



# Selkirk Montessori School E-Newsletter

## From the Academic Head, Erin Hayes

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A season of celebrations is upon us. Children are celebrating the successes that are underway with the first term of school behind them. Teachers are celebrating the respectful relationships that are evolving and responsible behaviours being demonstrated now that routines and classroom expectations are well established.

As a parent, what are you celebrating this year? Your child's perseverance? His emerging love of reading? The spark in her eye as she tells you something she is pretty sure you don't know about the earth, water bodies, body systems, or cultural traditions?

We love to hear what experiences at school are sparking dinner conversations at your house or commuter conversations in your car.

A great place to celebrate as a community is the annual Holiday Concert. Please join us on Tuesday December 19<sup>th</sup> (Grades 1-4), Thursday December 21<sup>st</sup> (Grades 5-8), or both to enjoy the stylings of your beautiful children. It will be a night to remember, so bring your cameras.

The staff would all like to wish you and yours a restful break and a happy holiday season. We hope it is full of festivity, family and friends.

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“When you've seen beyond yourself, then you may find, peace of mind is waiting there.”

George Harrison

## Library Visits from Muna and Stella

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We love to see our Selkirk Waterfront neighbour, Muna, and her dog Stella come into the library on Tuesdays to read with students.

Over the years, we have had neighbours volunteer in many ways. From keeping our library shelves tidy to doing crafts with our after school care students, we always appreciate their support of our school.

Are you interested in volunteering at the school? Give us a call at 250-384-3414 and ask for Penny. I'm sure we could find a fit for your schedule and interests.

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## Registration for 2018-2019

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### **Returning Families/Siblings**

Registration packages will be emailed to you in January.

As always, registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, so it's important to get your completed forms in as early as possible. There are a limited number of spaces in some of our programs, especially all-day Kindergarten, Preschool and Grades One to Four.

### **Deadline for re-registration is Wednesday, January 31st.**

A non-refundable deposit of \$300 per child is required at the time of registration. This applies to both returning students and new siblings.

If you have any questions about space,

re-registration, or the next step for your child, please come see me in the office, call 250-384-3414 or email me at:  
[penny@selkirkmontessori.ca](mailto:penny@selkirkmontessori.ca).

### **Waitlisted Families**

We won't have any firm answers about space and numbers until at least the middle of February, but please don't hesitate to email me at [penny@selkirkmontessori.ca](mailto:penny@selkirkmontessori.ca) to remind us how keen you are!

Our Open House is set for January 25th at 5:30 pm. It's a great opportunity to see the school, check out the classrooms and meet the teachers. Hope to see you there!

# Remembrance Day 2017



Thanks to Shannon, Lana and the children of the Cormorant Class for our Remembrance Day assembly this year.

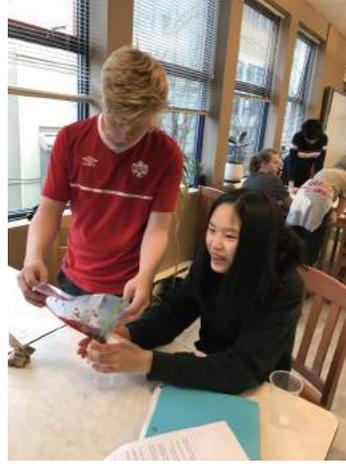


We always appreciate the participation of our parents and students who are in the military or in the cadets. Thank you Mike, Derek and James!



Thanks also to music teachers Eli and Kristen for their wonderful contributions. Shout out to Doug on the sound board and to our wonderful Strings Club and Grade 5-6 Choir!





(left) Extracting DNA from strawberries.



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Thanks to our talented parent, Kanne Arbour, for coming into the class to do some pottery with the students.



Grade 8s with Casa Ks creating a thank-you card to Sir James Douglas for their tank and chiller donation so that we can raise salmon in the new year.



## Performance Attendance—What’s the Practice?



With many events in December, we have had a few parents ask what our practices are around taking students out of their own class to attend special events in a sibling’s classroom.

Please let me start with why your child’s teacher might be hesitant to have your child slip out. Lessons and

presentations in a Montessori classroom are fluid and responsive to the children’s questions and interests, so it is not advantageous to predict or curtail a lesson for an outside event. In addition, the work cycle is paramount to acquiring new skills and teachers protect student concentration from interruption at all costs. When a small group of children leaves the classroom for a performance, they understandably come back excited to share and can interrupt the concentration of their peers or have difficulty using the remainder of the time available. Finally, as you can imagine, coordinating schedules for their own classroom events, such as field trips, can be challenging enough without having to consider making students available for events in other classes.

With all of these things in mind, there may be occasions that you (or we) feel it is an important opportunity for a sibling to support a brother or sister. Here are some guidelines around grace and courtesy to help you minimize disruption to the classroom:

1. If your child has seen the dress rehearsal with their class, please do not disrupt them to see the show a second time with you. Enjoy this opportunity to focus on your performing child.



