

FEBRUARY 2017



Selkirk Montessori School E-Newsletter

From the Academic Head, Erin Hayes

Did you know that as a parent, the two most important activities you can model for your children are reading and learning. By seeing their parents read, students develop the mindset that reading is something we do throughout our lives for purpose and for pleasure. They also learn that any interest can be furthered through research and any emotion can be explored and processed through literature.

When children see the adults in their lives learning, they become comfortable being a novice at something. They see that is okay to take risks. They notice that trying something new can be as fun as it is nerve-wracking. They learn that it takes time to acquire a skill or to build a solid understanding. They observe that interests change over time and make people interesting to others. They also see that developing skills and interests is what leads to excellence — not born talent. They understand from these observations that mastery is a result of perseverance!

With the responsibility of modeling in mind, teachers are using the February Professional Development time to expand on their initial interpretations of the new provincial curriculum.

In collaboration with the University of Victoria's Innovative Learning Centre, we will be hosting and attending a Maker Day workshop for educators. The workshop will further their exploration of the Applied Design, Skills, and Thinking workshop that can be interpreted at the core of all of the curriculum. Teachers will come away with the building skills, design thinking, and program frameworks to integrate “making”, inventing, prototyping, and engineering into classrooms at every level. We are excited to learn and to subsequently see that learning modeled for our students as we bring our inspired ideas to life.

P.S. If you see the teachers out and about on February 24th, don't worry; they aren't playing hooky. UBC booked us in for the Saturday so they will be swapping one day for another!

Inside this issue:

Snow Photos	2
Selkirk Parent Group (SPG) Update	3
Open House Gallery	4-5
A Special Guest is Coming!	6
Swim Jamboree 2017	7
New Family Looking for Friends	8
Dates to Remember	8

Design thinking is generally considered the ability to combine empathy for the context of a problem, creativity in the generation of insights and solutions, and rationality to analyze and fit solutions to the context.

Snow, snow....go away!! And don't come back!



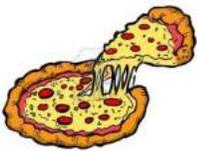
For those able to make it to school on Monday the 6th, the reward was an opportunity to play in the snow with friends! Thanks to Taylor Kim for capturing some of the fun for us. You can tell it wasn't the kids who wrote the headline! ;)



Selkirk Parent Group (SPG) Update

The first SPG meeting of 2017 was well attended, with parents representing all ages and stages in the school.

There were lots of evolving ideas, especially around the dual roles of the SPG for community building and fundraising, and how to keep these distinct at times, or complementary at other times.



In that light, a big thank you to our volunteers who run the hot lunch program! This is a major school fundraiser, as well as a

chance to step away from packing a lunch every morning of the week.

Upcoming fundraising will be art cards this spring, Purdy's Easter chocolates, and our ongoing Thriftys card campaign.

Thriftys has supported the school for several years with its prepaid card system. When you load your card, 5% of the total comes straight back to the school (and your receipt will say Thank You for supporting Selkirk Montessori!) You can use your cards year after year too! If you need one or would like an extra one, please see Karma in the office.



A family friendly social event with entry by donation is in the works for later this spring, but I will leave the big reveal until we have more details...!

On the social and educational front, the young engineering after school program has been well received, quickly selling out in the younger grades especially. Awesome!



Darren Lauer is set to visit the school on February 23, with his presentations about internet safety. He will present to middle school students during the day, and to parents that evening.

Thanks to the parents who organized both these events.

We also discussed developing a buddy system to link experienced families to new families joining our school community. Tuck this idea away as we move forward - would you like to be a welcoming face to the school? I

remember how unsettling and exciting it was to be new here, and how good it felt when someone greeted me and was able to answer my many questions.

Please come out and join us on Monday, February 6 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in the staff room to learn more about this side of the school



Open House 2017—Classrooms & Curriculum



(right) Our 2015-16 grad gift proudly on display in the library.



Open House 2017—Thank you!



Pictured are just some of our amazing staff who work tirelessly with your children every day.

Thanks also to our Dominga Passmore and our hospitality committee for another yummy spread!



Visit from the Lieutenant Governor!

The Honourable Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, will be travelling around the province this year to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday. She plans to visit 150 schools — and we have been chosen for a visit!

We expect her at Selkirk Montessori on March 13th at 9:30 am. Plans are in the works for a special assembly where Her Honour will speak, students will perform and lots of singing will happen.

We'll provide more information as the details are firmed up. Needless to say, we are delighted to have this opportunity to welcome Her Honour to our school.



The Honourable Judith Guichon, OBC
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

A Head, Heart and Hands Approach to Outdoor Learning.



A big thank you to parent and nature education specialist, Chris Filler, who presented at a recent staff meeting and prompted us to reflect on embodied cognition in the natural setting.

We look forward to work with him in furthering our partnerships with the City of Victoria. He was a wealth of knowledge and experience that the teachers are excited to tap!

Swim Jamboree!



Despite the snow, staff and students made their way to Commonwealth Pool for the annual Swim Jamboree! Thanks to Angela Sullivan for hoofing over there through the drifts to be first on hand. Thanks also to Athletic Director Brian Empey for coordinating and other staff from grade 3-8 for attending and cheering on the kids. Hopefully no snow next year, so everyone is able to attend.

(Photo credits to Zeudy Villar-Vega and Angela Sullivan)





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

We can make a difference.

www.selkirkmontessori.ca

New family looking for Selkirk friends in our neighbourhood!

We are new to the school and have three children (ages 6, 4, 2). We live in Quadra/Cedar Hill Neighborhood, right near Cook/Quadra.

Anybody in our area and want to get together at a park or for playdate?

matt.humphrey@arocha.ca or drop a note in our family mailbox at school.

Dates to Remember

- Family Day (school closed) - February 13
- Junior Musical (Grades 1-3) - February 16
- Professional Development Day (no school for students) - February 24
- Immersion Week (Grades 5-8) - March 13-17
- Spring Break (no school) - March 20-31

