



BALLENAS BULLETIN

#7 MARCH, 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

Change in Bell Schedule – Effective April 2nd, 2024

Please note that effective April 2nd, 2024, the Bell Schedule will change at Ballenas. School will now begin at 8:40 AM (with a Welcome Bell at 8:35 AM), and lunch will now be 5 minutes shorter.

Please check out our website to view the [updated Bell Schedule](#) that will begin when we return from Spring Break.

uy' skweyul (good day) to our Ballenas Community. March is here – snow and all! While we had an “extra” day in February, it seemed to go by extra quickly – as time does – and, as always, it was filled with lots of activity at Ballenas.

February saw the wrap-up of Basketball, the culmination of months of hard work with the Whalebone Theatre's presentation of *Mamma Mia*, our annual Open House, course selection, Valentine's Day, Pink Shirt Day, Black History Month, Learning Updates, Grad Photos, and much, much more.

All our students have now completed course selection. All submissions/forms are due on March 4th. We will now begin the careful work of considering all their selections as we build next year's timetable. If you have any questions about this process or want to check in about current or future course offerings, please contact your child's grade counsellor:

Grade 8/9: Norberta Heinrichs

Grade 10 – 12 (student last names A – L): Shannon Confortin

Grade 10 – 12 (student last names M – Z): Konrad Langenmaier

We look forward to seeing many families here this week for parent-teacher conferences. Conferences will be held this Wednesday, March 6th from 4PM – 7PM, and this Thursday, March 7th, from 4PM – 6PM. If you have not yet booked, you still can via our [booking website](#).

If you are unable to make a conference, but still want to connect with your child's teachers, staff contact details would have been sent home by each teacher in February via our “Connect Home” information and can also be found on the school website – check out our [staff directory](#). Communication between school and home is very important, and we encourage ongoing communication between home and school.

Spring Break will soon be here – when we return from the break, work will begin on the Ballenas track project. Beginning in April, the current track area will be cordoned off, and students will be asked to avoid the area. This project is anticipated to wrap up in October, weather permitting, of course! Ballenas is very excited for this project, and very grateful for all who came together to make this project happen.

Hay cep qa (thank you) from all of us at Ballenas.



Special thanks to Mr. Seidel and our Grade 10 CLC classes for spreading our gratitude via hearts and poems that were shared with local community supports such as the Fire Department, RCMP, and Island Health.

FROM THE INDIGENOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Click [here](#) for the March Indigenous Education Newsletter.

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 SKI TEAM

The inaugural season for the Ballenas Ski Team ended off with a trip to the Provincial Finals at Sun Peaks this past week. The girls, Callie Wickman, Jaycie Wickman, Myanah Van Dusen, Katie McCulloch and Annabelle Latulippe, had an amazing showing and all finished in the top 100 in both the Giant Slalom and the Terrain Giant Slalom in a field of almost 150 athletes. Special shout out goes to Callie Wickman who was the top athlete from our school in the Giant Slalom – finishing 60th overall and Annabelle Latulippe who came 64th in the Terrain Giant Slalom and 1st in the Park Jam for girls' skiers.

Thanks for a great season!



CHILD DENTAL BENEFIT

Families with an income of under \$90,000 are eligible for a dental benefit for uninsured children under 12. Applications are due **June 30**. Find out more [here](#).

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

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)

APRIL

1 ST	Easter Monday – School Not in Session
2 nd	Schools Reopen
2 nd	S2 X 5 Starts
3 rd	Coffee with Trustees – 3:00 -4:30 p.m.
11 th	PAC Meeting – 6:30 p.m. BSS Library
17 th	DPAC Meeting – 6:30 p.m. Zoom (link on website calendar)
18 th	Spring Fling Dance
22 nd	Term 4 Starts
29 th	School Based Pro D

FRIDAY SCHEDULE

Friday, March 8 th	Day 1
Friday, March 15 th	Day 2
Friday, April 5 th	Day 1
Friday, April 12 th	Day 2
Friday, April 19 th	Day 1
Friday, April 26 th	Day 2

CROSS BOUNDARY APPLICATIONS

All “Applications for Cross-boundary Enrollment for Following School Year” forms **must be submitted by Friday, March 15th, 2024**. Applications received after March 15th will be considered ‘late’ applications and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

All students making a cross-boundary application **MUST FIRST** be registered at their catchment school prior to being considered for cross-boundary.

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. The price is still only \$50.

GRAD

For all information on Grad 2024 (parents), please visit our BSS website. Specifically, please note the letter from the Committee Chairs which is posted there. 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 fee payment #1 is now due (February 9th). You can pay all fees via [SchoolCash Online](#) or at the office with cash or cheque.

Prom Date, Time, Location:

- BSS Prom 2024: Saturday, June 29th @ 4 PM - 12 AM, Jensen Centre, 132 Jensen Avenue East, (Formerly Parksville Community Centre)

Save The Date:

- Saturday, April 20th, 2024: Bottle Drive (our final one)!
- 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". Sort your bottles and THEN donate.

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!

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

STUDENT LEARNING SURVEY 2023/2024

The Provincial Student Learning Survey is unique in its scope, size and usefulness to schools. It gathers information from parents/guardians/caregivers, teachers, and students on topics related to school environment, safety, and achievement. The information is used for planning in individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective.

