



# BALLENAS BULLETIN

#9 May 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.*

## MESSAGE FROM THE ADMIN TEAM

May is upon us, and it feels like the school year only speeds up the closer you get to June. Slow down, time! There's been lots happening here at BSS – here is a glimpse of what we've been up to:

- We had a fantastic day of learning together at BSS on the last Pro-D Day. The school's focus was on culture and belonging, and on social and emotional learning in our school. We spent the day with a facilitator from the [The Circle Education](#). The Circle Education "promotes healthy relationships in order to foster communities free of violence, bullying, discrimination, assault and abuse."
- This past week Ballenas recognized Red Dress day, which is observed on May 5<sup>th</sup> and is the National Day of awareness and remembrance for the [Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and gender diverse people \(MMIWG2S\)](#)
- Ballenas will be hosting a Moosehide Walk on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm. [The Moosehide Campaign](#) is a grassroots movement of Indigenous and non-Indigenous men and boys who are standing up against violence towards women and children. Wearing the moose hide pin signifies your commitment to honour, respect and protect the women and children in your life and speak out against gender-based and domestic violence
- GRAD 2025 will soon be upon us. A reminder to graduates and parent/caregivers of the information found on the school website with important dates and updates. **A letter outlining graduation details will be sent via email to all Grade 12 parents/caregivers next week.** We will also be having a grad assembly next Wednesday to go through details with students. We want to take the opportunity to acknowledge the work of the Grad Parent/Caregiver Committee who is busily planning Prom 2025 and organizing a night to remember! Please see update from the committee to follow in this newsletter
- Learning Updates went home last Friday. If you have not seen it yet, please check in with your child. IE plans will be coming home by May 12<sup>th</sup> – this outlines any missing evidence of learning that may be present in classes that needs completing. A reminder to ALL that FLEX provides an opportunity each week for students to connect with their teachers to receive extra support or check in. Please converse at home about utilizing this time well, whether it be in a classroom setting for support, or to engage with an area of interest or passion
- Soccer, Track and Field, and Golf are all in action with groups travelling to various locations in the mid-Island region. Thank you to all of our student-athletes for representing Ballenas, and to teacher sponsors, coaches, and the parent/caregiver community for making these opportunities possible
- Leadership has had a busy month, hosting Easter fun, a very successful community carnival, and a whole school recognition of Teacher Appreciation Day
- Ballenas will be hosting [The White Hatter](#) (virtually) on Monday, May 12 for all students. The focus will be on social media and safety online. We appreciate everyone's continued efforts and support of [cellphone use here at school](#). We recognize the role that continued education and support plays in this, too

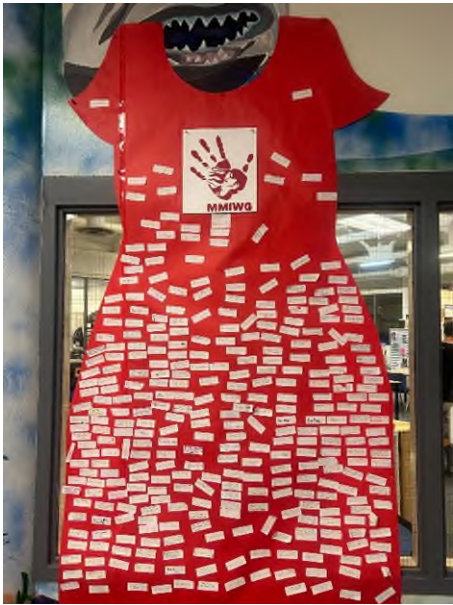
### Walk the Wheels!

A reminder to all students who are using bikes, e-bikes, scooters, and skateboards to be walking with these on school property. Morning arrival and afternoon dismissal times are busy, and we need everyone to be safe. Drivers (student and community), please exercise caution in parking lots (and everywhere, always) and be mindful of the many modes of transportation being used to come to and from school.

### Water Guns

A reminder to all that these are not permitted at school, ever. We've seen an increase in these with the good weather. Please do not bring these to school for any reason.

