



BALLENAS BULLETIN

#4 DECEMBER 6, 2024

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

Highlights for December include the start of basketball season, yesterday's staff versus student hockey game, the Winter Evening of Music for band students and their families next week, AND our Turkey Lunch on December 18th.



As this year draws to a close, we would like to take the opportunity to thank our community for their continued support of learning here at Ballenas - it is greatly appreciated. We would like to send a special recognition out to our PAC for their support this year, and to all our volunteer coaches. Your time and dedication do not go unnoticed - we appreciate you all!

On the topic of **community**, we would like to take this opportunity to remind Ballenas Students about the importance of their conduct in the school and in the greater community. Recently, we've had feedback from a local business that is a great supporter of Ballenas about concerning conduct in their store during the school day and at lunch. Ms. Deering and I have made class visits to share this information and to remind all students about our [Code of Conduct](#) - and, in this instance, specifically the point about **"being aware that we are members of the community and need to contribute positively to our neighbourhood and town."** Much work has gone into this document to make it clear and accessible. When working through conduct concerns or conflict at school, this is the [document](#) we use and refer to. We appreciate your support in reiterating this messaging at home.

Please continue to check the website for updates. Remember - our daily announcements are posted, so if you're ever wanting to get a feel for the day-to-day happenings at Ballenas - check them out!

With gratitude and best wishes for the season ahead,

Trish Cathrine
Principal, École Ballenas Secondary



Are you interested in being a Ballenas Student Ambassador? Have you ever considered doing an exchange to another country? If you are looking for more information about the program and might be interested in a 5 month exchange please come to our meeting **Thursday, December 12th at 11:30 am in the Auditorium**. But what IS a Ballenas Ambassador you ask? It is a group of students who work in the International Program to help welcome new students to our school, they get to participate in various cultural activities and have the opportunity of an exchange or a bursary after their service term.



Ballenas and the Place Based Learning cohort (PBL) would like to thank Cascadia Martial Arts for generously providing our students with an experience in taekwondo and kickboxing. Nathan and his team of professionals gave us knowledge, strategies, and a true workout.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT INFO

Winter Evening of Music: Our Ballenas Winter Evening of Music concert will take place on **Tuesday, December 10th at 7:00 pm** 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.

DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER

9 IE Plans Home
 10 Regular Board Meeting – TEAMS 6:00 pm
 10 Winter Evening of Music 7:00 pm
 12 PAC Meeting – Library 6:30 pm
 18 Turkey Lunch
 20 Last day of classes prior to Winter Vacation

JANUARY

6 Schools reopen after Winter Vacation
 9 PAC Meeting – Library 6:30 pm
 24 Semester 1 Ends
 24 S1 x 3 Ends for Grade 8s
 27 Turnaround Day – No students in attendance
 28 Semester 2 Starts
 28 S2 x 4 Begins for Grade 8s

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Wednesday, December 11 th | Day 1 |
| Wednesday, December 18 th | Day 2 |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Wednesday, January 8 th | Day 1 |
| Wednesday, January 15 th | Day 2 |
| Wednesday, January 22 nd | Day 1 |
| Wednesday, January 29 th | Day 2 |

SD69 COMMUNITY PAGE

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

Ballenas 2025 Prom **BOTTLE DRIVE**

Sunday, December 15th
10:00-2:00 @ Parksville Bottle Depot

 Grads & Families
can sign up to help!

3 Ways to Help:

1. DRIVER & COLLECTOR

Sign up to drive around and collect bottles
and bring them to the depot to sort



2. SORTER

Glove up and sign up to come count
& sort at the bottle depot



3. DROP YOUR BOTTLES OFF BEFORE DECEMBER 15TH

Any Families or Community Members who are cleaning out garages and bottle bins
can drop off their bottles ahead of time!



