

BALLENAS BULLETIN #8 APRIL 4, 2025

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 ADMIN TEAM

Welcome to April, and welcome to Spring! We hope that this update finds everyone well, and enjoying the beginnings of brighter days and warmer temperatures. We are headed into the last few months of school. These are busy months, and months that we often refer to as one – "AprilMayJune" ...

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

- Thanks to Leadership for organizing an amazing Spring Fling dance on March 13th
- Leadership is hard at work organizing some Spring events, such as the Carnival more details to come soon
- Soccer, track and field, and golf are all up and running/swinging
- Grade 12 students are gearing up for their Capstone presentations on April 23rd this is our first year presenting them in a more public setting
- The BC Lions <u>"Team Up to End Racism"</u> presentation will be held for Grade 8s next week we look forward to welcoming this group to Ballenas
- Ballenas Music is about to embark on a busy Spring season and we wish all students luck in their respective festivals:
 - April 9th: Vancouver Island Concert Band Festival in Port Alberni Experienced Band 8 & Gr. 9 Band students
 - April 10th: Vancouver Island Concert Band Festival in Port Alberni Sr. Concert Band
 - April 29th: West Coast Choir Festival at VIU in Nanaimo Choir Students
 - April 30th: West Coast Jazz Festival at VIU Jazz Band students
 - Course selection is now complete, and we are busy scheduling and planning for next year
- Art Club is back in action Thursdays at lunch! For a full list of clubs happening at BSS, check out our <u>website</u>!

As we begin to spend more time outside, we'd like to provide a quick update on the track from the Qualicum School District Operations and Maintenance Department:

The track project is on schedule. We originally had an aggressive schedule to try and get all the rubber running surface installed in calendar year 2024, however, we ran out of time due to the weather. The rubber can't be installed when there is any rain or any significant moisture in the air. We managed to install two thirds of the rubber running surface in 2024, but unfortunately just couldn't get it all done last year. As of right now we are monitoring the weather closely, and once we get six consecutive days of no rain we will be applying the final top rubber surface. Once the final coat of rubber is applied to the running surface then the running track can be opened; however, the construction fencing will remain in place on the inside of the running portion of the track is set to open sometime between May and mid-June (weather permitting), and the grass field inside the track is planned to open in September when the grass has had a chance to become established. We are all excited for this new track and sports field, and look forward the many memories that will be created for the students and community.

If you are ever curious about what is going on within the school, please check out our <u>website</u> where you can find our daily announcements - they will give you a good idea of the many opportunities and happenings here at Ballenas.

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.

STUDENT LEARNING SURVEY FOR PARENTS

Parents, please take the time to complete the Student Learning Survey at this link: <u>https://www.awinfosys.com/SurveyFull1/central/main/access_Parent.asp</u>

Dear Parents/Guardians, The Student Learning Survey (SLS) has been administered every year in BC public schools since 2001. Prior to 2016-17 it was known as the Student Satisfaction Survey. We've worked hard to improve the survey and make it more useful for students, parents, teachers, and schools.

It is the only source of province-wide information of children's learning experiences. The information is very helpful for others like the Ministry of Health, who use it to improve health services for children across BC. Your participation is an important contribution to improving the educational experiences of children.

The survey currently has the same questions regardless of your child's age, although we recognize that there may be a need to have a version for parents of younger children and one for parents of older children. On this survey, you are welcome to not answer any questions you feel do not apply to you or your child.

It is important for you to know that your information is protected under Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Your responses are will be kept anonymous: no one will be able to personally identify you or your child(ren) through your responses.

This survey is voluntary and your response is encouraged, not required. **Please do not include any thirdparty information (e.g. talk about other specific people) survey or any personal information about yourself.** If any personal or identifying information about yourself or others is included it will be deleted before results are processed and stored. Data will be stored in Canada and accessible only within Canada.

If you have multiple children in the BC education system, please feel free to complete a survey for each child, even if they are at the same school. We will ask a few demographic questions at the beginning of the survey. Your responses are anonymous; your child will not be identified as a result of your participation in the survey. We sincerely appreciate your input and thank-you in advance for your participation.

2024/25 YEARBOOK

The yearbook is in full production and our sales are exceeding expectations. There are only 6 copies left that can be purchased through the office or Mr. Seidel for \$50. Online sales are now closed so cash or cheque is the only way to secure one of the final copies. In the event that there are extras a waiting list will be created.

DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL

- 7 & 8 Grade 12 Literacy Assessments
- 10 PAC Meeting 6:30 PM
- 14 Term 3 Starts
- 18 Good Friday Schools closed
- 21 Easter Monday Schools closed
- 22 Prom Waiver and Guest Application Forms Available
- 22 Regular Board Meeting 6:00 PM
- 23 Grad Capstone Project Presentations
- 28 School Based Pro-D Day



MAY

- 2 Learning Updates Home
- 2 Prom Waiver and Guest Forms Due
- 5 Valedictorian Forms Available
- 8 PAC Meeting 6:30 PM
- 9 S2 x 5 Ends Gr. 8's
- 9 Grad Fee Payment #2 due (PROM \$175)
- 9 Valedictorian Forms Due
- 12 S2 x 6 Begins Gr. 8's
- 16 Conferencing Adjustment Day Students do not attend
- 16 Grad Scripts Due
- 19 Victoria Day
- 20 Special Board Meeting 6:00 PM
- 23 Grad Guest Fees Due \$125
- 24 Prom Bottle Drive 10:00 AM 2:00 PM
- 27 Regular Board Meeting 6:00 PM
- 28 Valedictorian Speeches and Vote

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

April 9	Day 2
April 16	Day 1
April 23	Day 2
April 30	Day 1
May 7	Day 2
May 14	Day 1
May 21	Day 2
May 28	Day 1

BSS MUSIC – IMPORTANT DATES

APRIL

- April 5th (Sat): All PURDY'S Easter orders must be submitted online on the Purdy's website
- April 9th (Wed): Vancouver Island Concert Band Festival in Port Alberni Experienced Band 8 & Gr. 9 Band students
- April 10th (Thurs): Vancouver Island Concert Band Festival in Port Alberni Sr. Concert Band
- April 11th (Fri): Naden Band of the Royal Canadian Navy performs at Knox United Church at 1:00pm. Our students, who sign up, will walk over to see this free performance!
- April 17th (Thurs): PURDY'S Chocolates pickup date
- April 29th (Tues): West Coast Choir Festival at VIU in Nanaimo Choir Students
- April 30th (Wed): West Coast Jazz Festival at VIU Jazz Band students

MAY

- May 5th (Mon): Brownman Ali Electryc Trio Jazz Band performance in the BSS Theatre in the afternoon and in the evening. Evening performance is open to the public. Concert starts at 7:00pm in the BSS Theatre.
- May 20th (Tues): Trip to Duncan for students signed up for the "A Whole New World" musical show at the Cowichan Performing Arts Centre

JUNE

• June 10th (Tues): Year End Concert – all groups at 7:00pm in the gym

Upcoming *erase* Training

- o Families:
 - April 8 Establishing Safe, Caring and Respectful Digital Communities (virtual)
 - NEW OFFERING <u>April 23 Establishing Family Practices for Safeguarding against</u> <u>Cyberbullying and Sextortion (virtual)</u>
 - May 7 <u>Establishing Safe, Caring and Respectful Digital Communities (virtual)</u>
 - May 21 Establishing Family Practices for Safeguarding against Cyberbullying and Sextortion (virtual)
 - June 3 Establishing Family Practices for Safeguarding against Cyberbullying and Sextortion (virtual)

SD69 COMMUNITY PAGE

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

Free SOS Learning Series

Understanding the Teenage Brain Saturday, April 5, 10 am - 12 pm

Presented by Brain-Based Learning Facilitator Gary Anaka

- Discover why the teen brain is in biological turmoil
- Learn leading-edge, easy-to-apply ideas from applied neuroscience
- Understand the influences behind teens' risk-taking and decision-making
- Acquire strategies for parents, caregivers and educators to support learning and positive growth
- Gain tools to help teens build brains that are resilient, healthy and happy

Pre-register at **SOSTeenageBrain.eventbrite.ca**, scan the QR Code, or call SOS at 250.248.2093 by April 2. Capacity limited to the first 50 registrants. Complimentary refreshments will be available.



