



BALLENAS BULLETIN

#1 September, 2024

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

Welcome back to our Ballenas families! We have liftoff!

The 2024-2025 school year has officially launched, and we are thrilled to have everyone back in the building, ready for the year ahead. Students have started, are reconnecting, and have settled into their classes; we are all finding our rhythm and routines again and there is a buzz of activity throughout the school.

Ballenas has welcomed many new (or newly returning) staff this year:

- Suzanne Haynes
- Amanda Young
- Leah Walberg
- Jergus Priboj
- Simon Hoodikoff
- Brittaney Noble
- Lynsey Taylor
- Catherine Jones
- Trisha Bahler
- David Biagioni
- Rebecca Weiss
- Ian Mills
- Darcy Switzer
- Jamie Jean
- Clayton Bambrough
- Bailey Espersen
- Matthew Thompson
- Sheldon Scow

Staff contact information can be found on our [website](#). Teaching staff will be sending home a "Connect Home" before September 20th. This is generally a course outline with contact information, an overview of the semester (or year) ahead, and important class expectations. Please contact teachers if you have any questions or do not receive this information by the 20th. Conferencing is held in October (9th and 10th) and we will send out information at the end of the month regarding how to book in for these days.

We held Welcome Assemblies for each grade last week where we shared key information from our refreshed [Code of Conduct](#) and ensured everyone is starting the year off with the same understanding around school expectations. Cell phone use was a big topic at these assemblies, and we know that this is a shift for many. We are supportive in our reminders, and clear in our expectations. As a refresher, here is the information that we sent out to all families prior to the start of school that was also shared with students in their first week and in their classes: [BSS Cell Phone Policy](#)

If you need to connect with your child during the school day with an important reminder, we do ask that you call the office if it is time sensitive.

The school looked a bit (or in some areas, a lot) different as students returned last week. We did mention this in our communications sent home in August, but we want to take the opportunity to again recognize the work of the Operations and Maintenance department as well as various contractors who are hard at work on the track as well as our gym changerooms. Ballenas also saw an interior paint refresh on doors, and a socialization area update. In addition to our gratitude to these groups, we want to acknowledge the work of our students. Our Student Voice group was very active in soliciting feedback from the all Ballenas students

regarding the changerooms and the socialization area. Their feedback was heard and actioned, and many of their ideas and suggestions are visible in these updated areas.

While we're just finishing our first full week, there is already lots on the go, and lots to celebrate:

- We welcomed all students back last week with a school wide Pizza Party – thanks to everyone who helped out and to our students for being amazing as they waited in line on a hot, sunny day
- We held our Terry Fox Run this past Wednesday during Homeroom. All students participated in a walk/run around the neighbourhood and were encouraged to bring a Tootsie for Terry. Note that the community Terry Fox event is happening this Sunday at Rath Trevor
- Athletics is in full swing and the Football, Volleyball, and Boys' Soccer seasons are upon us. We want to acknowledge all of our staff and community volunteers for their coaching efforts and for all of the work that goes on behind the scenes to make this happen.

FLEX learning begins this coming Wednesday. FLEX will be the first 70 minutes of each Wednesday, and is time for students to connect with their teachers for additional support, or to explore an area of interest (gym, shops, art, theatre, etc). While we did talk about this in our Grade Assemblies, we will be following it up with class visits on Monday to share our "Flexexpectations" around this time. All Grade 8 and 9 students will be signed up for spaces by their homeroom teacher. Grades 10, 11, and 12 will be able to choose a learning space from a variety of options posted each Wednesday.

Upcoming Information Sessions:

Grad Parent/Caregiver Meeting: Tuesday September 24th – 6:30 PM in the Auditorium

- At this evening, an overview of the grad year, requirements, and important dates/events will be provided. We will also be looking to form a Grad Parent/Caregiver Committee (this group organizes the Prom event)

Grade 8 Parent/Caregiver Meeting: Tuesday October 1st – 6:30 in the Auditorium

- All Grade 8 Parents/Caregivers are invited for an evening to check in regarding the Grade 8 program and anything you may be wondering about now that the first month is done. We will re-cap a lot of information shared in our Open House for Grade 8s and families last year

Student Club Showcase: Friday September 20th at lunch

- This event is for students and takes place at lunch. It is an opportunity for any club to set up and share info out with all students about the club, what it is about, when and where it meets, and more. More information will be shared in our announcements.

