

HORNBY ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Thursday, September 25, 2025

Monday, Sept 29	Tuesday, Sept 30	Wednesday, Oct 1	Thursday, Oct 2
<p>Preschool Gym (3-5 years) 10:30-11:30am</p> <p>Claire B (Music & Art Teacher) Kerry (SLT)</p>	<p>NO SCHOOL TODAY</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.

On Monday, we will recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Steven (Melidas) Recalma will be at school all day. Steven is from the Qualicum First Nation and is a community archaeologist, an outdoor enthusiast and a former competitive snowboarder. He will be talking to us about archaeology, indigenous artefacts and so much more. If your child has an orange shirt or hoodie, please send them in it on Monday. Thank you.

Just a reminder that our parking lot is unavailable for drop offs from 8:20 – 8:45 each morning. Please park on the road and walk in through the path if you are dropping your child off after 8:20. We've had a couple of reports of cars pulling in right before the bell (at speed) in order to get kids to class on time. Please take your time and be a few minutes late rather than rushing!

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 in to class to see me and we can set up a time to meet.

Have a fantastic weekend!

Lisa



Class Updates

Kindergarten/Grade 1 Update:

The hamster house building project continues to inspire creativity and collaboration as students construct cozy spaces for our furry friends. We've been developing our writing skills, some even in French, focusing on the letters C, O and A, with students making great strides in literacy through daily practice and even writing their own stories. Our exploration of space and time has sparked impressive questions for such young learners. We've continued our cedar weaving, animal art, and math. A highlight this week was our field trip to the fire hall, where we learned about fire safety and met our community hero's.

With Ms. Malones, students were busy doing daily journal writing, understanding math stories and reading out equations to the class, creating more fun art for our classroom windows and having lots of opportunities for learning through play. Our classroom mantra is T-R-Y. Ask your kids about this! If you want to stay in the mornings to be a parent volunteer, please see Miranda or Lisa. We have a new sign up with some simple jobs that you can do while you're in class.



Grade 1-3 Update:

What a busy and fun couple of weeks we've had!

In Math, we celebrated birthdays by creating a colourful "Birthday Cupcake" display and learning how to write dates the proper way: year-month-day. Students also began their new math booklets, completed fall assessments, and launched our reading program (The Science of Reading, UFLI).

Our science adventures took us on a fantastic soil field trip, where students mixed dirt, sand, straw, and water to help build a three-level bench with a cozy cat nook. Back at school, we kicked off new chemistry and measurement units, exploring how liquids can be measured and how materials can be converted (ounces to millilitres for example). From learning to describe different liquids (Grade 1) to changing materials through mixing (Grade 2) to connecting measurement with matter (Grade 3) ...we are enjoying being scientists and learning a lot!

This week we focused a lot of learning around Belonging, Truth and Reconciliation. With our teacher librarian Megan Fletcher, we read *You Hold Me Up* by Monique Gray Smith and shared reflections on what it means to belong and to hold one another up. We also listened to Phyllis Webstad's new story, remembered the significance of ribbon skirts and Orange Shirt Day, and even used makerspace to design the kinds of safe and caring schools we wished Indigenous children had experienced. Students shared heartfelt thoughts about belonging, like: "I belong when I am barefoot because I am connected to the Earth, I know I belong when I am with my parents, I belong to my class because I feel safe here, I belong on Hornby because when I am here, I feel right, I belong here because of my friends and family, I belong because I do, I belong in the forest and I feel connected to all the animals, I belong to the Earth and the Universe, I belong because Every Child Matters."

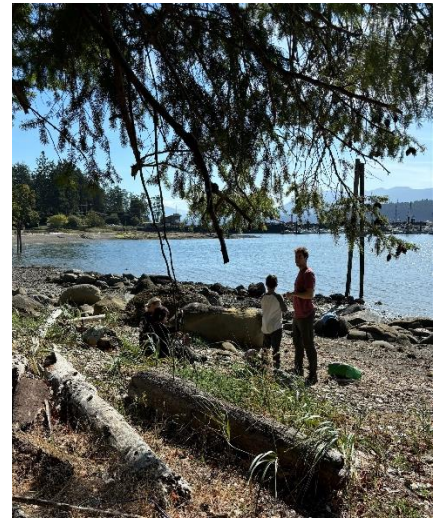
We also made pottery ghosts with Jennivieve and learned important survival skills: tell someone where you're going, hug a tree and stay put, stay warm and dry, and always answer rescuers. In PE, we've been practicing overhand throws and building our soccer skills through games and drills that emphasize teamwork, confidence, and fun.