Thank you so much for your continued support and encouragement of all here at Ballenas. If you ever have a question please do not hesitate to reach out to us here at the school.



**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**MAY**

- 9 S2 x 5 Ends Gr. 8's
- 9 Grad Fee Payment #2 due (PROM \$175)
- 9 Valedictorian Forms Due
- 12 S2 x 6 Begins Gr. 8's
- 12 White Hatter Presentation
- 12 IE Plans Home
- 13 PAC Meeting 6:30 PM
- 14 Moosehide Walk
- 15 Grad Scripts Due
- 16 Conferencing Adjustment Day – Students do not attend
- 19 Victoria Day
- 20 Special Board Meeting 6:00 PM
- 23 Grad Guest Fees Due \$175
- 24 Prom Bottle Drive 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- 27 Regular Board Meeting 6:00 PM
- 28 Valedictorian Speeches and Vote

**JUNE**

- 10 Year-End Band Concert
- 11 Grad Walk and Pancake Breakfast
- 12 PAC Meeting 6:30 PM
- 13 Grad Council President Speeches and Vote
- 14 Prom
- 23 Final Day of classes
- 24 Regular Board Meeting 6:00 PM
- 26 Commencement

**WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE**

|         |       |
|---------|-------|
| May 14  | Day 1 |
| May 21  | Day 2 |
| May 28  | Day 1 |
| June 4  | Day 2 |
| June 11 | Day 1 |
| June 18 | Day 2 |

**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.

PROM TICKET Pick up & TABLE SEATING Requests - May 29th & 30th @ BSS

- Prom Committee volunteers will be set up at BSS for Grads to:
  - Pick up their physical **Prom Tickets**
  - Choose/Request their **Table Seating** group at Prom
- **Note: YOU NEED TO HAVE YOUR GRAD FEES PAID (by May 28th) in order to pick up tickets & have your name included in the table seating (on May 29th & 30th)**
- To ensure fees are paid, we invite you to **click [here](#) and pay them now.** (Anyone needing to discuss payment options, please contact the BSS Office)
- Guest fees can also be paid in SchoolCash online by clicking [here](#) (It will appear as an "option" item in the Grad's profile)
- **FAQ's:**
  - There are 8 People per table
  - Yes, all People need to have paid fees to add them as a group to the table. (ie: If 8 people are wanting to sit as a group...and only 7 have paid...only the 7 will be added to a table seating, that 8th person can't be added)
  - Yes, guests will also need their fees paid to receive their ticket or be included in seat selection



- **PROM BOTTLE DRIVE:** May 24th form 10:00am - 2:00pm in the Ballenas Parking Lot

## **2025 SUMMER EXPLORE YOUR CAREER OPTIONS**

A three week summer program where students can gain valuable training/ certifications and work experience in the Trades, Health and Human Services and other certificate based industries. In the first week, students will complete Level 1 First Aid/ Food Safe/WHIMIS training, tour local post-secondary campuses- VIU and NIC, visit local industry employers, participate in WorkSafe workshops and collaborate with the Parksville Career Centre to build resumes and other employment skills. The second and third weeks, student will be placed in a work experience with local employers based on their chosen field. Through this program students will receive a 4 credit elective course and fulfill some of the requirements for the HeadStart/ Dual Credit programs.

Itinerary and Intake forms are available from the main office.

## **SD69 COMMUNITY PAGE**

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



Connect with us!



100kidsoceanside.ca



@100kidsoceanside



# BE 1 IN OUR 100!

## 100 KIDS FOR CHANGE

Hey Changemaker, you belong in 100 Kids! We're a group of Oceanside youth who meet 4 times a year to donate money to local charities, and we'd love to see you at our next meeting.



