



Selkirk Montessori School E-Newsletter

From the Academic Head, Erin Hayes

Going Out – An Important Part of Your Child’s Montessori Journey

Field Experiences, or “going out”, are an important part of your child’s Montessori journey. Maria Montessori stressed the importance of a dual environment for children – work within the Montessori environment and opportunities to generalize understanding gained by classroom work, and further learning, in the outside world. These opportunities allow students to make connections – linking big ideas and broad concepts, between skills, knowledge, and careers, with people outside their everyday circle. This prepares students to take responsibility when opportunity arises, armed with a goal of what they wish to get out of the experience – a new skill, a better understanding, strengthened relationships, demonstrated competency.

Partnership of any kind takes work and our teachers are constantly consulting, planning and communicating with outside organizations to facilitate these field experiences. There are often hiccups, and it is always more work than just keeping the kids in the classroom. However, I know I speak for them when I say the awestruck, or a-ha moments there, in the experience, make it all worthwhile.

In the past we have partnered with parents to curate some of these experiences and we are excited to reinvent that process as the restrictions of past years have lifted. We are so fortunate to have parents that value the importance of these opportunities. We thank those of you who do so much to ensure they happen. So many of you take time out of your busy schedules to shuttle our voracious learners where they need to be. Many of you have hosted students in your place of employment, sharing a passion for the work you do and relating it to the skills and knowledge they are acquiring. Some of you have even worked with outside agencies to gain us special access to places you have discovered. We appreciate these wonderful in-context learning experiences.

If you have an idea or opportunity you would like to facilitate, or would like to be a host or guest speaker, please feel free to reach out by email and we will connect with the programs or teachers most suitable to partner with.

Inside this issue:

80s Prom Auction Fundraiser	2
Selkirk Parent Group (SPG) Update	3
Clubs—Photo Gallery/TC10K Information	4
Toby’s Tales—Library Update	5
Counsellor’s Corner	6-7
Pro-D Childcare/Photo Gallery January Spirit Day	8-9
Debate Success!/Dates to Remember	9

*It's not how
much we
GIVE
but how much
LOVE
we put into
giving*
— MOTHER TERESA

**SATURDAY,
MAY 13 . 6PM**

TIX \$25

GET TOTALLY STOKED!

80'S PROM AUCTION

**IT'LL BE,
LIKE, SO RAD**

**AMAZING
FOOD
CASH BAR**



Are you totally stoked for this rad night out with all the parentals? Would you like to help make it wicked good? Here's how you can do it:

- Keep an eye out for donation letters you can use to request businesses contribute (hardcopies coming home soon)
- Purchase tickets for all your favourite adults, available in the office late February
- Find the most awesome "big ticket item" to donate for the ultimate key prize (remember the drama of the watch last time?)
- Bring in a bottle (or two) of wine or craft beer to the office for the raffles

It is rad that you are willing to help make the second floor rooftop playground a little more tubular for our kids. It will be totally gnarly when it is done.

Selkirk Parent Group

We are mid-way through the school year!

December was a busy time, so we'd like to pause now for some special thank-yous ...

- *Diolch* to **Jennifer K** and the **Bulman-Fleming/Noseworthy** family for organizing the Teacher Appreciation Kudo Boards and collections.
- *Obrigada* to **Susan E** for coordinating the Paradise Island Cheese Fundraiser, and to **Shelly and Greg P** for heading to Nanaimo to pick up the cheese!
- *Terima kasih* to **Renée W** for coordinating the Purdys Fundraiser!
- And *Asante* to the Purdys Sorting Dream Team (pictured below):



Spreading the love

This year marks the 2nd annual Selkirk Rocks The Heart rock hunt!

This is a fun and easy way to spread love and good vibes to the community. Taking part is easy! Paint rocks at home, then hide them around the school or give them to a special teacher, specialist, administration staffer, friend, barista ... You get the idea!

More details to come, but if you just can't wait, contact Penny N at pennynightingale@gmail.com to help with this much-loved community builder!

Upcoming dates

- February 10 – Pizza Day
- February 13 to 16 – Selkirk Rocks the Heart rock hunt



Swim and Volleyball Clubs



Thanks to our swim club coordinators Lana and Noel! The children are off every Wednesday to Crystal Pool.

Volleyball is back and our teams have been competing with other schools in Greater Victoria since January.

Thrifty Foods Family Run 1.5K!

Selkirk Montessori School has entered a team in the Thrifty Foods Family Run 1.5K! The 1.5K run is at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 30th! After Spring Break training will be available to all participating runners on Wednesdays after school from 3:20 – 4 p.m. We will meet in the gym and then go for a run (parent volunteers are welcome). The entry fee is \$20 until the end of January and then \$25 up to the race weekend. All entry fees include a Selkirk Montessori School team T-shirt and a finisher medal!

To register please see the link on the Run Sport page below. The team is Selkirk Montessori School. T-shirts for those that have signed up for the run will be distributed at the school on Friday, April 28th, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Brown (parent and SPG Chair) at cherylbrown@shaw.ca or visit FAQ <https://www.runsport.ca/2023-tc10k>. On race day, we will meet by the Legislative Assembly Fountain in front of the Parliament building at 10:30 a.m. All students must be accompanied by an adult. This is a large race and Selkirk Montessori School is not responsible for students on race day.

We look forward to running with you!
Bree and Cheryl

Toby's Tales—Library Update

Greetings from Toby and I (and Lia in her matching slicker!!) in the library!



We are so excited to announce the return of the RUSSELL BOOKS BOOK FAIR Feb. 8 -10! We have not done an in-person book fair with them since 2019, before we ever contemplated the term "in-person" in relation to book fairs.