A collage of 12 photographs showing children and adults engaged in various outdoor and indoor activities. The images depict: 1) A child painting on a wooden surface outdoors. 2) A group of children and adults on a colorful rug with a tent and toys. 3) Children and an adult working with sand in a red bin. 4) An adult and child digging in a trench. 5) A classroom interior with children at tables. 6) A group of children and adults outdoors near a wooden structure. 7) Children and an adult digging in a trench. 8) A close-up of a hand pointing at a trench. 9) A child using a tool on a table. 10) A child wearing a blindfold and using a tool. 11) Children sitting at a long table working on projects. 12) A child wrapped in a silver emergency blanket outdoors.



Grade 4-6 Update:

This week was a busy but fun adventure! To kick off our unit on survival, we spent a day with Kes of Danu Folk School out in nature. We climbed the mountainside, built shelters (and tested them by sticking our head's in and pouring water on top!!), we learned knot tying, and played fun forest games! We especially loved the hawk and mouse game. It was a beautiful day to learn outside. We are grateful to the PAC and the school for providing these interesting learning opportunities for us. We planted in the Rain Garden the class started last year (in the parking lot) and it looks amazing! Search and Rescue came to our school to give a presentation, and it was very informative and fun! We are learning we love being active and quiet time. We love reading and our cozy classroom and love running the trails and playing high energy games. We have been working hard on our community Terry Fox Map and it is so close to finished! Stay tuned early next week for updates on the run. We celebrated Asher's birthday with an Oreo ice cream cake and a movie. Next week we have our first town trip for cross country and Truth and Reconciliation Day.



Grade 7-9 Update:

ElkHaven Denman Island Camping Trip -- Sept 16-18 2025



We had such a fantastic time on Denman, our neighbouring island last week! Our grade 7-9 class are now known as the Hummingbirds, and we loved taking the Scuttle Bus over and



hiking through the woods and pitching our tents.

We oriented to the land, found sit spots that we went to at various times of the day and evening to practice our observation skills and open our multiple senses. We learned about the local birds in the area from Tyrus. We did various scavenger hunts for plants, group memory games of found natural objects, and played many different improv and theatre sports games to get to know each other better. Building a team requires time together.....so we gave ourselves that time to build stronger and newer relationships. We had fun with the tarp challenge which was amazingly successful!

On Wednesday morning we became budding geologists with the guidance of Glen Hearn, who helped give us the concept of how land masses move, and to experience plate tectonics like a scrum in rugby. We went down to the ocean and learned how rocks formed, and which were the oldest and why. If there are crystals in a stone what does that tell us?

And how can rocks split and reform over time? Igneous. Sedimentary and Metamorphic are beginning to roll off our tongues as we get pretty good at identifying the stone people.

We were also amazingly lucky to find, we think an old bacillite fossil, but we had to leave it embedded in the mudstone. We also found a newly forming fossil in sandstone which we brought back if you are interested in seeing.

There was amazing food, all voted on by consensus, and we are grateful to Marvin for cooking for the group on the first night a delicious ramen soup.

Many highlights were: star-gazing, rainbow and sunset watching, Bannock making over the campfire that was started by flint and steel, trustwalks and movie watching outside on a big screen. Please check out our photo gallery!

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/g8KnGzPZaGf1sgbm6>

Gilakas'la!

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



What's Coming Up

September 29 – Steven (Melidas) Recalma of the Qualicum First Nation will be with us for the day.

September 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – No School

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 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

SCHOOL PICTURE DAY MONDAY OCT. 6, 2025



2025

Picture Day!

