



## ***SPRINGWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL***

### **NEWSLETTER #8 February 5, 2026**

Principal: Jesse Witte    Vice Principal: Lauren Nikirk  
450 Despard Avenue, Parksville, BC V9P 1J9  
Phone: (250) 248-2038    Fax: (250) 954-1825

#### **MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL**

Dear Wolf Pack!

Welcome back! Now that we're settled into the rhythm after the winter break, it's wonderful to see so much great learning happening in our classrooms. This part of the school year is always an important stretch for students to establish strong routines, and our teachers are making excellent progress with their classes.

We encourage families to support these routines at home as well. With the weather getting wetter, please ensure your child has a change of clothes at school. We also have a lot of sickness going around—if your child is unwell, please make arrangements to keep them home. While we love having every student at school, keeping everyone healthy is important for the whole school.

Please continue to stay in contact with your child's teacher and share how we can support their learning together. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

**Jesse Witte**

Principal, Springwood Elementary



## Qualicum School District

### 2026-2027 Budget Development Survey



The Qualicum School District Board of Education follows an annual Budget Development process each school year in order to establish the final annual budget for submission to the Ministry of Education.

To support the Qualicum School District Board of Education in their decision making during the annual Budget Development process, they are seeking input from educational partners, including administrators, employees, parents/caregivers, students and community members, to help inform priorities for the 2026/27 school district budget.

This short survey focuses on understanding what matters most to partners and where funding could make the biggest differences for students. Your responses are anonymous and will be shared in summary form with the Board.

Click [HERE](#) to access the 2026-2027 Budget Development Survey

## **PINK SHIRT DAY – February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

For Pink Shirt Day 2026 (February 25th in Canada), the theme is "Sprinkle Kindness," emphasizing sharing kindness, inclusion, and compassion through umbrella/heart-themed designs.



## **SES SPIRIT WEAR**

SES Spirit Wear Spirit Wear is back in full force!

Every Friday staff and students show their school spirit by wearing their Springwood gear.



T-Shirts \$22.00  
Hoodies \$35.00  
Hats \$30.00  
Toques \$22.00

Please see the front office for purchase. Cash or Cheque accepted. If you would like to use the online option, please contact Candice in the front office.

Candice Nikirk  
School Accounts Secretary  
Springwood Elementary  
250-248-2038

## **POPCORN SALES - Every Wednesday**

Popcorn Sales are Wednesdays \$2.50 a bag.



## Dressing for the Weather

Now that the weather is changing, students are often getting muddy and wet. Please make sure your child has a change of clothes at school, as they will be going outside for recess, gym, and Daily Physical Activity (DPA). Thank you!



## SES PAC NEWSLETTER



# PAC UPDATE

REACH OUT ANYTIME  
SPRINGWOODPAC@GMAIL.COM

**The Card Project is back!**  
Orders open Monday, February 23  
See your child's artwork made into beautiful, quality products.



Orders open online on Monday, February 23  
Go to [www.TheCardProject.ca](http://www.TheCardProject.ca)  
Our school's access code is SN77

**The deadline for orders is Sunday, March 8.**  
Orders will be delivered in the week of March 30 - April 3.

This is a wonderful fundraising initiative for our school. We receive 20% of the sales.

Questions? Contact Marcelle at [Marcelle@TheCardProject.ca](mailto:Marcelle@TheCardProject.ca)

**VALENTINE'S DAY NON-BAKE SALE**  
FEBRUARY 12, 2026

PREPACKAGED TREATS OR BUTTONS  
EVERYTHING \$1

LIMIT OF 2 TREATS PER STUDENT  
PLEASE BRING CHANGE

DONATIONS OF PRE-PACKAGED NUT-FREE TREATS FROM A STORE CAN BE DROPPED OFF IN THE SCHOOL FOYER ON FEB 11TH AND 12TH IN THE MORNING

**FUN DAY IS JUNE 19TH!**  
FUN DAY IS NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT OUR AMAZING PARENT/GUARDIAN VOLUNTEERS



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**The Card Project is back!**  
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Greeting cards



Canvas tote bags



Year planners



Canvases & aluminum panels



Mouse pads



Notebooks & sketchbooks



Tea towels



Mugs



T-shirts

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## mabel's labels

### FUNDRAISING

The Springwood Physical Education Department is excited to partner with Mabel's Labels! Their products are perfect for school, home, and sports, making organizing and identifying belongings easier and more fun.

