

FEBRUARY 2024



Selkirk Montessori School E-Newsletter

From the Academic Head, Erin Hayes

The staff capped off January with a meaningful workshop from Coastal Research, Education, and Advocacy Network (CREAN).

They provided a safe space for teachers to reflect on where they are in their journey towards anti-racism, including exploring the marginalized student experiences and our own implicit bias. We appreciate the opportunity to reflect on our practice, our institution, and our implicit biases. The work of showing up as an ally and a professional who creates space for all our learners is never done.

We are fortunate to be part of a journey at Selkirk Montessori where the educators enjoy the process of engagement and reflection and want to grow. It feels safe to be vulnerable. It feels exciting to learn from all those around us and consider our messaging and initiatives. I hope our students have this same opportunity and growth over their years here.

As we head into February, we encourage families to note the International Random Acts of Kindness Day on February 17th. Locally, the Victoria Foundation does a lovely job of making this a week that is easy to participate in as a family or business. Check them out at Random Acts of Kindness Day - Victoria Foundation.



Inside this issue:

Playground Fundraiser—We Need Your Help!	2
Spirit Day—Twins/Volleyball	3
Selkirk Parent Group (SPG)/Open House 2024	4-5
Out-of-School Care Change/Western Adventures	6
Counsellor's Corner	7-8
Jump Rope for Heart	9
Black History Month/Dates to Remember	10

“In the coldest February, as in every other month in every other year, the best thing to hold on to in this world is each other.”

Linda Ellerbee

Playground Fundraiser

As you know, we are fundraising to cover the cost of our second-floor play space Sport Court renovation. Our first fundraising event was the Auction in May of 2023. It was a highly successful one thanks to many generous donations from the Greater Victoria community, the hard work of our wonderful volunteers and the participation of the guests and bidders. Our net proceeds were **\$28,082.44!**

Over the winter break, Farmer Construction removed the aged playground equipment and rubber matting on the second floor, so we are still able to use the space for now. During spring break, Farmer will be bringing in a contractor to pour in place a new rubber surface on the concrete. Over the summer, they will complete the project by adding some protective fencing to stop balls from flying into our neighbours windows.

We have a preliminary quote for the project from Farmer Construction of around \$130,000. They are confident that the final quote will be lower as we decided to go with a netted fencing option rather than metal

Since December, and including the auction funds, we have raised **\$45,382.44**. Over half of the money required to complete the project! This includes everything from donations of \$20 to \$5,000! Many thanks to the following families and friends of Selkirk Montessori who have made their contributions so far:

Arthur Rowe

Penny Barner

Dina Wood

Richard Johnson

Harley Syyong

Sameer Jinnah

Mojgan Ghaffari

Samson Mow

Naser Sharafaddin-Zadeh

Now it's your turn! Donate now by e-transfer to accounting@selkirkmontessori.ca. You will receive a charitable receipt and our sincere thanks for your generosity. Your children will get a new, up-to-date play space.

Thanks for making a difference!

Spirit Day—Twins!



Thanks to the Hummingbird teachers and children for sharing their Spirit Day photos. They had the spirit! They even had actual twins!! You all looked amazing! :)

Volleyball—Boys Tourney



Coach Brian and the boys team played at home against SMUS and Rock Heights. The team did really well, with a win against SMUS and tie-breakers against Rock Heights. Go, Selkirk!

Selkirk Parent Group

February is here and we are mid-way through the school year! Days are noticeably longer, January's snow has more or less melted, and spring is just around the corner. Well, actually, this is Victoria ... the snow-drops are already up and even some daffodils. Spring often means fresh energy and liveliness, for kids and adults alike. Check out the fresh things happening with the SPG!

Rock Solid Love

This year marks the 3rd 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, or hang out after school at the green, where a rock decorating station will await your colourful ideas. Then, hide your creations around the school or give them to a special teacher, specialist, administration staffer, friend, barista—you get the idea!



Uncap those paint pens and get your creative juices flowing to take part in this much-loved community builder!

Solid Chocolate Love

And chocolate-with-yummy-fillings love, too! Spring Purdy's fundraising will launch in early February. Watch for an email with details for ordering all your chocolate egg and bunny favourites.

Community Education Night

By now, most of you are probably familiar with Transparent Classroom—that's where you go to complete forms, read progress reports and look at photos of your children in action, right? True, but did you know Transparent Classroom has even more to offer? Join us online the evening of **Thursday, February 22nd** to learn more about this great tool. Watch for an email with full details, including the option to submit questions in advance.



