



BALLENAS BULLETIN

#2 OCTOBER 23, 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.

Welcome | Nuw'illum | Bienvenue

Welcome to Fall! It was wonderful to see so many families in the school last week for conferences. Ongoing communication between home and school plays a key role in student success, and we encourage you to stay connected. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to teachers directly. Staff contact information is available on our school website under "[Staff Directory](#)" and was also shared in September through course outlines. We're now well into our school routines and look forward to an engaging and productive Fall together.

October Happenings:

- **FLEX (Flexible Learning)** is in full swing at Ballenas! Each Wednesday, students select a flexible learning opportunity — 40 minutes on Day 1 and 70 minutes on Day 2 — that aligns with their interests, goals, or learning needs. Options change weekly, but here's a sampling of what's been offered so far:
 - o Post-Secondary Planning (Grade 12)
 - o The Track Pack (running/walking on the new track)
 - o The Breakfast Club (cooking)
 - o Social Justice Club
 - o Play-Building in the Theatre
 - o Visual & Fiber Arts (crochet) and All the Strings
 - o RPG Club
 - o Open Gym
 - o Strength & Conditioning in the Weight Room
 - o Nature Walk to the Marsh (Indigenous Plants & Hul'q'umi'num Language)
 - o Academic Support in **All Subjects**
 - o Pop Culture Book Club
 - o Beading Group



FLEX is a valuable time for students to connect with teachers, explore interests, and strengthen skills. We encourage families to check in each week about how their student is choosing to use this time. Also, new this year – all students, including grades 10 – 12, will be required to sign-up for a learning space. Attendance is mandatory and absences will be reported through the school messenger/dialer.

- **Clubs** are another wonderful way for students to get involved and build community at Ballenas. An up-to-date list of all school clubs — including FLEX options — can be found on our [school website](#).
- **Fall Athletics** are in full swing, with Football, Boys' Soccer, and Volleyball teams representing Ballenas with energy and pride. A big thank-you to the many staff, families, and community members who make our athletic programs possible!
- **Leadership** hosted a spirited **Gym Riot** on the 15th — a great turnout and lots of fun for everyone involved!
- **Grad 2026 Prom Parent/Caregiver Committee** is now up and running! For details, visit our [Grad Parent page](#) on the website. The [Student Graduation page](#) and **Grad Google Classroom** are also updated regularly with important student information.

Coming Up:

- BC Post Secondary Institution Day @ BSS October 30th
- With Halloween approaching, we are reminding students to wear appropriate costumes that recognize our code of conduct – respecting self, place, and others. Our homeroom learning prior to Halloween is focused on making good choices when it comes to costume choices, and cultural appropriation vs cultural appreciation.

- We will hold a Provincial Assessment session on Wednesday, November 5 and Thursday November 6 (This schedule will be posted in announcements and in respective Grade Google Classrooms).

Block	Wednesday, November 5	Block	Thursday, November 6
B2	Makeup Exams Lit & Num 10 Room 901	A	English 12 Room 901
Flex			
A2		B	

- Ballenas’ Remembrance Day Ceremony will be held on Friday November 7th
- The Grad Parent/Caregiver Committee has organized a bottle drive for November 8th. Please come by the school and drop off your bottles any time between 9AM and 2PM and support the Grad Class of 2026!

October Code of Conduct Feature

Each month we will feature a piece of our Code of Conduct in Action in a proactive and aspirational way. During October, we are focusing on messaging around being an upstander vs a bystander as part of the ‘We Respect Others’ expectation. We are excited to be adding a Social Justice Club as a FLEX option as a means to provide space for having conversations around this topic. Furthermore, our school liaison officer Constable Ells visited some of our grade 8 classes discussing the perils and pitfalls of posting images online, encouraging students to be an upstander and report inappropriate posts to a trusted adult.



