lots of opportunities in both Parksville and its surrounding areas. Did you know about what other opportunities are available via the Career Centre?

- Head Start Dual Credit Programming
- Work Experience Credits
- Certification Programs
- Employment Readiness
- Local Industry Field Trips

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Are you an early riser? Do you have some free time in the morning? Our amazing (and busy) meals program is looking for volunteers for breakfast each morning from 8:00 am– 8:40 am. Volunteers must have a Criminal Record Check on file with the school. Forms for this are available in the office or see [CRC Letter](#) and [CRC Form](#) . If you are interested in this, please come by the office, or email the school – [ballenas@sd69.bc.ca](mailto:ballenas@sd69.bc.ca)

## FROM OUR TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Just a quick update from the Transportation Department that School Bus Registration for the 2023/24 year is now closed. All applications received moving forward will be placed on a wait list until availability on a bus is confirmed by the Transportation Department.

Our district website page and online registration form have been updated to reflect this change.

## 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 do expect students to sign in/out of the office so in an emergency situation we can look at the clipboard and clarify if a student has left the building.

## STUDENTS, ARE YOU TAKING A CEAP CLASS?

Starting this week, CEAP staff will be set up in room 203 during FLEX. Please join if you need to connect with a CEAP teacher or if you need a space/support to complete your CEAP class. Computers will be available in the room.

## 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 our **BSS GOAL** of effective communication

for this year. For more information on how to download the app see attached poster at the bottom of the newsletter.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**OCTOBER**

- 2 Truth and Reconciliation (Observed) – School Not in Session
- 9 Thanksgiving Day – School Not in Session
- 11 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (online booking via website)
- 12 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (online booking via website)
- 12 PAC Meeting – Library 6:30 p.m.
- 17 Photo Retake Day
- 18 DPAC Meeting - 6:30 p.m. Zoom (link on website calendar)
- 19 S1 X2 Ends – Grade 8’s
- 20 Provincial Pro D Day – Students Not in Attendance
- 23 S1 X2 Starts – Grade 8’s

**NOVEMBER**

- 9 Try a Trade – Grade 8’s
- 9 PAC Meeting – Library 6:30 p.m.
- 10 Conferencing Adjustment Day – School Not in Session
- 11 Remembrance Day
- 13 Statutory Holiday – School Not in Session
- 14 Pro D Day – Students Not in Attendance
- 15 DPAC Meeting - 6:30 p.m. Zoom (link on website calendar)
- 17 BC Post-Secondary Fair
- 30 S1 x2 Ends – Grade 8’s
- 30 Learning Updates Home

**WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE**

Friday, October 6 <sup>th</sup>	Day 1
Friday, October 13 <sup>th</sup>	Day 2
Friday, October 20 <sup>th</sup>	Pro -D
Friday, October 27 <sup>th</sup>	Day 1

Friday, November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Day 2
Friday, November 10 <sup>th</sup>	Conferencing Adjustment Day
Friday, November 17 <sup>th</sup>	Day 1
Friday, November 24 <sup>th</sup>	Day 2

**GRAD PARENTS**

We are in the beginning stages of planning our 2024 Prom and want to ensure that you are kept in the loop. We have a couple of places for you to keep connected and informed. 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#/=>

The school plans commencement and the grad parents are responsible for planning prom. We have had one meeting already this year with a 2<sup>nd</sup> scheduled for October 3<sup>rd</sup>. We want to keep everyone in the loop as to

what is happening so please check the website with ongoing information from both the school and the grad parent group.

**MUSIC DEPARTMENT INFO**

**Remembrance Day:** The first thing to put on your calendars is the Remembrance Day Assembly for the Sr. Concert Band students (grades 10, 11, and 12 only) and the Choir students. We will be performing at the school assembly on **Thursday, November 9th** during the morning. Students in Sr. Concert Band and Choir will need to wear their uniforms for this performance. This is a whole-school assembly, but for the music program we will just have the Sr. Concert Band and the Choir students perform.

**Uniforms:** The uniform that our students wear for performances includes:

- Black dress pants (or black skirt with black leggings)
- Black dress shirt with a collar
- Black shoes (dress shoes please!)
- Black socks

These items will be used at every performance for Band and Choir students throughout their time at Ballenas, and they can be found at Walmart, Mark's Work Warehouse, The Bay, and other similar stores. You may also find these items at the SOS, Value Village, and other second-hand shops.

