

NOVEMBER
2023



Selkirk Montessori School E-Newsletter

From the Head of School Erin Hayes

Montessori educators are highly trained in observation as a form of assessment to guide their planning. It allows us to understand how the different aspects of each child are contributing to successes, emerging interests, passions, and challenges. It allows us to know when to let a child sit with discomfort and when to encourage, guide, or intervene. Observation is also an excellent tool for parents who are prone to jumping in (that's me!) or tend to hold back with uncertainty.

With Child Hosted Visits complete for the year, there is another opportunity to practice the art of observation. These visits take place in November for Grades 1-8 and January for Preschool and Kindergarten. Keep an eye on your emails to sign up through PTCFast. We encourage you to make time in your busy schedules to come see how your curious, creative, growing children are spending their days. The pride that students demonstrate when a parent arrives for an observation is always evident. It is a pride in one's family, a pride in the work they are doing, and a pride in the importance one's parent has placed on their education and in sharing that experience. Your time is the most valuable gift you can give your child.

When observing, try your best not to disrupt your child from your seat; limit interactions to a quiet wave and encouraging smile. This way, you can truly see how they manage their work cycle. Hopefully those of you with younger children will be fortunate enough to see something other than a visit to the snack table, always the activity my children chose when their parents visited. Feel free to bring a notebook to jot down thoughts and questions should any arise. You may share these with the teachers at your upcoming 3-Way Conferences scheduled for November 20th. There will be a separate email for you to sign up for these in person visits, as well. We look forward to seeing you at both events.

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"Autumn is a
second spring
when every leaf
is a flower."

Albert Camus

Kingfisher Class—Ancient Indian Stupas (Temples)

Students looking at the effect of monsoons on the designs of their stupas to see if they survived the storm.



They used materials provided, reflected on how well the original designs stood up and made changes based on those reflections.



Welcome to our Selkirk Montessori Community!

Congratulations to our own Kristen Birley on the birth of her daughter, Elora, on September 23, 2023.

Elora weighed in at 6lbs 2oz. She is currently working on her high pitched soprano voice and enjoying cuddles with her mommy.



Belated welcome to Selkirk, Joseph (Joey) Nathan Bellows.

Born on July 22nd 2023 at 7:51 pm, big sister Tehvin tells us he weighed 7lb 9oz.

Joey is just shy of 3 months in this photo. I got a visit with him a few days ago and he was chirping up a storm! Lots and lots of smiles as well.

Pacific Montessori Society—Annual General Meeting



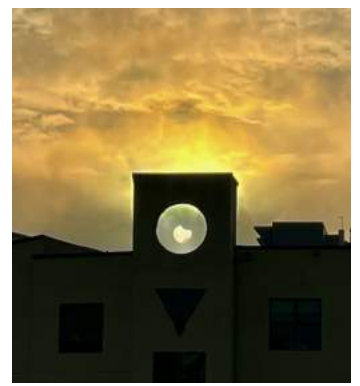
We hope that you will be able to attend the Society's annual general meeting on Wednesday, November 16th at 7:00 pm.

This is an opportunity to hear about the financial health of the Society from our treasurer, Francis Rowe, as well as receive budget information for the 2023-2024 school year and director's reports.

Elections: Current Directors Courtney Stewart and Greg Atkins are running for another term and Liz da Mata and Elliot Rowe are running for their first terms.

Please contact penny@selkirkmontessori.ca if you will be able to attend the meeting.

Selkirk Eclipse Photos



Thanks to Selkirk Montessori parent Dasz Garncarz for the photos!

Hallowe'en Bash 2023

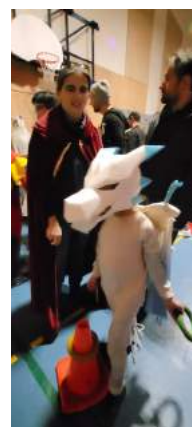


What a fabulous night of games, music, food and fun! The photo booth looked amazing! I didn't make it into the Haunted Hallway, but I could hear the screams! Lol Fun for everyone this year.



The costumes just keep getting better and better every year. We pretty much had a flock of chickens at one time. Aliens, pirates, princesses and so much more. Pikachu put in an appearance, as did the evil queen from Snow White. Star Wars was well represented, and there were even a few very scary masked marauders as well. If you see any photos you'd like to have, please email penny@selkirkmontessori.ca and I will send them to you.