Expectation Matrix		
We Respect Others by:	We Respect Ourselves by:	We Respect this Place by:
✓ Treating others with respect and dignity ✓ Respecting others' privacy ✓ Communicating respectfully and using kind words ✓ Following the guidance and direction of school staff ✓ Being an upstander vs a bystander ✓ Understanding that any form of discrimination will not be tolerated	✓ Striving to get adequate sleep and proper nutrition ✓ Prioritizing our mental health and learning ✓ Prioritizing attendance and engagement in class ✓ Staying home when we are sick ✓ Recognizing that vaping, smoking and substance use is harmful for our growing brain and body ✓ Accepting policies that are in place to keep everyone safe	✓ Using school materials, library books and devices with care. ✓ Keeping our classrooms, shared spaces, playgrounds and community clean and free from litter and vandalism. ✓ Moving safely around the campus and respecting the personal space of others – this includes walking your wheels ✓ Being aware that we are members of the community and need to contribute positively to our neighbourhood and town.
When we make mistakes we: We take responsibility for our actions and impact. We work to make amends to whomever or whatever was harmed and we solve conflicts peacefully. We move forward and learn from our mistakes.		

Thank you for taking the time to familiarize yourself with the ongoings at Ballenas. As a reminder, the [school website](#) remains the best source for information about Ballenas – you can even read the daily announcements! Please do not hesitate to reach out at any time if you have any questions.

Thank you | Hay cep qa’ | Merci

Ballenas Administration

DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER

- 24 Provincial Professional Day – Students do not attend
- 28 Regular Board Meeting 6:00 PM TEAMS
- 30 BC Post-Secondary Institute Fair



NOVEMBER

- 3 Prom Parent/Caregiver Meeting 6:30 PM
- 8 Grad Bottle Drive 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- 10 Conferencing Adjustment Day – Students do not attend
- 12 Term 2 Starts
- 13 PAC Meeting (Budget Meeting Only) 6:00 PM
- 19 DPAC Meeting 6:30 PM
- 24 MATA District Pro. D. Day – Students do not attend
- 25 Regular Board Meeting 6:00 PM
- 28 Learning updates home

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

October

29 Day 1

November

5 Day 2

12 Day 1

19 Day 2

26 Day 1

BC POST SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS DAY

On Thursday, October 30th Ballenas will be hosting their annual BC Post Secondary Institutions Day (PSI) for all grade 11 and 12 students. During A block students will pick 2 info sessions to attend to learn more about programs that are offered at various BC Post Secondary Schools. Students will then go to their regular B block class and teachers will bring their classes down to the MPR for the PSI mini fair where they can interact with all the schools. The following institutions are organizations will be taking part: UBC, SFU, Canadian Armed Forces, Camosun College, Canadian Coast Guard, Royal Roads University, University of Victoria, Trinity Western, Vancouver Island University, University of Northern BC, Thompson Rivers University, North Island College, and Capilano University.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

The Qualicum International Student program is now recruiting Ballenas families. Families will be required to provide a private room and a warm and loving family environment. For more information please contact the Ballenas Homestay Coordinator Sandie at homestay@sd69.bc.ca

HOMESTAY NEEDED FOR SWISS BOY GRADE 10

The Qualicum International Student Program is in need of a home for a boy from Switzerland, Grade 10, attending Kwalikum Secondary School. His passion is Golf and he attends the after school program at Pheasant Glen Golf. He is an excellent student and a great kid but unfortunately is allergic to cats and horses! He likes dogs, kids, biking, skiing, cooking and plays the piano. He will be at KSS until the end of the school year. If you are able to host him and/or would like more information, please contact Jenny, ISP Coordinator/ KSS Homestay Coordinator as soon as possible at jatkinson@sd69.bc.ca.

Also - Students arriving second semester are also being placed at both Ballenas and Kwalikum at this time.

The host family application is online at <https://schoolincanada.ca/high-school-on-vancouver-island-in-british-columbia-canada/hostastudent/>

PROM 2026

Mark your calendars! Prom 2026 will take place on Saturday June 27th. If you have a student graduating this year, please email bssgradinfo@gmail.com and ask to be added to the email list to stay up to date. Our next prom committee meeting will be Monday November 3rd at 6:30 in the Ballenas library if you would like to help us plan an amazing prom! Our first fundraiser will be a bottle drive on Saturday November 8th at the Ballenas parking lot from 9:00am-2:00pm. Please bring your bottles! We also need grads to help sort (no counting required!)

