



BALLENAS BULLETIN

#3 NOVEMBER 25, 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.

November has been a meaningful month at BSS, marked by important learning, reflection, and community connection. Together, we experienced a powerful Remembrance Day Ceremony led by our students. Our choir and concert band offered two emotional and beautifully performed pieces that set a thoughtful tone for the morning. We were honoured to welcome **Corporal Burrows**, who shared his story and spoke about the realities of service. His words reminded us that behind every uniform is a person — someone who has given their time, strength, and, in many cases, their life in service to others. Our ceremony also acknowledged **Indigenous Veterans Day on November 8th**, recognizing the contributions and sacrifices of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis veterans whose service has too often gone unacknowledged.

November 24th was our **MATA Professional Development Day**. These non-instructional days are valuable resource days for our staff to engage in their own learning to help better support students in their learning. Some of the topics from the day were: Indigenous story and Math concepts; Introduction to Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Systems and Incorporating Them in the Classroom; and Design for Every Learner: Universal Design Learning Choice Boards with Artificial Intelligence.

This week, **learning updates** are being sent home (Friday). These updates offer a snapshot of your child's progress so far this term and support ongoing conversations about learning. **Diploma Verification Reports** are also going home with students in Grades 10–12. These documents outline where each student is on their graduation pathway and help ensure that course selections and planning are aligned with their goals.

Each month, we highlight a piece of our **Code of Conduct** to continue strengthening our shared expectations and sense of belonging. This month's focus was on respecting self. In Homeroom, we encouraged students to organize lockers and binders in an effort to demonstrate executive functioning skills. Brain science tells us that the prefrontal cortex is the last part of the brain to develop during the teenage years, making executive functioning difficult for our students. Repetition and reminders are ways we can all help our students stay organized for their learning and in the end, respect themselves in their learning journey.

BSS hosted our largest **Grade 8 Try a Trade Day** to date, on November 25th. All Grade 8 students participated in an engaging and interactive career-exploration experience. Local industry partners and post-secondary institutions generously shared their skills and expertise, giving students hands-on opportunities to explore a wide range of trades and career pathways. Every year, our Grade 8s tell us this is one of their favourite experiences, and this year was no exception. A huge thank you to our community partners and to everyone who helped make the day a success—especially **Mr. Muirhead** for his leadership and coordination.



As we approach winter conditions, we want to share a friendly reminder that schools will remain OPEN unless significant damage to a school site or similar circumstances makes it impossible to operate safely (e.g., with no heat, roads unsafe to travel). In the unlikely event that there is a school closure, the School District will do its best to communicate this information as early as possible. More information related to school procedures for inclement weather can be found here: [Inclement Weather Reminder for Parents-Caregivers.pdf](#)

Thank you to our staff, students, and families for your continued partnership. November has given us many opportunities to reflect and grow, and we look forward to the learning ahead.

With gratitude,

Thank you | Hay cep qa' | Merci
Ballenas Administration

DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER

- 25 Regular Board Meeting 6:00 PM
- 27 PAC Meeting (Budget only) 6:00 PM
- 28 S1 x 2 Ends Grade 8s
- 28 Learning updates home



DECEMBER

- 1 S1 X 3 Starts Grade 8s
- 4 Snow Ball – School Dance 6:00 – 10:00 PM
- 9 Regular Board Meeting 6:00 PM
- 9 Winter Evening of Music 7:00 PM
- 19 Last day of classes prior to Winter Break

JANUARY

- 5 School reopens after Winter Break
- 8 PAC Meeting
- 21 DPAC Meeting 6:30 PM
- 23 Semester 1 Ends
- 23 S1 x 3 Ends Grade 8s
- 24 Grad Bottle Drive
- 26 Turnaround Day – Students do not attend
- 26 Semester 2 Starts
- 27 S2 x 4 Starts for Grade 8s
- 27 Regular Board Meeting 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

DECEMBER

- 3 Day 2
- 10 Day 1
- 17 Day 2

JANUARY

- 7 Day 1
- 14 Day 2
- 21 Day 1
- 28 Day 2

PAC Executive Team 2025/26

BSS PAC would like to take a moment to thank our volunteers who have accepted positions on our Executive Team for 2025/26. Without their dedication, generous gift of time and energy, we could not support our BSS Learning Community the way we do. It is our great honour to introduce you to the 2025/26 BSS Executive Team, please welcome the following:

Angel Delange - Chair
Karri Kitazaki - Vice Chair
Jessica Threlfall - Secretary
Amanda Hastings - Treasurer
Andrea Richardson- Director
Nestle Williams - Director
Cara McLaughlin - Director
Michael Kilburn - Director

BSS PAC Executive would like to acknowledge and thank The Variety Club of BC for supporting our IFIT Bikes initiative.

