

MAY 2023



Selkirk Montessori School E-Newsletter

From the Head of School, Erin Hayes

It seems that Spring is finally here to stay. Hip-hip-hooray!

This is a topic that comes up every year, and it bears consideration and repeated reflection. Thank you for taking the time to read it.

With the changing of seasons also comes the changing of wardrobes. Some kids can't wait to get into their summer t-shirts and flip flops. Others have grown so quickly over the year that they figure their outdoor shoes just might be more comfortable than those old indoor runners from last September.

This is a friendly reminder that appropriate attire is an important part of each student having a fulfilling and successful day.

What is appropriate attire, you ask? Well, that is the same question a few students ask me every year. And every year we talk about what they need to fully participate in school each day. Making clothing choices that enable participation and engagement is the ultimate practical life activity!

Here are some of the questions students usually come up with for themselves:

1. Can I safely run and jump and roll in the gym in these clothes (especially comfortable and supportive shoes)?
2. Can I play my instruments and work with materials?
3. Am I comfortable sitting on the carpet for lengths of time?
4. Can I stay warm and dry outside if the weather changes?
5. Can I do all these things without constantly tugging at and adjusting my clothes for comfort, length and position?

(continued on Page 2)

Inside this issue:

In Memoriam—George Fletcher	2
80's Prom Auction Update—Tickets are on sale!	3-4
Library—Toby's Tales	5
Bursary Fundraiser	6
Selkirk Parent Group Update	7
Counsellor's Corner	8
Karen L. Colussi Awards/Thanks for donations!	9
Dates to Remember	10

"That is one good thing about this world...there are always sure to be more springs."

— *L.M. Montgomery, Anne of Avonlea*

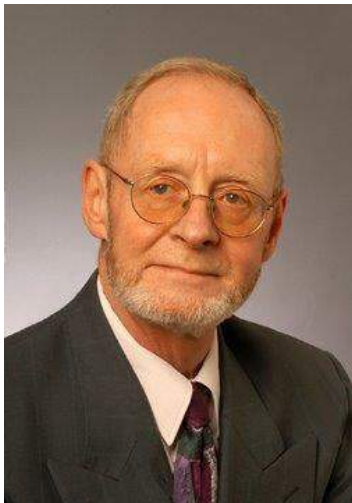
From the Academic Head (cont'd)

The way you broach these questions varies based on the age and personality of each child, but the themes are constant: am I comfortable, confident, and able to concentrate? If your child is comfortable, participating, and learning, then we should all be comfortable, too!

A couple years ago, the leadership class delved into this issue and this is the summary statement they came up with about clothing and our reactions to it. "As a student or staff member at school, appropriate clothing should not restrict movement of learning, not be distracting to yourself, and be respectful to both yourself and your peers." These Montessori kids always make me proud of their straightforward and respectful approach to seemingly complicated issues.

In Memoriam—George Fletcher

A Tribute to George Fletcher
who passed away on the 25th of March, 2023.



George (better known as “Fletch”) was associated with the school since September, 1981 when his and Faye’s daughter, aged four, became a student at the Pacific Montessori School at Oaklands.

He became an active, participating parent throughout his daughter’s eight years there, with Kris graduating from Grade Seven in 1989. Like so many parents following that mid-eighties foyer/library fire, Fletch really pitched-in to help the school get going again.

He remained as advisor on the school’s Ways and Means Committee for years to follow and helped to co-ordinate the various venues and activities structured to raise additional funds for the school.

In June, 2007, Fletch joined the Board of the Karen L. Colussi Foundation where he acted as Secretary.

In addition to this, his experience as a mortgage broker proved invaluable in the negotiations for renewal of the school mortgage. He was always such a positive presence on the Board, cheerful yet efficient and ever caring of the school which meant so much to his family. He will be greatly missed.

Our thoughts are with his wife Faye, his daughter Kris, Rob and family.

Auction Details on following page...

SELKIRK MONTESSORI PRESENTS

80s PROM AUCTION

5PM SATURDAY MAY 13TH

SELKIRK MONTESSORI SCHOOL GYM

SCAN FOR TICKET SALES!



CASH BAR | LIVE DJ | APPETIZER & DESSERT BAR | PRIZE FOR BEST COSTUME

FUNDRAISING AUCTION UPDATE

AUCTION TICKETS - Let's Party Like It's 1989

Are you ready to travel back in time to the decade of big hair, neon colors, and iconic music? Then join us for our 80's Prom Auction Event on May 13th at 6:00pm! Our event promises to be a night full of fun, laughter, and bidding wars, all while supporting a great cause: our school community.

