



BALLENAS BULLETIN

#5 FEBRUARY, 2024

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

We would like to acknowledge that École Ballenas Secondary exists on the shared traditional territory of the Snaw'naw'as and Qualicum First Nations.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

uy' skweyul (good day) to our Ballenas Community. We are almost half-way into February, and I think that many of us can agree that it is one of the busiest, shortest, best months of the year! It is also a month that holds much promise: the days are getting longer, and our tulips are beginning to pop in our courtyard - all signs of great things to come. It is also the month where we find ourselves beginning to think and plan for our *next* school year.

We enjoyed meeting SO many new families at our Open House last week – we could not believe the turnout and felt the excitement in the air. Our school team will soon be travelling to elementary schools to follow up on the presentation and begin to answer some of the questions we know are out there – future Ballenas students, we CAN'T wait to welcome you!

Semester Two has started and is off to a great start. Communication home from Semester Two teachers will happen *by February 16th* in the form of a "Connect Home" which provides information to families such as:

- Overview/summary of the course, expectations, and assessment practice(s)
- Teacher contact information
- Information for parents on how to best find information about student learning: (e-classroom, portfolio, gradebook, e-mail, telephone, etc.)

Students will also meet with counselors throughout the month to begin the course selection process for next year. We are starting with grade-based assemblies this week and will move into the selection process next week. Please talk with your child(ren) about this, and check out our [website](#) for more information, including course descriptions and grad requirements.

Each class will meet with our counselors to receive all the required information and review how to complete the course selection process. If you or your child(ren) have any questions about this after the presentations, please reach out to our counselling team here at the school:

Norberta Heinrichs: Grades 8 and 9

Shannon Confortin: Grades 10 - 12 (last name A - L)

Konrad Langenmaier: Grades 10 - 12 (last name M - Z)

Ballenas students received a Term Two Learning Update (formerly Report Card) on Friday, February 9th that summarized learning from Semester One. Please be on the lookout for these as we often have many that do not get picked up or brought home.

Be in the know! SO much is happening during the month of February, we almost needed a second calendar. Don't forget to check out our info boards throughout the school, that provide information about what is happening @ Ballenas - such as:

- MUSICAL THEATRE is gearing up for their production of Mamma Mia, with shows beginning this week.

We hope to see you at the show!

- Club Meets - want to know when GSA meets? Eco Club? Guys' Group? Interact? Art Club? Check out the calendar in the main foyer for info on these groups, and more!
- Basketball continues - thanks to all our spectators who have come out to support all of our teams - *all* of our teams are grateful for your support, and we are thankful for our school and community coaches for all of their contributions to athletics here at Ballenas.
- Huge Congratulations to the girl's ski team who clinched a berth in the provincial championship at Sun Peaks at the end of the month! Whaler nation will be cheering you on!
- Looking for a job? Check out our job board, updated almost daily by our Career Centre.



Hay cep qa (thank you) from all of us at Ballenas. We look forward to seeing many of you back for parent-teacher conferences next month – stay tuned for booking information. As always, please check our school website for the most up to date information, including our daily announcements.

FLEX LEARNING

FLEX is an invaluable time for students to meet with their teachers, receive extra support, and connect with an area of interest or passion. Flex takes place each Wednesday morning from 8:35 – 9:56. Please talk with your child about FLEX learning and how they are using it. As our year progresses, teachers may be reaching out to you and requesting your child's attendance in a specific learning space. All teachers are available in their learning spaces in January to support students, and some of our clubs will take a pause until February. We have a variety of spaces available each week including:

French Immersion

Humanities 8/9

Math/Science 8/9

English and Social Studies 10 – 12

Math 10 – 12

Science 10 – 12

Shops (Metal, Electronics, Art)

Art

Theatre

Chess Club

Guitar Club

Gym/PE Space

FSL/Spanish

English Language Learning

Open Computer Labs

Library Space

Foods Room: Homework Space

Post-Secondary Planning

MPR Games and Connections

BALLENAS WHALEBONE THEATRE

Mamma Mia will be playing at the Whalebone Theatre February 13, 14, 15 and 20,21,22. The show starts at 7pm and tickets are available for purchase through our [Ballenas Online Store](#). For more information, please visit the [Whalebone Theatre Facebook Page](#).

