

## Ballenas Whalers Football Team to Play for Provincial Championship

At 9 am on Saturday, December 2, the Ballenas Whalers Junior Football Team will kick off at BC Place Stadium against the Vernon Panthers. Including the Whalers - Panthers match, there will be five games on Saturday to determine the JR Football BC Champion with the 9 am game being the first.

The Ballenas Whaler JR football team is excited to face off against the Vernon Panthers. The two teams met in the playoffs many times, with Vernon winning most of the games.



Under the leadership of new senior head coach Scott Childs and junior head coach Mike Seselja, the Ballenas Whalers have worked extremely hard to rebuild the team, which currently has the largest complement of players in ten years, with 32 players. In addition, this year the team received a special honour as former coach, Joe Martino, and his son Chris, have written two books, *It Takes a Posse* and *Down by Six*, about the Ballenas football program and the origins of Oceanside Youth Football.

The Whalers will practice this week at Arbutus Meadows; today, Tuesday and Thursday from 4 to 5.30 pm. The team leaves for Vancouver on Friday at 11 am from Pass Woodwinds School. Residents are encouraged to support the team in any way they can; messages of support can be posted on their Facebook page at [Ballenas Whalers Football Public Page](#). As well, email messages sent to [communications@parksville.ca](mailto:communications@parksville.ca) will be forwarded to the team.

### Quote Mayor Doug O'Brien

"On behalf of the City of Parksville, we wish the players and coaches much success in this important championship game. We are proud of the Whalers for their accomplishments this year and know it will be an exciting game with both teams giving it their all. *Now Go Whalers!*"



### For more information:

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*The City of Parksville is located on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish Nations,  
home to the Snaw-Naw-As First Nation and the Qualicum First Nation.*