



BALLENAS BULLETIN

#5 JANUARY 10, 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 PRINCIPAL

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

Welcome back to the start of a New Year! For us, it means our school year is nearly half complete – time flies! While January has a focus on new beginnings - for us, it also signals the end of Semester One. Although we are just welcoming everyone back, we are also supporting our community in ending this semester on a positive, successful note.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome a new Vice-Principal to Ballenas – Mr. Mario Tenisci. Mr. Tenisci will be filling Mr. Lee's role as Mr. Lee will be staying on at KSS and we wish him all the best in this continued role.

Mr. Tenisci is joining us from a variety of administration roles and locations, most recently in Nanaimo. Mr. Tenisci will be the Ballenas admin connected with students in Grades 8 – 11, last names M-Z. We have spent time this week visiting classes and introducing Mr. Tenisci to the Ballenas Community; we are grateful to have him here.

Ballenas, as always, is a hub of activity - here a few highlights from our first week back in this “New” year:

- Basketball is in full swing - come on by and check out a home game! The gym is always alive with energy – including at lunch if students are looking for a space to check out
- Our Musical Theater group is preparing for their February Production of “Grease” – tickets are available for purchase via our website and the “[Ballenas Online Store](#)” – be sure to get tickets early!
- Provincial Assessments are happening from January 13-24
 - Students who are currently in the following classes will write a Provincial Assessment:
 - Math 10
 - English First Peoples 10
 - English First Peoples 12 or English Studies 12
 - French Immersion – Grade 12
 - Students will have opportunities to practice provincial assessments in their classes
 - A schedule for assessments can be found on our website, and has been posted in the announcements and in the front foyer
 - More information for students/families, as well as practice assessments is linked on our website and can also be found [here](#)
 - If you are in Grade 11 or 12 and missed a Grade 10 Provincial Assessment, you are able to join a walk-in session – please sign up via the Counselling office (a list of student #'s has been posted in the front foyer of students who need to complete a Grade 10 Provincial Assessment)
- Clubs are in full swing. Students: be sure to keep your eyes on the calendar in the front foyer about clubs and meeting times. There is also a link on our [website](#) that indicates what clubs are available and when they meet/who to connect with

While all of this is happening, we are also beginning to think ahead and plan for our *next* school year! Stay tuned for information regarding our Open House (especially if you may have a Grade 8 student at home joining us next year) **and** course selection for the upcoming school year. Both Open House and course selection will take place in February.

As we wrap up for this month – a special note regarding FLEX. Every teacher is available during FLEX learning for the month of January. **All students are expected to be with one of their teachers during FLEX time during January.** Grade 8 and 9 students will sign up for one of their teachers/spaces via their homeroom teachers, and students in Grades 10 – 12 will select a teacher/space for the duration of this time. This is crucial time for extra support and catch up, and if you received an IE plan in December, attendance in a specific location (or locations) was a requirement. Please connect with individual teachers if you have any questions about FLEX or IE plans. Teacher contact information can be found on our [website](#).

Like I said at the beginning - time really does fly; let's make the most of it!

That is all for now - thank you for your continued support. We were so glad to see everyone back this past week. We are very grateful for our community and are looking forward to longer, brighter days ahead.

As always, please keep an eye on the district and our school website for updates as shared. If you have any questions, you are always welcome to reach out to us at the school.

Trish Cathrine – tcathrine@sd69.bc.ca (Grade 12)
Heather Deering – hdeering@sd69.bc.ca (Grades 8 – 11, A-L)
Mario Tenisci – mtenisci@sd69.bc.ca (Grades 8 – 11 M – Z)

GRADE 9 IMMUNIZATIONS

Immunization consent packages for grade 9 students have been sent home. Follow the instructions inside the consent package and return the signed consent form to the school as soon as possible. Students in grade 9 will be offered immunizations in school-based clinics. Please discuss the information in the consent package with your child and include them in the decision to provide consent for immunization.

Students in grade 9 can make an informed decision about immunization regardless of their parent/guardian/representative decision to consent or refuse immunization. For more information visit HealthLinkBC: [The Infants Act, Mature Minor Consent and Immunization.](#)

Immunizations will be provided at the school for grade 9 students on February 11th, 2025.

Contact Oceanside Public Health Services at (250)947-8242 to speak to a school nurse if you have any questions.

GRADE 10 IMMUNIZATIONS

Public Health will be providing catch-up immunizations on February 11th, 2025 to Grade 10 students who missed their Grade 9 immunizations. Only students who have a paper consent form signed by their parent/guardian/representative or who provided mature minor consent during the 2023-2024 school year (Grade 9) will be immunized.

Contact Oceanside Public Health Services at (250)947-8242 to speak to a school nurse if you have any questions.

QUALICUM SCHOOL DISTRICT - DRAFT 3-YEAR DISTRICT SCHOOL CALENDAR SURVEY

Prior to approval, the Board of Education is requesting input on the Draft District School Calendar for 2025-2028 and is circulating a draft to collect comments from parents and employees. As you may be aware, school calendars are regulated by the School Act as well as local and provincial collective agreement language. The number of non-instructional days are determined by the School Act or the local collective agreement, and the placement of those days are a local decision. Please provide comments on the proposed 2025-2028 School District calendar*** via this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/eSgJU6KDpd>

***False Bay School Employees and Parents/Caregivers - please complete this survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/FjnU4qjAiS>

Thank you all for your feedback!

