



BALLENAS BULLETIN

#1 September 16, 2022

School Website: <http://www.sd69.bc.ca/school/BSS>

Welcome to another school year!

September seems to fly by every year - and here we are, right in the middle of it. Our past week and a bit have been spent getting set for our year ahead. Students have returned, are reconnecting, and have settled into their classes; we are all finding our rhythm and routines again. We've connected through clubs, sports, musical theatre, and more - and there is a buzz of activity throughout our school. We thank you for your support this month and throughout the year, and we look forward to connecting with you in the weeks to come.

DATES TO REMEMBER

SEPTEMBER

- 20 PAC Meeting – Library 6:30 p.m.
- 21 DPAC Meeting - Zoom (link on website calendar)
- 22 The White Hatter – Live Virtual Event (See Attached Poster)
- 26 In-District Professional Development Day – Students Not in Attendance
- 27 Grad Parent/Guardian Meeting – 7:00 p.m. in the Library
- 29 Photo Day
- 30 National Day of Truth and Reconciliation – Schools Closed

OCTOBER

- 5 Canadian University Event – 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- 6 The White Hatter – Live Virtual Event (See Attached Poster)
- 10 Thanksgiving Day – School Not in Session
- 18 The White Hatter (See Attached Poster)
- 19 S1 X2 Ends – Grade 8's
- 19 Parent/Teacher Interviews – 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- 19 DPAC Meeting - 6:30 p.m. Zoom (link on website calendar)
- 20 Conferencing Adjustment Day – Students Not in Attendance
- 21 Provincial Pro D Day – Students Not in Attendance
- 24 S1 X2 Starts – Grade 8's
- 25 Photo Retake Day
- 26 University of Alberta Event – 12:10 p.m. – 12:55 p.m.

FRIDAY SCHEDULE

SEPT

- 16 Day 2
- 23 Day 1

OCT

- 7 Day 2
- 14 Day 1
- 28 Day 2

PHOTO DAY – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

We're excited to be working with Concept Photography for photo day!

- Photos will be online within 72 hours of photo day
- Online codes will be your student ID Number
- All ordering will be online, and will be shipped directly to your home

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

Meets the second Thursday of the month in the library at 6:30 p.m. Find out what's going on for your students and have input into your school. The PAC also distributes the lottery grant to extra-curricular programs. Our first meeting is September 20th (to make up for last week). Please see attached poster from this year's PAC.

LAST YEAR'S REPORT CARDS

Last year's report cards will be available for pick up until the end of September. Please come by the office to pick yours up before September 30th!

FEE UPDATE

We paused on collecting fees at the beginning of this year as we have received some additional money from the Ministry of Education to help offset costs to families. This year we will not be collecting the student activity fee or the locker fee. If you've already paid this online, you will have received a refund via School Cash Online. We will still collect our \$50 textbook deposit fee for any new students (Grade 8, new to Ballenas). This deposit is held during a student's time at Ballenas, and returned when they graduate/leave BSS. We have also used some of this money to support our school meals program - lunch is available to any student for just \$2, and breakfast is always available free of charge. If any fees this year create a financial hardship, please let us know and we will make alternate arrangements.

WEBSITE/INFORMATION

As always, our school website remains the best source of information, and is updated regularly. Please check it often. If you have any further questions, please contact our school office at 250-248-5721. <https://www.sd69.bc.ca/school/BSS/Pages/default.aspx#/=>

SIGN UP FOR THE NEWSLETTER

The Ballenas Bulletin is published once a month. Visit the Ballenas Website to sign up to receive newsletter alerts.

STUDENTS WITH HEALTH CONDITIONS

School staff recognize that there are students with health conditions that may impact the student's ability to function while at school. If your child has such a health condition, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to inform school staff so that we can support your child.

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

Students have been given a lot of information during the first week of school, including several very important forms that need to be completed and signed by the legal parent/guardian. Please complete and return the following forms to the office as soon as possible:

1. Student Information Verification Printout (Yellow Paper)
2. Annual Update – Emergency Release and Health Information (Pink Paper)

In addition, the following digital forms have been sent via School Messenger. Please check your email and follow the link to complete the forms:

1. Student FOIPPA Consent
2. GAFE Consent Letter
3. Yearbook Letter

CONNECT WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHERS

You can directly contact teachers via e-mail under the "About our School" tab "Staff Directory" on our website. Connections will come home soon with all contact information and course overviews. Parent/Teacher Conferencing is October 12 & 13, 2022.

