

**SUMMER  
2023**



# Selkirk Montessori School E-Newsletter

## From the Head of School, Erin Hayes

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Ah, summer - time to rest, relax, and recuperate. At least, it is if you are a kid. But even us adults find opportunities to spend a little extra time with our families, making memories and daydreaming about our futures. We look forward to hearing about the adventures, camps, and excitement had by all when you return in September.

Meanwhile, we are busy turning the school over so it is bright, shiny, and welcoming again when we start the new school year. There are a few programs moving into new spaces and they are carefully crafting their prepared environments. We put plenty of time and effort into this work over the summer to set students up for success in their transition as they return to school.

Creating a prepared environment supports staff to feel prepared which leads to them feeling composed, peaceful, and present as they greet students during those introductory meetings before Labour Day. All this translates to students feeling calm and connected as they anticipate the year to come.

Parents can partner in this work by reassuring children that they are excited and confident about their child's upcoming school year. Speaking highly about a child's possible teachers, and all the possible teachers, also helps transfer that trusted bond they have with you to the other adults who will care for them day in and day out.

Please feel free to use the Facebook page to keep in touch over the summer. We love hearing about adventures and miss seeing the students' smiling faces.

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"Live in the sunshine.  
Swim in the sea. Drink  
in the wild air."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

# Welcome to Selkirk Montessori School!

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Hi there! I'm Carly and I am excited to be joining the Selkirk Montessori team as an educational assistant this fall. I have worked with children for 4 years and I really enjoy it! I can't wait to make new memories with you all!

I live with my partner and our two friendly dogs and cat in Colwood. My favourite thing to do is spend time outside in nature - whether it's on my paddleboard, on a hiking trail, or trying my best at surfing. I love sports, but my favorite has to be swimming! I swam competitively for 14 years, and enjoyed coaching as well.

Hello Selkirk Community! My name is Jessica King. I moved to Victoria almost 3 years ago from my home country of Scotland. I was brought up and schooled in Kuwait (you might notice my lack of a strong Scottish accent!) before returning to Scotland to study music at Glasgow University. I then went on to train as an ESL teacher and moved to Japan for 2 years where I met my Canadian partner. After that I returned to Scotland for my primary teacher training at Edinburgh University with the plan to move out here as soon as I could.

I'm a classically trained singer but I love listening to and performing all kinds of music. Some highlights include: performing in the chorus of amateur opera productions in England, doing my best Stevie Nicks impression in a Fleetwood Mac tribute band in Glasgow, and currently performing in a 20-piece community soul band here in Victoria. Aside from music, my other hobbies include getting creative in the kitchen and exploring different cuisines. I also love hiking and being outdoors- bonus if there are dogs involved! I've done a lot of dog walking in the local neighbourhood- one day I will adopt my own.



Hi everyone, my name is Gina Barale and I am very excited to be starting at Selkirk Montessori school as an Education Assistant in September. I have a passion for the natural world, having done the biology program at UVic, and love hiking and camping with my dog and loved ones.

I particularly like forest ecosystems and enjoy identifying native plants. In my free time I love reading, cooking yummy food, and playing music. I particularly enjoy learning movie scores on piano and playing campfire songs on the ukulele! I also enjoy sports, having grown up playing soccer, and love cheering on the Vancouver Canucks every season. I am very much looking forward to meeting everyone in the coming school year and being part of the Selkirk Montessori community!

## Kingfisher Class to Camp Thunderbird!

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### Packing List

All gear brought on this field study will need to be transported by students independently. Students are completely responsible for their own gear. Reminder that this is a time to be outside and enjoy nature, so cell phones, Apple watches, i-Pads, etc. are not permitted.

- \* Sleeping Bag
- \* Fitted sheet for cabin mattress (if desired)
- \* Pillow
- \* Flashlight or headlamp
- \* Small day pack/string bag
- \* Raincoat
- \* Waterproof shoes with good tread (if desired or own already)
- \* Runners
- \* Mid-layer (sweater, fleece, sweat-shirt)
- \* Undergarments
- \* Bathing suit/swim shorts

- \* Towel and face cloth
- \* 1-2 long sleeved shirts
- \* 2 short sleeved shirts
- \* Shorts
- \* Pants
- \* Socks
- \* Pajamas
- \* Hat/ball cap
- \* Reusable water bottle
- \* Toiletries (toothbrush/toothpaste, shampoo/condition, deodorant, sun-screen, brush)
- \* Prescription medicine, if needed (in original container/dispenser and placed in a Ziploc bag with name clearly written) to be given to designated teacher.
- \* Garbage bag (for wet/dirty clothes)



## Year End Concert Gallery



Our wonderful Pre-school/Kindergarten children enjoyed a delightful concert in early June. Thanks to all the classroom teachers and Mr. C. for helping all the children shine!

As always, the Kindergarten dance was a big hit!



As always, the Grades 1-4 students put on a lively and enjoyable show! From strings, to recorders to choir, they pleased their parents with their practically perfect performance! Special thanks to Kristen Birley and Mr. C for their hard work and to all the staff who helped with staging and sound. We couldn't do it without you!