INCLEMENT WEATHER REMINDER

As the weather gets colder, we'd like to remind you of the district inclement weather procedures. [Inclement Weather Reminder for Parents-Guardians-Caregivers](#)

MY SCHOOL DAY APP

We are excited to announce that BSS has officially launched the “My School Day” app. Students were given the opportunity to download, explore and troubleshoot the new app during CLC/HR. This is an informative communication app that will help students (and staff) know what day/block rotation it is, what their timetable is, and eventually, what is happening in the school. This is part of a focus on clear and effective communication for this year. For more information on how to download the app see the attached poster at the bottom of the newsletter.

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY

8 th	BSS Open House
9 th	Learning Updates Home
13 th - 16 th	Grad Photos (Book online)
13 th	Gr. 9 Immunizations
13 th – 22 nd	Mamma Mia Play, Whalebone Theatre (Tues-Thurs)
19 th	BC Family Day – Statutory Holiday
21 st	DPAC Meeting – 6:30 p.m. Zoom (link on website calendar)

MARCH

1 ST	Pro-D Day – Students Not in Attendance
13 th	DPAC Meeting – 6:30 p.m. Zoom (link on website calendar)
14 th	PAC Meeting – 6:30 p.m. BSS Library
15 th	Last Day of Classes Prior to Spring Break
15 th	S2 x4 Ends (Grade 8’s)

FRIDAY SCHEDULE

Friday, February 9 th	Day 2
Friday, February 16 th	Day 1
Friday, February 23 rd	Day 2
Friday, March 8 th	Day 1
Friday, March 15 th	Day 2

YEARBOOK

Due to the popularity of this year's book, we have ordered more copies and now have 25 more books for sale. As always, you can purchase your book through the school's on-line cash store, or at the Ballenas On-line store (where you can also purchase your tickets for Mama Mia). The price is still only \$50.

GRAD

For all information on Grad 2024 (parents), please visit our BSS website. We ask all Grads to follow the “Grad Google Classroom” for continuous information coming out regarding cap & gown order, prom and commencement information, post-secondary opportunities and more.

Grad portraits will take place at Ballenas February 13th - 16th. To book your session click here > [Grad Portrait Bookings.](#)

Grad fee payment #1 is now due (February 9th). You can pay all fees via [SchoolCash Online](#) or at the office with cash or cheque.

Save The Date:

- Saturday, May 4th, 2024: Golf Scramble Fundraiser at Morningstar Golf Club – more information to come in the following months
- Ongoing Bottle Donation Fundraiser at the Parksville Bottle and Recycling Depot – use account “Ballenas Grad 2024”.

SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS

Safer Schools Together is pleased to announce that in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Childcare, we have opened up four more dates for our “Social Media Awareness” Family Sessions. These sessions were designed to support families and caregivers navigate the digital world.

[erase Family Sessions \(safer-schools-together.com\)](https://safer-schools-together.com)

PARENT SESSIONS ON YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE

The Ministry of Education and Child Care, in partnership with adolescent Clinical Psychologist, Dr. Hayley Watson, will be hosting free virtual sessions on youth substance use for parents/guardians, caregivers and caring adults. Dr. Watson will provide valuable insights, practical tips, and resources to equip participants with the tools needed to guide their children and youth toward making positive choices when it comes to substance use.

Key Takeaways for Participants:

- Learn why children/teenagers are drawn to substances.
- Understand what causes and maintains substance use disorder and needs.
- Increase your child’s ability to make positive choices about substances.
- Acquire practical conversation tools for discussing substances in the home.