VOLUNTEERING AT THE SCHOOL

Do you plan on volunteering at BSS for sports, as a driver, for grad??? All volunteers require a criminal record check which is free of charge. You only have to do this one time while your child is at Ballenas. Forms are available at the office or from your child's teacher. If you plan on driving other students for an event, you will also require a drivers abstract form . Come see us in the office or call us for more information.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

If your student is absent for the day, please call the attendance line to let us know. If they need to leave for the day, or have an appointment, we do require a phone call to the office or attendance line, otherwise your student will be marked absent/unexcused. We do expect students to sign in/out of the office so in an emergency situation we can look at the clipboard and clarify if a student has left the building.

NEWS FROM OUR THEATRE

This year's performance will be "The Little Mermaid". Auditions and rehearsals are Tuesdays and Thursday's after school.

Parksville Curling Club - Junior Curling: Ages 10 – 18

Sessions: Mondays from 3:45 pm to 5:15 pm, starting October 3rd and running to end of February

Place: Parksville Curling Club (Community Park)

Cost: \$100.00 for the season

Equipment: All equipment needed provided by the club – broom, curling shoes, grippers, stabilizer, etc.

New Curlers: All welcome: beginner - come and learn the game!

Junior Coordinator: Jim Powell (trijim@shaw.ca)

Email – juniorleague@parksvillecurling.com

Phone (club) - 250-248-3764

Junior Information Session: Interested Juniors and parents can learn about the junior program, register, see the curling rink, and even try throwing some curling rocks – Monday, September 26th – 4:00 pm

Come and find out about curling – bring a friend!



Youth Empowering Workshop.jpg

SD69 COMMUNITY PAGE

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

"LET'S TALK EMAILS!"

DID YOU KNOW?

PACs and Schools need to maintain their own separate email lists.

BSS PAC invites you to sign up for BOTH!



THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO STAY CONNECTED WITH THE PARENT/GUARDIAN COMMUNITY AT BALLENAS!



Sign up for the **SCHOOL** newsletter by adding your email on the BSS homepage

Sign up for our newsletter & keep in touch

Your Email

GO



Sign up for the **PAC** newsletter by emailing **ballenaspac@gmail.com** and say
"Please add me to your PAC Newsletter List"

Informative & entertaining emails from PAC can contain:

PAC newsletters
Parent/Teacher Conference reminders
Notes on school activities & FUNdraisers
Reminders of dates & deadlines not to miss
Parent/Guardian education opportunities offered by the District
Shoutouts for volunteers
Public SD69 Board meeting invites/agendas/minutes/reminders
PAC polls & links to Google Docs
Opportunities to let PAC know what is important to your family

"ALL BSS PARENTS & GUARDIANS ARE MEMBERS OF THE PAC!"



**PLEASE JOIN US AT THE
RAVENSONG AQUATIC CENTRE**

**Recommended age is 7+
(or swim level 5)**

***Adults are also welcome 6:30-7:30**

**[A waiver must be filled out before getting
into the pool, so please come early]**

FREE

**SEE IT!
TRY IT!
EVENT**

**THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 29TH**

**SESSION 1:
5:30-6:30^{PM}**

SESSION 2*:

6:30-7:30^{PM}

***Adults are welcome to try 6:30-7:30**

**HANDS UP IF YOU
LOVE TO SWIM!**

There will also be an information table
in the lobby during the event.

For more information
check out our website:

ravensongwaterdancers.ca

or email us at:

ravensongsynchro@gmail.com



**Learn More at
www.thewhitehatter.ca**

Live Virtual Event

THE WHITE HATTER

Internet Safety and Digital Literacy for Parents and Caregivers



Date

Thursday, September 22, 2022

Time

7:00pm - 9:00pm

Link & Password posted on District Website closer to event date

All SD69 Parents/Guardians/Staff invited

With



Brandon Laur
M.G.C., M.A.
The White Hatter

Learn More at
www.thewhitehatter.ca



- Positives and negative the internet provides
- Challenges for youth today
- Technology as a distraction
- Media overconsumption
- Online predators
- Challenges for parents and caregivers
- How online information is collected and used
- Opportunities technology provides
- Data tracking & collection
- Privacy
- Personal online legal consequences
- Concerning signs to look for
- Sleep concerns
- Account management
- Exploitation
- Nudes and sexting

WE'RE EXCITED TO BE WORKING WITH

CONCEPT PHOTOGRAPHY

FOR PHOTO DAY!