In PARKSVILLE drop your bottles at: 582 Castle Way



In NANOOSE drop your bottles at: 1846 Ballenas Road

* THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO ENSURE VOLUNTEERS AT 10:00 HAVE BOTTLES RIGHT AWAY TO START SORTING *

**REWARD OPPORTUNITY
FOR GRAD STUDENTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Questions? Email: bssgradinfo@gmail.com

THANKS
From BSS



Advent Calendar

25 DAYS OF FREE OCEANSIDE FUN!

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1

Family board game or puzzle night

2

Tis the Season! Declutter and donate or re-gift something

3

Family Storytime at the Qualicum Library: 10:30-11am

4

Make homemade gifts for your family and friends

5

OBLT's WOW Bus/Outdoor Play at Errington Market: 1:30-3pm (for kids ages 0-6, pre-register)

6

Decorate and/or rearrange a room in your house to refresh for the holidays

7

City of Parkville's Cookies, Carols & More holiday event at Jensen Centre (132 Jensen Ave): 2-4:30pm

8

Take a walk or drive and enjoy all the Christmas lights

9

Try an at-home YouTubo workout to end the year a little healthier

10

Create a handmade table centerpiece - maybe find some materials in nature

11

Enjoy a walk in nature or women 50+ join ACRA's Sole Sisters for a walk and social (pre-register)

12

OBLT's WOW Bus/Outdoor Play at Meadowood: 1:30-3:30pm (for kids ages 0-6, pre-register)

13

Write and hand-deliver a letter to a friend

14

OBLT's Saturday Breakfast Club: 9:30-11:30am OR Cdn Parents for French Winter Wonderland Skate: 10am-12pm

15

Perform a Random Act of Kindness in your community

16

Winter Wonderland at Oceanside Place* for families with children aged 0-8: 2:30-5:30pm

17

Enjoy a night making tasty holiday treats

18

Family movie night with delicious treats and hot chocolate

19

Pajama dance party

20

This is a great time of year to explore Englishman River Falls

21

MP Gord Johns' Everyone Welcome Winter Wonderland Skate at Oceanside Place: 2-4pm

22

Parkville Lions & Save-on-Foods' Winter Wonderland Family Skate at Oceanside Place: 1:30-3:30pm

23

Spend some time making holiday crafts

24

Make snowflakes to hang around your house

25

Take a holiday photo with your family and/or friends

*Dec. 14th Family Skate is courtesy of OBLT, PacificCare, Sources, & Qualicum First Nations



SOS Caring for Community at Christmas

Creating the magic of Christmas
for local residents since 1968



Drop-in to register

Starting Nov. 19, 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 Centre 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 Centre

www.sosd69.com | 250.248.2093 ext. 229

245 Hirst Avenue West, Parksville

coordinator@sosd69.com | [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Twitter](#)



Society of
Organized
Services

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

GradWear Program

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

Open January to July, 2025. Donations accepted year round.

Recreation Assistance for Children & Youth

Helps low-income families with costs to register local children and youth in recreation activities. 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

www.sosd69.com [f](#) [i](#) [in](#) [d](#) @sosyouthgroup



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Services

**BALLENAS SECONDARY
PRESENTS**



FEB 18,19,20

25,26,27

7pm

**Tickets \$15 at the door or @
"Ballenas Online Store"**

Grad Photos 2025

BALLENAS SECONDARY



BOOK YOUR PHOTOS

Available Session Dates:
February 3rd-6th



NEED TO KNOW

- \$30 sit fee is due at time of booking (to be paid online)
- Please arrive dressed in your outfit of choice. We recommend a collard shirt and tie, or scoop/V-neck shirt for under your grad gown. Caps and gowns will be provided at your session.
- Grad portrait sessions will be done in the computer lab. **Please arrive 10 min early.**

CONCEPT PHOTOGRAPHY
250.741.4209 | conceptphoto.ca

Direct Booking Link: <https://GRADPORTRAITS2023.as.me/?appointmentType=52293223>

Grad Photo FAQ'S

HOW DO I BOOK A SESSION?

You can access the booking page by using the QR code below, or typing the URL into your browser. There is a \$30 sitting fee due at the time of booking. You will receive an email confirming your appointment once you had successfully booked.



[HTTPS://GRADPORTRAITS2023.AS.ME/](https://gradportraits2023.as.me/)

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING?

We recommend arriving in either a collard shirt and tie, or a scoop/v-neck shirt to be worn under your grad gown. You will also have the option of doing photos without your gown afterwards, so dress in an outfit you like and feel comfortable in. You may bring a small personal item - but it must fit in one hand.

HOW WILL I RECEIVE MY PHOTOS?

Once your photos are online, you will receive an email to log in and view your gallery. Photos are typically online by the following week. If you have any trouble accessing your photos please contact us directly at the email address below.

HOW LONG IS A SESSION?

Your grad portrait session will be approximately 15 minutes. Please arrive 10 minutes early in order to get gowned before your scheduled session.

CONCEPT PHOTOGRAPHY

250.741.4209 | conceptphoto.ca | lance@conceptphoto.ca