SD69 COMMUNITY PAGE

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

BOTTLE DRIVE

DONATIONS ACCEPTED

PROM 2026 FUNDRAISER!

Support our Grads!

**Saturday, November 8
9:00 am to 2:00 pm**



ÉCOLE BALLENAS SECONDARY SCHOOL

135 PYM ST, PARKSVILLE





OCEANSIDE EAGLES

13/14U Girls Club Team Tryouts

Mon Nov 17 and Tues Nov 18

Exact time TBA (Between 5:30 - 9 pm)

Location: Qualicum Beach Elementary

15/16U Girls Club Team Tryouts

Tues Dec 2 and Wed Dec 3

Exact time TBA (Between 5:30 - 9 pm)

Location: Qualicum Beach Elementary

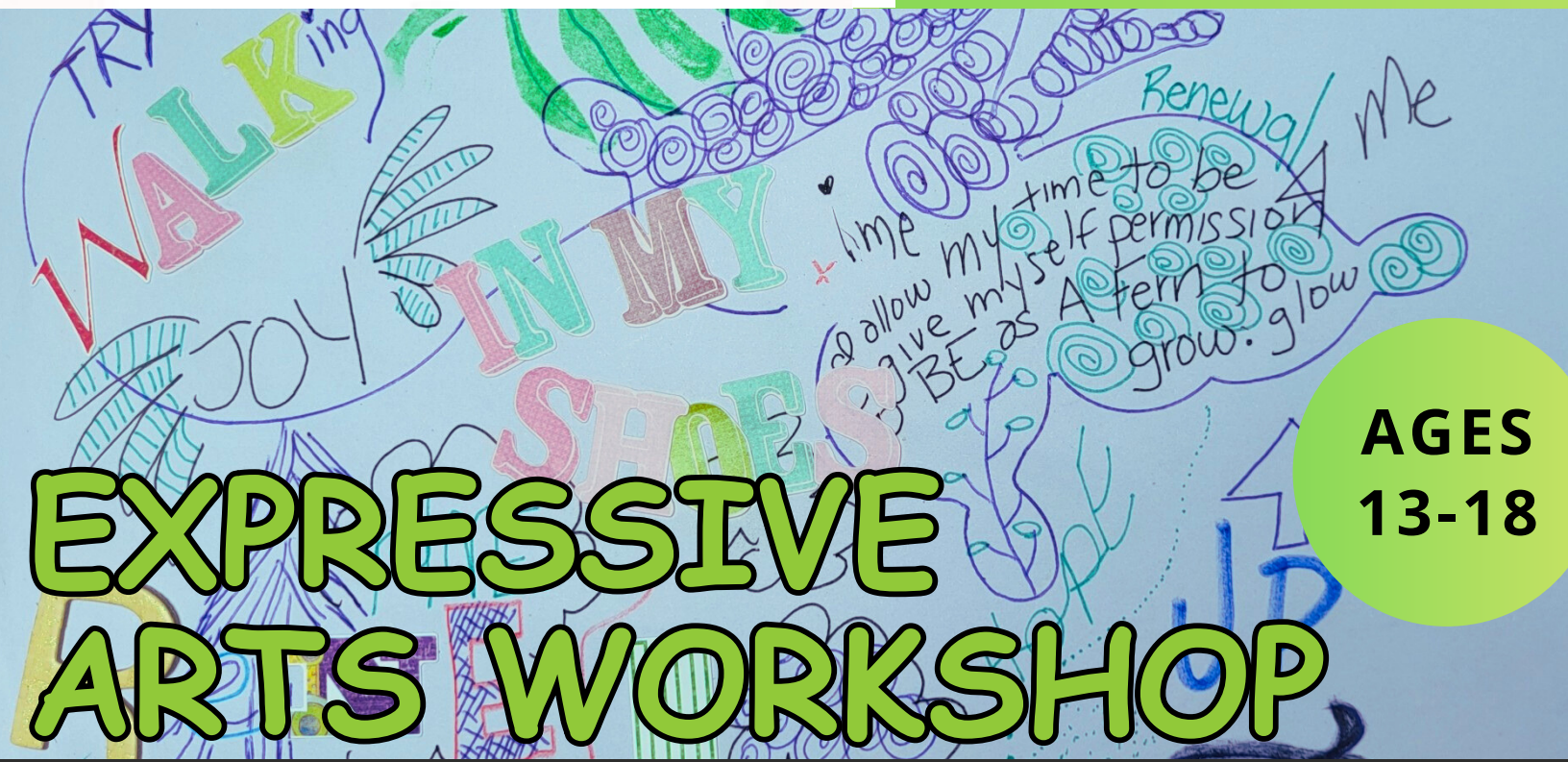


Tryout registration opens Oct 15th

Register on our website
oceansidevolleyballclub.com

Cost: \$35.00

TUESDAY
NOV 4, 2025
4:30PM - 6:30PM



EXPRESSIVE ARTS WORKSHOP

**AGES
13-18**

Led by Expressive Arts Therapist, Dr. Bonnie Nish, discover new ways to express yourself, connect with others, and have fun in a creative and supportive space. Explore different art forms—such as visual art, movement, writing, music, and drama—as a way to build confidence, reduce stress, and spark imagination.

All artistry levels welcome.

BY DONATION

Register: arrowsmithrecreation.ca/classes

MEADOWOOD COMMUNITY HALL
1830 GALVIN PLACE, QUALICUM, BC

Kristine Stephenson: stephenson@live.ca or 250-927-3985

OCT 31, 2025, 6 - 8PM

Entrance by Donation

56TH ANNUAL

COOMBS CANDY WALK



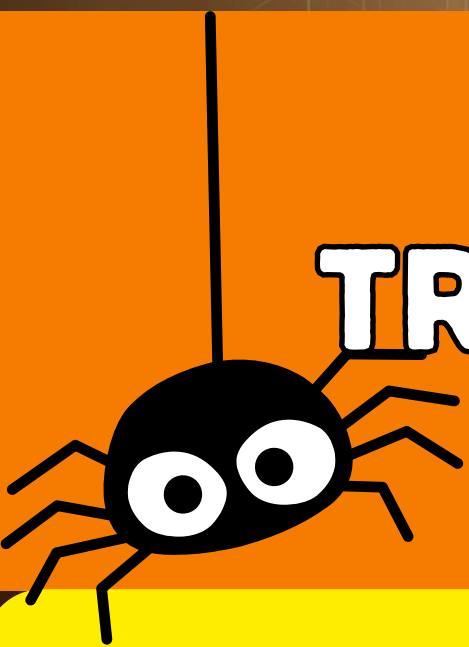
MIDNIGHT AT THE LIBRARY



Haunted House Fundraiser