Our [school website](#) remains the best source for information. Our announcements are posted to the website daily, so if you're ever wondering what's happening at BSS, check it out. Of particular note, please find our "Essential Information" tab where you can view information that was shared with all students in their first days. You'll also find our schedule, a calendar with upcoming dates, and quick links for other resources and sources of information.

Stay tuned for much, much, more. We'll be back next month with another update.

Thanks for all of your support in our start up and beyond – looking forward to our year ahead.

DATES TO REMEMBER

SEPTEMBER

- 18 DPAC Meeting – QB Commons 6:30 p.m.
- 24 Photo Day
- 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

OCTOBER

- 9 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (online booking via website)
- 10 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (online booking via website)
- 10 PAC Meeting – Library 6:30 p.m.
- 14 Thanksgiving Day – School Not in Session
- 16 Photo Retake Day
- 18 S1 X2 Ends – Grade 8’s
- 21 S1 X2 Begins – Grade 8’s
- 25 Provincial Pro D Day – Students Not in Attendance

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

SEPT

- 18 Day 1
- 25 Day 2

OCT

- 2 Day 1
- 9 Day 2
- 16 Day 1
- 23 Day 2
- 30 Day 1

FLEX LEARNING

This is flexible time for students to receive additional support, or to explore an area of interest and passion. Grade 8s and 9s will sign up for spaces via their homerooms, and Grade 10s - 12s can self-select a learning area of their choice. Flex learning takes place each Wednesday from 8:35 – 9:56 and ***learning spaces will be posted throughout the school.*** Flex will begin on **September 18th.**

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

All students who need to ride a school bus to get to school and back home during the course of the school year must apply annually for ridership using the district's online Bus Application Form (one application per student/address).

FEES:

Eligible Riders Processing Fee \$25.00

Courtesy Riders Processing Fee, Ridership fee if approved to ride \$125/year per student

**Families can apply for fees to be waived through the online application process.*

Eligible Rider – home address is within the catchment area & outside of the walk limits for the school child attends. Addresses must be registered with the school. See district [School Locator Tool](#) to identify your catchment school.

Courtesy Rider – home address is within the catchment area and within the walk limit or outside the catchment area of the school child attends. 2nd home address must be registered with the school.

WALK LIMITS

As per Policy 704 walk limits are:

- K - Gr. 7 3.2 KM with the exception of BES, EES and NBES which have a walk limit of 1.5 KM
- Gr. 8 - 12 4.8 KM

For more information and online application see [Transportation Information](#) on our district website.

PHOTO DAY – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

We're excited to be working with Concept Photography for photo day!

- Photos will be online within 72 hours of photo day
- Online codes will be your student ID Number
- All ordering will be online, and will be shipped directly to your home

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

PAC meets the second Thursday of the month in the library at 6:30 p.m. Find out what's going on for your students and have input into your school. The PAC also distributes the lottery grant to extra-curricular programs. Please see attached poster from this year's PAC. More PAC information including Agenda's and Minutes can be found on our website under [Parent Advisory Council](#).

CPF CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH - PARKSVILLE/OCEANSIDE

The CPF Oceanside chapter will be having our next meeting to elect the vice president role. If any members are available to come vote or want to fill this role we would love to have you!

When: September 17, 2024 @ 3 PM

Where: École Oceanside Elementary School - exact location TBD

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

The office is getting a lot of requests for school supplies for our students. Please know that there are supplies available from our Child & Youth Care Workers for those families in need of financial assistance. Otherwise, please see our suggested [School Supply List](#).

LAST YEAR'S REPORT CARDS

Last year's report cards will be available for pick up until the end of September. Please come by the office to pick yours up before September 30th!

SIGN UP FOR THE NEWSLETTER

The Ballenas Bulletin is published once a month. Visit the Ballenas Website to sign up to receive newsletter alerts.



