



BALLENAS BULLETIN

#1 September, 2023

School Website: <http://www.sd69.bc.ca/school/BSS>

Welcome to the 2023-2024 School Year!

We hope this message finds you well and that you have had a restful and enjoyable summer break. As we bid farewell to the warm summer days and welcome the crisp autumn air, it is with great excitement that we extend a warm welcome to all our students and families for the upcoming school year.

The beginning of the school year is a time filled with promise and new beginnings. It is a time to reconnect with old friends and make new ones, to embark on new adventures, and to set thoughtful goals for the future. This September marks the start of a journey filled with learning, growth, and countless opportunities for each one of our students. We have thoroughly enjoyed welcoming new and returning Ballenas students this past week.

Each month we will endeavour to give you a little glimpse into life at Ballenas via our newsletter. As always – our website is the best source for information (check out our daily announcements), and we are always more than happy to answer any questions you may have about anything and everything Ballenas.

We are excited about the possibilities this school year holds for all of us – we look forward to working together as a school community; together we can achieve remarkable things. Here is to a great school year ahead!

DATES TO REMEMBER

SEPTEMBER

- 14 PAC Meeting – Library 6:30 p.m.
- 20 DPAC Meeting - Zoom (link on website calendar)
- 25 Photo Day
- 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

OCTOBER

- 2 Statutory Holiday – School Not in Session
- 9 Thanksgiving Day – School Not in Session
- 11 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (online booking via website)
- 12 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (online booking via website)
- 17 Photo Retake Day
- 18 DPAC Meeting - 6:30 p.m. Zoom (link on website calendar)
- 19 S1 X2 Ends – Grade 8's
- 20 Provincial Pro D Day – Students Not in Attendance
- 23 S1 X2 Starts – Grade 8's

FRIDAY SCHEDULE

SEPT

- 15 Day 2
- 22 Day 1
- 29 Day 2

OCT

- 6 Day 1
- 13 Day 2
- 27 Day 1

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 \$0.00

Courtesy Riders \$125.00/year per student*

**Families with an annual income of less than \$50,000.00 can apply for a payment plan or to have bussing fees waved by completing the Financial Support Request Form and providing proof of income.*

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 25, 2023

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

CEAP

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.

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. Our first meeting is September 14th (to make up for last week). Please see attached poster from this year's PAC.

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.

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 have been sent via School Messenger. Please check your email and follow the link to complete the forms:

1. Student FOIPPA Consent
2. Yearbook Letter

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 11th & 12th, 2023. Booking for this will go live in early October and will be available

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. Forms are available at the office or from your child’s teacher. If you plan on driving other students for an event, you will also require a drivers abstract form . Come see us in the office or call us for more information.

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 “Mama Mia”. Auditions and rehearsals are Tuesdays and Thursday’s after school.

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#/=>

SD69 COMMUNITY PAGE

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



Parent Advisory Council

YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT SPOT!

Welcome 2023/24 Whaler Parents & Guardians!

We hope this infographic gives you some new info,
reminders of things you may have forgotten and
maybe some chuckles...we all need chuckles
...we have teenagers now!



HIGH SCHOOL PAC IS NOT LIKE ELEMENTARY PAC

There are no PAC fundraisers, hot lunches....Purdy orders* or typical
"Elementary PAC Meetings" - At BSS we have a glimpse of the 'education
marathon finish line' and **now is the time to clap harder and cheer louder!**



Our job is **LEARNING - SUPPORTING - ADVOCATING**

* These are all organized by BSS Students and groups like Leadership & Band

THINGS HAPPEN FAST

Best BSS Life Hack is to check (daily) the
DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS & CALENDAR on the main [BSS Webpage](#)



**Daily
Announcements**



Calendar

MEETINGS THAT INFORM

PAC Meetings are one of the best ways to get into
the school and **stay connected & informed.**

Meetings are attended by:

- Principal & both Vice Principals (if available)
- School Trustee *ALL Parents/Guardians are invited to PAC Meetings*
- PAC Executives *in the BSS Learning Commons Library*
- Parents/Guardians *on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30pm*
- Special Guests



"CAN YOU PLEASE DRIVE MY TEAM TO OUR GAME?"

- Games/Tournaments
- Concerts
- Conventions
- Graduation/Prom
- Class Trips

*Parents/Guardians are a key piece of High School
extracurricular activities.*

Criminal Record Checks (CRC) & Drivers Abstracts
are required for any volunteers. (They don't carry
over from elementary or other non school clubs)



*CRC's last 5 years - Stop by the BSS Office and grab
a form today and you're set until after Graduation!*



WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU & YOUR FAMILY?

