



BALLENAS BULLETIN

#7 MARCH 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 ADMIN TEAM

Welcome to March - longer, brighter days and signs of Spring are beginning to emerge; we can't wait. While a short month, February went by extra quickly, as it was filled with lots of activity at Ballenas.

February saw the wrap-up of Basketball, the culmination of months of hard work by the Whalebone Theatre and their presentation of *Grease*, Open House, course selection, Valentine's Day, Pink Shirt Day, Learning Updates, Grad Photos, SNOW, and let's not forget the seismic activity we've experienced lately.

We certainly enjoyed our Open House evening in February and meeting many new and current families. Following this evening, we've had many great visits to local elementary schools to share more about what Ballenas has to offer, and to lay the foundation for next year. We also enjoyed seeing many faces at Ballenas during our Parent-Teacher Conferences last week.

Ballenas students have also chosen courses for next year. **A reminder to all students that these selections are now due.** When we return from the break, we will be busily planning a timetable for our 2025-2026 school year.

Best wishes for a wonderful Spring Break - we know how fast things go when we return - so we hope you all enjoy the break ahead!

DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH		APRIL	
11	Regular Board Meeting 6:00 PM	7 & 8	Grade 12 Literacy Assessments
14	S2 x 4 Ends Grade 8's	10	PAC Meeting 6:30 PM
14	Last day of classes prior to Spring Vacation	14	Term 3 Starts
17-28	Spring Vacation	18	Good Friday – Schools closed
31	Schools Reopen after Spring Vacation	21	Easter Monday – Schools closed
31	S2 x 5 Starts Grade 8's	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

STUDENT LEARNING SURVEYS

Every year, students in Grades 10 and 12 complete a Student Learning Survey from the Ministry of Education and Childcare. This survey helps to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the student experience in secondary schools. This year, students in Grade 11 will also be completing the survey too. We will be supporting our Grades 10, 11, and 12 students with this survey during the first week of March. The survey is also open to parents. No login is required, and the link can be found on our website.

PLANNED BUSSING REGISTRATION FOR 2025/2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Qualicum School District is planning to open online bussing registration for the 2025/2026 school year on April 1, 2025. Please stay tuned for more information and updates, which will be posted on [our website](#) soon!

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

March 12	Day 2
April 2	Day 1
April 9	Day 2
April 16	Day 1
April 23	Day 2
April 30	Day 1

HUMANITIES WEEK

Last week, a group of teachers at Ballenas Secondary School put on “Humanities Week” to cultivate engagement and enthusiasm in the Humanities. Their hope was that this event would uphold, promote, and increase engagement in the Humanities while supporting and validating students with existing interest. It also attempted to challenge the widely held belief that Humanities are less academic and that it is not a valid option for post-secondary and career opportunities. Each day of the week, there were activities, guest speakers, workshops, and “lunch and learns”. With special guests like lawyers, intelligence analysts, the Narwhal, and so many more, students had the opportunity to hear from the experts!

Here's what one student had to say:

From a student's perspective, Humanities Week was one of the greatest opportunities Ballenas has offered. Focusing solely on Humanities, each day various superstars from different fields came in and talked to students about their careers and how they got there. All the way from the world of marketing to archaeology, students discovered it all! This week was extremely influential, as it showed students all the possible career opportunities and that are in Humanities, truly there are endless opportunities. Being a senior student, I always felt like I didn't know what one could do with a degree in the arts. Humanities Week was exactly what I would've needed to help me explore all the options I have right in the palm of my hands. The past week was not only beneficial for all students regardless of the field they pursue, but was a learning opportunity that I will forever cherish.

“Medicine, law, business, engineering, these are noble pursuits, and necessary to sustain life. But poetry, beauty, romance, love, these are what we stay alive for.” - Dead Poets Society



CPF OCEANSIDE – BOOKS NEEDED

CPF Oceanside is currently seeking donations of French books to be sold at the upcoming 'Festival du Livre' in May at EOES - keep your eye out for future details!

If you have any books you would like to donate you can drop them off at:

Mme Baynes room at BSS

the Office at EOES or see Mme Dragani

Bosley's Pet Store

Bumble Baby Boutique

Soaks Lifestyle Boutique

Or contact CPF Oceanside via Facebook for other options!

Profits from this event helps bring French Social-cultural entertainment such as the Dufflebag Theatre group coming in April to both Immersion schools, Carnival Celebrations and Scholarships for BSS Grad!

Thank-you for your donations!

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram - Canadian Parents for French Oceanside - for more info.

NIC PARENT AND SUPPORTER INFORMATION NIGHT

Join us on campus for a session designed for those supporting high school students in planning their post-secondary education and training. You'll learn about NIC programs, University transfer pathways, financial aid and awards, student housing and more. There will also be an opportunity to connect and ask questions with Indigenous Services.