The Variety Club generously provided 50%, BSS Admin generously provided 25%, and BSS PAC contributed the remaining 25% so we could purchase 10 IFIT stationary bikes with desk extensions. We would like to thank Karri Kitazaki, Amanda Hastings, Michael Kilburn, Vicki Wickman, and Angel Delange for volunteering their time and muscle to get all ten bikes built. It was such a pleasure to see the kids enjoying them within minutes of having them built!

Thank you Whalers!

BSS PAC BUDGET Meeting - Thursday November 27 at 6pm

All parents/caregivers of BSS students are welcome and encouraged to attend our PAC meetings. Please join us Thursday November 27th at 6pm in the Learning Commons/Library for our budget meeting.

Please note that BSS Admin and our QSD Treasurer will not be in attendance because the budget is the only item on the agenda.

Prom News

We are thrilled to announce that Prom 2026 will be taking place on **June 27th at Tigh Na Mara!** Thank you so much to everyone who volunteered their time or donated their bottles to our first bottle drive - with your help we raised over \$3000! That takes approximately \$15 off of the prom ticket price for each grad. We will be having another bottle drive on **January 24th**, so please save the date and your holiday bottles! If you are not yet receiving prom emails, please send a message to bssgradinfo@gmail.com and ask to be added to the email list to stay informed.

SD69 COMMUNITY PAGE

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

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

SOS Caring for Community at Christmas

Creating the magic of Christmas
for local residents since 1968



Drop-in to register

Starting Nov. 18, low income families and individuals can register at the SOS Community Services Centre in Parksville from 9:15 am - 11:30 am and 1:15 pm - 3:30 pm, Monday - Friday. Parents and grandparents receive help providing gifts for children and youth, and grocery gift cards are provided to adults, seniors and families. Proof of residence, income and picture ID are required for all household members. CareCards, birth certificates or passports are acceptable ID for children.

Support the program

Financial donations: Donate online, by phone or in person.

Gift donations: New, unwrapped gifts can be dropped off at the SOS Community Services Centre in Parksville: Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 12 pm and 1 pm - 4:30 pm. Attend a local event benefitting the program, or locate an SOS Angel Tree at a participating business.

Thank you for helping create magic for residents in need!

SOS Community Services Centre

www.sosd69.com | 250.248.2093 ext. 229

245 Hirst Avenue West, Parksville

coordinator@sosd69.com |     



**Society of
Organized
Services**



Educational Charity
ripplefoundation.ca/contest





Use
your
voice
for Safety



2026 WorkSafeBC Student Safety Video Contest

WORK SAFE BC

Submit your video and you could win a cash prize!

Have you ever seen something unsafe at work and kept quiet because you were afraid, or didn't feel confident enough, to speak up? Tell us how young workers can use their voice for safety to speak up when something feels unsafe.

The contest is open to all students in British Columbia enrolled in grades 8 to 12. One video will also be recognized with additional prize money from the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety and advance to their national Focus on Safety Youth Video Contest.

Bonus Prize: One lucky creative team will win the Actsafe Aspiring Filmmaker Award, which includes tickets to the 2026 B.C.'s Arts and Entertainment Safety Conference and Gala, a behind-the-scenes tour of a local motion picture and television production and more!

Deadline for submissions: Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 5 p.m. Find the entry form and contact details at worksafebc.com/studentvideocontest



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>

Books by Thomas Meehan/Music by Charles Strouse/Lyrics by Martin Charnin
Original Broadway Production Directed
by MARTIN CHARNIN

Annie

QUALICUM BEACH SCHOOL OF DANCE
Village Theatre Qualicum Beach
January 9th to 18th



Info and tickets @ www.ticketowl.io/qbsd

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.mtishows.com

Based on "Little Orphan Annie"™ By Permission of Tribune Content Agency, LLC

WHALEBONE THEATRE PRESENTS

Footloose



Ballenas Secondary

FEB 17, 18, 19

24, 25, 26

7PM

\$15.00 - \$20.00

DISCOVERY PROGRAM

CAREGIVER CONNECTION GROUP – SUBSTANCE USE
AND YOUR YOUTH

Oceanside

UNDERSTAND

SUPPORT

EMPOWER

A group for
caregivers/parents to
talk, connect, and gain
resources around youth
and substance use



SUPPORT



EDUCATION



RESOURCES

DECEMBER 16TH, 4:00PM – 6:00PM

THE FAMILY PLACE, PARKSVILLE



island health

CONTACT: +250-927-2956 TO REGISTER

FOR THE OCEANSIDE COMMUNITY – 2025