## From the Pacific Montessori Society Board of Directors

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*The Pacific Montessori Society Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on November 16th at 7:00 pm at the Selkirk Montessori school.*

*RSVP [penny@selkirkmontessori.ca](mailto:penny@selkirkmontessori.ca) if you plan to attend. That way, we will have enough chairs and paperwork for everyone.*

*Directors will present reports for the last school year, the 2023-2024 approved budget will be available and our Treasurer, Francis Rowe, will review the financial statements for 2022-2023.*

*Members Courtney Stewart and Greg Atkins will be running for a second term in November. We also have two new members who were invited to join the board for September 2023: parent Liz da Mata and Elliot Rowe (another Selkirk alum).*

*Liz is a long-time Selkirk parent with a daughter recently graduated and another entering grade 4 in September. She has experience serving on a board in a number of roles including treasurer, secretary, president and vice-president. She also brings a background in financial planning and community engagement to the board table.*

*Elliot is a former Selkirk student. He got his BA from UNBC (where he played varsity basketball) and his Juris Doctor degree from UVic. He has experience in corporate financing, dispute resolution and contracting for goods. He is bringing his logical, analytical and caring mind to the board.*

*Welcome, Liz and Elliot!*

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We had a visit from Victoria's own [Pacific FC](#) in June this year. Josh Heard, who graduated from the Reynolds Soccer program where some of our students will be going next year, led the charge with teammates Amir Didic and Eric Lajeunesse. Inspiring words about unity, coachability and showing up! Thanks to Erin Hayes for organizing the visit.

## Administration Notes

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Hello Selkirk Families:

Just a few things for you to take care of over the summer months:

1. Missing an instrument, binders or other things you should have taken home? Give us a call at 250-384-3414 and we can tell you if we have them in the office for pickup.
2. New families and new siblings: have you provided Erin with your paperwork and other items yet?
3. If your child requires medications at school in September, please ensure that you have an updated prescription. Erin will email medical forms later in the summer.
4. New class placements for students in grades 1, 3 and 5 will be available to you when the fall session begins in Transparent Classroom. When you sign into your Transparent Classroom account on August 24th, you will be able to view your child(ren)'s class.
5. Legion parking passes for the new school year will be available in the office when you come to meet with your teachers in September.
6. Have you made a move since you filled in your registration forms for 2023-2024? Time to update your main contact information on Transparent Classroom. Please login and confirm that your address, phone numbers and emergency contacts are all up to date for the coming school year

Hope you have a fun and sunny summer holiday!

See you back at Selkirk in September.



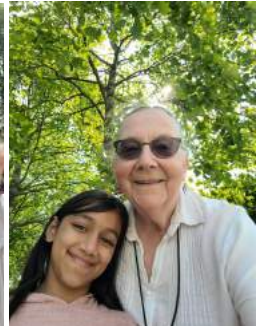
## Grad Walk and Freezies on the Green



Grad Walk is a time to celebrate our grads! All the children stand in the hall (or the gym) and cheer the grade eights as they pass by. We are so proud of you all!



Such a great turnout at the Freezies on the Green event this year! Kudos to the SPG and all the volunteers who put together such a fun celebration. Freezies were donated by DeeBees' Organics again this year. <3



# Timing for Start of School In September

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Selkirk is happy to welcome you back to school on Tuesday, September 5th, the day after Labour Day. In past years, we have learned that a gradual intake of students over the first week makes for a very smooth transition for children and staff alike.

Please read the following schedule closely to ensure your child/ren return to school on the appropriate day. All parents will be contacted by teachers close to the end of the summer and offered a chance to arrange a meeting during the week of August 28th. This is a time for your child to meet their classroom teachers, find out about class routines, check and return forms, get the class calendar and pick up Legion parking passes.

We recommend that both parents and child attend the meetings. Returning parents, every year is a “new” year for your child at Selkirk. Please make time to meet with the teachers.

## ***PLEASE NOTE SCHEDULE FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS BELOW:***

### **Schedule for the first week of school (grades 1-8):**

- Tues, September 5th—8:45-11:00 am
- Wed, September 6th — 8:45-11:30 am
- Thurs, September 7th—8:45 am-3:15 pm
- Fri, September 8th—8:45-3:15 pm

### **Schedule for the first week of school (Kindergarten/Preschool):**

Tuesday-Wednesday serve as an orientation for **NEW** students which allows them, in small groups, to become familiar with the classroom and to receive some important presentations on how to use basic Montessori materials. This also gives the new children the opportunity to make friends and become comfortable with routines before the returning K/Ps join us.

### **Tuesday, Sep 5th - NEW STUDENTS & NEW TO FULL DAY**

- Half-Day Group 1 of new morning children from 8:45-9:45 am; Group 2 of new morning children from 10-11:00 am
- Half-Day Group 1 of new afternoon children from 12:20-1:20 pm; Group 2 of new afternoon children from 1:30-2:30 pm
- Full-Day Group 1 (new to Selkirk) 8:50-9:50 am; Group 2 (new to full day) 10-11 am

### **Wednesday, Sep 6th—NEW & RETURNING**

- Half-Day—8:45 – 10:15 a.m.; 12:20 – 1:50 pm
- Full-Day—Group 1 & 2—8:50-10:20 am; all other returning students—10:30-12:00 pm

### **Thursday, Sep 7th—ALL STUDENTS**

- Half-Day AM—8:45 – 10:50 am; PM 12:20 – 1:30 p.m.
- Full Day—8:50– 12 noon (with their lunches)

### **Friday, Sep 8th—ALL STUDENTS**

- Half-Day AM—8:45 – 11:30 am ; PM 12:20-3:05 pm
- Full-Day—8:50 am—3:00 pm (with lunches)

***IMPORTANT NOTE: BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAMS FOR KINDERGARTEN/PRESCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL DO NOT START UNTIL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH.***





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Operated by the Pacific Montessori Society

***We can make a difference.***

**www.selkirkmontessori.ca**



Thanks to the Brandes family for helping us make a difference in our greater community again this year. The Community Fridge will be back up and running in September.

## Dates to Remember

- Monday, September 4th—Labour Day
- Tuesday, September 5th—Gradual Entry Begins
- Wednesday, September 6th—Welcome Back BBQ at 11:30 am (Thanks, SPG!)
- Thursday, September 21—Parent Orientation
- Friday, September 22—Non-Instructional Day (no school for children)

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.