This week, the Student Learning Survey will be administered to students in grades 10 and 12, their parents/guardians/caregivers, and all school staff. We encourage parents/guardians/caregivers to participate in this survey, as the results are important in identifying and celebrating current strengths, as well as determining where the school needs to focus improvement. The surveys contain standard questions for the Province – in addition, questions from the school and/or district that focus on local conditions or issues may be included.

The survey can be completed electronically and can be accessed online at [Student Learning Survey for Grades 4,7,10 and 12](#), or on our Ballenas website <https://www.sd69.bc.ca/school/BSS/Pages/default.aspx#/=->. Any computer with an Internet connection can be used, and access to the e-survey is simple and secure. The survey can be accessed through the link with or without an anonymous logon code by selecting the school district and school name where your child attends school. Provincial, District and School Reports for previous years can be viewed at the same site under the *Results* section.

The e-survey site will be open until May 3rd, 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact the school at 250-248-5721

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#/>



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.



BSS GRAD 2024

Bottle
DRIVE

**SATURDAY,
APRIL 20TH
10 AM - 3 PM**

Drop Off

**BSS
PARKING LOT**

135 Pym St, Parksville

**Pickup available for
full truck-loads**

Email:

bssgradinfo@gmail.com

All proceeds go towards the 2024 Dry Grad celebration



2024 TRACK & FIELD

STARTS 2ND APRIL 2024

Register Now! >

Junior Development (age 9-13)
High School (age 14-18)

GO FOR YOUR PERSONAL BEST!

oceansidetrackfield.ca

Coffee with Trustees

Each month during the school year a different school will be hosting “**Coffee with Trustees**” after the end of the day bell. Parents/caregivers, students and staff are invited to join trustees for informal conversation on topics of importance to them.



THE NEXT COFFEE WITH TRUSTEES IS SCHEDULED FOR:

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024
AT ECOLE BALLENAS SECONDARY**

We look forward to seeing you there!



Mindfulness in May Open Call to Youth for Submissions

Forest, Sea, & Self theme for 2024 Exhibition



Grades 5-12 in SD 69 & surrounding areas, including home learners.

Visual Art- literary- Photography

Collage, Drawings, Digital,
Fabric arts, Film, Paintings,
Photography, Poetry, short
stories, sculpture, Mixed
Media

Awards and Prizes

1st Place SR+JR · \$150
2nd Place SR+JR · \$75
Photography -Writes \$50.00
People's Choice · \$75

**Early Submissions by
March 13th for a chance
to be featured in posters
and win extra prizes!**

**All works due April 5th at 8pm.
Submit online here:
<https://mindfulmay.artistquarter.com/>**

Exhibition: April 30th-May 11th Qualicum Public Library
606 Primrose Street Qualicum Beach

GALA EVENT & ART AWARDS MAY 2ND 6:00-7:30PM

SPONSORED BY:



For more information, contact Diane at moraninthemoon@gmail.com.

YOUTH ART EXHIBITION CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

"MINDFULNESS IN MAY" 2024 FOREST, SEA & SELF

Artist Diane Moran has partnered with The Qualicum Beach Rotary Club, and the Vancouver Island Regional Library for a youth exhibition of visual, photography and literary art created by students in grades 5-12 that will run April 30th - May 11th, 2024. The exhibition is open to all students registered in School District 69 and to students residing in the communities served by SD69 (who are registered in a Home Learning Program. The exhibition works will be available for viewing and on display at Qualicum Beach Public Library and online <https://mindfulmay.artistquarter.com/>

All submissions will be featured in the exhibition.

SHOW OBJECTIVE

The exhibition is taking place during BC Youth Week and during National Mental Health Week, so we have chosen "FOREST, SEA & SELF" as the topic for this year. We encourage students to explore what FOREST, SEA & SELF means to them in their own lives and in their own language. We believe the resulting exhibition will be a great success and create powerful conversations and thought-provoking art around the subject.

Below are some potential interpretations of the theme (artists are encouraged to come up with their own interpretations too):

Who benefits from our Forest or Sea

Where is your favorite place when you visit the Forest or Sea?

What does the Forest or Sea feel or look like?

What can the Forest or Sea offer you?

What can the Forest or Sea offer to others?

What would you like to share about Self?

How can you nurture Self?

EXHIBIT CATEGORIES

Students are invited to submit ONE piece in one or each category.

Category 1: Visual Art/ Media

- 2D Art - Includes all media on board, canvas or paper (excluding Photography - see below).
- 3D Art - Three dimensional, functional or sculptural work of any material(s).
- Fiber Art - Wall hangings, quilts, rugs, wearable work etc. where the primary material is fiber.

Category 2: Photography

EVEN THE GREAT ONE PLAYED LACROSSE



**FUN FACT: LACROSSE IS CANADA'S
NATIONAL SUMMER GAME**

EVER WANT TO TRY LACROSSE?
FREE DROP INS:

U7-U9 (BORN 2016-2019) 5:00PM-5:45PM	MARCH 6th, 13th Parksville Craig Street Commons 330 Craig St. <i><u>PLEASE NOTE NO DROP INS FEBRUARY 28TH</u></i>
U11-U13 (BORN 2012-2015) 5:45-6:30PM	
U15-U17 (BORN 2008-2011) 6:30-7:15PM	

HELMETS WITH CAGE AND GLOVES NEEDED - WE SUPPLY STICKS AND BALLS
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
pres@oceansidelacrosse.com

BRING YOUR FRIENDS!!