


# DENMAN ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Week of April 22-25, 2025

## Important Upcoming Dates

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>April 21</b> <b>No School</b> 	<b>April 22</b> <b>SALAD BAR</b>  Earth Day	<b>April 23</b>	<b>April 24</b> <b>HOT LUNCH</b>  Chicken Tomato Stew with Roasted Potatoes (or Tofu)	<b>April 25</b>  Wendy Proverbs Author Visit
<b>our extended team...</b>				
Kerry Harrison (Speech & Language)  in the afternoon		Carly Matkin (music) Nina Fleming (Counselor)	Vanessa Jones (Learning Support)	Tonya (Teacher Librarian)
<b>← Looking ahead →</b>				
<b>Monday, May 5:</b> Track & Field Jamboree for grades 4-7 students				

## Dear Parents and Caregivers,

My former last name was *Parkes*, and back when I was a teacher-on-call (think: late 90s!), I had a tradition. I'd ask the class to come up with a list of expectations for the day—all starting with the letter "P."

"Participate!" they'd say.

"Be polite, prepared, positive, productive, and prompt!"

Then, inevitably, someone would ask: "Should we be *perfect*?"

My answer, then and now, remains the same: no one needs to be perfect. Every day is a fresh start—an opportunity to do our best. At Denman Island Community School, our

code of conduct highlights respect for others, for property, and for ourselves. And every day, I see our students living that out—with a smile, a wave, or an invitation to join in.

Of course, we all—students and adults—face tricky situations. I know one student who can rattle off a whole list of “don’ts”: no hitting, scratching, kicking, biting, name-calling, and more! And yes, I wholeheartedly agree—we should not threaten, hurt, exclude, or tease. But I also like to flip the conversation:

- How can we cooperate, even when we don’t feel like it?
- How can we offer help each other—even if it’s not “cool”?
- How can we respect personal space, or be polite and productive under pressure?
- How can we take ownership of our part in a disagreement, especially when it’s layered and “messy?”
- How can we show care when we’re tired or having a rough day?

I’m constantly inspired by our staff and students. I’ve heard teachers lead powerful conversations about rights—conversations rooted in respect for race, ancestry, gender identity, and ability. I’ve seen education assistants model restitution with patience and care. I’ve watched students solve playground disagreements with maturity and kindness. Every day, I hear students give compliments, set boundaries, and make respectful requests.

I have so much hope for the future because of what I see here at Denman Island Community School. And while we are a *hands-off* school, we are most definitely a *hearts-on* one. No one is perfect, but along the way, we can all learn from our mistakes—and take the right steps forward together. Gilakas’la!

### LET’S GET TO KNOW... ISABELLA BRODSGAARD!

Each week, we’re going to learn a little bit about the students in our 13-person grade 7 graduating class! (We’re going to miss these creative, imaginative, active youths next year!) Introducing... Isabella!



Favourite Movie or TV show: **Frozen**

Favourite Book: **Daydream**

Favourite Season: **Summer**

Favourite Food: **Potato Skin**

Favourite Memory: **Got bucked off a horse and went straight back on**

Favourite Colour: **Green**

Favourite Animal: **Horse**

Favourite thing to do outside of School: **Riding horses**

## SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN THE COMOX VALLEY - MEET YANA

With so many new families settling in the Comox Valley, the school district would like to help spread the word about a local charity doing incredible work. **YANA (You Are Not Alone)** provides travel and accommodation support to families who need to leave the Valley for medical treatment for a child or expectant mother. Please take a moment to visit [www.yanacomoxvalley.com](http://www.yanacomoxvalley.com) to learn more about how they can help – or how you can support them. Ph: 250-871-0343.



YANA is a community organization that provides financial support and accommodation to Comox Valley families who need to travel for medical treatment for a child or for a pregnant mother.

To learn more, visit our website or contact our office:  
102 - 2456 Rosewall Crescent  
Courtenay BC V9N 8R9  
250.871.0343

 yanacomoxvalley 

[yanacomoxvalley.com](http://yanacomoxvalley.com)

## ESTIMATION STATION - CONTEST!



**How many popcorn twists – broken and whole – do you estimate are in the jar?** The closest estimate (without going over) wins a jar of popcorn twists for their classmates to share! Contest closes **Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.**

Congratulations to Rowan in div. 3, who guessed that there were 236 pretzels in the jar last week. (The actual number of pretzels was 282.)

## HOT LUNCH THURSDAYS

**Thank you Bee & Gerli, for preparing these delicious meals!**

Apr 24 Chicken Tomato Stew with Roasted Potatoes (or tofu)

**May 1** Local Sausage skillet (or tofu)

8 Roasted Veggies, chickpeas & Tofu with gravy

15 Hearty Beef Stew (or Tofu)

22 Buddha Bowls with local veggies & golden miso dressing

29 Pasta & Broccoli with Parmesan

**June 5** Charcuterie Platters & Strawberry Yogurt Parfaits

12 Garden Surprise

19 Chicken Ceaser Pita Pockets & Chips

26 Pizza!



## AN IMPORTANT SURVEY...

### PARENTS/CAREGIVERS, STAFF & STUDENTS **YOUR VOICE MATTERS.**

How can our schools better *prevent and respond* to sexual assault, sexual harassment, and other forms of gender-based violence among students?



Please help us at School District 71 learn more about preventing and responding to sexual assault, sexual harassment, and other forms of gender-based violence among students.

There is a QR code on the SD71 website, or you can go to this link: [Gender-Based Violence Committee Anonymous Survey | 1/1](#). Thank you!

~Amei Mai

Principal, Denman Island Community School



## Photos from the week...

Photo credits: Claire & teacher-librarian, Ms. Lowe

### Clay in the classroom (div. 2)



Collecting rocks at the beach, then using them for a writing project (div. 2)







## Planetary study! (div. 2)

Can you figure out where the sun goes & how big it should be?!



## Robots in the library & special delivery! (div 2)



