



# EES Newsletter

April 2024  
Issue #12

## Principal's Message

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Just prior to spring break, we wrapped up a successful volleyball season, and now many students are participating in the cross-country running club. I would like to thank the staff and the parent volunteers who give up their time to support these athletic opportunities. It is wonderful to see so many students participating.

## Families on the move

We are well into April and entering the final third of our school year. At this time of year, we have an increase in field trips and special class activities. Please try and make note of the many dates that may affect your child's classroom. Traditionally, the last few months could involve outside activities, transitions to high school and other unique learning experiences. Please reach out to teachers if you have questions about different events. We look forward to all the excitement that spring offers!

## Classroom Spotlight

## Families on the Move?

Please let the school office know if your family will be moving next year. We are beginning to plan for next year, and it is helpful if we are aware of any students who will not be attending EES in September.



## Student Learning Surveys

## Child Dental Benefit

## Drop-off and Pick-up

## Pete The Cat First Steps to School

## Training & Education Savings Grant (KF to Gr.4)

## Classroom Spotlight

Room 11 – Gardening Math

## Showcase of Learning

On Friday, April 12, Room 11 put their math skills to work while helping to move some soil into our new outdoor planters. Here is what they did:

## Health Education

- By looking at the amount of soil in the wheelbarrow and comparing that to the size of the planter box, they estimated it would take 3 wheelbarrow loads to fill the box.
- They were right!
- Next, they filled the planter box 2/3 full of 2 wheelbarrow loads of dirt that they moved with non-standard unit plastic milk containers. They put one Unifix cube in the bin for each full container.
- Back in class, the students snapped the Unifix cubes into groupings of 5 and then 10. Then, they counted by 10s to learn that 2/3 of the planter took **801** scoops to fill!

## EES Library News

## SOGI School for Families

## Online Safety Sessions, Safer Schools Together

## Student Learning Surveys:

The Student Learning Survey is for students in Grades 4, 7, 10, and 12, their parents, and staff.

The survey covers a wide range of topics and provides feedback on the implementation of the curriculum changes, learning environment, student wellness and satisfaction, student belonging and engagement, and career preparation. Questions were developed with input from partner groups, teachers and experts in educational measurement and special education. This survey will be administered to our Grade 4 and 7 students in the coming months. Parents of Grade 4 and 7 students are encouraged to complete this survey by clicking on the link below.

Parents may access the survey following the directions and link for **Direct Access** below. Surveys are to be completed by parents with children in Grades 4, 7, 10, and 12. A parent may complete a survey for each child in the targeted grades. The parent survey is available in English, French and 16 other languages. Thank you in advance for your participation. The survey is open until midnight on **May 3, 2024**.

### To complete the survey:

- Go to any computer that has an up-to-date internet browser access. Acceptable browsers include Firefox, Internet Explorer, Chrome, or Edge.
- Go to [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat\\_survey/access.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm)
- Scroll down to the "Parent" section and select *Direct Access – no logon number required*; then select:
  - District: the name of your child's school district (69 – Qualicum)
  - School: the name of your child's school (Errington Elementary)
  - Language: the language of your choice
- Complete the survey by clicking on the appropriate circle to answer each question. Move to the next set of questions by clicking on the right arrow in the bottom right corner of the screen. Click on the left arrow to navigate backwards.
- When you have finished the survey, you will get a message "Thank you for sharing your views".

## Child Dental Benefit

Families with an income of under \$90,000 are eligible for a dental benefit for uninsured children under 12. Applications are due **June 30**. Find out [more](#).

## Drop-off and Pick-up

Please note that school begins at 8:10am and dismissal is at 1:56pm.

We would like to remind parents to us the Lower Parking Lot for drop off / pick up of their students, in the morning and right after school.

## Pete the Cat is back! April 25<sup>th</sup>,



## Training & Education Savings Grant



April 2024

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The Government of British Columbia is pleased to inform you that your child may be able to receive a \$1,200 Training and Education Savings Grant.

Children are eligible if:

- The parent or guardian, and the child, are BC residents; and,
- The child's birth year is listed below, and the deadline has not passed:

BIRTH YEAR	APPLY BEFORE
2015	Apply before 9th birthday in 2024
2016	Apply before 9th birthday in 2025
2017	Apply before 9th birthday in 2026
2018	Start applying on 6th birthday in 2024

Once you open an account, known as a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP), the Government of British Columbia will deposit a \$1,200 BC Training and Education Savings Grant into the RESP for your child. Students can use the money to pay for their education expenses (e.g., tuition, books, tools, rent, or transportation) in an apprenticeship program, a trade school, CEGEP, college, or university.