Location: SOS Community Services Centre 245 Hirst Avenue West, Parksville Check-in: 9:45 am | Presentation: 10 am - 11:30 am 11:30 am - 12 pm book signing and engagement





DATE: APRIL 23 <u>TIME:</u> 6-7:30PM <u>WHERE:</u> BALLENAS

THEATRE

DUAL CREDIT AND CAREER PROGRAM INFORMATION PRESENTATION

LEARN ABOUT ALL THE DUAL CREDIT AND CAREER PREP PROGRAMS OFFERED IN THE QUALICUM SCHOOL DISTRICT

Join us on April 23rd from 6:00pm - 7:30pm in the Ballenas School Theatre. Doors will open at 5:45pm. Topics covered will include:

- Youth Train in Trades
- Dual Credit Academic
- Youth Trade Sampler
- Summer explore the trades

Please scan the QR code to rsvp for the evening.

Questions or Comments? Please email Greg Muirhead Gmuirhead@sd6o.bc.ca

- Youth Work in trades
- Youth Trade Sampler
- Youth Work Experience
- Exploratory Days





Trades & Tech **Showcase**

Saturday May 3, 2025

Discover opportunity, build your future!

Are you ready to dive into the world of trades and technology? Don't miss out on the ultimate hands-on experience at Vancouver Island University's Trades & Tech Showcase where you can learn about careers in everything from electrical to welding, hairdressing, and web and mobile development. There's something for everyone! Whether you're a budding enthusiast or looking to kickstart your career, this event is tailor-made for you

Details

Trades & Tech Showcase When: May 3, 2025 | 10 am to 2 pm PST

Where: VIU Nanaimo Campus Trades Discovery Centre, Building 108 900 Fifth Street, Nanaimo V9R 5S5

Register at the QR Code



COULSON AVIATION



APRIL 25TH, 2025 9:30-12:00

Register ASAPI Spots are VERY Limited. Scan the QR Code to get started.

bort Tour

Grade 11/12 students are invited to join us for a tour of our facility and explore the career options available right here in Port Alberni!

Contact your Career Education Lead to book your spot! Lunch will be provided.

7500 Airport Road Port Alberni stephanie.a.coulson@ coulsongroup.com

Why Coulson Aviation Academy

Coulson Aviation, a global leader in aerial firefighting, continues to set industry standards by becoming the first aviation company approved by Transport Canada as an Approved Training Organization (ATO) to provide training in aircraft structures. Among the 20 ATOs in Canada, Coulson stands out as one of only four offering a specialized program for structures technicians – reinforcing its reputation as a pioneer in aviation excellence and workforce development.

Your Future Begins Here.

Send your resume today. hr@coulsongroup.com



BUILD YOUR FUTURE

WITH THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS.



For more information on Coulson Aviation Academy, contact:

ato@coulsongroup.com | 250.724.7600

Facility Address

7500 Airport Road Port Alberni, BC V9Y 8Y9

COULSONAVIATION



Coulson Aviation AME-S Training

Coulson Aviation Academy is leading the way in training the next generation of high performance AME's through an innovative learning environment unmatched by any other program out there. Coulson's program is specifically tailored to train and mentor the best technicians in our industry who are motivated and committed to excelling in their trade. This course combines technical knowledge, hands-on experience, and practical demonstrations to maintain, repair, and inspect aircraft structures. This is an exciting opportunity to launch a rewarding career in Aviation!

CORE TOPICS

- Flight Theory
- Aircraft Systems
- Construction
- Transport Canada Regulations

PRACTICAL SKILLS

Working with sheet metal, tubing, composites, wood, and fabric to fabricate and repair structural components.

This program is a transformative opportunity for our community, fostering the growth of skilled aviation professionals.

Training Program Highlights

LOW-COST TRAINING

Students attending the ATO do not pay tuition fees, but are required to purchase their own tools and equipment.

EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Students remain on Coulson's payroll during the program and can earn additional income by working outside of schooling hours.

GUARANTEED CAREER PATH

Coulson Aviation Academy is the only organization that provides student support from start to finish in obtaining their AME-S license with Transport Canada. We provide in-depth training towards the requirements for an AME-S license application, the apprenticeship and tasks needed to fill out their logbook in a timely manner, and then we help prepare them for the CARs exam and support them through the process.

Program Structure

ENTRY PROCESS

Applicants must be either at least 16 years of age or secondary school students currently attending their final year, and must complete a 2 to 3 month trial period with Coulson Aviation before being recommended by their supervisor.

PATH TO CERTIFICATION

Graduates begin a 2-year apprenticeship to meet Transport Canada certification requirements.

