



# Qualicum Beach Newsletter



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E:NTHU PE' CORLEEN MCKINNON NU SKWISH  
TUN' NI' CUN' UTL QUALICUM BEACH  
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SCOTLAND  
'UY QWUNUS 'I LUMNALU

It's been a great month of learning here at QBES - few interruptions and all five-day weeks. Classes are really digging into their various themes and building skills, especially in numeracy, writing and reading. The PAC have put together a display of Read-a-Thon prizes that is creating excitement about that upcoming event (see information later in this Newsletter). Grade 5 to 7 Electives have started up again on Wednesday afternoons and, additionally, some classes are preparing their projects for the district's annual Skills Day competitions. So there is much educational hubbub happening - which is grrreat!

February is Kindness Month at QBES. Our staff have prepared a number of learning activities (including a sock hop!) throughout the month that we hope will spread kindness through the school and beyond. Pink Shirt Day - a meaningful kindness event - comes up on February 25 and our staff and students are always well decked out in pink. Meanwhile, kindness continues to pop up around here everyday ... because of our awesome students and their big hearts!

Enjoy a happy weekend!

Corleen McKinnon, Principal

February is  
Kindness Month  
at QBES!



**On-Line Kindergarten Registration for 2026-27  
is now OPEN!**

Read more [HERE](#).



## 2026-2027 STREAM Registration

The STREAM program is open for applications until Friday January 30, 2026 at 4:00 pm.

Please click on the link below:

<https://permission.click/x6qwE/ca>



## BC Student Learning Survey

Parents of Gr.4 & Gr.7 students,  
Your Voice Matters.  
Please complete the BC Student Learning Survey (SLS) by clicking on the link below:

[BC Student Learning Survey](#)

(Information has been emailed to Gr. 4 & Gr. 7 families)



## SAFETY PROTOCOL



Reminder that adults are asked to enter QBES through the **front door** to check in at the office.

Staff need to know who is inside the building.  
Authorized visitors are issued an identifying  
approved “Visitor” badge.



## DRESS FOR THE WEATHER!

Winter weather is still with us and our QBES field can get very muddy!

Please remember to send your student with a **change of clothes**  
in their backpack.

At QBES we enjoy outside recess in all types of weather  
and it helps to be prepared!



## WE FEED HUNGRY KIDS!



QBES offers lunches and snacks to any student  
who needs food any day of the week.



**COMING  
SOON**

## QBES Readathon!

Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> - Mar. 8th

Watch for information from QBES PAC  
(individual & class prizes)



### Did you know ...

The QBES Wellness Hub  
offers food, social connection and counselling services?

Please contact the office for further information.



## News from the library!

Stay tuned for our upcoming **QBES Olympic Reading Challenge** starting **February 6th**.

Challenges will be sent home by classroom teachers next week. Our reading challenge is a great way to also support the **PAC Read-A-Thon**.

**Let's get reading, QBES!**

**FEBRUARY 6 - MARCH 2**

# **Qualicum Beach Elementary's Reading Olympics**

**OUR GOAL IS TO COLLECT  
200 MEDALS, AT LEAST  
50 OF THOSE SILVER  
AND 20 GOLD**

**MEDAL WINNERS WILL HAVE  
A CHANCE TO CHALLENGE  
A TEACHER IN OLYMPIC  
EVENTS DURING OUR  
SCHOOL OLYMPICS.**

**200 MEDALS = 2 OLYMPIC EVENTS  
225 = 3 OLYMPIC EVENTS  
250 = 4 OLYMPIC EVENTS  
275 = 5 OLYMPIC EVENTS  
300 = 5 OLYMPIC EVENTS AND  
OUTSIDE CHALLENGES TOO!**

