

NOVEMBER  
2022



# Selkirk Montessori School E-Newsletter

## From the Head of School Erin Hayes

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*Not everything that can be counted counts.*

*Not everything that counts can be counted.*

As you take time to read your child's progress report this month, please enjoy the tagged pictures and progress that has been tracked for your child over the term.

It can be easy to see our children through the lens of our own adult experiences, projecting what our child might be experiencing or who they will become. Transparent Classroom helps us give you a holistic picture of your child's unique and individual progress.

When I read each report card, I strive to remember that a knowledge base begins through concrete experiences and concrete practice. These are the experiences later drawn upon when working with abstract concepts.

I remember that the ability to be a good friend in tricky social situations (like a group of three or with a friendship that thrives during recess but not during work periods) develops over time.

I remember children continue to practice responsibilities in a variety of social situations, refining their skills with feedback and mistakes, just as with academic learning.

I remember that pride doesn't always come from product, but more often from process, like being a "daily plan child" or overcoming a struggle. Pride comes from the eventual understanding that they are, first and foremost, responsible to themselves.

And finally, I will remember students are seeing teachers as resources, people to go to for the right materials, help solve problems, and look to for guidance. But they are not the holders of education – ownership of learning lies within.

So, in the world of contemporary education, it is important to set the tone for how children approach these documents for years to come.

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*"Fallen leaves lying on the  
grass in the November sun  
bring more joy than  
daffodils."*

*Cyril Connelly*

## From the Head of School, Erin Hayes (continued)

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Here are some things we will be doing in our home which you may want to consider in yours:

- *We will be considering the report a snapshot on their long journey of education and teach them, over time, that what you see in that picture depends on how you feel about your experiences and yourself. Therefore, we will talk a little about what they feel their strengths are in class and how to use them.*
- *We want children to see the things they struggle with as challenges to rise to, in need of tools and strategies to draw from, measuring success by growth, not by what peers are doing. We will ask what things they find more difficult than others and ask how they persevere through “frustrating” or “difficult” tasks.*
- *When we open the report card we will always look at ROCKS first, reminding ourselves that when you pay attention to these, everything else makes more sense. We will encourage our children to do the same when old enough to want to read the report card.*
- *We will use the reports as conversation starters to hear about what our children’s experiences and perspectives are and how they interpret successes and challenges. When opinions diverge, it will provide an opportunity to brainstorm how behavior or work habits could have led to different conclusions or comments.*
- *We will take time to find out what comments resonate with our children and help them to decide how they can help to shape future behavior and goals, brainstorming opportunities to practice skills and apply abilities.*
- *Finally, I vow as a parent to always, always, always remember that a past report card is not a predictor of future success, just a springboard for future growth.*

We do not typically go through the report card section by section or line by line. Using the guiding points above we might explore pieces of the report card over many conversations or drives (we seem to chat a lot in the car these days).

I look forward to all of our students developing the belief that report cards, conferencing, performance reviews, and evaluations are something to help them refine practice, hone skills, and highlight just how special each individual is!



# Last Ultimate Game



## Pacific Montessori Society—Annual General Meeting

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We hope that you will be able to attend the Society's annual general meeting on Wednesday, November 9th at 7:00 pm. We are meeting in-person this year!

This is an opportunity to hear about the financial health of the Society from our treasurer, Francis Rowe, as well as get information on policy updates.

Elections: Current directors Chris Bechard, Piper London and Shawn Stewart are running for another 3 year term.

Please contact [penny@selkirkmontessori.ca](mailto:penny@selkirkmontessori.ca) if you will be able to attend the meeting.

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## Debate Club—First Tournaments of the Year!

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Debate season began in October with a Debate and Speech Society of British Columbia event online. I had the privilege of judging the Senior Group and there were some very talented debaters this year. Ninah and Lucy represented Selkirk Montessori in the Junior Group and we were so proud of them taking on the challenge of British Parliamentary Style debating for the first time! One week later, the students pictured above spent most of the weekend at school on what was a difficult but rewarding series of debates. We won some, we lost some and we had fun. What more could we want?

