



# BALLENAS BULLETIN

## #8 APRIL, 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

Spring showers bring MAY flowers, so here is hoping! We've certainly started off with rain, sun, and a few rainbows if you look closely enough - something we try and do every day! We are loving our Pym facing trees right now – you've likely seen them if you've driven by recently – check them out before the blooms blow away.



April has presented us with many opportunities to be outside AND inside - and often on the same day. A reminder to all about our expectations of conduct in the community as many students are spending more time out and about in the neighbourhood and in local businesses during our lunchtime. We often get calls from our community members regarding our students - and often they are calls with praise. We would like to remind students that all of our expectations within the [Code of Conduct](#) extend outside of our campus - remember, you are representing Ballenas.

We Respect Others by:	We Respect Ourselves by:	We Respect this Place by:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Treating others with respect and dignity in the school, on our grounds, in the community, while on field trips, and on school buses.</li> <li>✓ Respecting others' privacy, in person and online, and using technology and media safely and appropriately.</li> <li>✓ Following the guidance of school staff.</li> <li>✓ Being an upstander vs. a bystander</li> <li>✓ Understanding that any form of discrimination and racism will not be tolerated in our school.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Striving to get adequate sleep and proper nutrition.</li> <li>✓ Prioritizing our mental health and appreciation for learning.</li> <li>✓ Prioritizing our attendance and engagement in classes, but staying home when we are sick.</li> <li>✓ Recognizing that vaping, smoking, and substance use is harmful to our growing brain and body, and respecting the policies in place to keep everyone safe.</li> <li>✓ Acknowledging when we need connections with a trusted adult for advice, support, and/or help.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Using school materials, library books, and devices with care.</li> <li>✓ Keeping our classrooms, shared spaces, parking lot, and community clean and free from litter and vandalism.</li> <li>✓ Moving safely around the campus and respecting the personal space of others.</li> <li>✓ Being aware that we are members of the community and contributing positively to our neighbourhood and town.</li> <li>✓ Treating nature on our grounds and other spaces with respect and care.</li> </ul>

While we are on the topic of our Code of Conduct – we will soon be reviewing and connecting with our students, staff, and parent/guardians regarding any recommendations for next year. **This is an important document that all Ballenas community members need to know and follow, and one that we reference regularly when working with students.**

One of the bullets you will see in our expectation matrix (above) is a note about prioritizing our attendance and engagement in classes. You may have noticed that teachers have been reaching out regarding absences. We have asked that all of our teaching staff reach out once they see 5 unexcused absences – this reach out is one of care and support – with the goal of understanding any potential barriers to attendance that they could help with in supporting students to be at school and in classes. Thank you for your work in prioritizing this with your child(ren), and for calling in to excuse them when they are away for specific reasons.

We've had a busy lead up to and return from Spring Break – and lots happening through the month of April. Here are a few highlights:

- Week of Visibility (this week) - check out our daily announcements
- Spring Spirit Week (next week) - see the daily announcements for the theme for each day next week
- Spring Fling Dance – always a night to remember – is happening on April 18<sup>th</sup>
- Grade 12 Student Capstone Presentations (April 19<sup>th</sup>) - this is the second year that our Grade 12 students will be presenting these projects publicly, in our gym. We look forward to having our Grade

10 and 11 students walk through these presentations to gather ideas, ask questions, and start thinking ahead to what they may want to do for their Capstone Projects (we'll share a few in our next newsletter in May!)