**Plan today: you don't have to put any money into the RESP for your child to receive the \$1,200.**

**Step 1:** Get Social Insurance Numbers (SINs) for you and your child. Go to the [Service Canada SIN Overview webpage](#) or call 1-800-622-6232 to find out how.

**Step 2:** Make an appointment with a financial organization that offers RESPs. Bring the SINs for you and your child and let them know that you want to open an RESP and get the B.C. Training Education Savings grant for your child.

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Learn more: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/BCTESG> Contact: [BCTESG@gov.bc.ca](mailto:BCTESG@gov.bc.ca)  
Your child may also be eligible for other federal incentives, see: [canada.ca/education-savings](https://canada.ca/education-savings).

Ministry of  
Education and Child Care

Student Information Data and  
Education Network Services

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 9886 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9T6

Location:  
620 Superior St  
Victoria BC V8W 9H8

## Showcase of Learning

Communicating student learning is an essential part of education. EES Teachers are planning an opportunity to connect with families on **May 15, 2024 from 2:15pm to 7:00pm**, to celebrate the learning that has taken place so far this year.

This will be an opportunity for students to take a central role in sharing where they are with their learning as well as sharing what they see as their next steps. Students will share their portfolio at this time. As educational researcher Anne Davies says, "When students communicate with others what they have learned, they come to better understand what they have learned and what they need to learn."

There will be up to 4 or 5 students per class sharing during a 30-minute block. Teachers will mingle with families during this time. Please see the instructions below on how to use the online appointment booking system. Most families will find this time very informative and won't have a need to have a separate appointment with the teacher; however, if you still feel you need to discuss specific questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher directly to book an individual appointment.

To control congestion in the hallways, we ask that families please enter their child's classroom through the OUTSIDE door.

### School Appointments - Parent Instructions (Booking is available starting Friday May 26)

- Go to our school appointments web site: <http://ees.parentconferences.net>
- Click to "**REGISTER**" (top box). *If you already registered last fall for a parent-teacher conference, please skip to STEP 10.*
- Complete all the required fields.
- Click "**REGISTER NOW**".
- Click "**Add Student**".
- Complete the required fields.
- Click "**Insert**".
- Next to your child's name, click on the **blue calendar icon**. Click on the **blue calendar** beside your child's teacher name. When teacher is highlighted, click on **View Calendars**.
- Click on **an appointment day and time** that you would like to book. *Note your name is automatically put into the field at this time. Others who look on this calendar will not see your name, they will just see that the time slot is not available.*
- Click **Book Appointment**.
- **If you have more than one teacher:**
  - Go back to **Home**.
  - Click **Manage Students**.
  - Add **New Student**.
  - Complete the fields as above and continue with the rest of the process to book your other appointment(s).

**Note: You can edit or delete names if you have made a mistake.**

If you have any problems or questions, please contact the office at: 250-248-8446. Thank you! We are looking forward to seeing you at the celebration of learning!

## **Health Education Starts Mid-April**

Health Education is a part of the Physical Education curriculum and this year classes will begin in Mid-April. For younger classes this will mean a couple of classroom visits to talk about ways to stay safe and learn the scientific names for our private parts. For middle grades it's a few more classes to discuss similar content in more detail. For our older learners we have more classes which cover areas such as puberty, sexual health and identity and ways to keep our bodies healthy.

Below I've included the main learning outcomes from the P.E. curriculum that will be covered at each grade level. Please note the information your child receives may be slightly different from another child in the same grade depending on if they are in a split grade classroom. For example, a student in grade 3 might learn about some of the grade 4 content if they are in a grade 3 / 4 split class; whereas if that same grade 3 were in a grade 2/3 split class they would hear more of the primary content.

### **Kindergarten & Grade 1**

- Names for parts of the body, including male and female private parts
- Appropriate and inappropriate ways of being touched
- Reliable sources of health information

### **Grade 1, 2, 3**

- Names for parts of the body, including male and female private parts
- Strategies for accessing health information
- Strategies and skills to use in potentially hazardous, unsafe, or abusive situations

### **Grades 3,4,5**

- Describe ways to access information on and support services for a variety of health topics
- Strategies and skills to use in potentially hazardous, unsafe or abusive situations, including common lures or tricks used by potential abusers.
- Factors that influence self-identity, including body image and social media
- Physical, emotional, and social changes that occur during puberty, including those involving sexuality and sexual identity.

