



# BALLENAS BULLETIN

#10 June 9, 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.*

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## MESSAGE FROM THE ADMIN TEAM

Welcome to June! The shortest month around, and one that is filled with a lot of activity as we all busily wrap up the year that was. While we are nearing the end of the year, there is no slowing down or shortage to events happening at school. Please keep your eyes on the [Ballenas Website](#) - specifically the calendar - where important dates and events are noted. You can also read our daily announcements which contain the fine print and many details about the daily happenings that are part of life at Ballenas.

Recent highlights include:

- Grade 8 Beach Day - WOW - an amazing day had by all Grade 8 students and their teachers - mini golf, beach, and pizza - what a way to celebrate the end of your Grade 8 year! Thank you to all who made this day happen!
- From Mr. Britz: *The golf team had a very good year. We hosted the North Island AAA Golf Championships at Fairwinds and placed 4th and qualified for the Island Championships. We then hosted the AAA Island Championships at Morningstar Golf Club and came 3rd which qualified us for the AAA Provincial Championships in Salmon Arm at Shuswap National. At the two day event the team played great and we placed 13th out of 22 teams. Brett Stouffer was an impressive -1 under par and placed 4th in the Individual competition. Shout out to the team made up of Brett, Seth, Ryder, Jonah and Rocco!*
- From Ms. Morrison: *Congratulations to all Track and Field Athletes on a wonderful season. Through three track meets (North Islands, Islands and Provincials), many personal bests were accomplished, friendships forged, and memories made. It was a fun experience, especially for those that made it to Provincials (Haydn, Bowen, Cole, Hana, Tristan, and Jonah). These individuals not only got to see themselves on the big screen, but witnessed a junior high jumper break the High School record, and saw our Canadian Race Walk Olympian Olivia Lundman present medals. Best wishes for the summer and see you all next year on our beautiful new track!*
- The Ballenas Track is nearing completion – we can't wait to see the finish line (literally!) A huge thank you to everyone who has come together to make this project a reality

## **GRAD 2025**

- We are so excited to celebrate the Grad Class of 2025! A reminder to parents that a [letter](#) was sent to all at the end of May outlining commencement details for June 26<sup>th</sup>. A copy of this letter can be found on our school website
- Grads will celebrate this week with a pancake breakfast, and trips back to their elementary schools. We extend thanks to all of our elementary school colleagues and students for hosting our grads - this is such a special event, and one not to miss! It really gets REAL once the Caps and Gowns go on!

As we move into these final weeks with students, we'd like to remind our community of the following:

- The last day of classes is Monday, June 23rd. Students are expected to be in attendance, and be *in* their classes until this time
- FLEX Wednesdays continue for the next two Wednesdays - this is excellent time for students to receive extra support to successfully finish the semester

- All students need to ensure they are demonstrating personal responsibility – always – and especially over these last few weeks. **A reminder to all that water guns, etc. are not permitted at school at any time**
- Learning Updates will be available for pick up from the office from July 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> in the main office

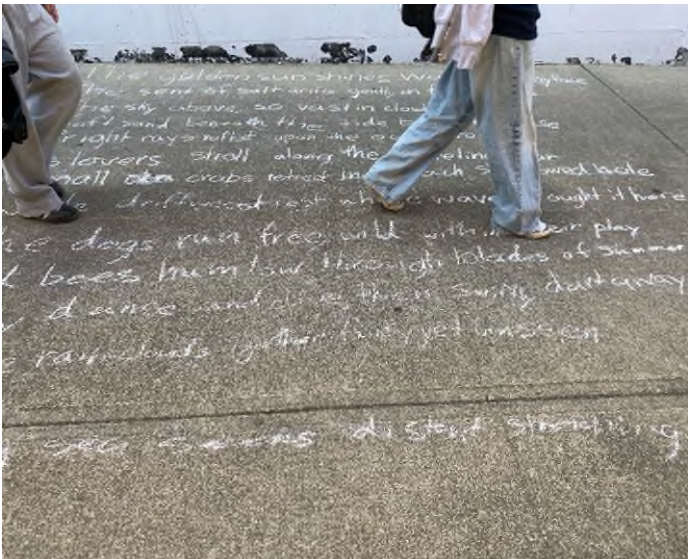
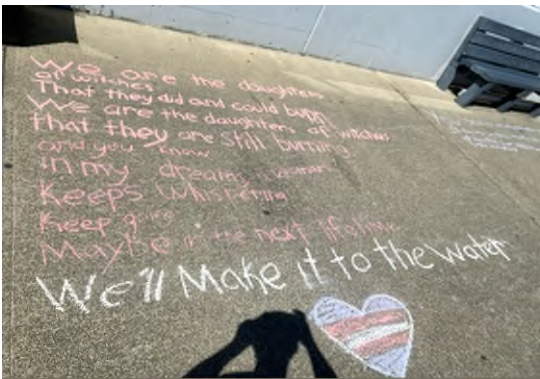
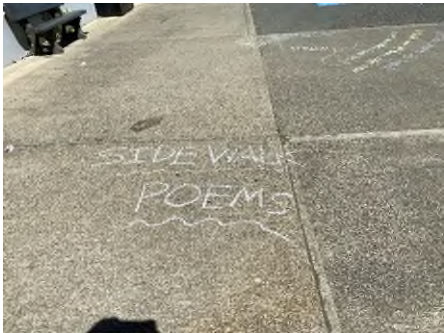
Our goal is for next year's schedules to be handed out before school ends for the year. Please note that they are subject to change; however, we wanted to give these out to students now to support a smooth transition back in September. Our counselling team has worked very hard to ensure that students have the classes they need to meet grad requirements. We build the timetable based on student input and selections. **Changes will be limited, and students are expected to stay in the classes they've signed up for.** We will issue timetables again in September when we return.