- The Vancouver Island Concert Band Festival is happening this week in Port Alberni at ADSS. School bands from Victoria to Campbell River (and beyond) attend this festival
- On May 1st the Jazz Band students will head to VIU in Nanaimo for the West Coast Jazz Festival, and on Tuesday, June 4th we will be having our Year-End Concert here at BSS!
- Student Voice has been hard at work on a few projects recently including: school WIFI upgrades, changeroom renovation and feedback, start time feedback, and more. We are excited that lots of our school's feedback was taken into consideration for a changeroom remodel – we look forward to seeing this happen (hopefully over summer!)
- Drop in training for Basketball skills and fun is starting this week afterschool on Thursdays and Fridays - see announcements for more information
- Eco Club has been very busy within our community. They just participated in the Brant Children's Wildlife Festival at AES on April 5<sup>th</sup>, and they've got tree planting planned with Stream Keepers and KSS students on Earth Day in Grandon Creek in Qualicum Beach. Eco Club students will also be attending the Mid-Island Youth Climate Symposium organized and hosted by KSS on April 24, and are hard at work planning lessons for BSS Grade 8 and 9 students for Earth Day.



- Provincial assessments are coming up next week. Students in Grades 10 and 12 will be writing Literacy (Grade 10 and 12) and Numeracy (Grade 10) assessments. If your child is writing this assessment, they will write it with their Math or English class. The schedule and sample practice assessments have been shared with teachers who have classes that are writing. More information and additional sample assessments have been linked to our website – you can find them [here](#)
- Mountain Biking is up and running for the Spring with group rides after school - see Mr. Muirhead or Mr. Townsend for more information
- Soccer, golf, and track and field teams are now in action!

We hope that everyone had a restful Spring Break. It is great to have everyone back again. Time seems to speed up after this Break as we begin this last month that we often refer to as "AprilMayJune." As always – there will be LOTS happening throughout this time and if you are ever curious about what is going on within the school, please check out our [website](#) where you can find our daily announcements - they will give you a good idea of the many opportunities and happenings here at Ballenas.

As always, we appreciate your ongoing and continued support of the Ballenas Community. We are grateful for where we live and learn. Please stay connected with us via our school [website](#), and reach out should you have any questions.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **APRIL**

17<sup>th</sup>

DPAC Meeting – 6:30 p.m. Zoom (link on website calendar)

18<sup>th</sup> Spring Fling Dance  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Term 4 Starts  
 29<sup>th</sup> Pro D Day

**MAY**

3<sup>rd</sup> Learning Updates Home  
 9<sup>th</sup> PAC Meeting – 6:30 p.m. BSS Library  
 10<sup>th</sup> S2 X 5 Ends (Gr. 8’s)  
 13<sup>th</sup> S2 X 6 Starts (Gr.8’s)  
 15<sup>th</sup> DPAC Meeting – 6:30 p.m. Zoom (link on website calendar)  
 16<sup>th</sup> Spring Carnival  
 17<sup>th</sup> Conferencing Adjustment Day  
 20<sup>th</sup> Victoria Day – Statutory Holiday

**FRIDAY SCHEDULE**

Friday, April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Day 1
Friday, April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Day 2
Friday, April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Day 1
Friday, April 26 <sup>th</sup>	Day 2
Friday, May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Day 1
Friday, May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Day 2
Friday May 24 <sup>th</sup>	Day 1
Friday, May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Day 2

**SCHOOL BUS REGISTRATION FOR 2024/25**

School Bus Registration for the 2024/25 school year is now open! Go to the Qualicum School District Transportation [website](#) to access the online application form. Get your application in before the end of this school year for the best opportunity to secure a spot for you child.

**TIMELINES**

April - May 31, 2024 only Eligible bus pass applications will be processed, on a first come/first served basis.

- If a bus reaches capacity, an Eligible Rider wait list will be created. You will be notified if you are put on a wait list.
- Courtesy rider applications received during this time will not be processed until after June 1.
- Exact bus route information will be emailed to families before the first day of school.

June 1 – June 30 2024 Courtesy, as well as late Eligible bus pass applications will be processed on a first come/first served basis as space is available on the bus route(s) requested.

- Courtesy riders that are offered a space on the bus will be notified and asked to pay the necessary fees. When payment is received the application will be finalized. If payment is not made within 5 business days of being offered the space, the application will be re-dated and put back into the queue.
- If a bus reaches capacity, a wait list will be created. You will be notified if you are put on a wait list.