Sign up for our newsletter & keep in touch

GO

STUDENTS WITH HEALTH CONDITIONS

School staff recognize that there are students with health conditions that may impact the student's ability to function while at school. If your child has such a health condition, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to inform school staff so that we can support your child.

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

Students have been given a lot of information during the first week of school, including several very important forms that need to be completed and signed by the legal parent/guardian. Please complete and return the following forms to the office as soon as possible:

1. Student Information Verification Printout (Yellow Paper)
2. Annual Update – Emergency Release and Health Information (Pink Paper)

In addition, the following digital forms will be going home very soon. Please keep an eye on your email and follow the link to complete the forms:

1. Student FOIPPA/GAFE and YEARBOOK Consent

CONNECT WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHERS

You can directly contact teachers via e-mail under the “About our School” tab “Staff Directory” on our website. Connections will come home soon with all contact information and course overviews. Parent/Teacher Conferencing is October 9th & 10th, 2024. Booking for this will go live in early October and the [School Appointments On-Line](#) is found on our BSS website.

VOLUNTEERING AT THE SCHOOL

Do you plan on volunteering at BSS for sports, as a driver, for grad? All volunteers require a criminal record check which is free of charge. You only have to do this one time while your child is at Ballenas. If you plan on driving other students for an event, you will also require a driver's abstract form. Come see us in the office or call us for more information about either of these forms.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

If your student is absent for the day, please call the attendance line to let us know. You can also email at ballenas@sd69.bc.ca. If students need to leave for the day, or have an appointment, we do require a phone call to the office or attendance line, otherwise your student will be marked absent/unexcused. We do expect students to sign in/out of the office so in an emergency situation we can look at the clipboard and clarify if a student has left the building.

Reminder to families regarding pickup arrangements. We ask that you make any alternative arrangements for pickups that are within the regular school day ahead of time where possible. This alleviates school staff having to find your child if they are in PE or not in class as regularly scheduled.

NEWS FROM OUR THEATRE

This year's performance will be “Grease”. Auditions and rehearsals are Tuesdays and Thursday's after school.

CEAP

If students are taking a CEAP class, CEAP teachers are now in the building Monday – Thursday in Room 201. Please reach out to your teachers or come by Room 201 and check in if you are needing support or have questions about your CEAP class(es).

VENDING MACHINES

Over the summer we replaced our vending machines at the school. Students will have access to these machines during *non-instructional time* only. They are also cash-less machines, so will only accept bank/credit cards.

WEBSITE/INFORMATION

As always, our school website remains the best source of information, and is updated regularly. Please check it often. If you have any further questions, please contact our school office at 250-248-5721. <https://www.sd69.bc.ca/school/BSS/Pages/default.aspx#/=>

MY SCHOOL DAY APP

We are excited to announce that BSS has officially launched the “My School Day” app. This is an informative communication app that will help students (and staff) know what day/block rotation it is, what their timetable is and what is happening in the school via the daily announcements. This is part of a focus on clear and effective communication for this year. For more information on how to download the app see the attached poster at the bottom of the newsletter.

SD69 COMMUNITY PAGE

There is lots going on in the community! Too much in fact that we cannot post all of it in our newsletter. Did you know that the School District has a community page on their website? Please see the link below for events and workshops happening in the community.

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

"LET'S TALK EMAILS!"

DID YOU KNOW?

PACs and Schools need to maintain their own separate email lists.

BSS PAC invites you to sign up for BOTH!

THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO STAY CONNECTED WITH THE PARENT/CAREGIVER COMMUNITY AT BALLENAS!



Sign up for the **SCHOOL** newsletter by adding your email on the BSS homepage

Sign up for our newsletter & keep in touch

Your Email

GO



Sign up for the **PAC** newsletter by emailing **ballenaspac@gmail.com** and say

"Please add me to your PAC Newsletter List"



Informative & entertaining emails from PAC can contain:

- PAC newsletters
- Parent/Teacher Conference reminders
- Notes on school activities & FUNdraisers
- Reminders of dates & deadlines not to miss
- Parent/Caregiver education opportunities offered by the District
- Shoutouts for volunteers
- Public QSD Board meeting invites/agendas/minutes/reminders
- PAC polls & links to Google Docs
- Opportunities to let PAC know what is important to your family

"ALL BSS PARENTS & CAREGIVERS ARE MEMBERS OF THE PAC!"