Finally - we want to say THANK YOU! Thank you to our PAC, Grad Parents/Caregivers, Volunteer Coaches, and to our **entire community** for your support this year. We are GRATEFUL for you!



SIDEWALK POETRY

Students in Mr. Bambrough's Creative Writing 11/12 class spread the art of poetic writing (and good vibes) to their widest audience yet, when they anonymously wrote out the lines of their best original poems, as well as lyrics to songs they love and the words of other great poets, in chalk on the sidewalks outside the front of the school. Their powerful words caught the attention of students and staff as they left the school for the weekend and when they arrived back on Monday, reminding us of the importance of communicating ideas and emotions through our art and through our passions. The creative writers were happy to share their work and get some time out in the sun as our semester begins to wrap up.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### JUNE

- 10 Year-End Band Concert 7:00 PM
- 11 Grad Walk and Pancake Breakfast,  
Commencement Packages handed out
- 12 Indigenous Education Graduation/Celebration
- 12 Round 2 Commencement Ticket Requests  
(if available)
- 13 Round 3 Commencement Ticket Requests  
(if available)
- 13 Grad Council President Speeches and Vote
- 14 Prom Arbutus Meadows 5:00 PM
- 19 Nurses Visit at Lunch
- 23 Final Day of classes
- 24 Regular Board Meeting 6:00 PM
- 26 Commencement 10:30 AM & 2:00 PM

### JULY

- 2-4 Learning Update Pick-up

### SEPTEMBER

- 2 First Day for Grade 8s only
- 3 First Day for Grade 9-12
- 11 PAC Meeting 6:30 PM
- 23 Regular Board Meeting
- 24 Photo Day
- 29 District Day – Students Not in Attendance
- 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation,  
Schools Closed

## WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

June 11	Day 1
June 18	Day 2

## GRADUATION DIPLOMAS

Diplomas will be available for pick up in September and any that are not picked up will be mailed at the beginning of October. Grads should ensure the main office has their correct mailing address.

## LEARNING UPDATES

Year-End Learning updates will available for pick-up at the office from July 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>. They will not be mailed. If you cannot make it during this time, the office will re-open on August 25<sup>th</sup>.

## LOST & FOUND

All unclaimed lost and found items will be donated at the end of the year, be sure to check to see if anything belongs to you.

## HOMESTAYS NEEDED

Qualicum International Student Program is still in need of homes at both Kwalikum and Ballenas for boys in grades 9-12. The stipend will be \$1100.00/mo per student this coming school year. We have many fantastic kids coming from Germany, Mexico, Spain, China and Japan who are still in need of homes and we need to place them now for the Fall. Please contact us directly as soon as possible at [homestay@sd69.bc.ca](mailto:homestay@sd69.bc.ca). If you apply online, be sure to list your school PAC as a referral.

## MY RIDE K-12 TRANSPORTATION WEBSITE/APP

The district is introducing a new Transportation App/Website service, **My Ride K-12** that will be the primary method of communicating bus routing information to families moving forward. This service is available via a web browser and website or via a downloadable app which includes notification features. See the [Transportation](#) section of our website for more information and an FAQ and sign up instructions.