Participants must register in advance due to limited capacity. Session dates are:

- February 20, 6:00 – 7:30 pm PST - [Click here to Register](#)
- February 22, 6:00 – 7:30 pm PST – [Click here to Register](#)
- February 28, 6:00 – 7:30 pm PST - [Click here to Register](#)

Email the Mental Health and Substance Use Branch at educ.mentalhealth@gov.bc.ca with any questions.

BSS PAC

All schools in School District 69 have a Parent Advisory Council, and any parent with a child in school is a member of the school PAC. The PAC serves in an advisory capacity to the school to further enhance and support the education of all students within the school.

The Ballenas PAC meets on the **second Thursday evening of each month at 6:30 in the school library** and meetings are open to all members of the school community. Parents are the only voting members of the PAC. The Ballenas PAC discusses and makes recommendations on issues which are brought forward by parents, students, staff and administrators. The PAC holds a Bingo license which benefits many groups in the school and PAC members also participate whenever they can in school spirit activities such as Christmas crafts and decorating and Halloween. Parents wishing to discuss issues with a PAC representative may attend our monthly PAC meeting or email: ballenaspac@gmail.com

All parents/caregivers are invited - you can come and go as you please and as fits your schedule and we promise...we won't "sign you up for anything" :O) This is truly your chance to be a **"fly on the wall"** and be part of the extended Whaler family (or you can totally sit at the table and yap along with us!) Everyone is invited -- even if it's your first meeting and your kid is in grade 12!

If you can't make the PAC meeting but have a burning question or request for PAC -- let me know! Click [here](#) a great write up on the BCCPAC page that outlines how **parents/caregivers are stakeholders in your child's education.**

School Trustees will be visiting schools on the first Wednesday of each month beginning in October (2nd Wednesday in January) to make themselves available to parents/caregivers, staff and students for some informal information sharing.

COFFEE WITH TRUSTEES 2023-2024 SCHEDULE	
OES	October 4
AES	November 1
SES	December 6
PASS/CEAP WINCHELSEA LEARNING CENTRE	January 10 (2 nd Wednesday)
QBES	February 7
BSS	April 3
KSS	May 1
BES	June 5

FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE

The Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) follows an annual Budget Development process each school year in order to establish the final annual budget for submission to the Ministry of Education. This process begins with providing an opportunity for stakeholders to share input toward this decision making. Click [HERE](#) for more information and a link to the district's 2024/2025 budget survey.

SD69 COMMUNITY PAGE

There is lots going on in the community! Too much in fact that we cannot post all of it in our newsletter. Did you know that the School District has a community page on their website? Please see the link below for events and workshops happening in the community.

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

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 expect students to sign in/out of the office, so in an emergency, we can look at the clipboard and clarify if a student has left the building. We asked our teaching staff to reach out proactively and offer support when they notice an attendance pattern emerging. By doing this, we hope to gain a better understanding of what may be happening for our students that may be contributing to an inconsistent attendance pattern, and work with families to help. If you need support in this, please contact us here at school.



My School Day

Quick Start for Students
and Parents

Fall 2023



1. Download the app

You can find the app - **it's free to download!** - on the App Store (iOS) or Google Play (Android) by

- Searching in the store for "My School Day"
- Going to <https://myschoolday.app/download> in the browser on your phone
- Using the QR code at right.



Make sure to allow it to receive notifications when asked - the school will use them to send out important reminders, information and alerts.

2. Select your school

The first time you start the app you will need to select your school. Choose a province, school district, and finally your school from the lists provided, and tap "confirm". *This only needs to be done once.*

3. Follow channels.

Channels let the school administration and teachers send out information specific to your classes and activities, so you get only those notifications for your classes and those of interest to the entire school. To subscribe to channels:

- Tap on the "Classes" icon
- Tap "Follow Channels" in the menu
- Tap the checkboxes for the channels you are interested in
- Tap on the "Done" button.

Remember to check back regularly for new channels that your teachers may have added.