WE'RE EXCITED TO BE WORKING WITH

CONCEPT PHOTOGRAPHY

FOR PHOTO DAY!

- ▶ PHOTOS WILL BE ONLINE WITHIN 72 HOURS OF PHOTO DAY
- ▶ ONLINE CODES WILL BE YOUR STUDENT ID NUMBER
- ▶ ALL ORDERING WILL BE ONLINE, AND WILL BE SHIPPED DIRECTLY TO HOME
- ▶ CONCEPT PHOTOGRAPHY IS A LOCAL COMPANY. QUESTIONS? REACH OUT THROUGH CONCEPTPHOTO.CA



We're looking forward to an awesome year of working together and getting to know the students!



CONCEPTPHOTO.CA





My School Day

Quick Start for Students
and Parents

Fall 2023



1. Download the app

You can find the app - **it's free to download!** - on the App Store (iOS) or Google Play (Android) by

- Searching in the store for "My School Day"
- Going to <https://myschoolday.app/download> in the browser on your phone
- Using the QR code at right.



Make sure to allow it to receive notifications when asked - the school will use them to send out important reminders, information and alerts.

2. Select your school

The first time you start the app you will need to select your school. Choose a province, school district, and finally your school from the lists provided, and tap "confirm". *This only needs to be done once.*

3. Follow channels.

Channels let the school administration and teachers send out information specific to your classes and activities, so you get only those notifications for your classes and those of interest to the entire school. To subscribe to channels:

- Tap on the "Classes" icon
- Tap "Follow Channels" in the menu
- Tap the checkboxes for the channels you are interested in
- Tap on the "Done" button.

Remember to check back regularly for new channels that your teachers may have added.



4. Enter your classes

Tapping on the classes icon also gives you an option to set up your timetable. Select that option and enter your class names and select colours and icons. You can also enter morning, lunch, and after school activities. When you tap on "Done", the app will fill in your timetable.

5. Access school information, links and files

The school and teachers will add links and files that provide resources to the school community such as course materials for remote learning, health advisories, and other school, district, and provincial information. To access these school-wide and channel-specific resources:

- Tap the info icon at the right hand side of the tab bar:

Remember to check back regularly for new resources that your teachers may have added.





Everyone
WELCOME



SD69 DPAC 2023/24

is proud to gift RAINBOW BENCHES to every school in the Qualicum School District.

THESE BENCHES SYMBOLIZE OUR COMMITMENT TO CREATING
A SAFE AND WELCOMING SPACE FOR
ALL STUDENTS, STAFF, FAMILIES & VISITORS!

LET'S CELEBRATE INCLUSIVITY TOGETHER!

GRAPHIC PROVIDED: PETER DRAKE (PETERDRAKEDESIGNS.COM) | ILLUSTRATION: JESSICA

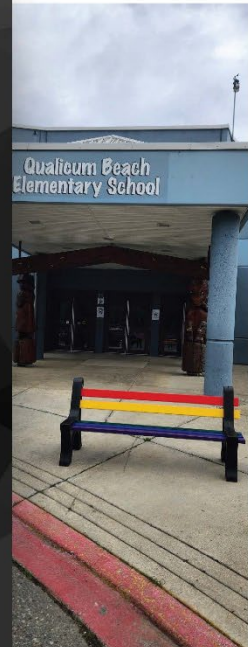


The 2023/24 DPAC executives are thrilled to announce the completion of a fantastic project: 24 brand new benches have been built, painted and delivered to schools within the Qualicum School District!

This project wouldn't have been possible without the incredible support of our community. We want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who contributed their time, effort, and resources to make this happen. A special shout-out goes to Home Hardware for their invaluable assistance. Their generosity allowed us to stay within budget, using approximately \$5,000 of the \$17,000 allocated by the vote.

