



HORNBY ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Thursday, October 2, 2025

Monday, Oct 6	Tuesday, Oct 7	Wednesday, Oct8	Thursday, Oct 9
<p>Preschool Gym (3-5 years) 10:30-11:30am</p> <p>PICTURE DAY!</p> <p>Claire B (Music & Art Teacher) Kerry (SLT)</p>	<p>Preschool Story Time (Library) 11am</p> <p>Claire Braunberger (Music & Art Teacher)- AM half day</p>	<p>Infant Toddler Gym (1-3 years) 10:30 – 11:30am</p> <p>Kenton (Couns))-Alt Wednesdays Cinta (Learning Support Teacher) Megan (Teacher Librarian) Jennevieve (Literacy Outreach Coord)</p>	<p>Preschool Gym (3-5 years) 10:30-11:30am</p> <p>Kaila (Indigenous Support Worker)</p>

Hello everyone.

We've got a very busy few weeks coming up so please check the calendar in our newsletter and jot the dates down.

We had a beautiful assembly for Truth and Reconciliation on Tuesday. We started with two beautiful songs sung by Heather and accompanied by her students on drums. We spoke about Truth and Reconciliation and then each shared what we were grateful for. The students' comments were truly moving. I walked away feeling so grateful to be part of this team at HICS.

It's been wonderful seeing all the of the Learning Through Play happening so far in the school. Our junior classes are incorporating play into our daily programs and the rich language, cooperation and collaboration we are seeing is fantastic. The grade 4-6 class have been busy building catapults and other fun things and the Grade 7-9 class are out in nature on a regular basis. Marc Atkinson is again teaching our senior class musical instruments which excites me to no end! I'm looking forward to another great concert at some point!

As always, should you have any concerns about anything you see at school, please come and see me straight away. My door is usually open and I'm at school every morning before 7. I teach Tuesdays and Wednesdays and have administration days on Mondays and Thursdays. If it's a teaching day, pop into class to see me and we can set up a time to meet.

Have a fantastic weekend!

Lisa

SCHOOL PICTURE DAY is Monday, October 6, 2025

Class Updates

Kindergarten/Grade 1 Update:

Although it was a short week, it was filled hands-on learning experiences. We began by exploring the importance of Truth and Reconciliation. Students approached the topic of Orange Shirt Day with great sensitivity and care, thoughtfully learning about its meaning. Each child designed their own orange shirt and colored beautiful illustrations of local animals created by Indigenous artists. In Science, we dug into the study of soil... literally! Using magnifying glasses, the students examined samples up close. During Career Education, we became ER veterinarians, rescuing and bandaging animals in imaginative play. In Art and ADST, students created mandalas and constructed ramps, showing both creativity and problem-solving skills. In Math, we focused on patterns and shapes, while in Literacy, we continued reviewing letters A, O, and C, and began exploring the letter D. We've organized reading groups, practiced blending letter sounds, and continued developing our story-writing skills. *The students are incredibly eager to read, and it's a joy to support them on this exciting journey.*



Grade 1-3 Update:

This week, our class has been busy learning in many different ways!

We started a new handball unit in P.E., where students are building their throwing, catching, and teamwork skills while also practicing fair play.

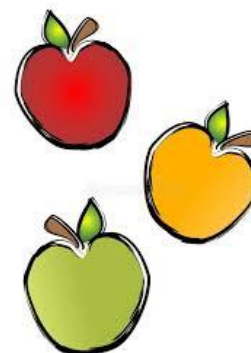
On Monday, we gathered in the gym our Truth and Reconciliation assembly. The drumming and singing were powerful, and afterwards we came together as a school and formed a gratitude circle, where each student & staff shared something, they are thankful for. Our class activity that followed was for our class to make our own land acknowledgement, please see the photo.

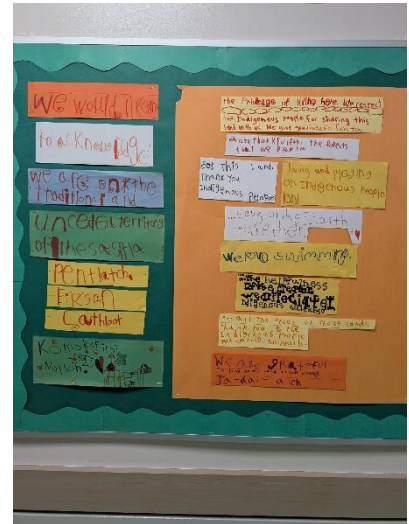
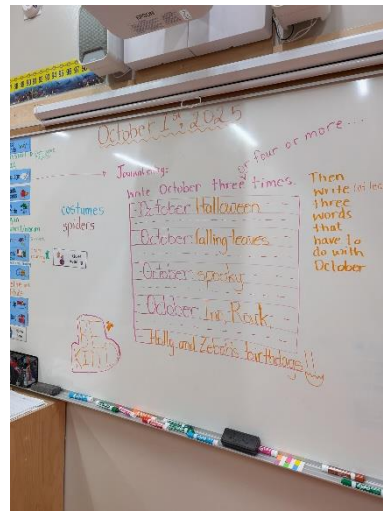
In Math, we are focusing on number sense and timelines. Students created artistic timelines...some as concentric circles, others of the school year, their own lives, or even imaginary stories with make-believe characters. These projects help turn abstract concepts into concrete (mathematical) and creative representations.