### **Grades 5,6,7**

- Practices that promote health and well-being, including those that prevent communicable and non-communicable illnesses.
- Sources of health information and support services
- Strategies to protect themselves and others from potential abuse, exploitation, and harm in a variety of settings
- Physical, emotional, and social changes that occur during puberty, including those involving sexuality and sexual identity, and changes to relationships

## EES Library News

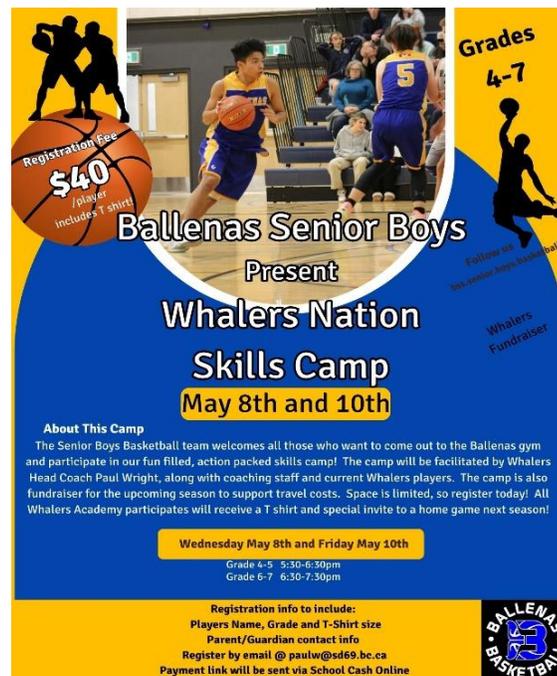
**SEASONAL ROUNDS - POLLINATORS, FROG AND CRANES:** It's Earth Month in our Library. We have many books and resources on display about pollination, animals and plants in this season of **tum qwilus** (Time of Ripening) under the **litmus** moon (Moon of the Sandhill Crane). This month on our nature walks, we'll study pollinators and plants along our Forest Stewardship Trail. Did you know we have a Butterfly Alley? We'll be talking about water, conservation and companion planting. We've got lots of great stuff available in the Library, come on in and check them out! Special thanks to our student Nature Leaders Anna, Adaya, Luca, Axsel, Aaleyah and Alexis!

**COAST SALISH WEAVE COLLECTION:** We are thrilled to welcome 10 pieces from the Coast Salish Weave Collection. The collection will arrive the week of April 15 and stay for a month in our Lobby Gallery. We will be sharing some fun activities with classes including Coast Salish Shapes + Geometry and Animal Traits. We'll also be learning about the Spindle Whorl design including the history of spindle whorls and the Coast Salish Woolly Dogs. Click here for more information about this fabulous collection <https://salishweave.com/>. Thank you to Sarah Elson-Haugan and Indigenous Education staff for helping us with this special presentation.

**LOST AND OVERDUE BOOKS:** Please check at home and bring back your overdue books. If you have lost a book, let us know and we can figure out how to replace it. Thanks!

Ms. Richards and Mrs. Cook

## Whalers Nation Skills Camp



The poster is for a basketball skills camp. It features a central image of a basketball game in progress. The background is split into yellow and blue sections. Text on the poster includes: 'Grades 4-7' in the top right; 'Registration fee \$40 per player includes T-shirt' on a basketball icon in the top left; 'Ballenas Senior Boys Present Whalers Nation Skills Camp May 8th and 10th' in the center; 'About This Camp' followed by a paragraph of details; a schedule box for 'Wednesday May 8th and Friday May 10th' with times for grades 4-5 and 6-7; 'Registration info to include: Players Name, Grade and T-Shirt size, Parent/Guardian contact info, Register by email @ paulw@sd69.bc.ca, Payment link will be sent via School Cash Online' at the bottom; and a 'Ballenas Basketball' logo in the bottom right corner.

Grades 4-7

Registration fee \$40 per player includes T-shirt

Ballenas Senior Boys Present

Whalers Nation Skills Camp

May 8th and 10th

**About This Camp**  
The Senior Boys Basketball team welcomes all those who want to come out to the Ballenas gym and participate in our fun filled, action packed skills camp! The camp will be facilitated by Whalers Head Coach Paul Wright, along with coaching staff and current Whalers players. The camp is also fundraiser for the upcoming season to support travel costs. Space is limited, so register today! All Whalers Academy participants will receive a T shirt and special invite to a home game next season!

Wednesday May 8th and Friday May 10th

Grade 4-5 5:30-6:30pm  
Grade 6-7 6:30-7:30pm

Registration info to include:  
Players Name, Grade and T-Shirt size  
Parent/Guardian contact info  
Register by email @ paulw@sd69.bc.ca  
Payment link will be sent via School Cash Online

