


# DENMAN ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Week of Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 😊

## Important Upcoming Dates

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Dec. 2</b> PAC meeting @ 5 pm	<b>Dec. 3</b> SALAD BAR		<b>Dec. 5</b> <b>HOT LUNCH</b> BLT Wraps and Chickpea Salad	
Looking ahead... 			<b>Dec. 12</b> <b>HOT LUNCH</b> Vegetable Fried Rice	<b>Dec. 13</b> Written Learning Update #1 goes home
			<b>Dec. 19</b> <b>HOT LUNCH &amp;                      Winter concert</b> @ 6-7 pm @ the Community Hall	<b>Dec. 20</b> Last day of classes Winter Break: Dec. 23-Jan. 3, 2025

Dear Parents and Caregivers,



December *already*? How did that happen?! (I blinked!) What an incredible joy it has been getting to know the school and wider community here on Denman Island. From the natural beauty to the dedication and friendship from our families, the first 4 months for me personally have been bucket-filling! *Gilakas'la* to our students, teachers, parents and guardians. You all help and contribute in countless ways. I know we all have a lot to be grateful for!

I will be away in Ottawa Dec. 12-16. My father-in-law is turning 90 in mid-December, so my two kids and husband and I will be attending a birthday/family reunion in Ottawa. I have no doubt that I leave you in good hands with the entire Denman Island Community School team. Additionally, Daniel Farrow will be the teacher-in-charge and will attend to some administrative duties.

## Strategic Plan

The new strategic plan is a layered document. Our six goals (learning, equity, relationships, safety, integrity, and a commitment to truth and reconciliation) are centred around a purpose and a vision. They are:

### Purpose Statement

To create safe, equitable learning environments that lift each learner to thrive, to grow and to share their unique gifts.

### Vision Statement

Compassionate, connected and personalized learning for all.

As educators, we view each child through a lens of strengths and gifts. And this spirals back to the overall Learning Goal Statement that expresses a commitment to inclusion, holism, and personal learning environments.

## Winter Concert – Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>

We are going to deck the Community Hall with boughs of beauty, song, and theatrics in about two weeks! Here's the plan:

Morning – Decorate the Community Hall

4:30-5:30 pm – Farm2Family meal (sign up for this meal in the usual way)

5:30-6:00 pm – Quick clean-up (help appreciated!)

6:00-7:00 pm – Winter Concert

7:00 pm – Quick clean-up (help appreciated!)



## Whole School Skating Field Trip



I would like to thank all the staff, parents/caregivers, and students who helped on the trip to the Comox Valley Regional District Sports Centre on Friday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>. The students represented our school beautifully with their shared goal of safety and cooperation. There were many parents (Kerri, Mitch, Gerli, Tahiti, Jack, Kathryn, Tom, Ruth, Myles) who helped out, tying skates, helping with snacks, giving gentle safety reminders, assisting new skaters, and so much more. And bien sûr, I'm grateful for our teaching/education assistant staff who helped everything run smoothly. Gilakas'la everyone!

## Hot lunch Thursdays

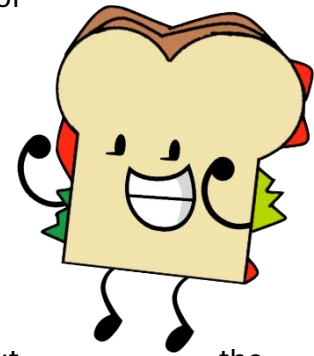
**Note from Bee:** Gluten free/vegan/vegetarian will be available for all meals in November & December.

### December Menu

Dec 5-BLT Wraps and Chickpea Salad

Dec 12-Vegetable Fried Rice

Dec 19-Pizza and Caesar Salad



Bee is currently working on the 2025 menus. We'll be sending out forms soon for these meals. (Thanks, Bee!)

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I hope December brings continued joy and light!

Amei Mai

Principal, Denman Island Community School

P.S. I have also included some important announcements from DICES below (keep scrolling!):

- Job description for DICES Executive Director below and
- Holiday Hamper Information





## **Denman Island Community Education Society**

**Job description:** Executive Director

### **About DICES:**

The Denman Island Community Education Society (DICES) is a not-for-profit society formed in 1996 to create a community school. For more information on DICES go to [www.dices.ca](http://www.dices.ca).

The DICES constitution states three main goals:

- To provide educational, recreational, and cultural programs for children, youth, and adults
- To build community through participation in knowledge-sharing activities, and
- To act, when necessary, as a central organizing body for various community organizations

### **Overview of the Executive Director position:**

Guided by the DICES Council and its policies, the Executive Director (ED) is responsible for the professional leadership and administration of DICES. The role includes ongoing collaboration with volunteers, numerous community organizations, the school district, and other partners. The ED contributes to strategic, business, and long-term financial planning to ensure the organization remains effective, vibrant, relevant, and sustainable.

