



BALLENAS BULLETIN

#3 NOVEMBER, 2023

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 to November! Although this happens each year, we cannot believe how fast the first two months of our school year have passed. In early October, we were grateful to see two very full evenings of parent/teacher conferences and enjoyed welcoming many new and returning families into the school. Volleyball, Boys' Soccer, and Football have kept our athletics department busy, and the classic soundtrack from Mamma Mia has been in our heads (good luck getting it out of yours now!) thanks to an incredibly energetic and talented musical theatre group. We saw a wonderful display of creative talent this past Halloween, with many handmade costumes and lots of fun. Thanks to our Leadership group for organizing a variety of Halloween events! We also look forward to hosting the Islands for Jr. Girls' Volleyball this coming week, November 6th & 7th.

Life at any school is busy. Being connected to school, to others, to learning, and to activities is important. We have added a [CLUBS](#) tab to our school website. Joining (or starting) a club at BSS is a great way to get involved and to meet new peers. New clubs are always popping up as we are always open to new ideas from students. Students – please check out the [website](#) (and a club or two) if you see one of interest.

Connection to school and a sense of belonging is key to engagement, and our focus as a school this year is on understanding and increasing learner engagement. Together as a staff, and with the help of our students via Homerooms and CLC, we are working to build a common definition of engagement, and in the months to come, will be working as a community to better understand what this means and looks like in our community. As a staff, learner engagement is a central focus of our professional learning together, including staff collaboration time that is paired with FLEX Learning each Wednesday.

As mentioned above, FLEX Learning started in October. FLEX is an invaluable time for students to meet with their teachers, receive extra support, and connect with an area of interest or passion. Flex takes place each Wednesday morning from 8:35 – 9:56. Please talk with your child about FLEX learning and how they are using it. As our year progresses, teachers may be reaching out to you and requesting your child's attendance in a specific learning space. We have a variety of spaces available each week including:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| - French Immersion | - Guitar Club |
| - Humanities 8/9 | - Gym/PE Space |
| - Math/Science 8/9 | - FSL/Spanish |
| - English and Social Studies 10 – 12 | - English Language Learning |
| - Math 10 – 12 | - Open Computer Labs |
| - Science 10 – 12 | - Library Space |
| - Shops (Metal, Electronics, Art) | - Foods Room: Homework Space |
| - Art | - Post-Secondary Planning |
| - Theatre | - MPR Games and Connections |
| - Chess Club | |

We've got lots going on, and lots to keep track of. As always, our school [website](#) is the best source of information for you. Please check it regularly for important dates, updates and information.

On a final note, Fall is officially here which has brought darker mornings and earlier evenings. A reminder for our students who walk or bike to school - please ensure you are visible by wearing lighter coloured clothing that is reflective – please stay safe out there and follow the rules of the road.

Thanks for all that you do in support of Ballenas – we feel it and appreciate it!

BALLENAS FISHING CLUB

Ballenas Fishing Club would like to send a HUGE thank you to *Fishing for Fun Nanaimo* for their generous contribution of fishing rods, waders and gear!



Students have been out chasing salmon and other salt water fish these last few weeks and are having some success!



INCLEMENT WEATHER REMINDER

As the weather gets colder we’d like to remind you of the district inclement weather procedures. [Inclement Weather Reminder for Parents-Guardians-Caregivers](#)

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.**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Are you an early riser? Do you have some free time in the morning? Our amazing (and busy) meals program is looking for volunteers for breakfast each morning from 8:00 am– 8:40 am. Volunteers must have a Criminal Record Check on file with the school. Forms for this are available in the office or see [CRC Letter](#) and [CRC Form](#) . If you are interested in this, please come by the office, or email the school – ballenas@sd69.bc.ca

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

If your student is absent for the day, please call the attendance line to let us know. If they 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. We have asked our teaching staff to reach out proactively when they begin to notice an attendance pattern emerging. This is in support, and to gain a better understanding of what may be happening for our students that may be

contributing to an inconsistent attendance pattern. If you need any support in this, please reach out to us here at school.