## SCHOOL BUS REGISTRATION FOR THE 2025/26 SCHOOL YEAR IS NOW OPEN!

Go to the Qualicum School District Transportation [website](#) to access the online application form. Get your application in **before the end of this school year** for the best opportunity to secure a spot for you child and to **avoid extra fees**.

Bussing Fee Summary Table

	ELIGIBLE RIDER FEES	COURTESY RIDER FEES
Early - between April - June 30 <sup>th</sup>	Free	\$175.00*
Late - between July 1 <sup>st</sup> - July 31 <sup>st</sup>	\$25.00*	\$225.00*
Late - after August 1 <sup>st</sup>	\$50.00*	\$275.00*

*\*Parents and caregivers who believe these fees will cause financial hardship in their household are encouraged to speak to their school principal about fee relief. Options may include partial or even full fee waivers, depending on need, which will then be communicated by the principal to the Transportation Department.*

### REGISTRATION PROCESSING TIMELINES

April – June 30 only Eligible bus pass applications will be processed, on a first come/first served basis.

- If a bus reaches capacity, an Eligible Rider wait list will be created. You will be notified if you are put on a wait list.
- Courtesy rider applications received during this time will not be processed until after July 1.
- Exact bus route information will be distributed to families before the first day of school through My Ride K-12 website and App.

July 1- onwards Courtesy, as well as late Eligible bus pass applications will be processed on a first come/first served basis as space is available on the bus route(s) requested.

- Courtesy riders that are offered a space on the bus will be notified and asked to pay the necessary fees. When payment is received the application will be finalized. If payment is not made within 5 business days of being offered the space, the application will be re-dated and put back into the queue.
- If a bus reaches capacity, a wait list will be created. You will be notified if you are put on a wait list.
- Exact bus route information will be distributed to families before the first day of school through My Ride K-12 website and App.

Applications received after Sept 1 will be considered on a wait list and only accepted on a first come first served basis as space on busses allow.



## ATTN 2026 GRAD PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

Grad 2025 Prom Committee is looking for **2026 GRAD PARENTS/CAREGIVERS** who are interested in being a key part of planning the 2026 Prom. BSS will host an official Grad/Prom Meeting in the new school year...but the current 2025 Prom Committee would like to offer an opportunity to "see Prom up close". At this point we are not looking for volunteers who will "help" with Prom...but those individuals who know they like a good opportunity to LEAD a committee. (Typically, the Parent/Caregiver Prom Committee Leads are Event Coordination, Decor, Entertainment, Treasurer, Secretary, Communications and Fundraising). If you know YOU are *that* person who can't resist a good volunteer opportunity to spend a whole school year planning a PARTY!!!!..... Email: [bssgradinfo@gmail.com](mailto:bssgradinfo@gmail.com) and we'll connect you with the current 2025 Committee and see if there is an opportunity for you to come check out Prom on June 14th to give you a head start on your planning.

## SD69 COMMUNITY PAGE

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

# You are invited

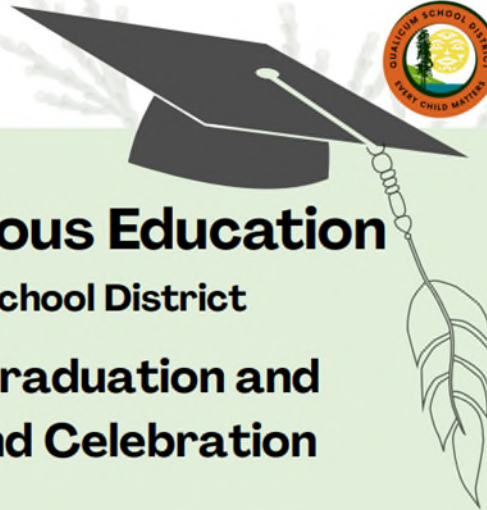


## Indigenous Education

Qualicum School District

### 2025 Graduation and Year End Celebration

## Thursday, June 12, 2025



Qualicum Civic Centre - 747 Jones Street

Doors open at 5:00pm

Dinner and celebration: 5:30-7:30pm

**RSVP**

<https://forms.gle/UM3NdtByppXSjARo7>

or leave message to RSVP at 250-954-3041, press 0



PASS  
Catering

Kristin Redpath  
Photography



## HOST AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

**We're seeking warm and welcoming host families in Parksville and Qualicum for students aged 13-18.**



Each year, about 180 students from 20 different countries come to our incredible district to experience top-tier education and immerse themselves in an authentic Canadian cultural experience.

Students come for a 5-10 month term or 4 week summer program



By becoming a host family, you provide more than just a place to stay—you offer a home away from home, a supportive environment, and the chance to share your culture while learning about another.

