

# DENMAN ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Week of January 6, 2025

## Important Upcoming Dates

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Jan. 6</b> First day back to school after Winter Break	<b>Jan. 7</b> SALAD BAR		<b>Jan. 9</b> HOT LUNCH Tortellini Casserole	<b>Jan. 10</b> Exploring numeracy with Serina Allison, Lead Teacher in Environmental Sustainability & Numeracy
Sandy Moir (Speech & Language)	Margot Janz (Counselling)	Carly Matkin (music)	Vanessa Jones (Learning Support)	Tonya Lowe (Teacher-librarian)

### Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Happy New Year 2025! I hope your holiday season was filled with joy, relaxation, and meaningful moments. It has been wonderful hearing about your family traditions—whether it’s singing together, exchanging gifts, lighting the menorah, taking walks, cooking festive meals like turkey, ham, or tofurkey, playing board games, or simply spending time with loved ones. For me, the highlight was enjoying some unhurried time with my adult children, husband, and extended family. And while I’m not tired of chocolate yet, I probably should be! 😊

As we look ahead, 2025 feels full of promise. Despite the challenges happening in the world around us, I remain committed to positivity and hope. With the gradual return of more sunlight, I’m especially excited to spend time outdoors, particularly in our school garden, engaging with students in hands-on learning experiences.

When it comes to change, I focus less on resolutions and more on embracing transitions with intention. I aim to approach change with three guiding principles:

- **Regulation:** Pacing ourselves (and often slowing down) and being skillful.
- **Observation:** Practicing mindfulness and staying present.

- **Compassion:** Responding with empathy and adaptability.

These are values I strive to share with our students every day. Thank you for the ongoing support you provide to your children and to our school community. Together, we can soar!

### Exploring Numeracy

We will be collaborating with Serina Allison, our district's Lead Teacher in Environmental Sustainability & Numeracy. Serina will come into our classrooms on Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup> to lead math games and number talks.

### Buddy Reading

This wonderful, almost magical experience, where older students pair up with younger students and take turns reading to each other happens every Monday at Denman Island Community School. This is truly a community-minded time where students practice mentorship, leadership, confidence-building, friendship, reading fluency, reading comprehension, and more!

We're adjusting the time a little this term. Buddy reading will start at 12:45 pm (and go for ~20 minutes).

### Music

We have a small scheduling change in 2025. Ms. Matkin will be teaching music on Wednesdays (and *not* Thursdays) from now until June.

### Stay home if sick

A flu is still going around, and we ask that students stay home if sick. The BC Centre for Disease Control advises:

If a student is sick or has symptoms of illness and is unable to fully participate in regular activities, they should stay home. They can return when they feel well enough to participate in regular activities or when a healthcare provider advises they can return.

For more information, please see: [Parents and Students](#). Thank you for your cooperation.

### Kindergarten registration – January 21, 2025

School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) will be enrolling Kindergarten students in District schools for attendance in September 2025. To be eligible for enrolment in September 2025, a student must turn five (5) years of age by December 31, 2025. Each child's birth certificate and proof of address must be uploaded for registration. BC Services Cards will not be accepted as proof of birth however your child's BC Personal Health Number (PHN) is required on the registration form. A Passport or Landed Immigrant authorization are suitable forms of documentation in lieu of birth certificates.

For more information, please see: [Kindergarten Registration - Comox Valley Schools](#)

### Hot lunch Thursdays

#### **January, February & March Menus**

Jan. 9 – Tortellini Casserole

Jan. 16 – Homemade tomato soup & garlic bread

Jan. 23 – Chicken bowls with roasted vegetables

Jan. 30 – Sloppy joes with vegetables

Feb. 6 – Borsisupp (borscht)

Feb. 13 – Green goddess soup & flatbread

Feb. 20 – Shepard’s pie & biscuits

Feb. 27 Cheesy veggie quesadillas

March 6 – Swedish meatballs with lingonberry jam and cucumber salad

March 13 – Hot dogs, chips, and fruit skewers.



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

### Some news from our neighbours at Blackberry Lane Children’s Center

Registration is now open for Blackberry Lane Children's Center's licensed January After-School Child Care Program

Program Details:

Schedule: Monday to Friday, 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Ages: 5 - 9 year olds

Flexibility: Choose the days that work best for your family’s schedule!

Their licensed childcare program is designed to be inclusive, safe, and engaging. With fun activities, they provide a nurturing environment that balances play, learning, and connection with nature. It’s the perfect way for kids to wind down and thrive after a busy school day.

Spaces are limited, so sign up early to secure your child’s spot.

How to Register:

Simply complete this online registration form: <https://forms.gle/ZjpA7ostvJ2dcpD36>

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Happy new year to all!

Gilakas’la!

Amei Mai

Principal, Denman Island Community School