Tuesday,  
May 13, 2025  
7:00-8:00 pm



Yates Memorial,  
1000 Allsbrook  
Rd, Parksville



Bring a cash  
donation to  
the meeting



## 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](mailto: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.



Follow FORED BC on social:



#213 - 4481 W. 10th Ave. Vancouver, BC V6R 4R8  
P: 604-737-8555 E: [info@foredbc.org](mailto:info@foredbc.org) W: [foredbc.org](http://foredbc.org)

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







**FRIDAYS**  
**May 2 - 30, 2025**  
**4:00PM - 5:30PM**

# MID ISLAND PROGRAMMING CLUB

**with Matt + Jonas**

Explore the world of software development, game design, modern application architecture, and web design. Learn new skills, collaborate on projects, and gain confidence. Ages 15+.

Participants to bring their own laptop. No programming experience required. Basic computer skills recommended.

**\$60 per 5 sessions**

**Register:** [arrowsmithrecreation.ca/classes](https://arrowsmithrecreation.ca/classes)

**BoMé Cheese - 1876 Alberni Hwy, Coombs, BC**

Kristine Stephenson: [stephenson@live.ca](mailto:stephenson@live.ca) or 250-927-3985

Tracy Cargo-White: [tracy.cargo@outlook.com](mailto:tracy.cargo@outlook.com) or 250-947-5272

FEATURING **35+** EXHIBITORS AND GROWING!

# NANAIMO

## HIRING AND POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION EXPO 2025



COUNTRY CLUB CENTRE

COUNTRY CLUB CENTRE  
SHOPPING MALL

3200 North Island Hwy.,  
Nanaimo, B.C.

**MAY 29 | 11am - 3pm**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC | FREE ADMISSION**



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LocalWork.ca  
& CAREER EXPOS

# JOB FAIR

**MAY 29, 2025**  
11am - 3pm

**COUNTRY CLUB CENTRE SHOPPING MALL**  
3200 North Island Hwy., Nanaimo, B.C.



**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC | FREE ADMISSION**



## 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](https://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](https://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](https://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





# School Newsletter – Vaccine Status Reporting Regulation



Dear Parent or Guardian,

Having complete information about students' immunization status allows public health to recommend immunizations a child may be missing and improves the health authority's ability to respond during an outbreak.

The Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation (VSRR) supports health authorities to collect school-aged children's immunization records so that all records are stored in one place: the Provincial Immunization Registry.

If you are new to British Columbia or have received immunizations in travel clinics, pharmacies or physicians' offices, your child's records may be incomplete.

The Vaccine Status Reporting Regulation applies to all students in public and independent schools within the province's jurisdiction, including students who are home-schooled and international students. The regulation does not apply to children attending schools in First Nations communities.

Island Health public health staff will be mailing letters directly to households of students for whom immunization records are missing or incomplete. If your child's record is up to date, you will not be contacted.

If you receive a letter, please update the child's records directly through the online Provincial Immunization Record Registry, or by dropping of records at your local public health unit. Schools do not collect or retain any immunization records. **Do not submit immunization records to your child's school.**


If you have questions, please contact your local health unit.

Sincerely,

Immunization Program,

Population & Public Health, Island Health

# School Newsletter – Vaccine Status Reporting Regulation

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>HEALTH GATEWAY</b><br>                    | <b><u>View Records at Health Gateway</u></b><br><br><a href="https://healthgateway.gov.bc.ca/">https://healthgateway.gov.bc.ca/</a>  |
| <b>Provincial Portal</b><br>                 | <b><u>Submit Historical Records</u></b><br><br><a href="https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/managing-your-health/immunizations/update-records">https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/managing-your-health/immunizations/update-records</a>   |
| <b>HEALTH UNIT</b><br>                      | <b><u>Find a Health Unit near you</u></b><br><br><a href="https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/find-care/find-health-services">https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/find-care/find-health-services</a>   |
| <b>VSRR</b><br>                            | <b><u>Learn more about VSRR</u></b><br><br><a href="https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-library/immunizations/children/vaccination-status-reporting-regulation">https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-library/immunizations/children/vaccination-status-reporting-regulation</a>                                   |
| <b>Tips to find historical records</b><br> | <b><u>New to BC? Tips on finding historical records</u></b><br><br><a href="https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-library/immunizations/children/immunizations-children-new-bc#paragraph-5456">https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-library/immunizations/children/immunizations-children-new-bc#paragraph-5456</a> |