



BALLENAS BULLETIN

6 February 12, 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.

February 2026

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

In addition to the district messaging that has been sent to all families regarding the tragic event that took place in Tumbler Ridge this week, we want to extend our deepest sympathies to the families, victims, students, school staff, first responders, and the entire community affected by this senseless tragedy. Our hearts are with all those impacted. Please reach out if you need support during this difficult time and remember to take care of one another. **Counsellors and Child and Youth Care Workers are available** for any students who may need someone to talk to or require additional support.

As we step into February, there is always a sense of renewed energy in the building. A new semester brings fresh starts, new classes, and new opportunities for students to explore their interests and grow as learners. February is also a busy and exciting time as we begin planning for the 2026-27 school year—supporting students in making thoughtful course selections and preparing for the year ahead. We are grateful for the continued partnership of our families and community, and we look forward to everything this month has in store.

Semester two is now in full swing, and teachers will be reaching out this week to introduce themselves, share course information, and provide their preferred contact details. We believe open communication is key to student success, and these early touchpoints help set up a strong foundation for the months ahead. To support this connection even further, there is **no FLEX or HR** during the month of February.

Learning Updates were sent home last Friday. If you have any questions about your child's progress, please reach out to their teachers, counsellors, or the administrative team—we are here to help. Just a note that CLCA/B are graduation requirements; we will be checking in with all grade 12 students this month and next regarding their progress on their capstone projects.

Last week's **grad photos** marked the first big milestone on the road to graduation. It's always an exciting moment, and we love seeing our students begin this special countdown together. Please continue to check our website regularly for all upcoming graduation dates and event details so you don't miss any important information.

Public Health will be here on **February 26th** for the annual Grade 10–12 Health Fair in the MPR. We deeply appreciate the time, care, and expertise the nursing team brings in supporting our students' health and wellness journeys.

Parent–Teacher Conferences will take place on **March 4th and 5th**. Online bookings will open on **Tuesday, February 17th**. This is a great opportunity to connect with teachers, celebrate successes, and discuss strategies to support learning for the remainder of the year.

Our Grade 11 students are currently completing the **Youth Development Instrument (YDI)** survey. This voluntary survey gathers valuable information that helps inform decisions and supports initiatives focused on youth health and well-being across the province.

We are thrilled to invite you to support the Whalebone Theatre’s production of **Footloose** on: **February 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, and 26**. Come cheer on our talented actors, dancers, musicians, and crew members who have poured countless hours into bringing this show to life.

Our **Winter athletics** season has had many successes, and it is wrapping up soon. Our Ballenas snowboard and ski team qualified for provincials which are held in Smithers later this month. Sr. Girls basketball placed 4th at the North Island’s tournament. Sr. Boys basketball is heading to the North Island's tournament this weekend in Timberline. Jr. Girl's basketball finished 3rd at the North Island’s tournament and are heading to Islands at Shawnigan Lake this weekend. Jr. Boys basketball narrowly missed qualifying for the North Island’s tournament. Grade 8 girls and boys are off to districts this weekend: the girls' tournament being hosted here at Ballenas, and the boys’ tournament is being hosted at Barsby in Nanaimo. Upcoming **Spring sports** will showcase Ballenas teams in Jr. and Sr. girls' soccer, a golf team ready to hit the links, track and field looking to send athletes to the provincials again, and, of course, our Whalers Football team is always looking for new recruits.

Grade-based **course selection** assemblies are coming next week. Students will be guided through the course selection process, and counsellors will be available to answer questions and offer support as students begin planning their 2026–27 school year pathways.

A heartfelt thank you to all of our family schools who joined us for our **Open House** on February 5th. It is always inspiring to welcome future Whalers and to share the programs, people, and spirit that make Ballenas such a vibrant learning community.

As we begin the new semester, we are taking time to remind students of our commitment to maintaining a **Distraction-Free Learning Environment** at Ballenas. We recognize the growing impact that personal digital devices can have on focused learning, classroom engagement, and online safety. To support student well-being and to ensure classrooms remain productive, personal digital devices are **restricted during instructional time** at BSS. There are important exceptions to this expectation, including:

- when teachers request devices for **instructional purposes**,
- when students require device access for **accessibility or accommodation needs**, and
- when devices are needed for **medical or health-related reasons**.

We encourage families and students to review our [progressive response plan](#), which outlines how we support students in meeting these expectations. Thank you for working with us to create learning spaces where all students can focus, thrive, and feel safe.