**Winter Evening of Music:** Our Ballenas Winter Evening of Music concert will take place on **Tuesday, December 12th at 7:00pm** this year. This is our first concert of the year where ALL of our groups perform. The Band 8, Band 9, Sr. Concert Band, Jazz Band, and Choir students will all be taking part in this concert, so please write it on your calendars.

**YEARBOOKS**

The creation of the yearbook is in full swing and we are looking at producing another award-winning edition of the Ballenas Yearbook. Time is running out to pre-order your copy of the 2024 edition, the 46th in the school's history! There are limited copies still available for purchase. You can do so at two online sale sites:

The School Cash Online System <https://qualicum.schoolcashonline.com/>

OR

The Ballenas Online Store <https://ybstore.friesens.com/302050>

OR

you can bring cash or cheque for \$50 to the main office at Ballenas or to Mr. Seidel in room 305.

PS: Yearbooks make great gifts.

**SCHOOL PHOTOS**

We’re excited to be working with Concept Photography for our school photos! Photos taken on September 25<sup>th</sup> are available online now at <http://www.conceptphoto.ca> and retakes are scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup>.

- Photos will be online within 72 hours of photo day
- Online codes will be your student ID Number
- All ordering will be online, and will be shipped directly to your home



# SCHOOL PHOTOS ARE ONLINE

[www.CONCEPTPHOTO.CA](http://www.CONCEPTPHOTO.CA)

Your Online Code Will Be Your Student Number

Questions? Reach out to Concept Photography directly at [conceptphoto.ca](http://conceptphoto.ca)

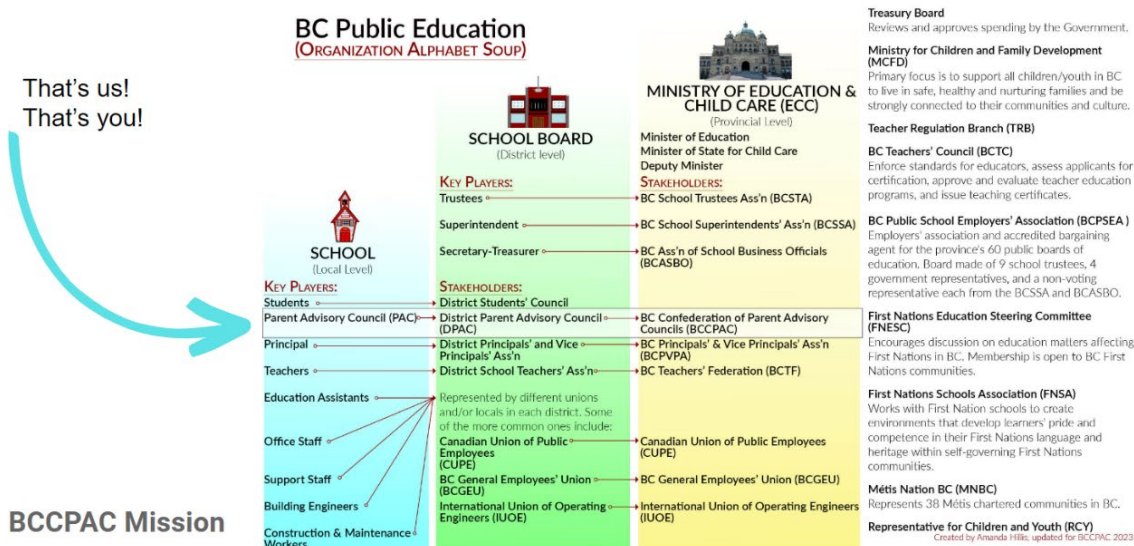


## BSS PAC NEWS

Meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Thursday of the Month. Next one is scheduled for Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>.

As noted in the Infographic, "High School PAC is different" but we are still important Key Players in our kids' education journey. Here's a great pic showing our role as parents/guardians being key to "Building Successful Students" as BSS says. (Reminder: ALL parents/guardians with students at BSS are already part of the PAC!)

## Parents/Guardians (PACs) are Key Players in BC Public Education



As the provincially mandated voice of parents in public schools, we engage, empower and support parents for the success of all learners through collaboration, partnership and education, in a culture of acceptance, inclusion and equity.



