

DECEMBER 2023



Selkirk Montessori School E-Newsletter

From the Head of School, Erin Hayes

Penny and I both feel so fortunate to be part of a school community that is so diverse, especially as we head towards winter break. The food, the traditions, the lights, and the love around the celebration season is felt deeply and frequently. Though the holiday season can be stressful at times, especially if it was in our own family of origin, I encourage you to look at the traditions and customs that bring joy to your family now.

My holiday wish for families is that they can feel safe to frame, shape, and celebrate traditions in a way that works for them. My wish for our Selkirk family is that our members feel welcome to share their customs here, with our school community. Your children, even your teens (actually especially your teens), need these traditions to shape their sense of belonging, identity, and family. Hold fast to those that bring joy or meaning and let everything else go.

As the school year progresses, I encourage you to reach out to your child's classroom if you have a tradition or cultural experience you would like to share. It is a beautiful, authentic learning experience and opportunity to appreciate different ways of being in this world.

A great place to celebrate traditions as a community is the annual Holiday Concert. Please join us on Monday, December 18th (Grades 1-4), Wednesday, December 20th (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.



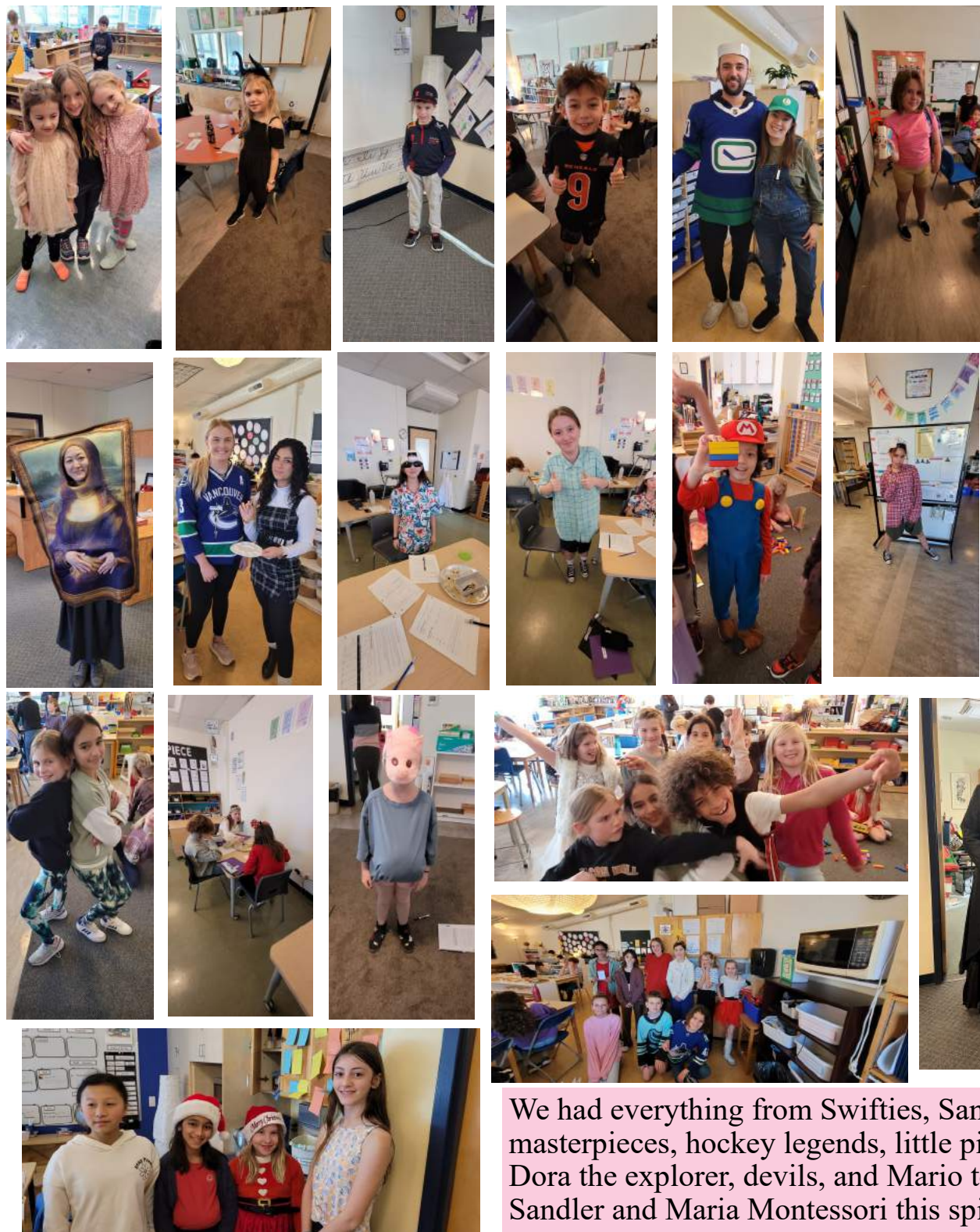
Inside this issue:

Spirit Day Photo Gallery	2
Message from the Board of Directors	3
Registration for 2024-2025	3
Remembrance Day Photo Gallery	4
Selkirk Parent Group (SPG)	5
BC Govt Grant (RESP)/Book Donations	6/7
Game Night Photos/Welcome to Selkirk	8
Dates to Remember	9

Hello December!

*Thanks for
bringing out our
inner sparkle!*

Spirit Day—Historical Figures (fiction & non-fiction)



SPIRIT DAY

We had everything from Swifties, Santas, masterpieces, hockey legends, little piggies, Dora the explorer, devils, and Mario to Adam Sandler and Maria Montessori this spirit day!

From the Pacific Montessori Society Board of Directors



Our Annual General Meeting was held at the school on Thursday, November 16th this year. We appreciate you taking the time to attend to learn more about the workings of the school.