To purchase tickets:

- Visit our bidding platform here: <https://www.biddingowl.com/SelkirkMontessoriSchool>
 - Scroll down and **click on the ticket icon**
 - Select your ticket type & quantity! Feel free to bring friends and family!
 - \$25 - Standard Ticket
 - \$35 - Premium Ticket which includes a floral accoutrement to take your prom outfit to the next level!
 - Enter your checkout information and check out using PayPal
- NOTE: You do not need to have a PayPal account! If you do not use PayPal, you can still click the "PayPal" button and choose an alternate method of payment.

Purchase of a ticket grants you access to our 80's Prom featuring a Beer & Wine Bar, Hot Food Buffet, Live DJ + Dance Floor, Photo Wall, and much more!

Auction items include everything from a week's worth of Rock Star Parking in Kiss & Go, to a beautiful black pearl necklace from Pearls Only, to an awesome Kids' Bike from Bishop's Family Cycles, to weekend passes to Phillips Backyard Weekender and more! You can browse all the current auction items on Bidding Owl now! Additional items are added daily!

All proceeds from the auction event will directly benefit our school and go towards updating the second-floor play structure!

Don't miss out on this opportunity to party like it's 1989!

If you have any questions regarding tickets, feel free to reach out to Penny: penny@selkirkmontessori.ca

Bidding Owl & How it Works:

For the second year, Selkirk Montessori School is taking its largest fundraiser online! Bidding Owl is easy to use and allows you to view items before bidding officially opens on the night of the event! It also allows anyone who can't attend in person to still participate and support our cause in raising funds for our school community.

Register:

- View the Biddingowl.com website. Click on "Bidder Sign-In" and create an account.
- Please maintain your Username and Password in a safe place. You will need this to log in and participate in the silent auction.
- Click the Featured Auctions Tab and search for Selkirk Montessori School, 80's Prom Auction.
- Once you are on our auction site, you will see a drop-down tab for the Catalogue, by category. We will be updating the system daily with new items, so check often!
- Bidding will open at 6pm on May 13th, the night of the event!
- This online system will auto-bid for you! You can select a maximum amount you'd like to bid on an item, and it will continue to bid in small increments so you can browse for something else.
- Bidders receive a text message when they are outbid, and when they have won.
- You can see what you have purchased in your shopping cart and pay by cash, cheque, or credit card in the cash room.

Remember to have your phone or tablet fully charged before the event!

Library—Toby's Tales

This has been a very exciting month in the library.

We started off with an Easter Munro's Book Fair! Thank you to everyone who shopped in-person and online. It feels really good having a supportive and reciprocal relationship with one of our favourite local book stores. They are always generous with their profit sharing and are very quick to fill orders when books are needed by teachers and students.

WE LOVE MUNRO'S!

I have a few **THANK YOUS** to make:

Thank you to the grade 5/6 Book Club, who raised some money last month to buy new books for the library that they felt were important to have on the shelves. We discussed the importance of appropriate content within an elementary setting while still providing them with interesting books at their level of maturity.

****Supportive Side Note to Parents:** this is a tricky age to find the right books for your kid. Some of the media coming at them is very mature and it can feel overwhelming to keep up! Talking with your kids about what they are reading is the antidote to any stress you may have. You might even want to borrow some books from them!

Huge thank you to Carmelle and Dhana and the Allyship Club who contributed a bunch of new books to the library with a focus on Inclusion and LGBTQ2S+ stories. They researched the books, cross-referenced with what we have and need, compiled a list and raised money for the purchase.

I secretly teared up watching them all read the picture books about pride parades, history and families to each other. These books will be on the shelves of this library long after they have moved on from us. I am so proud of them and grateful for their compassion and the legacy they leave behind for future students.



Bursary Fundraiser is Blooming!

What a difference a year makes!

The installation is intended to commemorate students, staff and families in our school community over our 43 years and acknowledge those who have donated to our growing bursary fund.

We are building a fund, independent of tuition revenue, that will ensure accessibility for all in times of need, while maintaining affordability for all families. We must never lose sight of our roots; we are an inclusive and diverse school that celebrates and benefits from the varied perspectives of all of our wonderful families.

Tax receipts are provided for all donations. Each donation of \$50 or greater will be acknowledged with a personally inscribed ceramic tile that will be included in the breeze-way art installation.