Putting together an event like the Hallowe'en Bash is a family affair! Many thanks to the committee members, Erin Magnus, Sarah Bolen, Robin Kiernan, Danielle Andersen, Lara Engst, Jhoanna Castillo and the Kingfisher students. We also had graduates return to volunteer!

Thanks also for the MANY donations of food, drink and prizes. We were overwhelmed with your generosity!

Kudos to all the volunteers for their hard work making decorations, setting up the gym and staying for clean up. We couldn't do it without you!



WATER WIPEOUT

FOR AGES 8–16 YRS
FRIDAY, NOV. 17
7–8:30 p.m.
CRYSTAL POOL

REGISTER
ONLINE



LIVE DJ
AWESOME
PRIZES

Splash and slide through seven epic challenges like the hula hoop coin dive, crater climb on the slide, water gladiator, WIBIT obstacle course and more!



LEARN MORE:
victoria.ca/crystalpool or 250.361.0732

Selkirk Parent Group (SPG) Update

It may be chilly and/or damp outside, but the SPG has warm and lively things planned for the month of November!

Join us for an evening of board game fun on the 9th, and place your orders for our winter fundraising: delicious Purdy's chocolates, made with sustainable cocoa; lip-licking Paradise Island Cheese packs; and beautiful, locally made art kits from McTavish Academy of Art. Full fundraiser details on the Fundraisers & Events page of the SPG website: <https://selkirkparentgroup.wordpress.com/fundraisers/>.



Appreciation

- **Dyakuyu** to the team of volunteers who helped with the Halloween Bash! A special howl of thanks to the Kingfisher Leadership students for, well, leading the event; Danielle and family for organizing the games; and Leadership teacher Jhoanna Castillo for handling the multitude of event details. And, thanks to every one who attended—it was a lively and fun evening!
- **Arigatō** to Angeline T. for joining the SPG executive as secretary—we're excited to have you on board!

Angel Gifts

Later this month, we'll launch the annual Angel Gift program, in collaboration with Our Place. Each class will sponsor gifts for people who would otherwise not receive anything special over the holiday season. Watch for more information from your class representative.

Key dates for November ...

- **Nov. 9:** Community Board Game night from 6 to 8 pm in the gym. RSVP to Noel at raccoon@selkirkmontessori.ca, and bring cash or cards for the concession stand run by Leadership students!
- **Nov. 15:** Order and payment deadline for Paradise Island Cheese (order via MunchaLunch: <https://munchalunch.com/schools/selkirkmontessori>) and McTavish art kit orders (order on their website: <https://mctavishacademy.ca/selkirk-montessori/>)
- **Nov. 23:** SPG meeting at 6 pm, email SPG@selkirkmontessor.ca for full details
- **Nov. 24:** Pizza Day! Watch your email inbox for details.
- **Nov. 27:** Order and payment deadline for Purdy's Chocolates orders (order from their fundraising website: <https://fundraising.purdys.com/1458878-109700>)
- **Nov. 30:** McTavish art kit orders ready to be picked up from the school

Book Fair October 2023



Hello dear Selkirk community,

The book fair at the beginning of October was an incredible success! Thanks to our incredible parent and student volunteers we were able to sell over \$7000.00 of Scholastic merchandise which translates into new books for our library and classrooms and a boost to our library fund that helps us to buy novel study books. A huge bow of gratitude to all of you who came out to buy gifts for your loved ones, and a special shout out to the BOOK CLUB students (and parents) who organized a bake sale on the first day! Cupcakes and cookies and books - oh my!

My lovely student volunteers were helping folks to enter a draw to win \$25 in book fair bucks and the winner was Eliana Wice! The rest of the entries were given another chance to win as we drew for individual poster winners after the fair.

We will have another book fair in the spring in partnership with Russell Books, so be sure not to miss it!

Thank you ever so much for supporting our school and helping us get books into the hands of the children who love them.

For the love of reading,

Bree & Toby

More photos on page 7

Book Fair October 2023 (cont'd)



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We can make a difference.

[www.selkirkmontessori.ca **]**



Students were excited to fill up the Community Fridge after the Halloween Bash! Keep it coming, folks!

Dates to Remember

- * Nov 8—Photo Retakes
- * November 10—Remembrance Day Assembly
- * November 13—Remembrance Day (no school)
- * November 14-17—Observations for Grades 1-8
- * November 16—Annual General Meeting (7:00 pm)
- * November 20—Parent/Teacher Conferences



Selkirk Montessori School is located on the traditional territories of the Lək'wəŋən people, today known as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations. We extend our appreciation for the opportunity to live and learn on this territory.