Visit <http://campaigns.mabelslabels.com/> and search for Springwood Elementary School (Parksville)

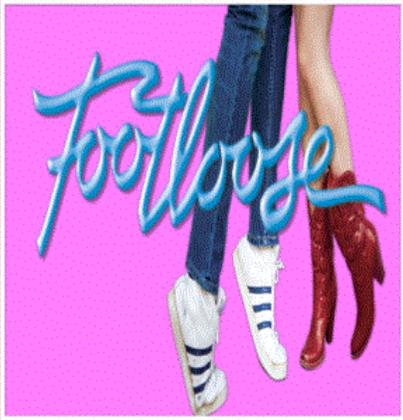
 [Purchase labels](http://campaigns.mabelslabels.com/)

 [Shipped directly to you anywhere](#)



Contact Jessica Threlfall @ [jthrelfall059@gmail.com](mailto:jthrelfall059@gmail.com) with any questions

WHALEBONE THEATRE PRESENTS



**Ballenas Secondary**  
**FEB 17, 18, 19**  
**24, 25, 26**  
 7PM  
 \$15 @ Ballenas Online Store



22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Qualicum Beach  
**Seedy Saturday**  
*'It starts with a seed'*

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Qualicum Beach Civic Centre  
**Saturday, February 7, 2026**  
 10 am – 3:30 pm

- Seed Swap
- Master Gardeners answering questions
- Seed, Plant and Garden-Related Vendors
- Demos
- Educational Displays
- Children's Activity
- Door Prizes
- Seedy Café
- Raffle Draw (cash only)
- No ATM on site
- Pesticide/chemical drop off (in original package)

**Swap and Shop:**  
 bring your seeds for the seed swap or buy local seeds that have been swapped!

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Admission: suggested \$5 donation

Qualicum Beach Seedy Saturday Association  
[www.qbseedsaturday.ca](http://www.qbseedsaturday.ca) • [qbsschair@gmail.com](mailto:qbsschair@gmail.com)  
 @qbseedsaturday • @qbseedsaturday




**Learn To Curl**

**ONLY \$99\***  
\*plus GST

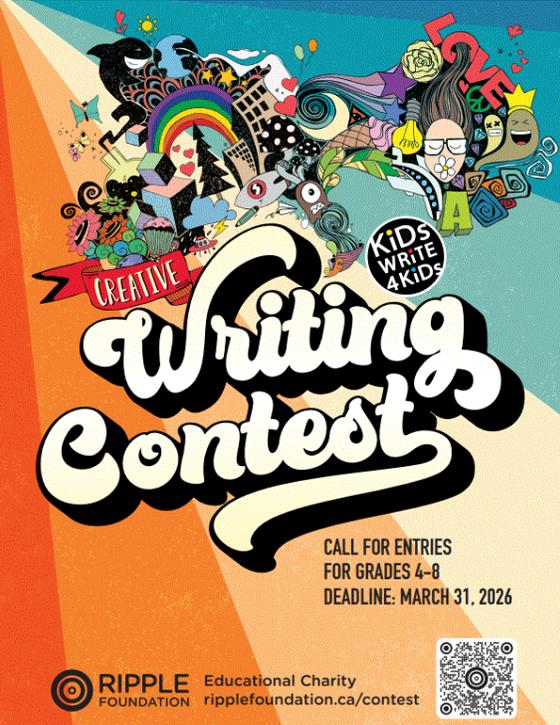
**5 X SUNDAYS FROM MAR 1**

**3-5PM**

A 5-week Learn To Curl program to help you unpack the basics of curling in a fun, friendly and welcoming setting. Suitable for all ages and all fitness levels.

All curling equipment provided.

250-248-3764  
[parkvillecurling.com](http://parkvillecurling.com)

**CREATIVE Writing Contest**

**KIDS WRITE 4KIDS**

CALL FOR ENTRIES FOR GRADES 4-8  
 DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2026

**RIPPLE FOUNDATION** Educational Charity  
[ripplefoundation.ca/contest](http://ripplefoundation.ca/contest)



# 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:



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

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

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

In the Heart of the Community  
at The MAC

Feb 2nd- Mar 1st 2026  
Opening Reception Sat Feb 7, 1pm

## Creative Kids Art Show

# UNFILTERED EXPRESSION

Accepting art from artists under 16 years old.