**SCHOOL EVENT: BOBSLEDDING (WITH SCOOTERS)**

**SCHOOL EVENT: BIATHLON (WITH PIES)**

**SCHOOL EVENT: HOCKEY CHALLENGE  
AND MORE TO COME!**

**SHOW YOUR  
SPIRIT - READ!**

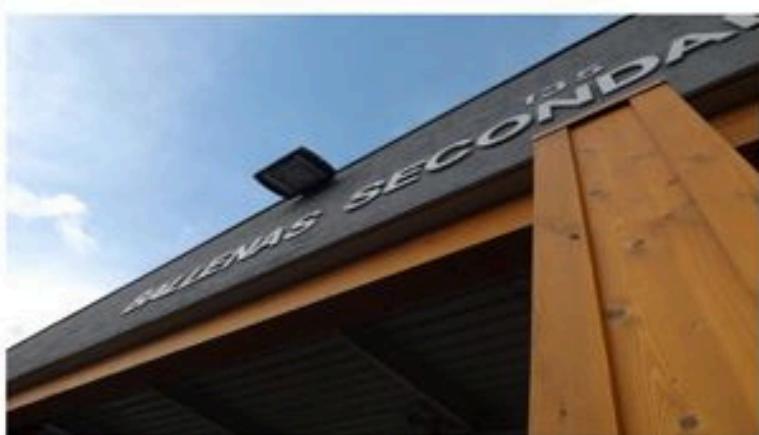


## **BSS Open House and 2026-2027 Grade 8 Information Session**

***Thursday, February 5th 6:30–8:00 PM***

All parents and students who plan to attend Ballenas in the upcoming 2026-2027 school year are invited to our annual Open House. All Ballenas programs and departments will be on display throughout the school.

In addition, **next year's Grade 8 students and families** are invited to attend a special information session at **6:30 PM** in our **Auditorium**.



Phone: 250-248-5721

Web: <https://www.sd69.bc.ca/school/BSS/Pages/>

# GRADE 7 PARENT/STUDENT INFORMATION NIGHT AT KSS



★ **Wednesday,  
February 11th  
6:30pm-8:00pm in  
the Multi-Purpose  
Room (MPR)**

★ An information night for  
parents of students  
entering Grade 8 in  
Sept. 2026

★ **An Opportunity To:**

- learn about Kwalikum Secondary School and the Grade 8 program
- learn about the class selection and transition process to high school
- meet the administration and counselling team
- walk through the school

★ **Incoming grade 8 students and families  
to the KSS Learning Community** ★



# Climb Aboard the WOW Bus!

**Coombs Fairgrounds** – Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> @ 10am – 11:30am

**Springwood Park** – Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> @ 1:15pm – 2:45pm

**Qualicum Beach (4 Poles)** – Feb. 11th @ 10am – 11:30am

**Nanoose Place Community Centre** – Feb. 12th @ 2pm – 3:30pm

**Family Day Event @ Coombs Fairgrounds** – Feb. 16th @ 1pm – 4pm

**Errington Community Park** – Feb. 18th @ 10:15am – 11:30am

**Oceanside Community Church** – Feb. 19th @ 2:30pm – 4pm

**Meadowood Community Park** – Feb. 25th @ 10am – 11:30am

**WOW Bus is a free drop-in outreach program for children from birth to kindergarten age and their adult. Families are invited to climb aboard the WOW Bus and join us for healthy snacks, playtime, songs, and stories.**

Check out our website for more details about the WOW Bus and other free early years programs: [www.oblt.ca](http://www.oblt.ca)



**DID YOU  
KNOW?**



**Ready, Set, Learn!**

Qualicum Beach Elementary – Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 10:30am – 11:30am

Springwood Elementary – Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30am – 10:30am

Bowser Elementary – Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30am – 11:30am

Errington Elementary – Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 1pm – 2pm

Arrowview Elementary – Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30pm – 2:30pm

Ecole Oceanside Elementary – Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> @ 9:10am – 10:10am

Nanoose Bay Elementary – Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30am – 11:30am

**Ready, Set, Learn is a free drop-in program for children  
from birth to kindergarten age and their  
parents/caregivers with the intent of supporting  
children's transitions into school.**

Check out our website  
to book your spot:  
[www.oblt.ca](http://www.oblt.ca)





Ready, Set, Learn!

Ready, Set, Learn is a free drop-in program for children from birth to kindergarten age and their caregiver with the intent of supporting children's transitions into school.

## WHY ATTEND?

- Give your child a confident start to kindergarten.
- Build early skills through fun play, stories, songs, and art.
- Meet local families and school staff.
- Help your child feel comfortable in their future school.
- Get tips and resources from Early Childhood Educators.