# Selkirk Parent Group (SPG) Update

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As the days get cooler, shorter, and wetter, hibernation might be appealing ... But the SPG is buzzing with activity!

## Gratitude

- **Many thanks** to the volunteers who helped with the Halloween Bash! Special thanks to the Kingfisher Leadership Class, Sarah Scorey, Cheryl Brown, and leadership teacher Jhoanna Castillo for organizing the multitude of event details.
- **Merci beaucoup** to Liz da Mata for organizing the SpiritWear store. The store is open until **October 31**. Looking forward to seeing your Selkirk styles!
- **Muchas gracias** to the folks who volunteered to be class representatives: you help keep communication lines humming! Caregivers, if you haven't seen an email from your class rep, please follow up with your classroom teachers. We want to ensure you're in the loop.
- **Salamat** to all our wonderful families who participated in our teacher appreciation event, filling the school with beautiful blooms. Special thanks to Ivy (Owl) and Addy (Orca), who helped remind everyone to bring their origami flowers. Teachers: you are loved and admired!



## Coming soon ...

**Pizza Days:** hot pies will be available December 9, February 10, March 17, and May 26. Notice will go out close to those dates.

**Angel gifts:** teaching our children about the importance of giving to those in need. Details to come this month.

**Salty and sweet:** Start making room in your fridge for our Paradise Island Cheese fundraiser and room in your pantry for our Purdy's fundraiser. More info soon.

A **community education night:** plans are in the works!

## Getting involved

- Welcome back to Kylie B., last year's Vice Chair, who is taking on the role again this year.
- Amalia C. is this year's Communications Coordinator.
- We're still in need of a Treasurer; please let us know if you are interested!

We have volunteer opportunities to suit your availability! Contact the SPG ([spg@selkirkmontessori.ca](mailto:spg@selkirkmontessori.ca)) for details, and/or join our next meeting on **Wednesday, November 23 at 6 pm.**



After school care in the gym means many things. Basketball, badminton, floor hockey, or even just sitting reading a book. This year, someone brought the cups out again! They have been a favourite since we bought them when Petro Palaroan was still at Selkirk. A little bit of Petro magic in these faces for sure! <3

## Book Fair & Library Update from Bree

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The Scholastic Book Fair was back this fall and it was a huge success!

What a relief it was to be able to have all the family members back in the building after a very long hiatus. On a personal note, it was a pleasure to connect with new families at the school and see the joy of the fair reflected in their children's eyes (with the occasional incident of merch-induced-mania).

A special shout out to every teacher, student and parent that came to help out with the fair and to all of you who shopped your little hearts out! We sold over \$6,000.00 which translates into funds for the library and new books for the classrooms. We all really appreciate your support!

As many of you may have heard we have a new Library Dog: Toby!

Toby loves books and has taken it upon himself to start a new segment in the library called Toby's Tales. Seriously, it was all his idea.

Pictured here is his first pick of the month with one of his many favourite students, Iris. If you haven't yet checked out books by [Kwame Alexander](#), he is quickly becoming a beloved author among the children. *Booked* is his latest graphic novel based on his novel of the same name.



Stay tuned for our next in-person fair in February with our local fave, [Russell Books](#)! This fair has a much different feel than Scholastic but is always fun for students and families alike. See you there!

For the love of books and puppies,

Bree & Toby



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*We can make a difference.*

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Our last race of the Cross Country Club and what a team! Thanks to Jacqueline, Lia, Angela, Becca and Beth for coordinating this year.

## Dates to Remember

- \* Nov 3—Individual Photo Retakes
- \* Nov 9—Annual General Meeting
- \* Nov 11—Remembrance Day (school closed)
- \* Nov 15-18—Classroom Observations
- \* Nov 25—Non Instruction Day (Parent/Teacher Conferences)



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.