DATES TO REMEMBER

JANUARY		FEBRUARY	
13-22	Provincial Assessments	3-6	Grad Photos
24	Semester 1 Ends	7	Grad Fee Payment 1 Due \$100
24	S1 x 3 Ends for Grade 8s	11	Grade 9, and catch-up for grade 10s, Immunizations
27	Turnaround Day – No students in attendance	13	Open House 6:30 – 8:00 PM
28	Semester 2 Starts	17	Family Day, No schools in session
28	S2 x 4 Begins for Grade 8s	18-20	Whalebone Theatre’s “Grease”!
		25-27	Whalebone Theatre’s “Grease”!

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

January 15 th	Day 2
January 22 nd	Day 1
January 29 th	Day 2
February 5 th	Day 1
February 12 th	Day 2
February 19 th	Day 1
February 26 th	Day 2

SD69 COMMUNITY PAGE

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

Provincial Assessments – January 2025 Schedule

Please note the day and time of your assessment. All assessments will be written in the library lab as a class. All assessments are listed by teacher/block. A walk-in session for all students/assessments (with the exception of French Immersion) will be held on Friday January 24th at 8:40 AM. Please sign up for this session in the counselling center.

Numeracy 10 (all Semester One Math 10 classes)

	Monday January 13	Tuesday January 14	Wednesday January 15	Thursday January 16	Friday January 17
8:40 – 11:40	Tomiyama A Block Class				
12:00 – 3:00	Tomiyama C Block Class		Lafleur C Block Class	Priboj C Block Class	

Literacy 10 (all Semester One EFP 10 classes)

	Monday January 13	Tuesday January 14	Wednesday January 15	Thursday January 16	Friday January 17
8:40 – 11:40				Redpath A Block Class	
12:00 – 3:00		Elston D Block Class			Morrison D Block Class

	Monday January 20	Tuesday January 21	Wednesday January 22	Thursday January 23	Friday January 24
8:40 – 11:40	Morrison A Block Class				
12:00 – 3:00					

Literacy 12 (all Semester One English Studies 12/English First Peoples 12 classes)

	Monday January 13	Tuesday January 14	Wednesday January 15	Thursday January 16	Friday January 17
8:40 – 11:40					Bambrough B Block Class
12:00 – 3:00					

	Monday January 20	Tuesday January 21	Wednesday January 22	Thursday January 23	Friday January 24
8:40 – 11:40					
12:00 – 3:00	Lukianchuk Block C Class		Redpath Block C Class		

French Immersion 12 (all Semester One French Immersion Grade 12 students)

	Monday January 13	Tuesday January 14	Wednesday January 15	Thursday January 16	Friday January 17
8:40 – 11:40		Written Assessment	Oral Assessment (after FLEX)		
12:00 – 3:00					

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

BALLENAS SECONDARY

PRESENTS



FEB 18, 19, 20

25, 26, 27

7 PM

Tickets \$15 @

"Ballenas Online Store"



QUALICUM SCHOOL DISTRICT

Kindergarten Registration

January 20 to January 31, 2025

Online Kindergarten registration (through MyEdBC) for the 2025-2026 school year opens on January 20 through to January 31, 2025. To qualify for Kindergarten enrolment in September 2025, a child must become five years of age on or before December 31, 2025. Proof of Age for a student includes a birth certificate or passport. Check out the School District website registration page to see what else you need to know. www.sd69.bc.ca > Schools > School Registration

PROGRAMS OF CHOICE

French Immersion – when registering your Kindergarten child on-line at their catchment school, please be sure to **indicate in the notes field** that you wish to apply to have your child in the French Immersion Program. **Then complete** the Kindergarten French Immersion application Form.

Primary Learning Community - when registering your Kindergarten child on-line at their catchment school, please be sure to **indicate in the notes field** that you wish to apply to have your child attend the Primary Learning Community Program. **Then complete** the Primary Learning Community application form.

More information and the application forms for French Immersion and the Primary Learning Community can be found on the District website www.sd69.bc.ca > Programs & Services

CROSS BOUNDARY INFORMATION

The Board of Education believes that, in general, students should attend their catchment area school based on their home address. Transfer of a student to a school outside of their catchment area may be considered upon written application of the parent for consideration by the Associate Superintendent of Schools.

Parents wishing to request their Kindergarten child attend an out-of-catchment school within the district **MUST FIRST** register their child on-line at their catchment school, and then make their cross boundary request by completing the on-line cross boundary application form. The application process for the 2025-2026 school year will be open from January 21st until March 13th, 2025. The next opportunity to apply will be in the fourth week of August.

The on-line cross boundary application form can be found at www.sd69.bc.ca > Schools > School Registration > Cross Boundary



21st Annual Qualicum Beach

Seedy Saturday

'It starts with a seed'

Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

Saturday, February 1, 2025

10 am – 3:30 pm

- Seed Swap
- Master Gardeners answering questions
- Seed, Plant and Garden-Related Vendors
- Demos
- Educational Displays
- Children's Activity
- Door Prizes
- Seedy Café
- 50-50 Draws (cash only)
- No ATM on site
- Pesticide/chemical drop off (in original package)

Swap and Shop:

bring your seeds
for the seed swap
or buy local seeds
that have been
swapped!

Admission: suggested \$5 donation

Qualicum Beach Seedy Saturday Association

www.qbseedysaturday.ca • qbsschair@gmail.com

facebook.com/qbseedysaturday • instagram.com/qbseedysaturday