We invite applications from all candidates, even if they do not meet all the requirements, but are keen to acquire the full range of skills and experience involved in this dynamic position and have an interest in learning on the job. DICES is a collaborative community organization that can provide support and learning opportunities.

**Hours:** 30 hrs per week.

**Working conditions:** This is a hybrid position that requires some presence in the DICES office, but work-from-home and remote options can be negotiated.

**Remuneration:** between \$30 - \$34.50 per hour, based on skills and experience.

**Principle duties and responsibilities:**

Management and administration

- Develop, update, and maintain policies and procedures in collaboration with the Council.
- Maintain general office procedures, organization, and file management (digital and paper).
- Hire, evaluate, and support direct-report staff.
- Proactively support equity, diversity, and inclusion in all areas of DICES work.
- Oversee the organization of special events and fundraisers.
- Keep society and charitable status filings up to date.

Fundraising and financial management

- Identify funding sources, prepare and submit grant applications, report to funders.
- Develop and implement long-term strategies for financial stability, in collaboration with the DICES Council.
- Initiate and support implementation of fundraising in the Denman community via events, donations, and other grassroots strategies, in collaboration with the DICES Council and/or a fundraising committee.
- Manage budget, track expenses, and produce financial reports (with support from the accountant and/or bookkeeper).
- Carry out financial administration (payroll, accounts receivables, etc.)

## Communication

- Advocate for DICES vision; support the goals and philosophy of community education.
- Maintain partnerships with community groups, School District 71, and other community education societies.
- Communicate respectfully and manage conflicts professionally.
- Maintain cooperative working relationships.
- Ensure public outreach and maintain DICES public profile (via the website, social media, local print media, the DICES program brochure, posters, networking with other organizations, and other means), effectively and respectful of the culture in Denman Island.
- Report regularly to DICES Council.

## Programming

- Oversee development and planning of programs in the community, ideally using school-based resources.
- Co-develop schedules and fees with the program coordinator.
- Evaluate programs to ensure they meet the goals of DICES and the needs of the community.

## **Preferred qualifications and experience:**

- At least three years experience working in the not-for-profit or educational sectors, ideally in a leadership position with staff and/or volunteers.
- Demonstrated ability to think and act strategically on financial management issues.
- Experience in fundraising and grant writing.
- Strong knowledge of Quickbooks, Google Docs, and social media platforms including Facebook.
- Food Safe, First Aid, and Criminal Record Check within three months of hiring.
- Strong written and oral communication skills.
- Understanding of the dynamics, issues, and opportunities related to working in small rural communities.

## **How to apply:**

Send your resume and cover letter to the DICES Council Co-Chair at [dices.chair@gmail.com](mailto:dices.chair@gmail.com)

**Deadline:** Friday, December 6, at 5:00 p.m.

# Holiday Hampers Volunteers and Information

## – Please read!

Hello friends!

This year has gone by in the blink of an eye and we are getting ready for our annual Hamper program where we share resources, time and energy with our community in celebration of the holiday season. Last year we were 44 volunteers strong and served over 90 people in our community!

We are once again asking for your help in our efforts on **Saturday December 21**. We need folks to help with the following tasks:

- Setting Up the Hall (8:00 am - 9:00 am)
- Picking up Food with a truck or larger vehicle (frozen turkeys and hams in town return on the 9 am ferry, dairy and eggs from the general store later in the morning)
- Packing Food Hampers (9:00 am - 10:30 am and 10:30 am - 12:00 pm)
- Wrapping Presents (9:00 am - 10:30 am and 10:30 am - 12:00 pm)
- Delivering Hampers (12:30 pm - 2:00 pm)
- Cleaning Up the Hall (12:30 pm - 2:00 pm)

If you have the time and energy to participate again this year, please let us know at your earliest convenience and which task/time slot you would prefer. Wrapping presents is a great task to do as a family, kids are welcome to join caregivers/parents to help wrap gifts for the hampers. We hope to accommodate everyone's needs and look forward to sharing a good time together.

We will get back to you with your task and time on or by December 1; keep your eyes peeled for another email from us with that information.

If you wish to support Holiday Hampers this year but do not have the time/energy to volunteer, here are a few ways you can do that:

1.) donate to the campaign by e-transfer to [dices.communityprograms@gmail.com](mailto:dices.communityprograms@gmail.com) put "holiday hampers" in the message.

2.) Adopt a Family! You can complete the online form [here](#) to apply to adopt a family by purchasing and sharing gifts for a family - you will be provided with non identifying information about your "adopted" family and we ask that gifts are dropped off at the DICES office in the school by December 18, 2024.

3.) deposit cash or cheques made out to DICES in the donation jars at the Denman Island General Store or at the Denman Hardware Store by December 18, 2024.

4.) drop new, unwrapped gifts in the donation box located at the Denman Hardware Store by December 20, 2024.

Looking forward to hearing back from you and sharing in the good cheer with you all.

Sincerely,

Miki

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DICES Team

Denman Island Community Education Society

250-335-2058