This fair is different from the Scholastic Fair that we have in the fall. Russell's has an incredible amount of inventory that they can draw from and because of that we are able to curate more of the selection. This means that we will have ALL of the books in a series (in case your child is coming around to Harry Potter age) instead of just the latest instalment, or most popular book.

We also always request that there be an adult table with new or classic titles that the parents can peruse.

The "toy" section is where a huge difference lies for the younger students. The toys on offer are puzzles or games, made from more natural materials.

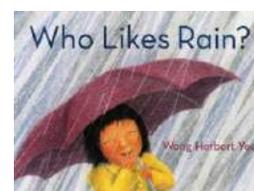
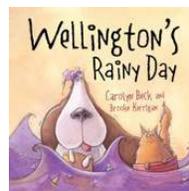
The vibe at this fair is a little bit less hectic and instead feels as though you have stepped into Russell Books on a Tuesday afternoon and have time, space and quiet to shop.

If you and your child are wanting to purchase a book for the class, please do. Don't worry about whether they have it already or not, classrooms can always use more and multiples of books. There will be a cozy reading corner set up for you to cuddle up with the kiddos if your time allows.

We are so looking forward to seeing you there as we simply love, love, love books and supporting our local book merchants.

For the love of matching rain coats, cute dogs in baskets and books,

Bree & Toby



Counsellor's Corner



One of my favourite things about my job is supporting our school's culture and climate by facilitating clubs and recess/lunch groups. A few years ago, I was approached by a few Gr. 8 students who were interested in creating an Allyship club, which was also something I was hoping to get going at our school as well. The club's initial aim was to offer a space for Gr. 7 and 8 students to support diversity and inclusion in our school by acting as "allies" to those who would otherwise be misunderstood, excluded, or underrepresented. In preparing to support these students, I researched Allyship frameworks used in other school communities and came across the Allies in Diversity program guide written by the Colorado Education Initiative. Although the club is ultimately student driven, it has been helpful for me as their teacher sponsor to clarify and revisit the group's intentions regularly. The CEI Allies in Diversity guide outlines the intentions so clearly and thoughtfully:

"[Allies in Diversity] aim[s] to build student knowledge about social justice, equity, diversity and multiculturalism; create pro-social attitudes and beliefs toward all members of the school community; build critical student "upstander" skills that are practiced and put into action; and create a safe space for students most at risk of experiencing cruelty and bullying to build relationships within the club with students who pledge to be their allies. "Ally" refers to the tight bonds that occur between members of the club and also refers to all club members' role in the larger school community to intervene and defend any student who is being unfairly treated and/or bullied on any given school day. "Ally" then describes both the relationship between students (I am your ally) and action to be taken in defense of other students throughout the school (I will ally with them against others who are treating them badly)."
(CEI Allies in Diversity, p. 1).

(cont'd on page 5)

Counsellor's Corner (cont'd)

Last year, the Allyship club gave a presentation to all the staff on how to support diversity in the classroom. The presentation provided concrete recommendations that many of our staff have eagerly put into practice. Impressed by the students' passion, Dhana Andison, teacher from the Hummingbird class, has joined the club as a second teacher sponsor.

Over the last few months, the students have been taking turns presenting their own ethnic and cultural backgrounds with each other, sharing their customs and practices, and celebrating with food!

The group is also working alongside Bree, our wonderful school librarian, to "diversify" the library to ensure all students are represented. They have been working together to create lists of book titles that represent our colourful and inclusive school community, including books that highlight the BIPOC community, neurodiverse, diverse abilities, and LGBTQIA+.

On Pink Shirt Day, February 22nd, a day promoting kindness and empathy, the Allyship club plans to host a bake sale to raise funds for new, diverse books. Stay tuned for more details about the bake sale! Whether or not you are able to purchase something from the bake sale, we hope you will support Pink Shirt Day by wearing a pink shirt. Let's lift each other up this Pink Shirt Day! Visit <https://www.pinkshirtday.ca/> for more information.

Carmelle Hermoso, M.Ed., RCC
School Counsellor



Architecture for Kids Pro-D Day Camps!

We are excited to partner with Petit Architects to provide camps for kids on professional development days in May and June, 2023. The registration links are live for the May 19th and June 5th ProD Days!

Design A Playground

May 19th Pro D Day Camp, Ages 8-11

Location - Selkirk Montessori

Time: 9:30-3pm

Learn about cool playgrounds designed by architects and build your own model of one! All supplies are included and you will take your model home with you.

Home-On-The-Go, Design A Campervan

June 5th Pro D Day Camp, Ages 8-11

Location - Selkirk Montessori

Time: 9:30-3pm

Think small in this hands-on course where we will learn how to design for mobility and living in the outdoors! Students will design their own campervan model and take it home with them.



January Spirit Day—Favourite Decades



Thanks to the Leadership students for organizing another Spirit Day in January. It's always fun to see what the children (or their parents?) come up with.



Congratulations to our debate club for another amazing Regional competition. One of our teams — Lucy and Florence — made it to the provincials! We were also very pleased with the number of students who joined us to do timing/moderating this year, including one of our graduates from last June!

Dates to Remember

- ◆ February 3rd—Cookies, the Musical!
- ◆ February 14th—Kindness Assembly (all welcome)
- ◆ February 17th— Non-Instructional Day
- ◆ February 20th—Family Day
- ◆ March 13-17th—Immersion Week
- ◆ March 20th— First day of Spring Break
- ◆ April 3rd—First day back after Spring Break

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.