STUDENTS, ARE YOU TAKING A CEAP CLASS?

Do you have a student enrolled in a CEAP class? CEAP is open from 8:45 to 2:45 daily. We are located at Winchelsea Learning Centre right behind BSS. Please contact your CEAP teacher directly for their support hours.

MY SCHOOL DAY APP

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER

- 9 Try a Trade – Grade 8’s
- 10 Conferencing Adjustment Day – School Not in Session
- 11 Remembrance Day
- 13 Statutory Holiday – School Not in Session
- 14 Pro D Day – Students Not in Attendance
- 15 DPAC Meeting – 6:30 p.m. Zoom (link on website calendar)
- 17 BC Post-Secondary Fair
- 30 S1 x2 Ends – Grade 8’s
- 30 Learning Updates Home

DECEMBER

- 1 District Wide Planning Day – School Not in Session
- 14 PAC Meeting – Library 6:30 p.m.
- 20 DPAC Meeting – 6:30 p.m. Zoom (link on website calendar)
- 22 Last Day of Classes Prior to Winter Break

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

Friday, November 3 rd	Day 2
Friday, November 10 th	Conferencing Adjustment Day
Friday, November 17 th	Day 1
Friday, November 24 th	Day 2
Friday, December 1 st	District Wide Planning Day
Friday, December 8 th	Day 1
Friday, December 15 th	Day 2
Friday, December 22 nd	Day 1

GRAD PARENTS

We are in the beginning stages of planning our 2024 Prom and want to ensure that you are kept in the loop. We have a couple of places for you to keep connected and informed. The Ballenas website is a great place to get information regarding dates, important events, graduation resources etc. The Grad Parent page can be easily accessed through this link.

<https://www.sd69.bc.ca/school/BSS/students/graduation/gradparents/Pages/default.aspx#/>

If you want to ensure you are looped in on Parent Communication, please email: bssgradinfo@gmail.com

**Please Note Poster Below for the first Grad Bottle Drive.*

BSS PAC NEWS

Next PAC Meeting & Budget Meeting is December 14th at 6:30. There will be no November meeting.

SD69 COMMUNITY PAGE

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



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.



Oceanside Volleyball Club

14U Girls Club Team Tryouts

Mon Nov 20 and Wed Nov 22

6 - 8pm

Location: Qualicum Beach Elementary



Must register prior to tryouts at:
www.oceansidevolleyballclub.com

f  OVCEagles

Oceanside Volleyball Club

14U Girls Club Team Tryouts

Mon Nov 20 and Wed Nov 22

6 - 8pm

Location: Qualicum Beach Elementary



Must register prior to tryouts at:
www.oceansidevolleyballclub.com

f  OVCEagles



Yath ćisum
Always growing
Grandissons ensemble

Public Notice

Qualicum School District

Considers Disposition of Property

The Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) is considering the disposition of property located at 2350 Alberni Highway, Coombs, British Columbia (known as the former French Creek Elementary School). Specific details of the property are Lot A, District Lot 143, Nanoose District, Plan 15661.

Prior to making any final decision with respect to the disposition of this property, the Board is seeking community input as to the best use for this land and invites written comments from the public **on or before November 30, 2023**.

Comments:

Written comments can be mailed to:

ATT: Ron Amos, Secretary Treasurer
School District 69 (Qualicum)
PO Box 430
Parksville, BC V9P 2G5

Or

Emailed to: ramos@sd69.bc.ca

Or

Dropped off to the School Board Office,
2nd floor; 100 Jensen Avenue E.; Parksville, BC

BSS GRAD 2024

Bottle
DRIVE

SUNDAY, NOV. 26TH
10 AM - 3 PM

Drop Off
BSS
PARKING LOT

135 Pym St, Parksville

**Pickup available for
full truck-loads**

Email:

bssgradinfo@gmail.com

All proceeds go towards the 2024 Dry Grad celebration