## CALL TO ARTS

Submit admission by **Extended!** to Jan 30th

Email [creativekids.mac@gmail.com](mailto:creativekids.mac@gmail.com) for submission form, subject CALLTOART

McMillan Arts Centre (MAC)  
133 McMillan Street, Upper Level  
Parksville, BC V9P 2H5  
(250)248-8185  
[www.mcmillanartscentre.com](http://www.mcmillanartscentre.com)  
Gallery & Gift Shop Hours: Tuesday-Sunday, 11am to 3pm

## Express & Flourish Family Day 2026

At the MAC

- Flower Take Home Art
- Communal Art Piece
- Face Painting
- Artists in Residence

Free Event

**Monday February 16th**  
**10am-1pm**

Funding support provided by the Regional District of Nanaimo

McMillan Arts Centre (MAC)  
133 McMillan Street, Upper Level  
Parksville, BC V9P 2H5  
(250)248-8185  
[www.mcmillanartscentre.com](http://www.mcmillanartscentre.com)  
Gallery & Gift Shop Hours: Tuesday-Sunday, 11am to 3pm

**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  
 Eole 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/earlylearningoffa-guide-for-families.pdf>



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

### 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.



### 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.



**HONK! HONK! COMMUNITY FUN INCOMING**

**COOMBS FAMILY DAY** 14th ANNUAL 2026

HERITAGE DEMOS  
EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS  
SANDBOX TREASURE HUNT  
COOKIE DECORATING  
LIVE ANIMALS  
FACE PAINTING  
GAMES & CRAFTS  
GARDEN RAILWAY  
PHOTO BOOTH

**FREE**  
HOT DOGS  
POPCORN  
COFFEE & TEA  
(WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)

**MON FEB 16 | 1:00 TO 4:00PM**

ACRA ARROWSMITH COMMUNITY RECREATION ASSOCIATION  
ARROWSMITH AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION  
COOMBS FAIR  
Funding support provided by: REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

Coombs Fair Grounds | 1014 Ford Rd | Coombs | BC | [www.coombsfair.com](http://www.coombsfair.com)

**MOUNT ARROWSMITH BIOSPHERE REGION**  
Connecting People with Nature

**THE POWER OF Stewardship**

Celebrate local stewards and the knowledge of our diverse communities this International Mother Language Day!

**Saturday Feb 21, 2026 9:00 am - 12:00 pm**  
**Qualicum Beach Civic Centre**

9:00 am - Doors Open  
9:30 am - "Importance of understanding the connections between history and language in relationship to place." Jesse Recalma Qualicum First Nations  
10:45am - "Leaving a Legacy for Nature" Nancy Randall will work through all the stages and 14 different ways you can leave a legacy for nature.

- Celebrate International Mother Language Day
- Participate in interactive Q&A sessions
- Meet local stewardship organizations and sign up for memberships
- Learn about the Mid Island Stewardship Caucus [www.mabr.ca/misc](http://www.mabr.ca/misc)
- Discover ongoing and upcoming projects and how to get involved

UNESCO  
MOUNT ARROWSMITH BIOSPHERE REGION  
Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region  
124 West 2nd Ave Qualicum Beach  
250-584-0405  
[www.mabr.ca](http://www.mabr.ca)



## UPCOMING DATES: - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

<i>Feb 13</i>	<i>MATA District Pro-D Day – students do not attend</i>
<i>Feb 16</i>	<i>BC Family Day – students do not attend</i>
<i>Feb 19</i>	<i>Hot lunch – Extreme Eatery</i>
<i>Feb 25</i>	<i>Pink Shirt Day</i>
<i>Mar 5</i>	<i>Hot lunch – Boston Pizza</i>
<i>Mar 16 – Mar 27</i>	<i>Spring Break Vacation</i>
<i>Mar 30</i>	<i>Schools Reopne after Spring Break</i>
<i>Apr 3</i>	<i>Good Friday – student do not attend</i>
<i>Apr 6</i>	<i>Easter Monday – students do not attend</i>
<i>Apr 9</i>	<i>Hot lunch – Chinese Kitchen/The Pretzel Guy</i>
<i>May 7</i>	<i>Hot lunch – Tim Hortons</i>
<i>May 14</i>	<i>MATA District Pro-D Day – students do not attend</i>
<i>May 15</i>	<i>Conference Adjustment Day – students do not attend</i>
<i>May 18</i>	<i>Victoria Day – students do not attend</i>
<i>May 21</i>	<i>Hot lunch - Extreme Eatery</i>
<i>June 25</i>	<i>Final Day for Students – Schools dismiss three hours early</i>

**Follow us on Instagram!**

@springwood\_wolves



## CONTACT US:

Jesse Witte, Principal - [jwitte@sd69.bc.ca](mailto:jwitte@sd69.bc.ca)

Lauren Nikirk, Vice Principal - [lnikirk@sd69.bc.ca](mailto:lnikirk@sd69.bc.ca)

Candice Nikirk, Administrative Assistant - [cnikirk@sd69.bc.ca](mailto:cnikirk@sd69.bc.ca)

Pamela Horrigan, Administrative Assistant - [phorriqan@sd69.bc.ca](mailto:phorriqan@sd69.bc.ca)

Phone - 250-248-2038