The Schools, PAC, DPAC-District PAC, SD69 teamed up last year to (as BSS says)

... **Build Successful Students!** Here are some highlights from last year:

- Over \$20,000 in BSS PAC Gaming Funds went to BSS Clubs/Sports/Groups
- Courses and learning sessions were offered in: CPR & AED, SOGI education, Strategic Planning, Social Media & Digital Literacy, Parent/Guardian information sessions on Sexual health/safety and Vaping Risks & Realities

Your voice matters!

What successes do you want for this school year?

Attend a PAC Meeting or reach out via email and let us know!



BSS PAC IS HERE CHEERING WITH YOU!

Email: BallenasPAC@gmail.com

"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/GUARDIAN 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



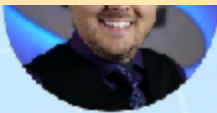
Sign up for the **PAC** newsletter by emailing **ballenaspac@gmail.com** and say

"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/Guardian education opportunities offered by the District
- Shoutouts for volunteers
- Public SD69 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 & GUARDIANS ARE MEMBERS OF THE PAC!"



M.G.C., M.A.
The White Hatter

Expectation:

• Nudes and sexting

Learn More at
www.thewhitehatter.ca



STAY CONNECTED



DO YOU HAVE A GRADE 7 WHO JUST HEADED TO HIGH SCHOOL?

Just like ELEMENTARY school PACs send out Emails...
HIGH SCHOOL PACs do the same thing!

High School Style

Your kids started High School...and you can too!
Now is the time to stay connected.
(The crazy busy FUN High School Days have started!!)



DO YOU ALREADY HAVE A STUDENT IN HIGH SCHOOL AND HAD NO CLUE BSS & KSS HAD PAC EMAILS TOO?

As we have highschoolers at home too -
we know "the messages & notes" don't always make it home.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO SIGN UP!

Send an email and ask
"Please add me to your PAC Newsletter list"



ballenaspac@gmail.com



ksspac@gmail.com

INFORMATIVE EMAILS FROM THE PAC CAN CONTAIN:

- PAC newsletters & links to Principal messages and School Newsletters
- Parent/Teacher Conference reminders
- Notes on school activities (ie: athletics & home games, art shows, concerts)
- Reminders of dates & deadlines not to miss
- Parent/Guardian education opportunities offered by DPAC & District (ie: First Aid, vaping)
- Shoutouts for volunteers
- Public SD69 Board meeting invites / agendas / minutes/ reminders / town halls
- PAC polls & links to Google Docs
- Grad information

Opportunities to let PAC know what is important to your family



All SD69 Parents/Guardians are members of the PAC
Together we got this !

Thanks!
SD69 DPAC

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





DISTRICT 69
BACKPACK
PROGRAM



88.5 The Beach & The Lounge 99.9 Fundraiser for the District 69 Backpack Program!

Because Hunger Doesn't Take the Weekend Off.

Friday, September 22nd, 6am - 10am.

Qualicum Commons - 744 Primrose St, Qualicum Beach

Accepting: Cheques, Cash, E-Transfers

Cheques can be made out to: School District 69 (Qualicum)

BC ROCKS YOUTH TRY CURLING!

AGES 9-17


SEPTEMBER 23RD, 2023
 10:00 am -12:00 pm


PARKSVILLE CURLING CLUB
 220 Corfield St N,
 Parksville, BC V9P 2S5


\$10
 Snack Included





REGISTER NOW





www.curlbc.ca/bc-rocks/

DROP IN CURLING ON SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16TH AND SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17TH
 FREE FOR ANYONE OVER 8 YEARS OF AGE.
 COACHES, SUPERVISIONS, SAFETY CONCERNS ARE IN PLACE.
 DROP IN FROM 1-4PM - SEVERAL OTHER YOUTH PROGRAM OFFERINGS



Youth / Junior Development

Friday Sept 22 4-7 pm
 Free coaching session for
 youth / juniors ages 8-17
 with 1+ years of experience

Come Curl with us!





Parkville Curling Club
 For more information
parkvillecurling.com





Learn To Curl this Fall!

September 16 & 17
 Free drop-in 1-4 pm
 Everyone is welcome!

Come Curl with us!





Parkville Curling Club
 For more information
parkvillecurling.com



PURPLE GIRLZILLAS

A GROUP FOR FEMALE IDENTIFYING YOUTH
AGED 9-12

HELD AT BGC'S PARKSVILLE CLUB EVERY
FRIDAY NIGHT FROM 6:30-8:30
(132 JENSEN AVE.)