- ▶ PHOTOS WILL BE ONLINE WITHIN 72 HOURS OF PHOTO DAY
- ▶ ONLINE CODES WILL BE YOUR STUDENT ID NUMBER
- ▶ ALL ORDERING WILL BE ONLINE, AND WILL BE SHIPPED DIRECTLY TO HOME
- ▶ CONCEPT PHOTOGRAPHY IS A LOCAL COMPANY. QUESTIONS? REACH OUT THROUGH CONCEPTPHOTO.CA



We're looking forward to an awesome year of working together and getting to know the students!



CONCEPTPHOTO.CA



CALLOUT FOR FILM MAKERS FROM VANCOUVER ISLAND

The McMillan Arts Centre, with the City of Parksville is proud to present The Tik Tok® Short Doc Film Festival.

This is a Comedy Film Festival & Competition for young, or fledgling film makers. We want you to bring laughter to the Cloakroom Digital Gallery at the McMillan Arts Centre.

We will be accepting only 40 films, all must be under 1 minute in length, and the Top Three, as decided by our expert jury panel, will be awarded as follows: 1st place - \$300 - 2nd place - \$200 - 3rd place - \$100

The opening celebration and Awards presentation for the Tik Tok® Short Doc Film Festival will be held in the McMillan Arts Centre at 4:30pm on Wednesday October 12th.

All 40 films will be screened in the Cloakroom Digital Gallery for the public from Saturday October 13th through Sunday, October 30th. The viewing public will have an opportunity to cast their vote for the Peoples Choice Award.

The winners of the 3 Peoples Choice Awards will be announced on Tuesday, November 1st. The Deadline for entries is Sunday, October 2nd, 6:00 pm - Sharp.



INFORMATION SUBMIT

<https://filmfreeway.com/IslandShortsDocFilmFestival>



SCHOOL DISTRICT No.69 (QUALICUM)

September 2022

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers,

In order to address important personal health (PHE) learning outcomes, your child will be receiving lessons about their personal safety and their bodies. We call it 'Body Science' and 'Personal/Sexual Health'. These lessons include the topics of body awareness, boundaries, personal safety, interpersonal skills, healthy relationships, and development.

Unless you have been informed otherwise, this curriculum will be delivered by your child's teacher, other school district educator or with E.N.I.T.Y. (Educating New Ideas Towards Youth) a peer educator program run in partnership with School District 69 and Island Health.

For parent/caregiver resources that will help you continue the conversation at home please check out these websites:

<https://nlpslearns.sd68.bc.ca/subject/sexual-health/> and <https://teachingsexualhealth.ca/parents/>

The mandated BC Curriculum addressed can be found in the Physical Health Education section on the website <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/physical-health-education>

The benefits of comprehensive personal and sexual health education are that students will:

1. Have the same, age appropriate, up to date, factual information delivered by a trained educator in a non-judgmental, safe environment. This combats misinformation, bias, stereotypes and myths from social media/internet/TV/peers etc., and is a major tool in preventing discrimination, sexual abuse, and exploitation.
2. Gain knowledge, understanding, skills and the attitudes they will need in order to protect themselves and others from potential harm, and to make healthy decisions and choices. Studies show that the more information students have, the longer they delay sexual activity and the less likely they are to make risky decisions, or to be exploited.

You, as parents/caregivers, are your child's most important teacher. Students are always encouraged to continue the conversations at home and to check in to what their family rules and family values are when it comes to decision making, health, and relationships.

If you have any questions, please contact your student's teacher or school administrator.

Alternative Delivery

In cases where parents/caregivers feel more comfortable addressing this topic by means other than instruction by a teacher, parents/caregivers may arrange to address topics related to reproduction and sexuality by an alternative means. This must be arranged in consultation with their school. The alternate means must be agreed upon by the students, their parent/caregivers, and the school.