2. Allow your viewing child to attend the performance, but please allow them to return to class immediately after congratulating their sibling – this means no snacks and social. This will lead to less missed work and a higher likelihood of settling in upon returning to class.
3. Please let the teachers know, as soon as you know, that you would like to take your child to a performance.
4. On the day of the performance, please wait outside your child’s class and he/she will be released a few minutes before the performance with the rest of the children who are attending the event.
5. As Penny or Erin attend almost all performances, we would be happy to escort siblings back to their classrooms to allow you to enjoy a little social time, and often a treat or snack, with the performing child.
6. If there is a field trip or special event in your child’s own class, this will always take precedence over attending a performance of a sibling.
7. Please be prepared to support your child in any unfinished business that may result from missed work.

A balance of work and family is important to all of us. We want to continue to protect the “normalized classroom” while continuing to honour our family community and culture.



## Message from Linda Dombrowski

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During the holidays is a fabulous time to check your fire alarms in the home (maybe even hold your own drill)! It is a good time to replenish your earthquake kits and check on any batteries to make sure all is in working order.



I did want to mention that the Government of Canada Recall and Safety Alerts - put out recall information on certain fire extinguishers. Here is the link with more information to see if it affects you.

<http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2017/65014r-eng.php>

We have a couple of weeks to go and then it's winter and unfortunately there are some bugs going around in the different classes. We thank the families that choose to keep their students home when they are sick, in order not to spread it to other students or to catch someone else's bug!



I had a parent ask if we were going to disinfect the classrooms. Which made me think that they didn't know what occurred with cleanliness in our school.

The school has a nightly janitor service that does the cleaning in the school. With that company, we have deep carpet and furniture cleaning when needed during the school year for accidents that occur. Every summer, all carpets and furniture are cleaned again so that we have everything ready and sanitized for the return of the students in September. Door handles, fountains and other areas of high use are also cleaned regularly during the year.

Every day the younger students are asked by their teachers to wash their hands before each of the classes, before and after eating and after using the toilet. If they are preparing food for the class, the students wash their hands before and after. The desks and materials are disinfected by the teachers twice a day. As the students start getting older, they begin to become more responsible for their own handwashing hygiene and certainly they do get reminders from their teachers.

We do our very best to keep our wonderful school clean.

Most of the articles I have read on the various viruses, flus, colds and other bugs the words *make sure to wash hands with soap and water* comes up. So, thank you for engaging with this simple hygienic procedure at home as well, as it instills the notion that this is an important activity of daily life.

Here is hoping the everyone has a healthy, happy holiday season!

Peace to all and much happiness for the new year!



Linda

## Help Needed—Emergency Prep

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Attention Parents:

It's that time of year again!

We need 2 volunteers to go and do some shopping for the schools' emergency bin, to replace the old stock and bring in some new stock.



This can be done at the beginning of January. The school will reimburse you the cost of the food supplies. If you are interested in doing some volunteering, please talk to Linda Dom-browski [office@selkirkmontessori.ca](mailto:office@selkirkmontessori.ca).

Thank you! 😊

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## Knitters are Needed!

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We have had a wonderful donation of wool and knitting/crochet needles and accessories. We would love to get the knitting club up and running in the new year; however, our previous club coordinator has moved out of town and we are now looking for a replacement!

We have interested 'helpers' but no one to actually organize the club. This activity typically takes place after school, from around 3:15 to 3:45 or 4:00 pm and, in the past, has been comprised of mostly students from grade one to four.

If you love to knit and enjoying teaching children as well, please contact Penny in the office: [penny@selkirkmontessori.ca](mailto:penny@selkirkmontessori.ca).



## Debating Club



*According to decades of research, 'Students involved in Speech & Debate develop higher-level thinking skills through application, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and creativity. They come to understand what they believe about the issues that confront them in our culture and why. They gain increased problem-solving abilities and better overall academic performance.'*

The Selkirk Montessori School Debating Club got off to an award winning start this year! Pictured above: Taiyo, Jahi, Fraser, Kira, Marijke and Eya.

Special thanks to teacher Gigi Cook for continuing the club, and inspiring these students to give it a try!



(Pictured above) Congratulations to Kira, Fraser, Marijke and Eya on their showing at the first debates.



(Pictured left) Eya and Marijke won First Place for Novice Team and First and Second place for Novice Speaker at the most recent debate competition at UVic.



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***We can make a difference.***

**www.selkirkmontessori.ca**



Students in Casa love to take their wee rakes and clean up some of the leaves in the fall. Good exercise, fresh air and lots of fun!

## Dates to Remember

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- December 19—Grade 1-4 Concert (6:00 pm)
- December 21—Grade 5-8 Concert (6:00 pm)
- December 21—Last day before winter break
- January 8—First day back after winter break
- January 25—Open House and Transition Meetings
- January 31—Re-registration deadline



**Have a safe and  
happy holiday and  
we'll see you in  
2018!**