Applications received after July 1 will be considered on a wait list and only accepted on a first come first served basis as space on busses allow.

## 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 fee payment #1 is now due (February 9<sup>th</sup>). 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 29<sup>th</sup> @ 4 PM - 12 AM, Jensen Centre, 132 Jensen Avenue East, (Formerly Parksville Community Centre)

### Save The Date:

- Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024: Bottle Drive (our final one)!
- Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024: Golf Scramble Fundraiser at Morningstar Golf Club.
- 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](mailto: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!

- **May 22 6:00-7:30 pm @ BSS - SOGI School for Families - Understanding and Supporting SOGI** (Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity) in schools with Mischa Oak, [LGBTQ Corporate Training](#) (former Qualicum School District teacher) **Back for a second year!**
  - What SOGI in schools really means and how you can take part in being a 2SLGBTQ+ ally
  - Build understanding together and turn away from fear and misinformation
  - Diversity amplifies excellence.™

*DPAC and the District heard such great feedback on this event last year - DPAC has teamed up with the School District and are super excited to bring Mischa Oak back to his old school Ballenas stomping ground! Mischa is a fantastic presenter and we invite families (this is extended to District & MATA staff as well) in the Qualicum School District to attend May 22! See poster below.*



## ONLINE SAFETY SESSIONS

[Safer Schools Together](#) is offering *erase* virtual family learning sessions on social media awareness and online safety. Share them widely within your districts and school communities! Additional information and registration [here](#).

## 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.

In March, the Student Learning Survey was administered to students in grades 10 and 12, and is open to parents/guardians. 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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.

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

## 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#/>

## 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](#).

## 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 at the start of our year. This is an informative communication app that will help students (and staff) know what day/block rotation it is, what their timetable is and what is happening in the school via the daily announcements. 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.



# 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](mailto:bssgradinfo@gmail.com)**

**All proceeds go towards the 2024 Dry Grad celebration**

# Free SOS Learning Series

April 20, 2024

*Play and Recreation = Healthy Development*



**Join us for an interactive discussion!**

**Panelists:** Representatives from KidSport BC, Jumpstart, RDN, a Registered Clinical Counsellor, and SOS Child, Youth & Family Programs.

Pre-register at [SOSKidsPlay.eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca) or call SOS at 250.248.2093 by April 18 – capacity limited to the first 50 registrants. Free child-minding services are available on-site, please email [cyfmanager@sosd69.com](mailto:cyfmanager@sosd69.com) to reserve.

Complimentary refreshments will be available.

**Location:** SOS Community Services Centre Parksville,  
245 Hirst Ave. W. | **Check-in:** 9:45 am  
**Presentation:** 10 am - 11:30 am **Q&A:** 11:30 am - 12 noon



Society of  
Organized  
Services





**VANCOUVER ISLAND  
REGIONAL LIBRARY**

**660 PRIMROSE ST,  
QUALICUM BEACH, BC**

**MAY 1-11 2024**

**OPENING GALA  
MAY 2ND AT 6PM - 8PM  
TOWN HALL LOBBY**

**EXHIBITION HOURS**

**MON-THUR 10AM- 8PM  
FRI-SAT 10AM-5PM**

# **Mindfulness in May "Forest, Sea & Self"**

**Annual Youth Arts Exhibition**

**For more info contact Diane Moran at [moraninthemoon@gmail.com](mailto:moraninthemoon@gmail.com).**

**Rotary**  
Qualicum Beach



**ADAM  
WALKER  
MLA**  
PARKSVILLE-QUALICUM

TOWN OF  
QUALICUM BEACH



**Quality  
FOODS®**





Public Health  
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé  
publique du Canada

Canada

# GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH

## APPLY NOW

for the School Health Grant for Youth

**UP TO \$1500**

**ARE YOU...**

- ✓ A **Canadian youth** aged **13–19**?
- ✓ A student in **grades 9–12** (Secondary 3–6 in Quebec)?
- ✓ Passionate about **healthy living**?