Date: Thursday, March 13, 2025

Time: 5:30 - 7:00 pm (doors at 5:15pm)

Location: NIC **Comox Valley campus:** Stan Hagen Theatre

Registration is not required, arrive early to secure your seat.

Light refreshments will be served.

For questions or more information email futurestudents@nic.bc.ca . Looking forward to seeing you on campus!

SD69 COMMUNITY PAGE

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

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 |    





Royal Roads University is hosting an **Open House** on **Saturday, March 1**, showcasing our **boldly different undergraduate degrees launching in September 2025**.

We invite the Grade 12 students to have the opportunity to explore their post-secondary options. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to:

- ✓ **Discover innovative programs** launching in 2025
- ✓ **Engage with faculty, staff, and alumni** to learn about career pathways and student life
- ✓ **Experience RRU's unique learning approach** in interactive breakout sessions
- ✓ **Enjoy a free lunch, fun activities, and a guided tour of Hatley Castle**

🔑 Logistics:

We ask that students [register](#) in advance for the event

- Check-in begins at 9:00 am
- Open House runs from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm on Saturday, March 1
- Priority for grade 12 students; however, grade 11s welcome

🎁 Bonus: Win an RRU Starter Pack – Valued at \$2,000!

All attendees will have a chance to win one of two **RRU Starter Packs**, which include:

- 📱 **Apple MacBook Air 15.3"** (16GB RAM) for a seamless study experience
- 🎒 **RRU Swag** – Oakley backpack, sweatshirt, and coffee mug
- 🎫 **Experience Passes** – Adventures at Boulder House, WildPlay, and Malahat Skywalk

Plus, every prospective student in attendance will receive a code to apply to RRU for free!

Check out the RRU website for more information:

<https://www.royalroads.ca/events/open-house-undergraduate-studies-rru>



2025 TRACK & FIELD

STARTS 1ST APRIL 2025

Register Now!



Junior Development (age 9-13)
High School (age 14-18)

GO FOR YOUR PERSONAL BEST!

oceansidetrackfield.ca

GOODVIBES

Art Therapy Workshop

with Erica Williamson Art Therapist RSW, RTC

FRIDAY MARCH 28
5-6:30 PM

**A focus on self love and
acceptance. Using a
variety of art mediums.**

- Body Mapping - Using art to explore the teen years
- Temporary Body Art- Create you own image using temporary body art pens.

Ages:13-18

Registration: \$50, body art kit inc.

email: artnsoul.ew@gmail.com

**Venue: McMillan Arts Centre (MAC)
133 McMillan Street, Upper Level,
Parksville, BC V9P 2H5**





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.**

DEADLINE:
MAY 23, 2025



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. <https://www.foredbc.org/traditional-knowledge-contest>
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 [website](#).
- All entrants qualify for complimentary, honorary 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 [YouTube](#). **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.10th Ave. Vancouver, BC V6R 4P8
P: 604-737-8555 E: info@foredbc.org W: foredbc.org

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





For Grades 4-8
Deadline: 03/31/25



Call for Entries

CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST



Kids Write 4 Kids Contest Deadline: March 31, 2025

There is still time to enter. Whether you're a budding novelist, a poetic soul, or someone who loves to tell tales, this is your platform to shine.

Why You Should Enter?

- **Get Published:** Winners become published authors.
- **Make an Impact:** Book sales proceeds are donated to the winner's charity of choice.
- **Join the Panel:** Winners will become judges for next year's contest.

Educators, parents, and creativity enthusiasts – spread the word! Display [our poster](#) in your school, library, or community center to help discover the next wave of storytellers. <https://kidswrite4kids.ripplefoundation.ca/>

Meet our diverse and inspiring individuals on our [Kids Write 4 Kids judging panel!](#)

2025 Prom Parent/Caregiver Committee Invites You To A



Donate

Can't attend or want to
financially support Prom?



Scan and choose
"DRY GRAD/PROM"
in the drop down menu &
receive a Tax Receipt

Thursday, April 3, 2025
6:00pm - 10:00pm

Tickets:
\$35

Ticket includes: 1 beverage, 1 burger and choice of fries or salad

**TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM GRAD STUDENTS
OR EMAIL: BSSGRADINFO@GMAIL.COM**

Help us make it happen! Donate an item to our Silent Auction - Email us today for information!



THANK YOU TO OUR HOSTS:

Pacific Moon Rising ~1600 Stroulger Rd #1, Nanoose Bay



**MOUNT
ARROWSMITH**
BIOSPHERE REGION

*Connecting
People With Nature*

THE POWER OF

Stewardship

Discover the remarkable contributions of local stewards
dedicated to protecting and enhancing our region!

