



(Photo by Alicia Deakins)

# Qualicum Beach Elementary School

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January 26, 2024

Important Dates to Remember	
Tues, Jan 30	Lions Club Vision Testing for Students in Grades 4 & 7
Wed, Feb 7	Coffee with Trustees – Parents Please Attend (2:40 in QBES Foyer)
Thurs, Feb 8	Ballenas Secondary School Open House – for Gr 7 students & parents 6:30
Fri, Feb 9	Junior Skills Day at Oceanside Elementary
Wed, Feb 14	Find Your Fit – Trades sampler at QBES for all SD69 Gr 7
Thurs, Feb 15	KSS Open House - Gr 7 students and parents
Fri, Feb 16	KSS Band Concert @ QBES
Mon, Feb 19	Family Day Holiday in BC
Tues, Feb 20	KSS visits Gr 7 classrooms – high school info and Q & A
Fri, March 1	Pro-D Day in SD69
Wed, March 13	Celebrating the Arts @ QBES
Fri, March 15	Last Day of School before Spring Break

## Kindergarten & Programs of Choice Registration Now Open until Feb 2

Calling all 4- and 5-year olds! Push, pull, or drag your parents to get you registered for Kindergarten here at QBES! Registration is **online** and is open now until February 2. If you have a 2019-born youngster at home, log in to the SD69 webpage today and access the registration form. We can't wait to welcome our next K's to our great school!

[Link to Qualicum School District webpage](#)



Also open for registration are the Qualicum School District programs of choice including the STREAM program. QBES runs two multi-age cohorts of STREAM. These draw students from Grades 4 – 7 across the district. If you have been thinking about trying STREAM, the **only** time to register is now until February 2. The form is also available through the district webpage above.

## QBES Read-a-Thon Starts February 5



Our QBES Librarian, Ms. Pickard, is joining forces with the QBES PAC to get students reading again this winter. Watch for your child's **pledge form** and **reading log** to come home. Minutes read both at home and at school – including read-to-self, audiobooks, and listening to someone read – all count toward accumulated total number of minutes. There are great prizes to incentivize your child to read...read...read until Spring Break. Teachers report big reading gains for students who become motivated to read by this challenge.

## PAC Purdy's Spring Campaign

Our wonderful QBES PAC continues to raise valuable funds to help with school programs and trips. Their spring **Purdy's Campaign** is now open and families can place an order using the link below. The campaign closes February 26 with orders scheduled to arrive prior to Spring Break. Thanks in advance for your support!

<https://fundraising.purdys.com/833610-115276>



## Book Fair Coincides with Read-a-Thon – Volunteers Needed



It's  
**Book Fair**  
Time!

For The Love of Books! Our school's Scholastic Book Fair is coming back February 12 – 16. Readers can discover new and bestselling titles coming right to our school. Bonus: Every purchase supports our school and helps to keep kids reading!

We are looking for parent **volunteers** to help with this important fundraiser. If you are able to help out, please contact Jen Pickard at [jpickard@sd69.bc.ca](mailto:jpickard@sd69.bc.ca) or just call the school and leave a message.

## Big Welcome to Clerical Pamela Legg



A big QBES welcome to our new clerical, Mrs. Legg. She is already hard at work organizing all of us and taking care of students' needs....all while learning the routines of a new school. Mrs. Legg is cheerful and likes to be busy...and she is a stickler for good manners – students are learning to say 'please' and 'thank you'. We are lucky to have found Mrs. Legg!

Mrs. Legg's first request of parents is to PLEASE make **end-of-day arrangements** with your child at home in the morning. She is finding the volume of last-minute calls to the school at the end of the day unnecessarily heavy. Thanks for helping with this.

## Qualicum School District International Program

Our International Program within the school district is hoping to secure some new Homestay families for next school year. If you're interested, hit the link below for further information. Program rep Ronda Bell visited the recent PAC meeting and provided that group with an interesting look at the benefits of being a Homestay.