WHAT'S NEXT:


Your student is photographed
on Picture Day*


Proofs are sent home with
your student

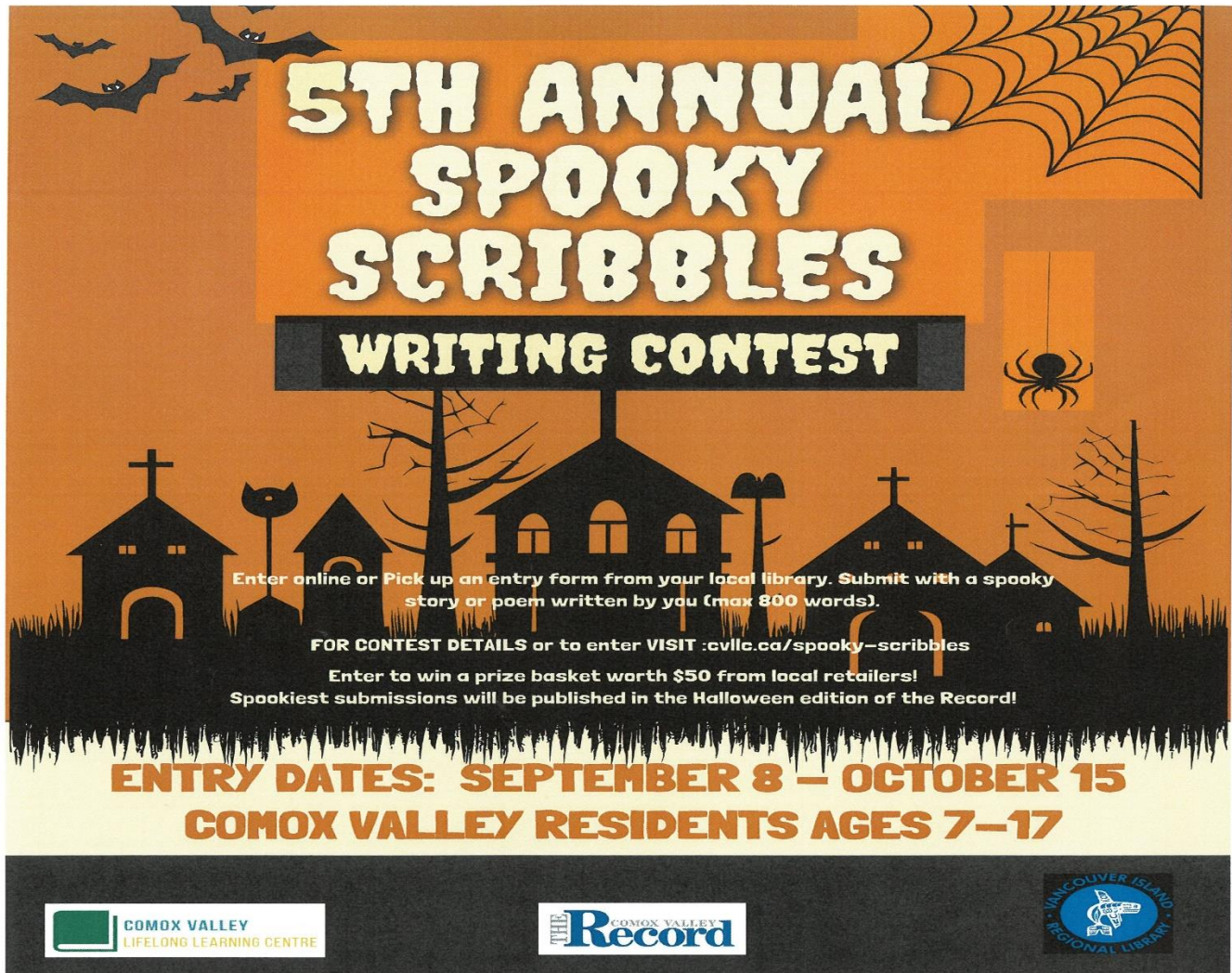

Order packages and more on
mylifetouch.ca

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:
Hornby Island Community School
Monday, October 06, 2025

*All students will be photographed. Please notify your student's teacher if you do not want an individual picture taken of your student. Your student may be included in a class picture if requested by the school.

Questions? Contact our Help Center at lifetouch.com/support-ca.
Select K-12 School Photography for assistance.

Community Notices:



HIES

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 in 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.

Here is a fun map of the route for this Wednesday's cross-country run-in town for the Grade 4-6 students, maybe some grade 3's and 7's too!!