West Coast Seeds Fundraiser

Thank you to all who took part in the West Coast Seeds Fundraiser! Keep your eyes peeled for an email with the exact delivery date—it'll be late February or early March. Thanks, too, to those who joined the online garden planning party. Many great ideas were shared and things are looking good for some fabulous gardens this year!

Key dates for February ...

- February 8: SPG meeting at 6 pm in the Kingfisher Room
- February 12 to 15: Selkirk Rocks the Heart paint station, and hide and seek painted rocks
- February 22: Online community education night about Transparent Classroom
- February 26: last day to get your Purdy's orders and payments in

Open House 2024



Thanks to our amazing staff for hosting another successful Open House. Our student tours went over very well, with lots of compliments for each of the student hosts. They did us proud!

Our new Hospitality Committee did a wonderful job with the refreshments. Mitzie took the lead, with Shan, Angie and Stephanie in support. Parent volunteers were there to help as well. Many tasty contributions were brought in by our families. Our visitors were thrilled to see the table of treats!

We were happy to see so many wait-listed families in for their first, second and even third visit this Open House!

It was also lovely to see our own Angela with one of our newest future Montessorians sleeping through all the ruckus.



Out-of-School Care Change



As of February, all changes to Out-of-School attendance (morning and after school), fees, and billing will be adjusted on the first of each month.

All change requests must be made a minimum of one week prior to the first of the month to ensure sufficient time process.

Western Adventures—Spring & Summer Camps

WEA Inc. provides industry-leading, experiential outdoor adventure camps and outdoor programs that focus on nature, fun, life skills and safety. Adults, children and youth not only learn new outdoor & life skills, they also learn about themselves while exploring Vancouver Island, British Columbia. All WEA programs are facilitated by highly qualified and certified outdoor educators, ensuring participants have an exceptional experience.



Spring break camps are drawing near.

[Victoria Spring Break Camps](#) | [WEA Camps](#) | [Kids Camps Victoria BC](#) (westernadventures.ca)

Summer Camp registration is now live with **discounts for returning families before Mar 1.**

New for Summer 2024, exciting Sea Kayaking and Canoeing expeditions for teens!

[Kids Summer Camps Victoria](#) | [Summer Camps BC](#) | [Summer Camps for Kids](#) (westernadventures.ca)

Counsellor's Corner



February is full of many special days that are related to kindness: Valentine's Day (February 14th), Random Acts of Kindness Day (February 17th), and Pink Shirt Day (February 28th). Selkirk Montessori has a long history of participating in these special days by doing in-class and school-wide activities to spread kindness and inclusion. One of the most powerful and humbling ways many of our students show kindness to others is through service, which many of our school's Grade 5 and 6 students have volunteered to begin doing this month.

Approximately thirty Cormorant and Sea Star students have signed up to participate in our school's second year of the Peer Helper program. The program's goal is to give Gr. 5/6 student volunteers an opportunity to mentor younger grades, specifically students in Grades 1 to 4. The Peer Helpers will be assigned one day per week to go out to recess with one of the Gr. 1/2 or Gr. 3/4 groups, where they will help the younger students with conflict resolution, building positive connections, and overall safety. In collaboration with the Gr. 5/6 teachers, Peer Helpers will be launching together with the Jump Rope for Heart initiative, giving the students an opportunity to support the younger children in learning jump rope skills at recess.

Because of the time commitment, interested students were asked to reflect on why they want to be a Peer Helper and what skills they possess that may support them in being effective helpers. Students who were serious about volunteering were asked to fill out an application form to outline their reasons for participating. I was so impressed with everyone's applications! Each student put thought and care into their applications, and many even shared that the experience will help them prepare for their future careers! Following are a few students' answers to the question, "Why are you interested in becoming a Peer Helper?"

(continued on page 8)

Counsellor's Corner (continued)

"To have the experience and knowledge, also I want to contribute to the school community. It will prepare me for things I hope to do in the future, and it will look good on a resume. It will also help me connect with those younger people I do not know." - Holden C., Gr. 6

"I really like helping others and doing things like having a little buddy. I also want everyone to always feel included and happy." - Indira P., Gr. 5

"When I grow up, I would like to be a psychologist, and I think becoming a peer helper and helping younger students would give me good experience. I also like and am good at helping younger students." - Max M., Gr. 5

"I am interested in becoming a Peer Helper because I am extremely passionate about helping younger children connect with their friends and build a stronger sense of community. I believe that the presence of older children at the younger ones' recess will evolve my experience with little children and guide them in developing healthier friendships overall." - Sophia R., Gr. 6

"I love volunteer activities and helping others. I feel this would be a great opportunity to meet new people and interact with younger students." - Griffin J., Gr. 6

"I like the idea of being able to help young children and give back to the school community. I also love to volunteer and am always looking for volunteer opportunities." - Molly R., Gr. 6

I am so proud of every student who has stepped up to volunteer! Look out for kids in orange safety vests during the lunch/recess hour starting mid-February!