At a recent meeting, the Board of Education approved two **elementary school catchment adjustments** and deferred a proposed **secondary school catchment change**. This deferral allows additional time for reflection and potential consideration by the next Board. More information can be found on the [district](#) website.

As always, our [École Ballenas Secondary website](#) is the best place to find up-to-date information, key dates, and school news throughout the month.

Thank you | Hay cep qa' | Merci

Ballenas Administration

WHALEBONE THEATRE PRESENTS



Ballenas Secondary

FEB 17, 18, 19

24, 25, 26

7PM

\$15 @ Ballenas Online Store



Express & Flourish Family Day 2026 At the MAC

- Flower Take Home Art
- Communal Art Piece
- Face Painting
- Artists in Residence

Free
Event

Monday February 16th
10am-1pm

Funding support provided by the Regional District of Nanaimo



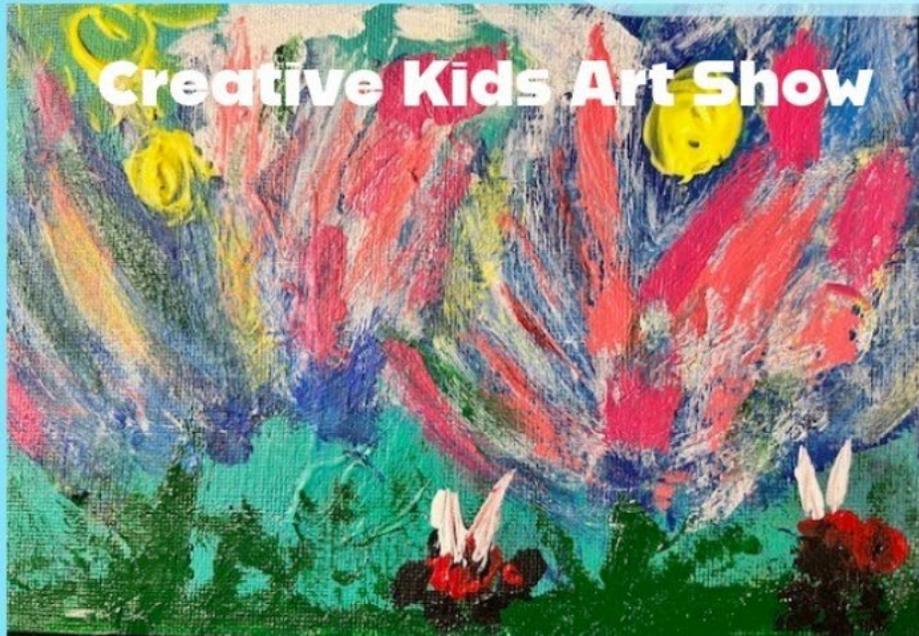
McMillan Arts Centre (MAC)

133 McMillan Street, Upper Level
Parksville, BC V9P 2H5
(250)248-8185

www.mcmillanartscentre.com

Gallery & Gift Shop Hours: Tuesday-Sunday, 11am to 3pm

In the Nemeth Gallery
at The MAC



Artwork by Mirren McLean

UNFILTERED EXPRESSION

Feb 2nd- Mar 1st 2026
Opening Reception Sat Feb 7, 1pm

A collection of artworks by young artists
from around the community

creativekids.mac@gmail.com



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**MOUNT
ARROWSMITH**
BIOSPHERE REGION

Connecting
People with Nature

THE POWER OF Stewardship

Celebrate local stewards and the knowledge of our diverse communities this International Mother Language Day!

Saturday Feb 21, 2026 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

9:00 am - Doors Open

9:30 am - "Importance of understanding the connections between history and language in relationship to place." Jesse Recalma Qualicum First Nations

10:45am - "Leaving a Legacy for Nature" Nancy Randall will work through all the stages and 14 different ways you can leave a legacy for nature.

- Celebrate International Mother Language Day
- Participate in interactive Q&A sessions
- Meet local stewardship organizations and sign up for memberships
- Learn about the Mid Island Stewardship Caucus www.mabr.ca/misc
- Discover ongoing and upcoming projects and how to get involved



Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region

124 West 2nd Ave Qualicum Beach

250-594-0405

www.mabr.ca



Ballenas Grad Burger + Beverage

TICKETS
\$35
EACH

Help support
2026 Ballenas
PROM!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28
DOORS OPEN @ 5PM

Silent
Auction on
site!

AT QUALITY FOODS
UPSTAIRS IN PARKSVILLE

Scan here
for tickets!