COMMITMENT

Students sign a training bond, committing to work with Coulson Aviation for a set period, reflecting the company's investment in their training.

ACADEMIC PREREQUISITES

Open to students who have passed English 10 or equivalent, and passed Math 10 or equivalent.





VIRTUAL LEARNING | New Parent Workshop Supports Digital Resilience

MediaSmarts has launched "<u>Raising Digitally Resilient Kids</u>," a self-guided workshop designed to help families navigate digital challenges. Drawing on youth research, the session explores online risks and strategies to promote safe, balanced media use. Parents and guardians gain tools to evaluate apps, set household media guidelines, and support children's well-being in a connected world. With handouts and practical resources, the workshop fosters informed conversations about digital literacy at home and in schools.

→ LEARN MORE

SOS GradWear

Shop for new and gently used dresses, suits, shoes and accessories — all for \$10



Call, text or email for a weekday appointment. Also open during March 17-28 (Spring Break) and May 1-7 (Youth Week). Saturdays and evenings available upon request.

SOS Community Services Centre 250.248.2093 ext. 232 | Text: 250.954.9035 245 Hirst Ave. W., Parksville| www.sosd69.com childandyouth@sosd69.com | 🕜 🔘 in 👌 💶





FRIDAYS May 2 - 30, 2025 4:00PM - 5:30PM

A COMPACT AND A CONTRACT AND A CONTR

with Matt + Jonas

Explore the world of software development, game design, modern application architecture, and web design. Learn new skills, collaborate on projects, and gain confidence. Ages 15+.

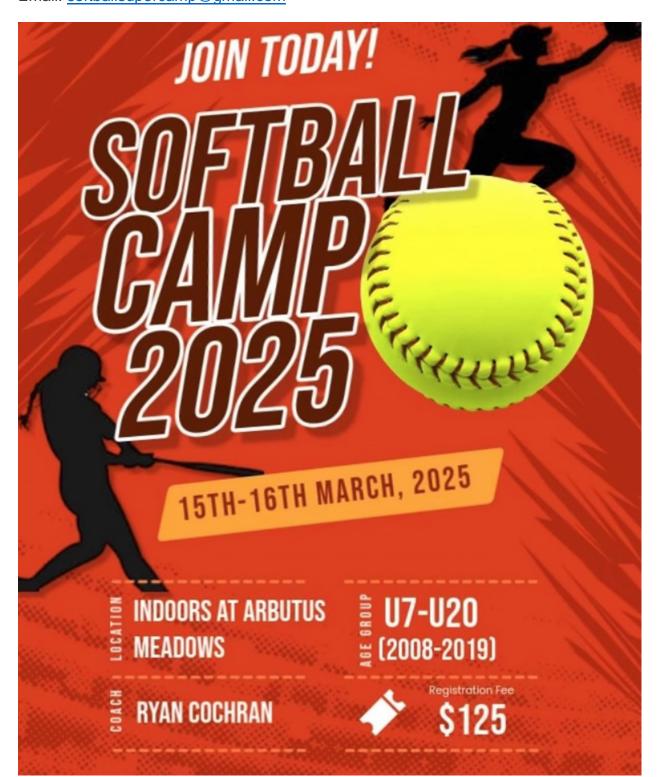
Participants to bring their own laptop. No programming experience required. Basic computer skills recommended.

\$60 per 5 sessions

Register:arrowsmithrecreation.ca/classes

BoMé Cheese - 1876 Alberni Hwy, Coombs, BC

Kristine Stephenson: stephenson@live.ca or 250-927-3985 Tracy Cargo-White: tracy.cargo@outlook.com or 250-947-5272 2-Day Girls Indoors Softball Camp Join NMSA Coach Ryan and the Nanaimo Diamonds U15 Fastpitch team and learn fundamental softball skills, all a welcoming and fun environment. Saturday, March 15-16, U7-U20: 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Location: Arbutus Meadows Farm, 1515 Island Hwy, Nanoose Bay, BC Cost: \$125 Register: https://forms.gle/6LdkdeyEQ4SVAEjSA Email: softballsupercamp@gmail.com





DORS 11-15 JRNAM

SIGN UP WITH YOUR TEAM OF THREE OR FOUR. ENGAGE IN FUN, FRIENDLY GAMES. WIN PRIZES. FREE PIZZA AND COOKIES.