BALLENAS BASKETBALL



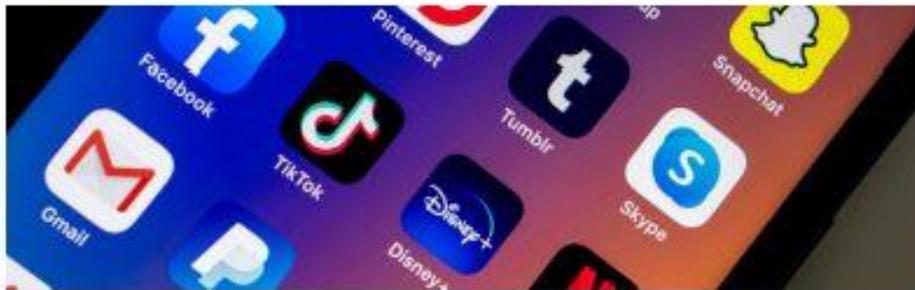
Qualicum School District  
in partnership with the  
District Parent Advisory Council  
Presents:

**SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS, DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP, AND CYBERBULLYING  
FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS OF SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN**

**DATE:** Thursday, May 9, 2024

**TIME:** 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

**LOCATION:** Ballenas Secondary School Auditorium, 136 Pym Street, Parksville



As a parent/caregiver, you lead the charge as a digital role model. Help your child develop a strong digital citizenship foundation while reminding them that their digital tattoo reflects their real and online selves. Parents/Caregivers have an important role to play in providing support and guidance during critical periods. A snapshot of current trends and concerning apps will be provided to equip you in your digital parenting strategy.

**DO NOT MISS THIS FREE EVENT**

- **Social Media Update** - The most current apps and trends in your children's social media lives
- **Digital Parenting Strategy** - How to have important conversations with your child around social media safety
- **Digital Footprint and Reputation** - With their future approaching, recruiters and employers are taking note - What will they find?
- **Family Tech Plan** - Recommendations for family guidelines and parental controls

Keynote Address

# SOGI SCHOOL FOR FAMILIES

Understanding and Supporting SOGI in Schools  
(Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity)

Diversity amplifies excellence.™



**Mischa Oak**  
Presenter

Mischa Oak (he/him) is a former BC teacher who has dedicated his career to helping others foster diversity. Two-Spirit & LGBTQ+ inclusion excellence. Through his company LGBTQ Corporate Training, Mischa advises school districts, multinational companies, First Nations and international development projects.

Mischa's advocacy career includes working for same-marriage legalization, coordinating Vancouver Pride, and advocating for transgender rights in the BC school system. Mischa is a Loran Scholar with an MEd in Social Justice Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning.



[www.lgbtqcorporatetraining.com](http://www.lgbtqcorporatetraining.com)

Questions? Email: [sd69dpac@gmail.com](mailto:sd69dpac@gmail.com)

## Families SOGI School



1.5 hr

Keynote

- Understanding SOGI
- Creating a community of allies
- 2S/LGBTQ+ 101
- What to say. What not to say.
- Understanding where anti-SOGI pushback is coming from
- How to talk about SOGI
- Supporting 2S/LGBTQ+ youth

- ✓ What SOGI in schools really means and how you can take part in being a 2S/LGBTQ+ ally.
- ✓ Build understanding together and turn away from fear and misinformation.

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

6:00pm - 8:00pm

BSS Theatre - 135 Pym St, Parksville

DPAC & Qualicum School District (QSD) are excited to bring Mischa back for a second year in row

Families  
QSD Staff  
CUPE  
MATA

are ALL invited to attend this Keynote Address



## Online Safety Sessions

[Safer Schools Together](#) is offering *erase* virtual family learning sessions on social media awareness and online safety. Share them widely within your districts and school communities!

Additional information and registration [here](#).

**Daily Lunch available @ EES**

Our daily lunch program is underway and while we have experienced some hiccups along the way in launching this new program, we are grateful to be able to provide meals at school for students.

Our dedicated PAC continues to offer Hot Lunch on specific Fridays. Ordering for both programs will be done through Munch-a-Lunch, however, it will be through separate accounts.

\*\*Please note that the ability to order lunches is a week prior to the date of the lunch.

EES Lunch Program (daily lunch)	EES PAC Hot Lunches (select Fridays only)
<a href="#">Errington School Meals</a> If you already have a PAC account use: <a href="#">ADD Errington School</a>	<a href="#">PAC Hot Lunches</a>

**Community Programs & Events**

We get numerous advertisements for community programs and opportunities to include in newsletters. Please click on the link below to view the events/programs offered within the community – access is via the Qualicum School District Community Page:

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

**RDN - REC Connect**

RDN Recreation and Parks offers programs and services year-round.  
 Link: <https://www.getinvolved.rdn.ca/rec-connect>

**Information for Families:**

- [Family Accident Reimbursement Plan](#)

**KEY DATES**

**APRIL**  
 29 - Pro-D Day (no school)

**MAY**  
 15 - Showcase of Learning (2:15-7:00 pm)  
 17 - Conferencing Adjustment Day (no school)  
 20 - Victoria Day (no school)

**JUNE**  
 27 - Final day of school - early dismissal