March 1, 2025 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

At the Power of Stewardship:

- Engage in a dynamic discussion panel led by MABRRRI Research Director Pam Shaw
- Meet local stewardship organizations
- Learn about volunteer opportunities
- Gain valuable insights on the impact of stewardship
- Discover Projects and how to get involved
- Network with like-minded community members
- Hear expert insights from Erica Forssmen RDN Drinking Water Watershed Protection Coordinator and Jacob Melville DFO Community Advisor



Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region
124 West 2nd Ave Qualicum Beach
250-594-0405
www.mabr.ca





Family Peer Support Position

Family Peer Support Position Integrated Child & Youth Team - Qualicum

- 17.5 Hours Per Week
- \$25/Hour
- Work from home position within the Oceanside area including Bowser, Combs, Errington, Nanoose Bay, Parksville, Qualicum Beach and Whiskey Creek

For more than 20 years, [FamilySmart](http://familysmart.ca) has been working in B.C. to help children and young people by helping their family and other caring adults. We know children and young people do better when the adults who care about them are supported.

Position Summary

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

As a Family Peer Support Worker, you are a member of the Integrated Child & Youth Team (ICY) in Oceanside. In this role, you will provide peer support to families and caregivers whose children and youth are experiencing difficulty with their mental health and/or with substance use who are receiving services from the ICY team. The ICY teams are part of [A Pathway to Hope](#) – the provincial strategy for improved mental health and substance use care in B.C. The ICY teams bring services together in a multidisciplinary team setting. The teams make it easier for children, youth and their families to connect to the care they need, where and when they need it – at school and in the community. [To learn more about these positions visit B.C.'s Integrated Child & Youth Teams](#)

The Family Peer Support Worker provides peer support to families and caregivers by:

- Working as part of the ICY team in Oceanside
- Providing emotional support to families and caregivers
- Sharing information and resources with families and caregivers
- Offering knowledge/education to families and caregivers
- Helping families and caregivers navigate (find their way to) services
- Building on parents and caregivers strengths and offering hope
- Meeting with families and caregivers in-person, by video chat, phone and email

You do not need to be an expert in mental health and/or substance use, your family's experience is enough.

You

- Are good at building relationships
- Make connections easily
- Demonstrate compassion and care to others
- Are able to work well with Service Providers and Educators and as part of a multidisciplinary team
- Have strong verbal and written skills in English (support available for the successful candidate) ● Will be collecting data and documenting your work
- Have a Driver's License and access to a reliable working vehicle, travel to meet with families in various communities is required
- Have the ability to work from a home office and in the community
- Have good working knowledge of Google Workspace, including gmail, calendar and docs
- Can pass a criminal records check

Preference will be given to individuals who:

- Have an understanding of the needs of many kinds of families including Indigenous, multicultural, multi-generational and those with diverse abilities and needs.

FamilySmart provides excellent support, supervision and training and will help you learn and develop the skills that we have discovered to help families and service providers work well together.

To Apply

We invite you to apply online by submitting your resume & cover letter to familysmart.ca/careers

At FamilySmart, experience with the child and youth mental health and/or substance use system is very important to us. Please consider including in your cover letter a little information about why this is important to you as well.

Please note that the assessment of applicants will be made on an ongoing basis and continue until a hire is made.

We thank all applicants, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. FamilySmart is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Personnel are chosen on the basis of ability without regard to age, ancestry, colour, family status, marital status, physical or mental disability, place of origin, political belief, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation and criminal conviction unrelated to employment.

familysmart.ca



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

Follow us on



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

Follow us on





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

Follow us on



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

Follow us on





Friday Youth Nights ~ 11-14yrs

Fridays 4:30-6:00pm

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

Follow us on



Mountain Bike Camps

Tu-Fr Mar 18-21

8-12yrs

9:00am-12:00pm \$225

13-16yrs

1:00-4:30pm \$250

Hammerfest Trails



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

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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

McMillan Arts 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

Follow us on



First Aid Training 13-18yrs

Red Cross Emergency First Aid

We Mar 19

9:00am-5:30pm, \$99

Oceanside Place Arena



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

Follow us on



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

Follow us on





PARENT PROGRAM

Helping Parents of Teens and Preteens



- Maintain strong relationships
- Understand your adolescent's behaviour
- Stay connected in challenging times

•
Wednesdays, April 2 to June 4, 2025
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Pre-Registration Required

Facilitators: Sarah Berry 250-213-3824
and Jean Paetkau 250-951-5869

Mindfulness in May

"Have Your Say" 2025 Art Exhibit

Open Call to Youth for Submissions

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-AI), Fabric arts, Mixed Media, textiles, Sculpture etc.

3 Categories: Visual Arts, Photography, Literary Art

All works due by April 4th

Submit online here:

<https://mindfulmay.artistquarter.com/>

Sponsored by:

Rotary
Qualicum Beach



VILLAGE EATERY
4 PIZZA HOUSE
Primrose Quay



Stephanie Higginson MLA
Ladysmith-Oceanside



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