We are looking forward to a field trip to the Apple Press and Co-op next Thursday October 9th. We will be celebrating Rouk's birthday too! If anyone has extra apples to donate to our class (and the school), we will happily turn them into juice on our field trip...and then share with everyone.

It has been a week of movement, creativity, and reflection, with many connections across subjects!

We are looking for apples for the juice press! If you have any extras, please email Casey.
Casey.doss@sd71.bc.ca





Grade 4-6 Update:

This week the 4-6 class has been running in all directions! We had an assembly and discussed belonging for Truth and Reconciliation Day. The students had thoughtful input, and our next step is to understand actionable steps. We were sad to see our cross-country race in town cancelled at Puntledge on Wednesday, but we used the time to track two new run/walk routes for our community! It is so awesome to see the students out on our beautiful community trails, pushing themselves! We did two runs this week and are enjoying learning about pacing, breathing, and how to relax our shoulders, jaws, and bodies as we settle in our run pace. We will be walking and running throughout the whole next month leading up to the community Terry Fox Run on November 6th! We also played a fun forest game for PE called Hawk and Mouse, using a special chestnut the students collected on our run.

You may have seen the wonderful planting our class did as part of the rain garden project - doesn't it look so wonderful? We are thankful to Hornby Water Stewardship!!

We are also working on Spooky Stories to submit to the Comox Valley Literacy competition! If you check out their website, there are some examples from previous winners to inspire ideas! We are looking forward to October, running in town, and all things spooky!



Grade 7-9 Update:

Greetings from Grade 7-9 The Hummingbirds

This week we have busy preparing our models and presentations on Plate tectonics from regions around the Glibe: Himalayas, Hawaii, Iceland, East Africa, San Andreas, and Japan. Words like subduction, convergent, divergent and transform demonstrate geological processes occurring every day!

We are also writing Indigenous languages and territories out the shared map of Canada with Grade 4-6, showing both past and present location of the many diverse Indigenous Peoples on this land.

Lastly, we have started our Music with Marc program and we are sooo excited!

Already there are instruments in hand and voices singing along!

Get ready....we are finding our groove!





What's Coming Up

October 6 - Picture Day at HICS.
October 13 – Thanksgiving Day – No School
October 24 – Professional Development Day – Staff Only
October 28 – Pumpkin carving @ 2:30
October 30 – Halloween Parade @ 9:00
November 6- Terry Fox Run
November 11 – Remembrance Day – No School
November 24 – Wreath Making
November 27 – Wreath Decorating
November 29 – Winter Fair
December 19 - January 2 – Winter Break
January 4 – School Starts Back
February 16 – Family Day – No School
February 17 – Professional Development Day – Staff Only
March 20 – Spring Break Starts
April 7 – School Starts Back
May 18 – Victoria Day
June 24 – School Finishes for Students

Pumpkin Carving – Tuesday, October 28 @ 2:30 pm
(Families responsible for their own pumpkins)

Thursday, October 30 @ 9:00 am – Halloween Parade in
the Gym



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Community Notices:



OCTOBER 8TH & 9TH



Save the DATE(S)

The Hornby Island Co-op is
hosting the Apple Press at the
4 Corners Property.

Bring your own apples, or
Upick from our orchard at 4
Corners!

If you pick enough for 2 jugs,
you get to keep one, and we
will donate one to a
community organization.

More details to come
(including start time).

Hornby Recreation (HIRRA) and HICS event

Hornby Island Community

Terry Fox Run

Thursday, November 6, 2025

FINISH

IT.

1:30-3:30pm

Hornby Island
Community School

Everyone is welcome.

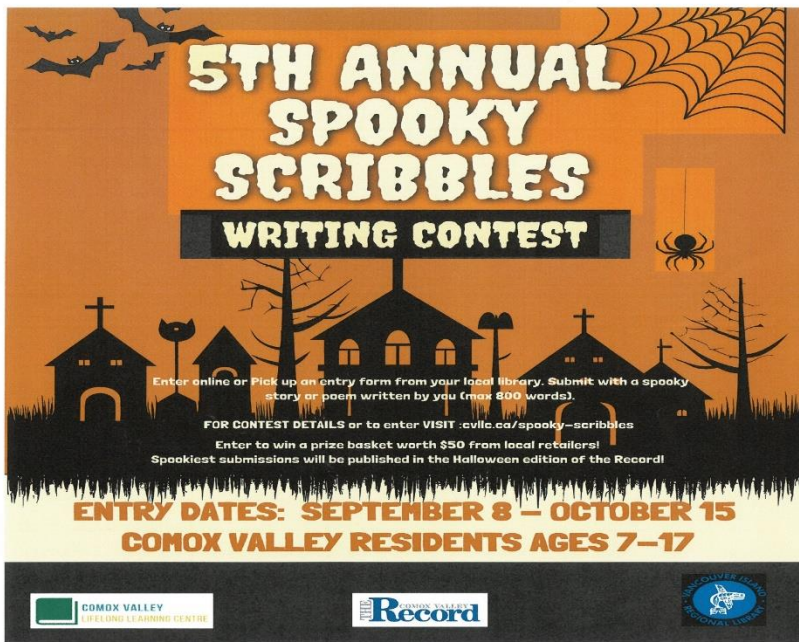
1km, 2km and 5km routes to walk/run.
come cheer on your community too!