REGISTRATION: ARROWSMITHRECREATION.CA/CLASSES **REGISTRATION DEADLINE: APRIL 25**

TRACYCARGO-WHITE: TRACY.CARGO@OUTLOOK.COM 250-947-5272

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COOMBS FAIRGROUNDS GYMNASIUM **1014 FORD ROAD, COOMBS**



Ages







Kids Try Tennis!



Qualicum Beach Tennis Courts March 28, April 21, April 28, May 19 3:00-4:00 p.m. All kids, all ages, no experience needed

Racquets and balls provided



Prizes Register for free with name and age: arrowsmithtennis@hotmail.com





ARROWSMITH TENNIS CLUB





• Qualicum Beach West Field (close to the BMX track)



Get Trained to be a Lifeguard

Bronze Medallion 13yrs+ Mar 17-19 \$232 or May 24-Jun 14 \$232

Bronze Cross 13yrs+ Mar 19-21 \$170

Swim for Life Instructor 15yrs+ Apr 4-13 \$300 or May 20-Jun 12 \$300

National Lifeguard Pool Course 15yrs+ Mar 24-29 \$400 or May 17-Jun 8 \$400 Ravensong Aquatic Centre



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





Art Workshop Fill Your Boots

McMillan Arts Centre We May 7 10:00am-12:00pm \$20 All ages welcome. Supplies are provided.



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





Express Saturdays 11-14yrs

Sa Feb 22 9:00am-4:30pm Sa Mar 22 9:00am-4:30pm Sa Apr 26 9:00am-4:30pm Sa May 24 9:00am-4:30pm

Pick up and drop off at Oceanside Place Arena



\$55

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





Bushcraft Adventure 9-14yrs

Wilderness survival skills

Sa Mar 8-29 10:00am-2:00pm \$200/4

Sa May 10-31 10:00am-2:00pm \$200/4

Moorecroft Regional Park



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



Friday Youth Nights ~ 11-14yrs

Fridays 4:30-6:00pm

REGIONAL

DISTRICT

Feb 21, Mar 14, Apr 11, May 23

Oceanside Place \$10/each includes activities and pizza



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



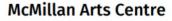


Youth Art 10-15yrs

Comic Book: Th Apr 17 4:00-6:00pm \$25

Animal Drawing: Th Feb 6 4:00-6:00pm \$25 Th Apr 24 4:00-6:00pm \$25

Grid Drawing: Th Mar 13 4:00-6:00pm \$25 Th May 1 4:00-6:00pm \$25









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



Youth Swim Lessons 11-17yrs

Beginner

Tu Apr 8-Jun 17, 7:30-8:15pm \$92

Fitness

Th Apr 10-Jun 19, 7:30-8:15pm \$92

Ravensong Aquatic Center



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





Grades 5-12 in SD 69 & surrounding areas, including home learners



Early Submissions by March 21st for a chance to be featured on the exhibit posters and win extra prizes! All Media - Digital (non-Al), Fabric arts, Mixed Media, textiles, Sculpture etc 3 Categories: Visual Arts, Photography, Literary Art

> All works due by April 11th Submit online here: https:/mindfulmay.artistguarter.com/



Exhibition: May 1st-11th at the Qualicum Beach Library 660 Primrose Street, Qualicum Beach

OPENING EVENT MAY 1ST 6:00-7:00PM SHOW RUNS APRIL 30TH-MAY 10TH DURING LIBRARY HOURS



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



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.



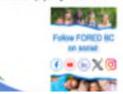
Interview a local elder about homemade salal tea on video? Creativity of all kinds is welcomed.

Contest Details: Please submit entries via the easy entry form on our website. <u>https://www.foredbc.org/traditional-knowledge-contest</u> Entries may also be mailed to the 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 address, parent & teacher contact, grade & school on website entry form or with mailed entries.
- Please include a brief description of how your artwork relates to traditional knowledge and medicine. DEADLINE: May 23/25
- All original artistic work accepted: i.e. pencil, crayon, paint, mural, 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, June 21, & our <u>website</u>.
- All entrants qualify for complimentary, honourary 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 <u>YouTube</u>. 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.30th Ave.Vantouver, BC VER 4R8 P: 604-737-8555 E: info@foredbc.org W: foredbc.org

Support balanced education about our environment 6 sustainable natural resources. Trusted since 1925.