**YOUTH-LED PROJECTS MUST FOCUS ON  
ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**



**Positive mental  
health + well-being**



**Healthy eating  
+ nutrition**



**Reducing substance-  
related harms**



**Physical  
activity**

**Interested in applying?**

Check out our website:  
[Canada.ca/youth-school-grant](https://Canada.ca/youth-school-grant)



**SCAN ME!**

**For more information:**

[school.health.grant-subvention.sante.scolaire@phac-aspc.gc.ca](mailto:school.health.grant-subvention.sante.scolaire@phac-aspc.gc.ca)

Keynote Address

# SOGI SCHOOL FOR FAMILIES

Understanding and Supporting SOGI in Schools  
(Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity)

*Diversity amplifies excellence.™*



## Mischa Oak

Presenter

Mischa Oak (he/him) is a former BC teacher who has dedicated his career to helping others foster diversity and Two-Spirit & LGBTQ+ inclusion excellence. Through his company LGBTQ Corporate Training, Mischa advises school districts, multinational companies, First Nations, and international development projects.

Mischa's advocacy career includes working for same-sex marriage legalization, coordinating Vancouver Pride, and advocating for transgender rights in the BC school system. Mischa is a Loran Scholar with an MEd in Social Justice Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning.

### Families SOGI School



1.5 hr

Keynote

- Understanding SOGI
- Creating a community of allies
- 2SLGBTQ+ 101
- What to say. What not to say.
- Understanding where anti-SOGI pushback is coming from
- How to talk about SOGI
- Supporting 2SLGBTQ+ youth

- ✓ **What SOGI in schools really means and how you can take part in being a 2SLGBTQ+ ally.**
- ✓ **Build understanding together and turn away from fear and misinformation.**



Wednesday, May 22, 2024



6:00pm - 8:00pm



BSS Theatre - 135 Pym St, Parksville



[www.lgbtqcorporatetraining.com](http://www.lgbtqcorporatetraining.com)

Questions? Email: [sd69dpac@gmail.com](mailto:sd69dpac@gmail.com)

DPAC & Qualicum School District (QSD) are excited to bring Mischa back for a second year in row!



**Families  
QSD Staff  
CUPE  
MATA**

are ALL invited to attend this Keynote Address





## VIU Career Fair

**What:** VIU Career Fair, hosted by the [Career Studio](#)

**When:** Friday, April 26, 2024, 11 am to 3 pm

**Where:** VIU gymnasium (Building 190). See [Nanaimo campus map](#)

High school students, alumni and members of the public are invited to come to a large career fair on Vancouver Island University's (VIU's) Nanaimo campus on April 26.

VIU's Career Studio is hosting the event, which features more than 40 businesses and organizations ranging from government and health care to banking and construction industries. [View the full list](#) on the event page.

"This is your chance to learn about a range of employment and volunteer opportunities in our region and beyond as well as VIU programs that can help you realize your career aspirations," said Jonah Ferguson, Student and Employer Engagement Coordinator with the Career Studio. "We're still accepting more employer participants. If you're looking for local talent to fill your positions, this is a good place to be."

The [Career Studio](#) supports VIU students and alumni with the job-seeking process, from developing resumés and cover letters to preparing for interviews and exploring potential careers. This is the second career fair the Career Studio has organized.

"Our previous career fair in September 2023 drew in more than 650 VIU students and alumni from various programs to connect with more than 60 employers," he said. "Participating employers estimated that more than 70 hires were made as a result of the event."

Parking is free for the duration of the event, but [registration is required](#). If you have any questions about this event, you can reach out to [CareerStudio@viu.ca](mailto:CareerStudio@viu.ca).

Permalink: <https://news.viu.ca/viu-welcomes-public-campus-career-fair>