Admission paid separately.

CONCESSION
TRICK-OR-TREATING
CAKE WALK

FIREWORKS (8PM)*
PHOTO BOOTH
***PLEASE NO PETS**



Coombs Fairgrounds, 1014 Ford Rd., Coombs, BC

Funding support provided by:



**REGIONAL
DISTRICT
OF NANAIMO**



ACRA
ARROWSMITH COMMUNITY
RECREATION ASSOCIATION

ARROWSMITH AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION



COOMBS FAIR

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>



Parents as Education & Career Coaches



EducationPlannerBC, in collaboration with school district partners, invites parents and supporters to join our virtual presentation:

Wednesday, October 29, 2025, from 6:30 – 7:45 p.m.

Learn about post-secondary education in B.C. Did you know there are 25 public post-secondary institutions with over 4,000 programs across the province? Come explore all your opportunities at EducationPlannerBC.

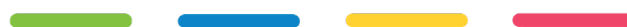
We'll show you how to use EducationPlannerBC's website to search thousands of programs, get to know trades, and discover career paths. Find helpful resources, including financial aid options, admission requirements, FAQs, and the Glossary. Learn how to create an account, save programs, paths, and careers to My List, and apply to post-secondary in B.C.

Have a student that attends a **Vancouver Island Coastal Region school?**

Register using the QR code or by [clicking here](#).



For more information, contact support@educationplannerbc.ca



www.EducationPlannerBC.ca