[Link to International Program Poster](#)

## Free Throw Competition

Congratulations to everyone who competed in The successful competitors at each age level (9 level in a couple of weeks. We wish you well! Knights of Columbus who sponsor this event



the Free throw Competition in the gym this week. – 13 year olds) will be competing at the district Many thanks to the gentlemen with the local every year and make the prize money available.

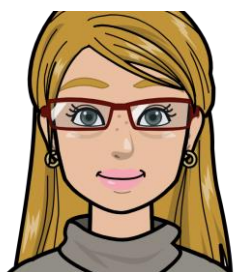
## Volleyball Underway



This year QBES is supporting two girls' teams and one boys' team in Volleyball. Coaches Eirikson and Titanic report that their groups are easy to work with and already have solid volleyball basics. It's going to be another fun season of sport at QBES!

Boys' games will on Tuesdays and Girls' games will be Thursdays. QBES is one of the host schools for these weekly play days so be sure to come check it out.

## A Message from the Principal, Ms McKinnon



It's a new year, fresh with surprises including snowfalls and snow days. The school field is now patchy with snow piles, but while it lasted, the snow presented exciting opportunities for kids who are largely strangers to snow to build and create. It also made getting to school difficult for many families last week, so in that sense it's good that it's over as fast as it hit.

A new round of exploratories has begun for our Grade 5 to 7 students. Most of the offerings remain the same with just two exceptions. While Mountain Biking is paused, Mr. Siemens is able to offer ADST Design. Additionally, we have added a popular ADST Sewing this term with Ms. Whitehead.

As we move into the second third of the school year, there are more activities ahead that we hope you will enjoy. One such event is the annual Read-a-Thon sponsored by PAC. Your child will be bringing home their pledge sheets to get started the week of February 5. At the suggestion of PAC, we recently added a link to the school website so that parents can stay up to date on all student happenings by viewing our student announcement slides. Look for a link called "[Weekly Happenings/Student Announcements](#)".

Another event currently being considered is a celebration of the Fine Arts. This will be an opportunity to take in drama, music, and visual arts. More info to follow – but do hold March 13 as the probable date.

If your child is in Grade 7 then February will be a busy month as both Ballenas (Feb 8) and KSS (Feb 15) are opening their doors to Grade 7s and their families for an Open House. You can expect to hear from school administration and counsellors about program options at the respective schools and have a chance to explore the buildings. Staff from KSS are visiting our Grade 7 classes on Feb 20 and prior to Spring Break you will be asked to submit your choices for Grade 8. It is a very exciting time!

For all of our other students, the work of childhood continues. With very few interruptions in the weeks leading up to Spring Break, teachers are working earnestly - within the routines that were established in the first part of the year - to advance learning. Your parenting role with bedtime routines, healthy meals, and providing rich learning opportunities at home is, as always, noted and appreciated. Keep it up!

Snow Days



Please Pack a Change of Clothes

After the snow our field has become quite saturated. Please send your child in a warm jacket and boots if possible. Sitting in wet clothes is a drag, so sending fresh pants and socks is helpful. The trick is remembering to replenish the stocks once used.



Anyone with good used pants, shoes, or sweaters – girls or boys – please consider donating to our stock of lend-able clothes by dropping at the office or with Counselor Karen Campbell.

Skateboard Park Planning Committee



The local skateboarding advocacy group, QB Skaters, is excited to announce that the Town of Qualicum Beach supports the new skatepark project with a \$1.2 million commitment. QB Skaters has been actively promoting this cause, and you can find more details on their Instagram page [[@qb\\_skaters](#)]. To kickstart construction, they're now aiming to raise an additional \$300,000, Check out the town's official announcement for more information.

SKATE PARK INFORMATION [LINK](#)

Ballenas Secondary School Open House – Feb 8 6:30-8:00

Grade 7 parents considering Ballenas as a secondary school option, please see the invitation below.

[Link to Poster for Ballenas Open House](#)

Community Events/Programs and Information Link

SD69 Community Events [LINK](#)

Accessibility Survey

Parents, please take a moment to complete this survey for the school district for future planning.

Accessibility Survey [LINK](#)