At a meeting immediately following the AGM, the directors approved tuition increases of 3% for preschool/kindergarten and 9% for elementary and middle school programs for 2024-2025. The increase in tuitions was approved specifically to continue to support our incredible staff, who are the heart and soul of Selkirk Montessori. In particular, we want to assure our dedicated educators that the directors are committed to continuing to improve their salaries given the contract agreement in the public system last year.

An updated schedule of fees will be available in January 2024. If you have any questions, please email erin@selkirkmontessori.ca.

Registration for 2024-2025

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 out-of-school care.

Deadline for re-registration is Friday, January 26th.

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 Erin Hayes in the office (250-384-3414) or email erin@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 reception@selkirkmontessori.ca to remind us how keen you are!

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to our Open House on January 25, 2024. More details to come in January's newsletter.



Remembrance Day 2023



Thanks to the Preschool/ Kindergarten and Kingfisher teachers and students for creating such a moving assembly of remembrance this year.

Special thanks to Lieutenant-Commander, Jake Monsour, and Chief Petty Officer 2nd Class, Shawn Goodine, Both Selkirk Montessori parents who shared their work and how they support their team and other countries.



We will remember.

Selkirk Parent Group (SPG) Update

The end of the calendar year is a natural time to pause and reflect on the past 12 months. As always, what bubbles up for the SPG is: **gratitude**. We are sincerely thankful for the time and energy you have put into supporting our activities and efforts, which are really all about lifting up our children and our community. Your participation builds and reinforces durable, flexible and creative spheres of support.

Thank you!

November games night

What a blast! Last November's game night - run in collaboration with Interactivity Board Game Café - was such fun! With yummy offerings from the Kingfisher Café, an extensive choice of board games to try out, and even some leftover gym space for cartwheels, the evening was truly a crowd-pleaser. Thank you to Noel for organizing, and to those who took part!



Angel Gifts

Our much-loved annual Angel Gift program, in collaboration with Our Place, is in the works! You should have received information from your class representative. Receiving gifts is the highlight of the year for many recipients, and the program is a really concrete way to demonstrate to our children how our shared school community values can make a difference in a broader community.

Key dates for December:

- ♦ **Dec. 11:** Purdy's orders ready to be picked up at school
- ♦ **Dec. 15:** Paradise Island Cheese orders ready to be picked up at school
- ♦ **Dec. 18:** Deadline for ordering and paying for term 2 hot lunches; lunch deliveries begin on January 8 (the first day back after winter break)



November 2023

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The Government of British Columbia is pleased to inform you that your child may be able to receive a \$1,200 training and education savings grant.

Children are eligible if:

- ☐ The parent or guardian, and the child, are BC residents.
- ☐ The child's birth year is listed below, and the deadline has not passed:

BIRTH YEAR	APPLY BEFORE
2014	Apply before 9 th birthday in 2023
2015	Apply before 9 th birthday in 2024
2016	Apply before 9 th birthday in 2025
2017	Start applying on 6 th birthday in 2023

Once you open an account, known as a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP), the Government of British Columbia will deposit a \$1,200 BC Training and Education Savings Grant into the RESP for your child. Students can use the money to pay for their education expenses (e.g., books, tools, rent or transportation) in an apprenticeship program, a trade school, CEGEP, college, or university.

Plan today: you don't have to put any money into the RESP for your child to receive the \$1,200.

Step 1: Get Social Insurance Numbers (SINs) for you and your child. Go to <http://www.canada.ca/social-insurance-number> or call 1-800-622-6232 to find out how.

Step 2: Make an appointment with a financial organization that offers RESPs. Bring the SINs for you and your child and say:

"I want to open an RESP and get the BC Training Education Savings grant for my child."

Learn more: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/BCTESG> Contact: BCTESG@gov.bc.ca Your child may also be eligible for other, federal incentives, see: canada.ca/education-savings.

Ministry of
Education and Child Care

Student Information Data and
Education Network Services

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9886 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9T6

Location:
620 Superior St
Victoria BC V8W 9H8

3 Books = 1 Gift The Challenge Continued



Every week 1000X5 Children's Book Recycling Project donates 600 of your books.

Join the hundreds of families who have taken the three book challenge. As we head into the holiday season, many families appreciate a bit of help with gifts. And what can be a better gift than a bag of 3 books for babies and toddlers? Every month 1000X5 pops 2400 books in 800 gift bags. In the last three weeks, hundreds of books have arrived for the weekly Wednesday sorting by 10 dedicated volunteers.

Drop your books for babies and preschoolers off in the pink bin by the office!

Board Game Night Photo Gallery



Welcome to our Selkirk Montessori Community!



Congratulations to our very own Angela Sullivan Grose and her husband, Denton Grose!

Brayden Henry Grose was born November 13th at 10:46 p.m.

Weighing in at 9lbs. 1oz., he joins big brother Nathan (pictured) who will be attending Selkirk Montessori in September.



2970 Jutland Road
Victoria, BC V8T 5K2
250-384-3414 (tel)
250-384-3420 (fax)
penny@selkirkmontessori.ca

We can make a difference.

[www.selkirkmontessori.ca **]**



Winter craft projects are starting! Here are some delightful penguins that the Otter class did recently.

Dates to Remember

- December 19—Grades 1-4 concert (6 pm)
- December 20—Grades 4-8 concert (6 pm)
- **December 21—Last day before winter break**
- **January 8—First day back after winter break**
- January 15-19—K/P observations
- January 25—Open House/Transition Night
- January 26—Deadline for Re-registration

Selkirk Montessori School is located on the traditional territories of the Ləkʷəŋən people, today known as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations. We extend our appreciation for the opportunity to live and learn on this territory.