The alternate delivery policy does not allow students to "opt-out" of learning about these topics. It is expected that students will, in consultation with their school, demonstrate their knowledge of the learning standard.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/legislation-policy/public-schools/alternative-delivery-in-the-physical-and-health-curriculum>

School District 69's Administrative Procedure titled *Physical and Health Education Curriculum Provision for Alternate Delivery of Instruction* can be found by clicking [HERE](#) under the 500: Instruction policies.

Sincerely,

Gillian Wilson
Associate Superintendent of Schools

PO Box 430, 100 Jensen Ave. East, Parksville, B.C. V9P 2G5
Phone (250) 248-4241 Fax (250) 248-5767 www.sd69.bc.ca



Family Accident Reimbursement Plan – Voluntary Insurance

The Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) is offering you the opportunity to voluntarily purchase student accident insurance through iA Financial Group, which is now offering a new comprehensive accident insurance plan with a critical illness component designed for the whole family.

The plan can supplement costs not covered by your provincial health insurance or existing employer extended health and dental plans. Regardless of the size of your family, all eligible family members can be insured under one set monthly rate.

For more information or to apply online, please visit <https://www.solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc>



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 69 (QUALICUM)

2022-2023 Public Meetings of the Board of Education

The Regular Public Board Meetings of the Qualicum School District's Board of Education will be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month during the 2022/2023 school year.

Three exceptions are the December Board Meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, December 13th, the September Board Meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, September 13th, and the March Board Meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, March 14th. There is no meeting held in July.

These meetings are business meetings of the Board which are held in public. The meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. and will be held via Zoom until further notice.

If you wish to attend the board meeting, please use the following zoom link:

<https://sd69-bc-ca.zoom.us/j/63078778543?pwd=OXF4d2tnVXNucFNta1pleE9GQjNpQT09>

Meeting ID: 630 7877 8543

Passcode: 906262

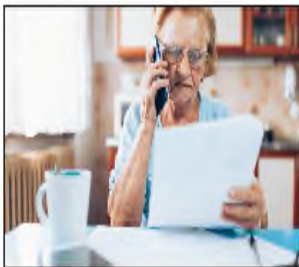
Committee of the Whole Meetings occur during the 3rd week of each month of the school year beginning in October, with the exceptions of December and March. The full meeting schedule can be found on the district website at:

[https://www.sd69.bc.ca/Board/BoardMeetingAgendasMinutes/Pages/Board-Meetings.aspx#/="](https://www.sd69.bc.ca/Board/BoardMeetingAgendasMinutes/Pages/Board-Meetings.aspx#/=)

Community Services Centres

● Meals on Wheels

Helps residents maintain health and independence by delivering hot, nutritious meals, three times a week. Cost: \$8.50/meal. Call Parksville ext. 225



● Income Tax Returns

Assistance with the preparation of basic, low-income tax returns. Call Parksville ext. 229

● Homeless Prevention Program

Assists with homelessness due to crisis or transition. Eligible residents receive rental subsidies, funded by the BC Government. Call Parksville ext. 234

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Call Qualicum ext. 200

● Counselling Referral

Referrals to one-on-one professional counselling. Fee is determined on an individual basis.

● Personal Growth Group

All welcome to join the 10-week group that explores self-esteem, personal boundaries, healthy relationships and more. Ages 19+. Cost \$5 per session.

SENIORS

● Seniors' Advocacy Services

Resident's needs are determined through a confidential discussion. The Coordinator assists in finding supports and solutions through SOS programs and other resources. Call Parksville ext. 239

● Oceanside Better at Home

Administered by SOS in partnership with the United Way British Columbia, and funded by the Government of BC. The Better at Home program is designed to help seniors who are 65+ remain at home by providing a range of non-medical support services such as:

- Friendly visiting
- Light housekeeping
- Grocery shopping
- Yard maintenance
- On hold: Transportation to non-medical appointments

Call Qualicum ext. 200



● Seniors Connecting

A friendly, comfortable place to meet others and enjoy social interaction. Refreshments are provided and transportation can be arranged. Groups meet in Parksville and Qualicum Beach. Pre-registration is required. Funded in part by the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program. Call Qualicum ext. 202

SOS Program Guide Fall 2022



Supporting Community Together



SOS Community Services Centres | Parksville 250-248-2093 Qualicum 250-752-2040