We hope these benches bring joy and comfort to students and staff alike, providing a welcoming space for relaxation and connection.

Thank you again to everyone who made this project a success!



TRY YOUTH CURLING

SEASON COST
\$100



FUN FOR EVERYONE AGES 8-17

No experience necessary

All equipment provided

MONDAYS 3:45 - 5:15 PM OCTOBER THRU MARCH



For more information or to register
email juniorleague@parksvillecurling.com

or call 250-248-3764

Register early to reserve your spot!



WWW.PARKSVILLECURLING.COM

Meet Cheryl Bernard at PCC!

A Conversation with Cheryl Bernard

Saturday September 21 at 6 pm

Cheryl speaks about topics such as
Olympic fame, on-air announcing, and
managing Canada's Sports Hall of Fame

Tickets: \$30



Ask a Pro

Friday September 20 1:30 - 3:30 pm

Cheryl answers your questions about curling strategy,
leadership, teamwork, mental endurance and more

Tickets: \$20



Junior Coaching

Friday September 20

Intermediate 4:30-6:00 pm Advanced 6:30 -8:00 pm

A wonderful opportunity for youth curlers to receive on-ice
coaching from Cheryl, at no cost!

Advance online registration is required for all sessions

**Come Curl
with us!**

Parksville Curling Club
For more information
parksvillecurling.com



Community Services Centres

● **Meals on Wheels**

Helps residents maintain health and independence by delivering hot, nutritious meals, three times a week. Cost: \$10.00/meal. Administered by SOS in partnership with the United Way British Columbia and partially funded by the Government of BC.
Call Parkville ext. 225

● **Homeless Prevention Program**

Assists with homelessness due to crisis or transition. Eligible residents receive rental subsidies.

Partially funded by the Government of BC.

Call Parkville ext. 234

● **Counselling Referral**

Referrals to one-on-one professional counselling. Fee is determined on an individual basis.

Partially funded by the Government of BC.

Call Qualicum ext. 200

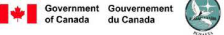
● **Personal Growth Group**

All are welcome to join the 10-week group that explores self-esteem, personal boundaries, healthy relationships and more. Ages 19+. Cost \$5 per session. Next session starts Sept. 19.
Call Qualicum ext. 200

● **PQB Home-Share Program**

Happipad, a Canadian nonprofit home rental platform, matches screened, compatible renters and homeowners in our region. Visit happipad.com/pqb. For assistance with the application process, **Call Parkville ext. 239**.

Supported by the Oceanside Task Force on Homelessness – The Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy.



SOS Community Services Centres | Parkville 250.248.2093 | Qualicum 250.752.2040
www.sosd69.com | sos@sosd69.com | [f](#) [i](#) [t](#) [p](#)

● **Seniors' Advocacy Services**

Residents' needs are determined through a confidential discussion. The Coordinator assists in finding supports and solutions through SOS programs and other resources. Administered by SOS in partnership with the United Way British Columbia and partially funded by the Government of BC.
Call Parkville ext. 239

● **Oceanside Better at Home**

The Better at Home program is designed to help seniors who are 65+ remain at home by providing a range of non-medical support services:

- Friendly visiting
- Light housekeeping
- Grocery shopping
- Yard maintenance

• Transportation to non-medical appointments. Administered by SOS in partnership with the United Way British Columbia, and funded by the Government of BC.

Call Qualicum ext. 200

● **Income Tax Returns**

Assistance with the preparation of basic, low-income tax returns.

Partially funded by the Canadian Revenue Agency.

Call Parkville ext. 229



● **Seniors Connecting**

A friendly, comfortable place to meet others and enjoy social interaction. Refreshments are provided and transportation can be arranged. Groups meet in Parkville and Qualicum Beach. Pre-registration is required.
Call Qualicum ext. 202

SOS Program Guide

Fall 2024



Supporting Community Together



Serving the residents of District 69

SOS Child, Youth & Family Programs



Pre-registration is required for all child and family programs. Drop-in for youth programs.