**All types of families are considered including singles, couples and more.**

**Apply at**

**[www.schoolincanada.ca](http://www.schoolincanada.ca) or  
call us at 250-951-0857**

### Why host an international student?

- ❖ Make a meaningful impact on a young student's journey
- ❖ Experience cultural exchange right in your own home
- ❖ Build lifelong connections with students from around the world
- ❖ Our team can help you to mentor and create lasting memories
- ❖ Receive \$1100/Month stipend for your hospitality
- ❖ You can host up to two students - no experience needed

## HOST AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT IN JULY FOR 4 WEEKS!



Students from Taiwan, Japan and Kazakhstan are here for a 4 week school program that is from 8:30 - 2:30 Monday- Friday. They are here to earn a course credit and have an authentic Canadian cultural experience

**All types of families are considered including singles, couples and more.**

**Apply at**

**[www.schoolincanada.ca](http://www.schoolincanada.ca)**

**or**

**call 250-951-0857**

**For More Info**



### Why host an international student?

- ❖ Experience cultural exchange right in your own home
- ❖ Build lifelong connections with students from around the world
- ❖ Our team can help you to mentor and create lasting memories
- ❖ Receive \$40/day stipend for your hospitality
- ❖ You can host up to two students - no experience needed



- **2025 BC Youth Vaping Survey**

Developed with the help of Grades 8-12 students who sit on the McCreary Centre Society's BC Health and Wellness Youth Advisory Council, the [2025 Youth Vaping Survey](#) is a great way for students to share their views and experiences with vaping and nicotine pouches, and suggest how schools and community services can better support students through health promotion and education, including prevention and intervention initiatives.

# 2025 BC YOUTH vaping survey

Take the survey here



- A survey about vaping & nicotine pouches for any youth ages 12–19 in BC
- Voluntary, anonymous, and confidential
- Takes 10–15 minutes
- Have a chance to win a \$50 gift card of your choice



McCreary  
Centre Society

This survey is being led by the McCreary Centre Society BC Health and Wellness Youth Advisory Council (BC YAC).

For more information about the BC YAC and the survey, visit [mcs.bc.ca/bcyac](https://mcs.bc.ca/bcyac) or email [mccreary@mcs.bc.ca](mailto:mccreary@mcs.bc.ca).

QUALICUM INTERNATIONAL  
PROGRAM  
**VISIT JAPAN**  
**MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup> - MARCH 23<sup>RD</sup> 2026**

An opportunity for current, past or future Ambassadors to travel to Japan over Spring Break 2026. We will visit major cities which will include **Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Nara, Takayama and Kyoto.** We will visit our sister school Aichi Keisei and have an opportunity to stay in a homestay family for a few nights .

Parent Meeting  
June 12 room 202  
BSS @6:30

**Projected Costs: \$3600-\$4600**

Your paragraph text

which includes: flight, accomodation, excursions, transportation and food/spending money (which will vary per student)

contact: [Carrie Philip cphilip@sd69.bc.ca](mailto:Carrie Philip cphilip@sd69.bc.ca)  
or  
[Ryne Barton rbarton@sd69.bc.ca](mailto:Ryne Barton rbarton@sd69.bc.ca)  
for more information





*34th Annual*  
**Coombs  
Community  
Picnic**



**5:30 - 7:30pm**  
**Friday, June 6, 2025**

**COOMBS FAIRGROUNDS**

1014 FORD RD, COOMBS, BC

**FREE hotdogs, hamburgers, cake &  
ice cream while supplies last**

**Bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets  
and enjoy a spot on the field.**



**Children's Games  
Coombs Memorabilia  
Live Music**

**Educational Displays  
Children's Railway  
Farm Animals**





## Leaders in Training 14-17yrs

July 2-4, Wed-Fri  
9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
\$150



Oceanside Place Arena

Register today at [rdn.bc.ca/recreation](http://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

Follow us on



## Ultimate Frisbee 11-14yrs

July 7-11  
9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
\$160

Springwood Field



Register today at [rdn.bc.ca/recreation](http://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

Follow us on



# WE'RE HIRING FAMILY PEER SUPPORT WORKER, QUALICUM ICY TEAM

## WORK WITH US

Family Peer Support Workers are parents and caregivers of children/youth who have mental health and/or substance use challenges. Your personal parenting experience is the primary requirement for this role. Your experience will help other families find help, comfort, hope and feel less alone.



[familysmart.ca/careers](https://familysmart.ca/careers)

