



# Selkirk Montessori School E-Newsletter

## From the Head of School, Erin Hayes

A season of celebrations is upon us. As with every school year, 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? Their emerging love of reading? The spark in their eye as they shares something he is pretty sure you don't know about cultures around the world, land-forms, or body systems? We love to hear what experiences at school are sparking dinner conversations at your house or those special conversations that only seem to happen in the car.

In the lead up to the winter break, the staff and students will be participating in 10 Days of Kindness and Community in honour of the many Winter Celebrations our families include in their customs. You will find our 10 Days of Kindness and Community bulletin board outside the staff room starting Monday, December 5, 2022.

Students are encouraged to record the act of kindnesses they take part in this holiday season and then post them on our board to inspire each other. Let's see how much warmth and love Selkirk can send out to Victoria this December.

A great place to celebrate as a community is the annual Holiday Concert. Please join us on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> (Grades 1-4), Friday, December 16<sup>th</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. You are also welcome to attend the Festival of Lights Assembly hosted by the Sea Star and Cormorant classes at 9:40am on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

As you join us for the many events this month, please ensure you drive safely and avoid U-turns.

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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*“One kind word can  
warm three winter  
months.”*

*Japanese Proverb*

# Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in ECE

THANK YOU from: Amabel de Lara



the Prime Minister Award pin

It was a wonderful and love-filled tea party last Saturday as the school honoured me for getting the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Early Childhood Education! I am filled with gratitude and appreciation for all your messages. It was great to be able to gather together, mix and mingle, share treats and celebrate! "Maraming Salamat" to the organizers and all who helped with the celebration!

May the Prime Minister award shine a light on the important work of early childhood educators! And may it also celebrate, not only me, but also celebrate the **amazing school community** we have! Parents, Children, Families, Teachers, Administration, Board Members of the SPG and the Pacific Montessori Society/Foundation, Volunteers and our Community Partners – thank you for your love and support through the years! I consider myself so lucky to have received an award for doing something I love and a career that has brought me so much joy and fulfillment.



I dedicate this award to our school community and to all early childhood educators!

*We can make a difference,  
if we try!*



...continued on Page 2

## Thank you from Amabel de Lara (cont'd)

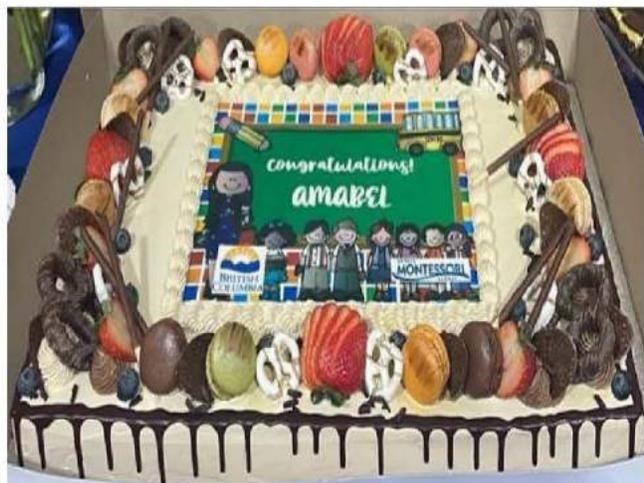
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Thanks for giving up your Saturday  
(and watching the World Cup!)



Erin putting the pin on me



Beautiful.... and yummy mocha cake!



Lia presenting a scrap book of messages!



We missed Penny but she was in the video of greetings!



Susie, our perky emcee –  
my long-time colleague and  
friend

## From the Pacific Montessori Society Board of Directors

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Our Annual General Meeting was held at the school on Wednesday, November 9th this year. Thanks to those of you who were able to take the time to Zoom with us.

At a meeting on December 1, 2022, the directors approved tuition increases of 3% for preschool/kindergarten and 4% for elementary and middle school programs for 2023-2024. The increase in tuitions was voted in specifically to continue to support our valuable educators and staff, who are the heart and soul of Selkirk Montessori. In particular, we want to assure our certified teachers that the directors are committed to continuing to improve their salaries given the recent contract agreement in the public system.

An updated schedule of fees will be available in January 2023. If you have any questions, please email [penny@selkirkmontessori.ca](mailto:penny@selkirkmontessori.ca).

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## Registration for 2023-2024

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### **Returning Families/Siblings**

Registration information 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 registrations 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 Tuesday, January 31st**

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 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 contact Penny in the office (250-384-3414) or email [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!

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to our Open House on January 19, 2023. Details to come.



# Remembrance Day 2022



Special thanks to the Otter and Kingfisher teachers and students for preparing a moving and meaningful remembrance assembly.



We will remember.



Seren and Jonas did a wonderful job as MCs and we had a message from the Prime Minister read by Petty Officer 2nd Class Derek Fedoryshyn.