Carmelle Hermoso
School Counsellor



JUMP ROPE for HEART



Accepting
Donations!



Dear Families,

Our school is excited to participate in Jump Rope for Heart this year! Our students will discover fun ways to get active, practice healthy habits, and learn about helping others while raising money to beat heart disease and stroke.

On February 14th, from 9:30 to 10:30, the Sea Star and Cormorant students will be presenting the Jump Rope for Heart Assembly for the whole school. It is the kick-off event for the Jump Rope for Heart fundraising. During this assembly, each child in grades 5 and 6 will have several roles on the stage to present the importance of staying active, eating well, and taking care of their heart and brain health. Some of our skilled jumpers will be exhibiting their jump rope skills on the stage as well.

We warmly invite our families to attend the assembly if you are interested in the children's presentation about heart and brain health, as well as the jump rope exhibition. On the day of the event, simply enter the gym, and our children will escort you to the chairs.

Additionally, we encourage you to participate in our school's online fundraising event at (<https://jumpropeforheart.crowdchange.ca/43453>). We will be accepting donations from February 1st to March 8th.

The funds our school raises will help support important heart and stroke research. While the majority of the donations will be sent to the Heart and Stroke organization, 8% of the funds will be used for our year-end Camp Barnard Trip, enhancing our overall camp experience. For those who generously support our cause, there is a chance to receive special individual prizes. The announcement of the recipients of these special prizes will be made on March 8th.

Let's work together as a school community and show how generous we can be! Join our school online and help your child set up their fundraising page by clicking the link above. Thank you for your continued support.

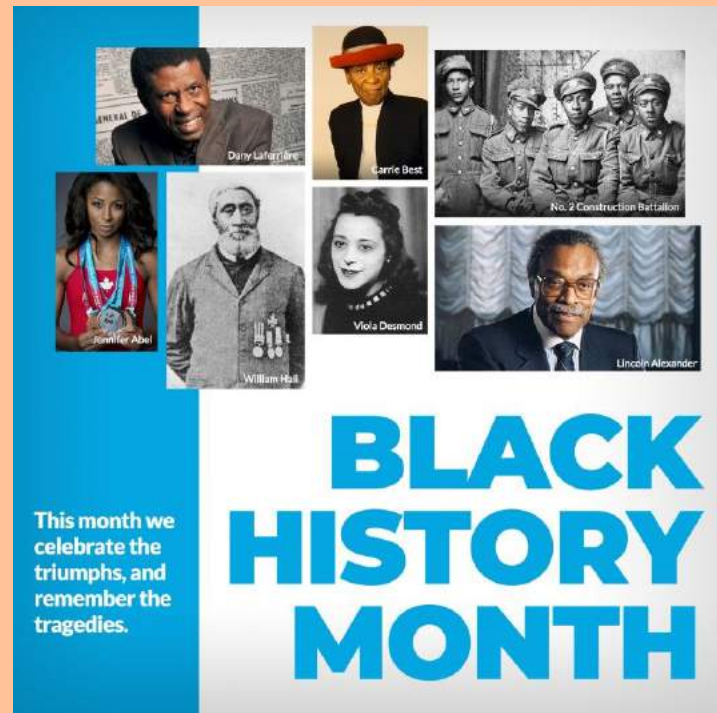
Best regards,
The Teachers of Sea Star and Cormorant Classes



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250-384-3420 (fax)
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We can make a difference.

www.selkirkmontessori.ca



Time to celebrate Black excellence! Check out some of the famous Canadians in the poster and read this [statement](#).

Dates to Remember

- February 1—Bunnies! The Musical
- February 16—Non-Instructional Day
- February 14—Jump Rope for Heart Assembly
- February 19—Family Day (Holiday)
- February 28—Pink Shirt Day
- March 11-15—Immersion Week (Grades 5-8)
- March 15—Last Day Before 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.