Child & Family Programs Parkville: 250.248.2093 ext. 249 | cyfcoordinator@sosd69.com | Cell 250.228.4066
Child & Family Programs Qualicum Beach: 250.752.2040 ext. 201 | childandfamily@sosd69.com | Cell 250.248.0997 | [@sosyouthgroup](#)
Youth Programs Parkville: 250.248.2093 ext. 232 | **Qualicum Beach:** 250.752.2040 ext. 204 | childandfamily@sosd69.com | Cell 250.954.9035
These programs are partially funded by the Government of BC.

EARLY YEARS

● **TICTAC (Time in Comfort for Tots & Caregivers) 0-5 years**

A welcoming and nurturing environment for parents/caregivers to take a break and recharge, while children play and build social and emotional skills.

Pre-registration is required.

Parkville Tues. & Thurs., 9-11 am

Qualicum Mon. & Wed., 9-11 am

*Wed. is Gym Play at Qualicum Commons



CHILDREN & FAMILY

● **Kids Movement: Play, Express & Grow Grades 4, 5 & 6**

Fun activities inspire confidence, friendships and a healthy self-image. Staff and volunteers provide mentorship and support. SOS provides transportation to the program from all District 69 elementary schools.

Pre-registration is required.

Parkville Thursdays, 3-5:30 pm

Qualicum Mondays, 3-5:30 pm

● **Family Night For families and seniors**

Spend quality time with family as SOS serves a meal and cleans up afterwards! We provide entertainment such as arts, crafts, games and music. We welcome seniors to enjoy time with the families.

Pre-registration is required.

Parkville Tuesdays, 4:30-7 pm

Qualicum Wednesdays, 4:30-7 pm



YOUTH

● **Tutoring Program Grades 6-12**

Professional tutoring available in Math and English at no cost. Available to School District 69 students attending regular classes.

Pre-registration is required.

Parkville & Qualicum Mon-Thurs., 3:30-4:30 pm or 4:30-5:30 pm

● **School Night Out Grades 7 & 8**

A safe space for young people to connect and express themselves through games, art, crafts and music. Adult mentors support, guide and listen. **Drop-In.**

Parkville Mondays, 3-6:30 pm

Qualicum Tuesdays, 3-6:30 pm

● **Youth Open Space Grades 9-12**

Connect with others, eat tasty food, play games and pool, make creative artwork, play music, get support from staff and have fun.

Drop-in.

Parkville Wednesdays, 3-6:30 pm

Qualicum Thursdays, 3-6:30 pm

● **GradWear For grads and their dates**

Find a new or gently used grad outfit for \$5, including accessories. Book 1-hour appointments starting in January. Donations to this program are accepted year-round.
Call 250.954.9035 to book.
Visit our SOS GradWear Facebook Page.



● **Teen Shopping Event For ages 12-19**

#SOSTeenShop runs twice a year, in the Fall and Spring. The Fall event takes place Sept. 5, from 4:30-6:30 pm at SOS Thrift Shop. This event offers great deals, along with food, prizes, entertainment and fun activities.

Community Services Centres

● **Recreation Assistance for Children & Youth**

Assists with costs for low-income families to register children and youth in recreational activities and summer camps.
Call Parkville ext. 241

● **Emergency Assistance & Advocacy**

Provides help in cases of hardship and unexpected financial emergencies, and may advocate for clients to reconcile financial obstacles. Also provides guidance to promote self-sufficiency.

Call Parkville ext. 241, or if age 60 or older, call ext. 239

● **Caring for Community at Christmas**

Provides special gifts to children and youth. Adults receive grocery store gift cards. Christmas stockings are also provided for seniors who are house-bound. Pre-registration is required and begins in November. Donations are gratefully accepted at both locations.
Call Parkville ext. 229

● **Medical Appointment Transportation Service**

Safe and friendly transportation to and from medical appointments within District 69 and surrounding area.
Call Qualicum ext. 200

SOS Community Services Centres | Parkville 245 Hirst Avenue West | Qualicum Beach 744 Primrose Street | www.sosd69.com | sos@sosd69.com | [f](#) [i](#) [t](#) [p](#)