HONK! HONK! COMMUNITY FUN INCOMING

COOMBS FAMILY DAY

14th
ANNUAL
2026

HERITAGE DEMOS
EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS
SANDBOX TREASURE HUNT
COOKIE DECORATING
LIVE ANIMALS
FACE PAINTING
GAMES & CRAFTS
GARDEN RAILWAY
PHOTO BOOTH



FREE
HOT DOGS
POPCORN
COFFEE & TEA
(WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)

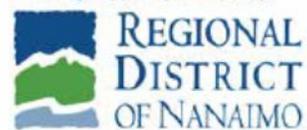
MON FEB 16 | 1:00 TO 4:00PM



ARROWSMITH AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION



Funding support provided by:



Coombs Fair Grounds | 1014 Ford Rd | Coombs | BC | www.coombsfair.com

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.

Sandy Shores Skating Club

CANSKATE LEARN TO SKATE PROGRAM

Ideal starting point whether your child wants to go into hockey, figure skating or have occasional fun skating recreationally. Our programs are sanctioned by Skate Canada and taught by Skate Canada accredited coaches.



*Ongoing
registration*

Oceanside Place Victor Kraatz Arena

Schedule and registration:

<https://sandyshores.uplifterinc.com>



🎓 SUPPORT BALLENAS GRAD 2026 🎓

AND STOCK YOUR PANTRY WITH DELICIOUS SOUP KITS!

We've teamed up with Mitchell's Soup Company – a Canadian, family-owned artisan food brand known for handmade, small-batch soup, stew, chili, rice dishes and dessert mixes that make nourishing meals easy and delicious.

🍲 WHY BUY A SOUP KIT? 🍲

- ✓ Each mix makes 8-10 hearty servings – perfect for families and meal planning.
- ✓ So simple to make – just add a few fresh ingredients and enjoy.
- ✓ Great variety – something for every taste!
- ✓ 35% of every sale goes directly to Ballenas Grad 2026!

🍷 Your purchase helps fund:

- 🌟 2026 Prom / Dry Grad
- 🌟 Keepsakes & memories
- 👉 It's fundraising that feeds your community and supports our grads!

Scan here
to order NOW



📅 Order Deadline: March 12, 2026

📍 Pick-up Location: Ballenas Secondary School



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

parent workshop

Inclusive Classrooms

**What They Are, Why They're
Complex, and How Families
Can Support Them**



This parent-friendly workshop helps families better understand inclusive classrooms, why they can feel challenging at times, and how families can support inclusion in meaningful, realistic ways.

Sunday, March 8

4:00- 5:30 pm

In this session, parents will:

- A clearer understanding of what inclusive classrooms are and why complexity is part of the reality
- Insight into how inclusive classrooms impact students, peers, educators, and families
- Practical ways families can support inclusion through conversations at home and respectful school partnerships

Facilitated by Carly Eirikson
Inclusive education & school leadership

This session is intended to be informative and supportive of inclusive education. It does not provide guidance on individual student situations or specific school-based decisions.

 **Hosted by your DPAC**

parent workshop

Inclusive Classrooms

What They Are, Why They're Complex, and How Families Can Support Them



Date: Sunday, March 8, 2026

Time: 4:00–5:30 pm

Location: Live on Zoom

Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88484127588?pwd=SjsAaCbRDhWetw838cLjxQHsLiSlBQ.1>

This parent-friendly session supports families in better understanding inclusive classrooms, why complexity is part of the reality, and how families can support inclusion in meaningful and realistic ways.

The session will explore:

- What inclusive classrooms are designed to support, and why complexity is expected
- How inclusive classrooms can impact students with IEPs, peers, educators, and families
- Practical ways families can support inclusion through home conversations and respectful school partnerships

The workshop will be facilitated by **Carly Eirikson**, who works in inclusive education and school leadership and has extensive experience supporting students, families, and school teams.

Important note:

This session is intended to support general understanding of inclusive education. It does not provide guidance on individual student situations, specific classrooms, or school-based decision-making.

Parents may submit general questions in advance (no individual student/classroom questions):

Deadline: Wednesday, March 4

Email: inclusivedesigninmind@gmail.com

YOUR HEALTH MATTERS!

GRADE 10, 11 & 12 HEALTH FAIR

FEBRUARY 26, 2026
9:00 AM-3:00 PM

MPR



SMOOTHIE BAR



VACCINES



FUN ACTIVITIES

& PRIZES Including a JBL Speaker



**MULTIPLE INFORMATION
BOOTHS**



Join us for a day of learning,
fun, and empowerment!