



# Qualicum Beach Newsletter



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SI:EM NU SIYEYU  
E:NTHU PE' CORLEEN MCKINNON NU SKWISH  
TUN' NI' CUN' UTL QUALICUM BEACH  
'I KWUMLUXW 'UTL MANITOBA I ONTARIO I GERMANY I  
SCOTLAND  
'UY QWUNUS 'I LUMNALU

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you and your family members.

Here at the school, we have had a **smooth transition** back to work after the winter holiday. These winter months lend themselves well to a period of deep learning. You will see your child engaged in new learning and growing their skills in the weeks ahead.

Knowing that proficient literacy skills are foundational to school success, our school goal this year is **improving students' reading outcomes**. New assessment tools are being used in order to identify components of reading that need practice (phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension). **Oral language** is developed everyday at school through play with peers and family interactions. And PAC has supported our renewed **Community Readers** program where volunteers read with students every day. Much appreciated!

If you are considering new household **habits** around daily reading, consider limits on screen time during the week, substituting reading instead. A recently published longitudinal study by Sick Kids Hospital in Ontario confirms what everyone suspected; screen time corresponds to reduced abilities in reading and math ([\*\*READ ABOUT IT HERE\*\*](#)). Maybe your child **loves** to read and it's about continuing to grow their interest by bringing more great books into the house. School and public **librarians** are a great resource for quality book recommendations.

The annual **Read-a-thon** is in the planning stages - and is coming up over the weeks leading up to Spring Break. With encouragement, students rise to the challenges of this event! Watch for info from PAC and your child's classroom teacher...reading skills really blossom with all the extra practice. And you may want to stock up on books - or find your library card - to model reading or just to try to keep up to your kids!

Yours,  
Corleen McKinnon, Principal

FSAs

Grade 4 and 7 Parents:

Your child's completed and scored Foundation Skills Assessment booklet is coming home. Look for the attached report showing your child's assessment as EMERGING, ON TRACK, or EXCEEDING in both Literacy and Numeracy. An online portion was also completed. We are happy to see our students' FSA results trending upward!

February is  
Kindness Month  
at QBES!



On-Line Kindergarten Registration for 2026-27  
Opens January 19th!

Read more [HERE](#).



## 2026-2027 Intent to Continue STREAM

Reminder to current STREAM families (Gr. 4-6) to complete the district form indicating your intent regarding the STREAM Program for 2026-2027 by Friday January 23, 2026.

Please click on the link below:

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

Reminder to families of students in Ms. Beasley's and Ms. Furness' class:

*Please remember to either pay for a recorder, or bring one from home as our unit has already begun.*



## Looking for Lego!

Does your family have lego to donate?

Please message our Speech-Language Professional, Jillian at [jsmith@sd69.bc.ca](mailto:jsmith@sd69.bc.ca)



## CONSTRUCTION BEGINS!

The QBES community is in for some change as construction begins on a provincially funded 75-spot daycare facility located in the northwest side of the playfield, adjacent to the parking lot. A new entry will be punched through from West Ridge Rd to be used as the exit for service vehicles. Some parking spots will be temporarily absorbed into a fenced off staging area.

Please be patient - and cautious - as this is a one-year construction period with completion set for January, 2027. There will be significant controls and robust safety protocols whenever trucks have to enter the site to deliver material or carry out work on the site. The construction fence integrity will be tested every day and the Construction Manager is very well versed in completing projects on occupied school sites.

## BUILDING DESIGN



① 3D VIEW - SOUTH EAST CORNER



② 3D VIEW - NORTH WEST CORNER

## SAFE DROP-OFF PLAN

TAKE A LOOK



### Beware of Slips and Falls



Our parking lot, sidewalks and tarmac can be frosty or icy in the mornings. We endeavor to get some de-icer down early but it does take time to be effective. We hope that your child, and you if visiting, will use caution and be sure to send your child in footwear with good treads during these winter months... especially so in the mornings.



## 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.



## DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

Winter weather is still with us.

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.





**Lions Vision Screening  
for Grade 4 & Grade 7 Students  
Tuesday January 27, 2025**

Forms will be sent out to families of Gr. 4 and Gr.7 students next week, regarding free vision screening at QBES and provided by the Lion's Club, in partnership with the Qualicum School District.



**PROPOSED SCHOOL BOUNDARY CHANGES – JOIN THE CONVERSATION!**



On January 14th, the Board of Education held a Virtual Town Hall regarding potential changes to the boundaries impacting local schools intended to relieve enrollment pressure on Springwood Elementary and École Ballenas Secondary Schools. If you were unable to participate that evening, you can view the recording [HERE](#).



Once you have viewed the recording, the Board of Education invites you to share your feedback on the proposed changes. The link to the survey can be found [HERE](#) and it will remain open into February 2026.



# Are you interested in **KINDERGARTEN FRENCH IMMERSION**

Important Information  
session for all families  
interested in registering  
their child for Kindergarten  
French Immersion Sept 2026

Ecole Oceanside Elementary  
6:00pm Gymnasium

**22 JAN 2026**



# P.L.C.

## Information Night!



Come learn about how the PLC nurtures wonder and curiosity through play, inquiry and place based learning in a multi-age classroom.



### JOIN US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PRIMARY LEARNING COMMUNITY FOR K - 2



January 22 at 5:30  
Oceanside Elementary

**École Ballenas Secondary School**

*Building Successful Students*



## **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** ★

**DID YOU  
KNOW?**



Ready, Set, Learn!

**Springwood Elementary – January 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> @ 10:30am – 11:30am**

**Bowser Elementary – January 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30am – 11:30am**

**Errington Elementary – January 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> @ 1pm – 2pm**

**Arrowview Elementary – January 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30pm – 2:30pm**

**Nanoose Bay Elementary – January 16<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30am – 11:30am**

**Qualicum Beach Elementary – January 26<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30am – 11:30am**

**Ecole Oceanside Elementary – January 27<sup>th</sup> @ 9:10am – 10:10am**

**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)



Oceanside Building Learning Together



## Climb Aboard the WOW Bus!

**Meadowood Community Hall – Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> @ 10am – 11:30am**

**Nanoose Place Community Centre – Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm – 3:30pm**

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

**Oceanside Community Church – Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 2:30pm – 4pm**

**Errington Community Park – Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30am – 12pm**

**Breakwater Village in French Creek – Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> @ 1:45pm – 3:15pm**

**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)





### **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

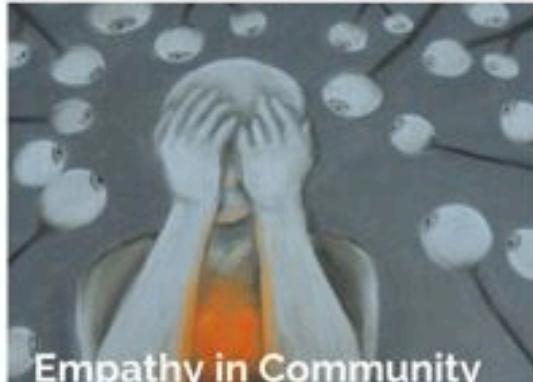
## Open Call to Youth for Submissions

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>Thu Jan 22</b>	<b>Idiom Day</b>
<b>Tue Jan 27</b>	<b>Lions Free Vision Scanning (Gr.4 &amp; Gr.7)</b>
<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**

### **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**