4. Enter your classes

Tapping on the classes icon also gives you an option to set up your timetable. Select that option and enter your class names and select colours and icons. You can also enter morning, lunch, and after school activities. When you tap on "Done", the app will fill in your timetable.

5. Access school information, links and files

The school and teachers will add links and files that provide resources to the school community such as course materials for remote learning, health advisories, and other school, district, and provincial information. To access these school-wide and channel-specific resources:

- Tap the info icon at the right hand side of the tab bar:

Remember to check back regularly for new resources that your teachers may have added.



**BALLENAS
SECONDARY
PRESENTS**



FEB 13,14,15

20,21,22

7pm

Tickets \$15 Adults \$10 Students

at the door or @

“Ballenas Online Store”

BSS GRAD 2024

Bottle
DONATION

ONGOING THROUGH APRIL 2024

Drop Off

Bottle & Recycling Depot

611A Alberní Hwy, Parksville

USE ACCOUNT NAME:

“BALLENAS GRAD 2024”

And all proceeds will go towards the 2024 Dry Grad celebration

Grad Photos 2024

BALLENAS SECONDARY



BOOK YOUR PHOTOS


Available Session Dates:
February 13-16th



NEED TO KNOW

- \$30 sit fee is due at time of booking (to be paid online)
- Please arrive dressed in your outfit of choice. We recommend a collard shirt and tie, or scoop/V-neck shirt for under your grad gown. Caps and gowns will be provided at your session.
- Grad portrait sessions will be done in the computer lab. **Please arrive 10 min early.**

CONCEPT PHOTOGRAPHY
250.741.4209 | conceptphoto.ca



OCEANSIDE MINOR BASEBALL
REGISTRATION 2023

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO
REGISTER ON-LINE VISIT US AT

www.oceansidebaseball.ca

Any question, contact the registrar,

angela@oceansidebaseball.ca

Want to be an umpire?

Contact Will Chambers

oceansideblueump@gmail.com

SKATE NIGHT

NIGHT

YOUTH MEETUP

FEB 19 @1PM



THIS IS A QB SKATERS AND OCEANSIDE YOUTH 4 YOUTH MEETUP

DRAWS FOR SKATE DECKS, SWAG FROM SPONSORS AND LOCAL SHOPS

LEARN HOW TO FIX AND ADJUST YOUR BOARDS!

174 ISLAND
HIGHWAY EAST
PARKSVILLE

FREE
DROP IN

MORE INFO: @QB_SKATERS
@OCEANSIDEYOUTH4YOUTH

SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION

An Online Presentation for Parents



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Learn why children/teenagers are drawn to substances
- Understand what causes and maintains substance use disorder and needs
- Increase your child's ability to make positive choices about substances
- Acquire practical conversation tools for discussing substances in the home

Presentation Overview:

This presentation will focus on **tools and strategies** that you can use to speak to your children about substances in a way that encourages **positive decision-making** through a psychological lens. You will learn the causes of youth substance use and be introduced to a framework for **creating open communication** on this topic in your home.

There will be a focus on prevention and harm/risk mitigation in order to **empower** you to help your children think critically about their own behaviours, motivations, and choices.

In this session, you will be provided with the **specific language to use** when conversations arise about substances. There will also be opportunities to ask questions about the specific challenges you are facing with your children.

Online Session Information:

February 20th, 22nd or 28th

6pm-7:30 pm PST

Note. The same presentation will be delivered on each date

REGISTER



openp.co/Feb20

Presenter:

Dr Hayley Watson

Clinical Psychologist & Founder of Open Parachute

(PhD Clin Psych, MA Clin Psych, MA Transpersonal Psych, PG Dip Psych, BA Criminology)



Dr Hayley Watson is a Clinical Psychologist from BC, specializing in children and adolescents with a PhD in school bullying interventions, along with four further academic degrees in the field of mental health.

She has been working with young people and their families globally for the past 20 years.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Education and Child Care.