# 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.



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**SD69 COMMUNITY PAGE**

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



# GENQ+

**LGBTQ+**  
**YOUTH GROUP**

**FOR AGES 12-18**

**EVERY  
THURSDAY  
NIGHT  
6:30-8:30**

A SAFE, SUPPORTIVE, AND  
INCLUSIVE SPACE FOR LGBTQ+  
YOUTH TO CONNECT WITH ONE  
ANOTHER.

**SIGN UP**



**HERE**

HELD AT 132 JENSEN AVE.,  
PARKSVILLE  
FOR MORE INFO EMAIL [YOUTH@BGCCVI.COM](mailto:youth@bgccvi.com)



# PURPLE GIRLZILLAS

A GROUP FOR FEMALE IDENTIFYING YOUTH  
AGED 9-12  
HELD AT BGC'S PARKSVILLE CLUB EVERY  
FRIDAY NIGHT FROM 6:30-8:30  
(132 JENSEN AVE.)

Meet new friends, try out fun activities,  
all while boosting your self-esteem and  
self-worth along the way!

Register today by using the QR code  
below!

For more info contact [youth@bgccvi.com](mailto:youth@bgccvi.com)



REGISTER



HERE



# SOS Youth Programs

For Grades 6 - 12



## School Night Out Grades 7 & 8

Field trips, games and activities allow youth to develop friendships and have fun.

Drop-in. **Parksville** Mondays, 3 - 6:30 pm **Qualicum** Tuesdays, 3 - 6:30 pm

## Youth Open Space Grades 9 - 12

Connect with other youth, shoot pool, play music and games, and eat good food.

Drop-in. **Parksville** Wednesdays, 3 - 6:30 pm **Qualicum** Thursdays, 3 - 6:30 pm

## Tutoring Program Grades 6-12

One-on-one tutoring services for students who need extra support in Math and English.

Parksville Mon-Thurs, 3:30-4:30 or 4:30-5:30 pm (September - June).

## GradWear Program

Find new or gently used grad outfits for \$5, including shoes and accessories.

Open Jan. to July, 2024. Donations accepted year round.

## Recreation Assistance for Children & Youth

Helps low-income families with costs to register local children & youth in sports and summer camps. **Call 250.248.2093 ext. 241 for an appointment.**

## Volunteer with SOS!

Learn new things, enhance your resume, meet interesting people and stay active while having fun! **Call 250.248.2093 ext. 230 for more information.**

**SOS programs rely on SOS Thrift Shop support, volunteers and financial donations from the community.**

## SOS Community Services Centres

Youth Programs contact:

**Parksville** 250.248.2093 ext. 232 | 245 Hirst Ave. W.

**Qualicum** 250.752.2040 ext. 204 | 744 Primrose St.

Cell 250.954.9035 | [childandyouth@sosd69.com](mailto:childandyouth@sosd69.com)

[www.sosd69.com](http://www.sosd69.com) [f](#) [in](#) [@](#) [@sosyouthgroup](#)



**Society of  
Organized  
Services**

# SOS Child & Family Programs

Supporting District 69 families



## TIC TAC 0-5 years, Pre-Kindergarten

A friendly environment for parents and caregivers to take a break and recharge while children play and socialize. **Parksville** Tues/Thurs, 9-11 am **Qualicum** Mon/Wed, 9-11 am

## Intergenerational Family Night Families and Seniors

Quality family time and community connection through activities and a home-cooked dinner.

We welcome seniors to join us and interact with families.

**Parksville** Tuesdays, 4:30-7 pm **Qualicum** Wednesdays, 4:30-7 pm

## Kids Movement: Play, Express & Grow Grades 4-6

Build self-esteem, healthy relationships and new connections. SOS bus pickup available for SD69 schools.

**Parksville** Thursdays, 3-5:30 pm **Qualicum** Mondays, 3-5:30 pm.

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**SOS programs rely on SOS Thrift Shop support, volunteers and financial donations from the community.**

## SOS Community Services Centres

Child and Family Programs contacts:

**Parksville** 245 Hirst Ave. W. | 250.248.2093 ext. 249

Cell: 250.228.4066 | [cyfcoordinator@sosd69.com](mailto:cyfcoordinator@sosd69.com)

**Qualicum** 744 Primrose St. | 250.752.2040 ext. 201

Cell: 250.248.0997 | [childandfamily@sosd69.com](mailto:childandfamily@sosd69.com)

[www.sosd69.com](http://www.sosd69.com) [f](#) [in](#) [ig](#) [d](#) @sosyouthgroup



**Society of  
Organized  
Services**