# Selkirk Parent Group (SPG) Update

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SPG momentum continues, unabated! With your help, we raised **over \$3000** last month! This money goes directly to special events, special requests for classrooms, and buses for field trips. Thank you for your fabulous support!



November's **community education night** about internet safety was informative and entertaining. The White Hatter ran an excellent session, and we were happy to see so many members of our school community able to attend. Some points that stuck out for us:

- It can be tempting to think of the whole internet as a minefield of highly inappropriate content ... remember, there's plenty of good stuff out there!
- Not all screen time is created equal: taking a "brain break" with a simple game is different than learning how to code. Take these different types of screen time into account when you set screen time limits.
- Talk, trial, revise, repeat. As children grow and mature, so, too, should their involvement with the digital world. Regular discussions with children will help you understand each other's points of view and come to boundaries you can all agree upon.

The White Hatter website has many great resources, it's one to bookmark: <https://thewhitehatter.ca/>

**Angel Gifts** are being prepared as you read this. Thanks to Erin Willis for coordinating this program with our school and Our Place. Thanks, too, to our class representatives for collecting the funds and the gifts. And, of course, thanks to everyone who donated.

Your support helps demonstrate to our children that all people deserve to be seen and appreciated, and that helping those in need is part of who we are. As you might have seen in the emails about the program, these gifts are the highlight of the year for many recipients.

And on that note--**on the theme of giving and receiving**--the SPG would like to warmly thank our extended school community for your participation and support in 2022. There are so many ways to be involved in the school, and we are grateful for all you have given to SPG activities. Let's face it, sometimes just getting out the door in the morning is a challenge, let alone getting out the door in the morning *on time*. But you did that and much, much more, and our whole community has benefitted. We're looking forward to doing more great things with you in 2023!

## Key December dates:

- December 5: Pick up your SpiritWear orders from the office
- December 2 to 14 (noon): Ordering for hot lunch term II; **payments due December 14 at noon**
- December 12: Pick up your Paradise Island Cheese and Purdys Chocolates; **orders must go home**
- December 16: Pizza Day



## Toby's Tales—Library Update

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Our new library dog, Toby, and our grade 8 student, Kayleigh, were spotted snuggled up enjoying the graphic novel *Pashmina* by Nidhi Chanani - a vibrant and beautiful story about a girl's journey to reconnect with her Hindu culture.

If your children have not yet discovered graphic novels it is highly likely they will very soon. This fast-growing, exciting medium is a favourite among many of our students here at Selkirk.

The combination of visual art and the written word translates into an immersive reading experience for children. Graphic novels are not the comic books that you tried to sneak behind your "real novel" during silent reading back in the day. The quality, depth and scope of the books gets more impressive every year.

These books are great for building confidence in young readers and for inspiring budding visual artists as well.

I have included a link to a Globe and Mail article on the [BEST KID'S BOOKS of 2022](#) to inspire your book shopping as we careen into the Holiday season.

Speaking of books and Holiday shopping, we are collecting books to donate to [1000x5 - Children's Literacy in Greater Victoria](#) this season.

If you have any gently used books for children aged brand-spanking-new to age 5, please send them to school with your child and have them place them in the purple bin by the office. If we receive one book from each child at the school we would have over 300 books! Imagine??

This is a wonderful way to practice gratitude with your kids and to give to children in need right here in our own city. If nothing else, it will help to clear out space for their NEW BOOKS! Thank you in advance for your generosity and kindness.



Toby was very excited to wear a poppy for Remembrance Day.

## Montessori Model United Nations (MMUN)

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In MMUN, we have grade 8 students learning about how to help make a difference in the world.

We are currently focusing on Human Rights and mental health of the child. Students are broken off into pairs, representing one country per group. The countries this year are Brazil, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Kuwait, and Belgium.

Rights of the child and adequate housing are the subtopics we are focusing on for our position papers that we are now starting to write. On December 9th we have a Working Session with others from around the world to help us prepare for the formal online conference in the spring, concentrating on Mental Health initiatives.

We are excited about our six-day conferences (April 28-30 and May 6-8) because we will be collaborating with others from around the world to prepare documents and form resolutions related to Human Rights to give to the United Nations.





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*We can make a difference.*

[www.selkirkmontessori.ca](http://www.selkirkmontessori.ca)



We had a Winter Wonderland Extravaganza on November 27th in the gym. 30 different vendors booked tables to sell handmade products and a clothing swap. We also had the Kingfisher Café up and running! Here are Seren and Florence doing their stint at the café. So many yummy treats!

## Dates to Remember

- December 7—Festival of Lights Assembly—All welcome!
- December 14—Grade 1-4 Winter Concert
- December 16—Grade 4-8 Winter Concert
- December 16—Last day of school before winter break
- January 3—First day back after winter break
- January 19—Open House/ Transition Night

Selkirk Montessori School is located on the traditional territories of the Lək<sup>w</sup>əŋən people, today known as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations. We extend our appreciation for the opportunity to live and learn on this territory.