

## ***Ballenas Music Program***

On behalf of the students and director of the Ballenas Music Program, welcome to an organization in which you can be proud. In order to achieve the highest standards of excellence in the Ballenas Music program, it's necessary for the new student to become acquainted with the regulations, procedures and past traditions of the organization. It's for this reason that this handbook is made available. Please take the time to read through it and familiarize yourself with it. The Ballenas Music program offers the following courses: Concert Band 8-9 , Concert Band 10-12, Stage Band 9-12, Junior Choir 8-9 , Senior Choir 10-12, and Guitar 8-12.



*Performing in Disneyland 2014*

director of Music at St. George's School near UBC where he taught for three years. In 1991, Mr. Robson accepted the position of Music director at Ballenas Secondary School. He completed his Masters degree in Leadership and Administration from Gonzaga University in 2011.

### **Your Director**

Mr. Rick Robson is originally from Hinton, Alberta where studied trumpet and was a member of the Concert Band, Stage Band, and Choir at Harry Collinge High School. He studied Music Education at the University of Victoria where he graduated with distinction in 1981. Mr. Robson began his teaching career in North Vancouver. After seven years, he accepted a position as

### **A Tradition of Travel!**

The Ballenas Music program has an outstanding musical reputation and has performed exceptionally well at school, community, and regional and national festivals. A large selection of invitations to Musicfest Canada are displayed proudly in the musicroom. Mr. Robson has taken Ballenas students to Musicfest Canada in many Canadian cities including Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver, as well as the Canadian Rocky Mountain Music festival in Banff, Alberta. The Ballenas Music department has also taken students on amazing trips to Seattle, San Francisco, New Orleans, and three times to Hawaii and Disneyland!

### **Philosophy of Teamwork and Commitment**

Musical groups at Ballenas Secondary School are unique among curriculum classes in that they are also performance organizations. Students in these classes must understand at the outset that each performance and rehearsal activity must be considered a necessary part of the class curriculum and will be treated as such. It's the philosophy of the music department that each student is responsible not only to themselves but also to the organization as a whole and to the other students for participation in performances.



*Student conductor in New Orleans school on 2013 trip!*

**2014-2015 Ballenas Music courses**  
scheduled before and after school

#### **Senior Concert Band 10-12**

Tuesday and Thursday  
7:15-8:15am

#### **Stage Band 8-12**

Monday 7:15-8:15am  
Wednesday 3:15-4:15pm

**Senior Choir 10-12**  
Monday 3:15pm-4:15pm  
Wednesday 7:15am-8:15am

Scheduled during the school day:

**Junior Choir 8/9- B block**  
**Guitar 10/12- C block**  
**Concert Band 8/9- D block**



Students on an airboat adventure in a bayou south of New Orleans!

### **Parental Support**

The Music Parents is an important group for us. Music is a three-way partnership composed of teacher, student and parent and frequent communication is critical. Each member of the partnership has a responsibility and most parents are eager to become active members of this partnership. Parents are an integral component of any great program's success. The successful student (in any endeavor) is almost always backed up by an enlightened, informed and excited parent.

## Parent Assistance and Teamwork

1. Patience regarding their child's growth and the normal process of musical development
2. Encouragement. Some concepts or skills inherent in the field of music are learned easily, while others require intensive and repeated application. Personal parental support through these temporary trials is vital.
3. Interest in all that a son or daughter is involved in at school and praise for their participation in that activity is foundational.
4. Imagination in creating an atmosphere at home which is conducive to musical stimulation and growth.
5. Assistance with and support of other music projects/activities such as fundraising and organization.



*A riverboat dinner cruise on the Mississippi River!*

### **Fundraising and Trips**

We have a very active fundraising program for those that are interested. **All fundraising is optional.** Funds raised by the student are placed in their own individual account as displayed on our fundraising spreadsheet, which is posted on the music room wall. Student funds may be accumulated for an activity in a future year. These funds are earmarked for Music department activities only, such as travel to regional festivals, field trips, and longer trips (New Orleans 2013). Funds cannot be used for Grad fees for example. Students will demonstrate a positive attitude, behavior, effort, dedication, and generally be deemed to be in good standing in the program to participate on trips.



*In Universal Studios- Disneyland trip 2014!*

### **Uniforms**

Uniforms were updated a few years ago! Our new look is black pants, a black dress shirt/top that buttons to the neck for a straight tie, black shoes and socks with our new bright neon coloured ties! If you wish, you may chose a different coloured tie each time you play. Students will be assigned a bright coloured tie a couple days before the concert to be collected back afterward.

### **A Final Word**

The music program at Ballenas Secondary School exists to nurture each student's expressive and creative qualities within themselves through the study of music. Students

are encouraged to strive for excellence and develop positive relationships with fellow musicians. Music education provides students an opportunity to develop an interest in and respect for music as a form of lifelong enjoyment.



Students and Mr. Robson pose after Concert Band clinic with Mike Galisatus – director of Instrumental Music at the College of San Mateo on San Francisco trip 2012.