Check out our website  
to book your spot:  
[www.oblt.ca](http://www.oblt.ca)



Ready, Set, Learn sessions are free for families and are funded by the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/early-learning/support/programs/ready-set-learn>

To access other helpful early learning resources, check out the Early Learning Framework: A Guide for Families, which was created by the BC Ministry of Education and Childcare

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/early-learning/teach/earlyLearning/pdf-a-guide-for-families.pdf>



## What is Ready, Set, Learn?

Ready, Set, Learn is a free, drop-in program for children from birth to kindergarten age and their caregiver. Led by licensed Early Childhood Educators, the program invites families to local elementary schools in the Oceanside area, offering a welcoming space for learning, play, and connection. Facilitators support children as they build skills and confidence to help ease their transition into school.



Check out our website for more information:

[www.oblt.ca](http://www.oblt.ca)



admin@oblt.ca  
(250) 947-8252

Follow us on social media:

@OceansideBLT



## BIRTH TO KINDERGARTEN



## Why attend?

- Help prepare your child for a successful transition to kindergarten right from birth.
- Support your young child's early learning and development through play and hands-on activities such as reading, singing, creating art, and exploring together.
- Give your child a sense of familiarity and confidence by becoming part of the school community.
- Connect with other families in your neighbourhood and within your child's catchment area, and take the opportunity to meet the school staff.
- Access Early Childhood Educators who can answer questions and provide guidance to community resources.



## How do I register?

- Ready, Set, Learn sessions are **FREE** for children birth to kindergarten and their caregiver.
- Registration is appreciated but **drop-ins** are always welcome.
- Monthly schedules are posted at: <https://oblt.ca/calendar> and sessions can be booked weekly.
- Follow us on social media @OceansideBLT for updates.
- Each local elementary school hosts 1-2 sessions per month.
- Families are welcome to attend sessions at any school regardless of catchment area.





## parent workshop



# Inclusive Classrooms

## What They Are, Why They're Complex, and How Families Can Support Them



This parent-friendly workshop helps families better understand inclusive classrooms, why they can feel challenging at times, and how families can support inclusion in meaningful, realistic ways.

**Sunday, March 8**

**4:00- 5:30 pm**

**In this session, parents will:**

- A clearer understanding of what inclusive classrooms are and why complexity is part of the reality
- Insight into how inclusive classrooms impact students, peers, educators, and families
- Practical ways families can support inclusion through conversations at home and respectful school partnerships

**Facilitated by Carly Eirikson**  
**Inclusive education & school leadership**

*This session is intended to be informative and supportive of inclusive education. It does not provide guidance on individual student situations or specific school-based decisions.*



**Hosted by your DPAC**



## parent workshop



# Inclusive Classrooms

**What They Are, Why They're  
Complex, and How Families  
Can Support Them**



**Date:** Sunday, March 8, 2026

**Time:** 4:00–5:30 pm

**Location:** Live on Zoom

**Link:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88484127588?pwd=SjsAaCbRDhWetw838cLjxQHsLiSIBQ.1>

This parent-friendly session supports families in better understanding inclusive classrooms, why complexity is part of the reality, and how families can support inclusion in meaningful and realistic ways.

**The session will explore:**

- What inclusive classrooms are designed to support, and why complexity is expected
- How inclusive classrooms can impact students with IEPs, peers, educators, and families
- Practical ways families can support inclusion through home conversations and respectful school partnerships

The workshop will be facilitated by **Carly Eirikson**, who works in inclusive education and school leadership and has extensive experience supporting students, families, and school teams.

**Important note:**

This session is intended to support general understanding of inclusive education. It does not provide guidance on individual student situations, specific classrooms, or school-based decision-making.

Parents may submit general questions in advance (no individual student/classroom questions):

**Deadline:** Wednesday, March 4

**Email:** [inclusivedesigninmind@gmail.com](mailto:inclusivedesigninmind@gmail.com)



### **NEW for Nanaimo in 2026!**

KIDOVATE Market Day is Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>  
Nanaimo North Town Centre Mall  
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

#### **About Kidovate**

Kidovate is being offered in Nanaimo in 2026! Kidovate is a fun, FREE, youth entrepreneurship initiative of the University of Victoria's Gustavson School of Business. Last year 238 young entrepreneurs participated in Kidovate Victoria.