Meet new friends, try out fun activities,
all while boosting your self-esteem and
self-worth along the way!

Register today by using the QR code
below!

For more info contact youth@bgccvi.com



REGISTER



HERE

GENQ+

LGBTQ+
YOUTH GROUP

FOR AGES 12-18

**EVERY
THURSDAY
NIGHT
6:30-8:30**

A SAFE, SUPPORTIVE, AND
INCLUSIVE SPACE FOR LGBTQ+
YOUTH TO CONNECT WITH ONE
ANOTHER.

SIGN UP



HELD AT 132 JENSEN AVE.,
PARKSVILLE
FOR MORE INFO EMAIL YOUTH@BGCCVI.COM

HERE



SCHOOL DISTRICT No.69 (QUALICUM)

Dear Parents/Guardians/Caregivers:

School District 69 (Qualicum) is committed to a safe and supportive environment for all. We take all threatening comments and behaviours seriously. Students, staff and parents should be aware of the Community Violence, Threat-making, and Risk Assessment Protocol that can be found on the District website and in all school main offices. Please take note of the following information:

What is a Threat: What behaviours warrant a Student Violence, Threat-making, and Risk Assessment to be initiated?

- A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something
- A threat may be verbal, written, drawn, posted electronically, or made by gesture
- A threat may include any high-risk behavior such as possession of a weapon or replica weapon

What is Threat Assessment: Threat assessment is a process that is followed when a school becomes aware of a threat made against a student, staff member, or the safety of the school building and its occupants. When any form of threat is made, a threat assessment team will investigate and appropriately enact the Community Violence, Threat-making, and Risk Assessment Protocol. A threat assessment team is made up of individuals who have received formal threat assessment training. Each school has a multi-disciplinary Violence, Threat-making, and Risk Assessment team. The team may include the School Principal, Vice-principal, R.C.M.P., Ministry of Children and Families, Senior District staff, and others. It is important for all parties to engage in the Violence, Threat-making, and Risk Assessment process. If for some reason there is reluctance to participate in the process, by the threat-maker or parent/guardian, the threat assessment process will still continue in order to ensure a safe and caring learning environment for all.

What Parents and Students Need to Know:

- Any threat must be reported to the school administration, counselor or some other trusted adult
- Investigation may involve the police and/or other community agencies
- Investigation may involve locker or personal property searches
- Interviews will be held with the threat-maker and other students or adults who may have information about the threat
- Parents of students who are directly involved will be notified
- Threatening behavior may result in discipline for a student
- An intervention plan may be developed for the student making the threat and a support plan developed for any individuals targeted by threats

Everyone Has a Duty to Report:

Often when we hear in the media about a violent incident, we learn that the threat-maker had made threats in advance of acting violently. To keep our school communities safe, students, parents, staff and community members must report all threat-related behaviours and high-risk activities. Every threat must be taken seriously, thoroughly investigated, and a response and follow-through completed.

Sincerely,

G. Wilson, Associate Superintendent of Schools



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 69 (QUALICUM)

2023-2024 Public Meetings of the Board of Education

The Regular Public Board Meetings of the Qualicum School District's Board of Education will be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month during the 2023-2024 school year.

Three exceptions are: the August meeting which will be held on Tuesday, August 29th; December Board Meeting; which will be held on Tuesday, December 19th and the March Board Meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, March 12th. There is no meeting held in July.

These meetings are business meetings of the Board which are held in public. The meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. and will be held via video-conferencing until further notice.

Committee of the Whole Meetings (COW) normally occur on the 3rd Monday or Tuesday of each month of the school year with none scheduled in December and March. Check the district calendar for dates and times. These meetings will be held via video-conferencing until further notice and the Policy COW and the Finance & Operations COW will be recorded and posted on YouTube.

The agendas and minutes of the meetings as well as the videoconferencing link can be found via on the district website at:

<https://www.sd69.bc.ca/Board/BoardMeetingAgendasMinutes/Pages/Board-Meetings.aspx#/=>



Family Accident Reimbursement Plan – Voluntary Insurance

The Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) provides information for families to voluntarily purchase student accident insurance through iA Financial Group, which is now offering a new comprehensive accident insurance plan with a critical illness component designed for the whole family.

The plan can supplement costs not covered by your provincial health insurance or existing employer extended health and dental plans. Regardless of the size of your family, all eligible family members can be insured under one set monthly rate.

For more information or to apply online, please visit <https://www.solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc>