Size and style of tile will correspond to level of donation: Sprout, Stem, Bud, or Blossom.

We will be installing another set of tiles over the summer, so don't miss out!

Please contact:

penny@selkirkmontessori.ca
for an information package.



A woman in a bright yellow dress stands in the rain, holding a large yellow umbrella. She is positioned in the center of the frame, with her back to the camera. The rain is visible as a dense spray of white droplets around her. The background is dark, with some green foliage visible on the left side. The overall mood is romantic and whimsical.

Thanks to all who completed the survey about teacher appreciation! We're reviewing the results and planning our next steps - watch for an email update in your inbox.



Mark May 17 in your calendars for an in-person education session with Selkirk parent Roxy Humphrey. Roxy will discuss tools for helping kids deal with anxiety over things they cannot control. More info will be coming to your inbox soon. You won't want to miss this informative event!

We're still looking for helpers for upcoming fundraisers and events ...

-



For more information about any of these roles, reach out to the Selkirk Parent Group directly: spg@selkirkmontessori.ca.

Counsellor's Corner



One of my favourite things about the Montessori philosophy is the emphasis placed on mentorship and peer support.

For example, in the classroom one might see a student offer a mini review lesson on a math material to a classmate, or another student help their friend practise for their spelling test. This type of peer support also occurs in social situations where students naturally help one another with conflicts or personal challenges.

To help meet this need and desire to support others, the Peer Helper volunteer program has been introduced to the Gr. 5 and 6 students.

Back in February, students interested in becoming Peer Helpers were invited to complete an application form and then attend four training sessions to prepare them to help the younger grades at recess.

The trainings covered topics such as physical safety, promoting connection and inclusion, and problem solving. 24 students from the Cormorant and Sea Star classes have successfully completed the Peer Helper training and have been assigned to support the gr. 1-4 students at recess once per week.

The Peer Helpers have been proudly wearing their bright orange safety vests while on duty so that their younger peers can easily spot them.

Thank you, Peer Helpers, for your time and commitment to supporting others!

Carmelle Hermoso
School Counsellor



Back row: Sophia W., Vincent, Hannah, Penny, Zahra, Ameer, Niko, Liam
Front row: Keerat, Nora, Lily, Patricia, Kohen, Kallisto, Sophia R., Molly, Asher
Not in photo: Penelope, Maeve, Suraiya, Egan, Olivia Z., Natalie, Clare

Karen L. Colussi Foundation Awards

The Karen L. Colussi Foundation is accepting applications from Selkirk Montessori School students who are in grades seven and eight in this academic year. The Foundation will be pleased to consider applications from students whose accomplishments include proficiency in the areas of academics, athletics, visual arts, performing arts/musical theatre, and music.

To apply, please use this link: <https://www.karenlcolussifoundation.ca/awards-program>

For further information, please email the foundation at applications@karenlcolussifoundation.ca.

Note: Only students in grades 7 and 8 at Selkirk Montessori School may apply. Awards will be made at the discretion of the board of the Karen L. Colussi Foundation. The decision of the Karen L. Colussi Foundation is final and binding.

Provincial Employees Community Services Fund & TELUS Employees Charitable Trust Donations



Thanks to your generous donations, we have received a total of \$1,275 from the Provincial Employees Community Services Fund this year. We also received \$234.00 from the United Way.

SELKIRK MONTESSORI SCHOOL

2970 Jutland Road
Victoria, BC
V8T 5K2

Phone: 250-384-3414
Fax: 250-384-3420
E-mail: reception@selkirkmontessori.ca
Operated by the Pacific Montessori Society

We can make a difference.

[www.selkirkmontessori.ca]

Looking for some year books!

Hello Selkirk families!

Does anyone have Selkirk Montessori School Year-Books from the years 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 that are no longer wanted? We'd be very happy to buy one or both from you!

Please contact Kathy at (250) 888-1958 or by email at katherinehellner@hotmail.com

Thank you for helping us to complete our pre-school yearbook series!

Kathy and family

Dates to Remember

May 5th—Puppet Shows (Grs 1-2)

May 6-8th—Montessori Model
United Nations

May 13th—80s Prom Auction
Fundraiser

May 19th—Non-Instructional Day

May 22—Victoria Day (school
closed)

Selkirk Montessori School is located on the traditional territories of the Ləkʷəŋən speaking people, today known as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations.

We extend our appreciation for the opportunity to live and learn on this territory.