Anyone in grades 6-12 can participate! Registered youth receive access to a free table on Kidovate Market Day where they can sell goods or services that they make, re-purpose, or re-sell. Space is limited so register today at [www.kidovate.ca](http://www.kidovate.ca)

Participants receive a graphic novel-style workbook to help think through some of the key decisions Kidovate micro-entrepreneurs need to make. Participants can also be connected (virtually) with UVIC Business student mentors who help youth decide what to sell and how to sell it.

Questions? Check out our website at [www.kidovate.ca](http://www.kidovate.ca) or contact Dr. Brock Smith at [smithb@uvic.ca](mailto:smithb@uvic.ca)

Follow us on Instagram @kidovate\_nanaimo and on Facebook at KidovateNanaimo

# Mindfulness in May

The Art of Empathy and Kindness 2026

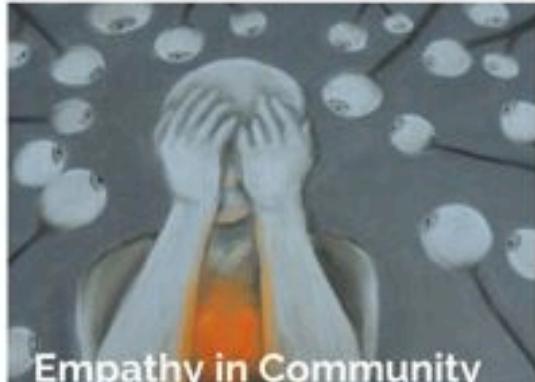
## Open Call to Youth for Submissions

Grades 5-12 in SD 69 and Surrounding Area

Including Home Learners



Kindness for Nature



Empathy in Community

EARLY SUBMISSIONS BY FEBRUARY 14TH FOR A CHANCE TO BE FEATURED ON THE EXHIBIT POSTERS AND WIN EXTRA PRIZES

**Visual Art:** drawing, fabric art, painting, mixed media, sculpture.  
**Literary Art:** poetry, song, music. **Photography:** digital, and print.

ALL WORKS DUE BY MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>

Submissions will be displayed at the Qualicum Library during BC Youth Week and National Mental Health Week

SUBMIT ONLINE HERE:

<https://mindfulmay.artistquarter.com/>

Sponsored By:



Rotary  
Qualicum Beach



Stephanie Higginson MLA  
Ladysmith - Oceanside



EXHIBITION: APRIL 28TH - MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>

For questions or more info, contact Diane at [moraninthemoon@gmail.com](mailto:moraninthemoon@gmail.com)

## CALENDAR OF DATES

<b>Fri Feb 13</b>	<b>MATA PD Day - No school</b>
<b>Mon Feb 16</b>	<b>Family Day - No school</b>
<b>Wed Feb 25</b>	<b>Pink Shirt Day</b>
<b>March 16 - March 27</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>
<b>Mon Mar 30</b>	<b>School Reopens</b>
<b>Fri Apr 3</b>	<b>Good Friday - No school</b>
<b>Mon Apr 6</b>	<b>Easter Monday</b>
<b>Tue April 21 - Thu April 23</b>	<b>Student-Led Conferences</b>
<b>Wed Apr 22</b>	<b>Earth Day</b>
<b>Wed May 13</b>	<b>Moose Hide Assembly and Walk</b>
<b>Thu May 14</b>	<b>MATA PD Day</b>
<b>Fri May 15</b>	<b>Conference Adjustment Day</b>
<b>Mon May 18</b>	<b>Victoria Day</b>
<b>Thu June 25</b>	<b>Farewell Assembly</b>

## IMPORTANT LINKS

Please take a moment to click on the links below to familiarize yourself with important school information:

**QBES Code of Conduct**

**QBES Enhancing Student Learning Plan**

**Fair Notice Letter**

**QBES Student Hot Lunch**

**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:

**Community Events**