Students at the Hornby Island Community School would like to invite their community to join them in tracking kilometers ran/walked over this next month to put onto their giant map of Canada on November 6th.

Please join us at the school to clock your kilometers, run/walk for Terry Fox and to cheer on your community!

If you want to keep track of your distances walked/ran, please email them to:

recreation@hirra.ca



HIES

Literacy Outreach with Jennivieve.

Hornby School Literacy Play-Dough

Ingredients

- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 cup salt
- 2 tsp cream of tartar **
- 1 Tbsp oil
- 1 cup water
- Food colouring and/or essential oils

Note: Cream of tartar helps preserve the play-dough for longer, but it is not essential.

Directions

1. Put all ingredients in a pot and mix together.
2. Heat over medium until it forms a ball (about 3 minutes).

3. Carefully transfer to a lightly floured table (it will be hot) and knead until smooth.
4. Portion into zipper bags, add food colouring/essential oils, and mix in the bag.
5. Store the dough in the same bag.

Literacy Ideas

- Roll long worms with the dough to form shapes and letters.
- Practice making names, words, and letters out of dough.
- Provide a letter on a wipeable mat/board and have your child match it with a play-dough worm.
- Roll worms and cut them into pieces using scissors or a bread knife.
- Make a **secret letter** and see if a partner can guess it by touch only.
- Flatten the dough and trace letters with a finger.
- Use cookie cutters to cut out letters, or press small objects (beans, shells, etc.) into dough to form letters.

Why Play-Dough for Literacy?

Playing with play-dough in these ways:

- Builds fine motor skills and hand strength needed for printing.
- Helps the brain form pathways about how letters are made.
- Engages the sensory system, supporting letter recognition, production, and memory.

🌟 **Happy Playing!** 🌟

*Jennivieve McRae-King
Occupational Therapist
HIES Literacy Outreach Coordinator*

Afterschool Programs are in the works. Stay tuned around the end of the month!

hies.childyouth@gmail.com

<https://hornbyeducation.com/after-school-programs/>

Hornby Recreation

www.hornbyrecreation.ca

You are invited to join the Youth/Parent Running Group!

Come and run with us and get in shape for the Terry Fox Run and the Cross Country races in town.

You are welcome to run with the group if you are not planning to race.

Parents are encouraged to run too!

We meet for 1 hour, do a warm up, a 2-4km run with lots of breaks, and a cool down.

Tuesdays 4:15 - 5:15pm - Coach Pete Koltronis - meet at the school field - starts Tuesday Sept 16

Saturdays 11am-12pm - Parent coaches - meet at various locations - starts Saturday Sept 20 at Tribune Bay (Shields Road entrance)

For more information about the Running Group, contact:

Amanda Zielinski

Home phone 250-335-2807

Cel 250-334-7237

Email amanda.zielinski@gmail.com

Or Jade Wilson hornbyrecreation@gmail.com

An online waiver form will need to be filled out ahead of time.

- The school Terry Fox Run will take place on November 6th. Stay tuned for more details. The SD71 cross country races are Wednesday afternoons in the Comox Valley, starting late September and going until the end of October (5 weeks of races).
- Students in Grade 3 and 7 are welcome to participate in the cross country races as well. Parent drivers will be needed.

For more information about the Terry Fox Run or SD71 Cross Country races, contact your child's teacher.

- All students in the Grade 4-6 class will attend the cross-country races.



Resources to support you and your child



Register for free training

Tips to protect children and youth online



Have a conversation

Talk with children and youth about things they may be experiencing

What kind of information can I find on erase.gov.bc.ca?

- **Practical guidance** to help you support your child's safety and well-being
- **Resources and information about:**
 - Diversity and inclusion
 - Mental health and substance use
 - School and online safety
- **Free training sessions** to help you keep your child safe online
- **Videos** explaining erase, the Report It Tool, and safe, caring and inclusive schools
- **Tips** for bringing concerns to your child's school

What is the Report It Tool?

Report It is an **anonymous online tool for students** to report anything concerning to their school safety team—whether it happens at school, online, or somewhere else. Find it at erase.gov.bc.ca.



Questions? Reach out to your school to learn more.



Ministry of
Education and
Child Care

