



Selkirk Montessori School E-Newsletter

From the Head of School, Erin Hayes

A season of celebrations is upon us. This time is usually full of festivals that involve light, family, music and food. With tighter restrictions in place, many of our family traditions will be changing. With so much out of their control, we encourage you to involve your children in how they would like to honour and adapt the traditions they value most. This is extremely important with those adolescents, as rituals are meaningful and developmentally important at that stage.

With children of any age, talk about what your family typically makes time for during the holiday season. List them out, then make another list of what you, as a family, control. Then see if you can match what you control with some of those events to revise and renew your commitment to honouring a version of that tradition.

Pictures with Santa your favourite tradition? How about driving around town and taking pictures with as many blow up Santas as you can find – a prize if you hit a certain number?

Christmas dinner with extended family, how about a week of dinners scheduled on Zoom with different households followed by playing Houseparty or JackBox online, or doing a group watch of a favourite Christmas movie on Netflix? Trip to Butchart Gardens to see the lights? How about driving around town to find the most spectacular displays, while using the admission money to purchase a small gift to deliver to those in need or those you would normally visit Butchart with? Whatever the tradition, there is a way to adapt it. Whatever the adaptation might be, make sure that your child has an opportunity to voice what matters most to them about that tradition and invest in how to adapt it.

The staff would all like to wish you and yours a restful break and a happy holiday season. We hope it is full of peace and love. Please know that if things change over the holiday season, your administrative team will be prepared to adjust, as needed.



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A visit with a Paleoanthropologist—Owl Classroom

Selkirk parent Genevieve von Petzinger, a paleoanthropologist, visited the Owl Classroom in November. Her bio from a TED Talk website describes Genevieve as “a Canadian paleoanthropologist and rock art researcher finishing up her doctorate at the University of Victoria. She studies some of the oldest art in the world -- Ice Age cave art created by early humans in Europe between 10,000 and 40,000 years ago.”

All our children enjoyed her lecture so much, and asked SO many questions. At one point, all children were being "upside down" to see the cave art upside down!

We appreciate you for giving us such an awesome lecture. Genevieve, you ROCK! (pun intended)



Virtual Scholastic Book Fair Fall 2020

Hello Lovely Selkirk Community!

With your incredible support, we have raised \$950.00 for the school through the Virtual Book Fair! I was definitely nervous about how it was all going to play out, but you logged on and kept the tradition alive!

Also, kudos to Scholastic for getting everyone's orders out so quickly (how do they do that!?). I want to send out oodles of gratitude for those of you who shopped with your kids to make it all happen. This money will go toward buying new books and resources for the library and the classrooms.

Pictured right: A few of the books that were purchased for the library during the Book Fair.

Once again, thank you so much for your support and reminding me that our community is strong and present. (And that we LOVE books!)



From the Pacific Montessori Society Board of Directors



Our Annual General Meeting was held at the school on Wednesday, November 24th this year. We elected three new board members — Greg Atkins, Julian West and Courtney Stewart. Welcome to you all!

At a meeting on December 1, 2020, the directors approved 3% tuition increases across the board for school year 2021-2022, as well as a COVID surcharge of \$300/family to cover the cost of required extra daily cleaning. (This surcharge will be reviewed prior to May 2021 in hopes that it won't be necessary.) The 3% increase in tuitions was voted in specifically to continue to support our valuable educators and staff, who are the heart and soul of Selkirk Montessori. An updated schedule of fees will be available in January 2021. If you have any questions, please email penny@selkirkmontessori.ca.

Registration for 2021-2022

Returning Families/Siblings

Registration information will be emailed to you in January.

As always, registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, so it's important to get your completed registrations in as early as possible. There are a limited number of spaces in some of our programs, especially all-day Kindergarten, Preschool and Grades One to Four.

Deadline for re-registration is Friday, January 29th

A non-refundable deposit of \$400 per child is required at the time of registration. This applies to both returning students and new siblings.

If you have any questions about space, re-registration, or the next step for your child, please come see Penny in the office, call 250-384-3414 or email penny@selkirkmontessori.ca.

Waitlisted Families

We won't have any firm answers about space and numbers until at least the middle of February, but please don't hesitate to email me at penny@selkirkmontessori.ca to remind us how keen you are!

We are hoping to have a version of our Open House/Transition meeting (likely virtual) which we will tell you more about in January.



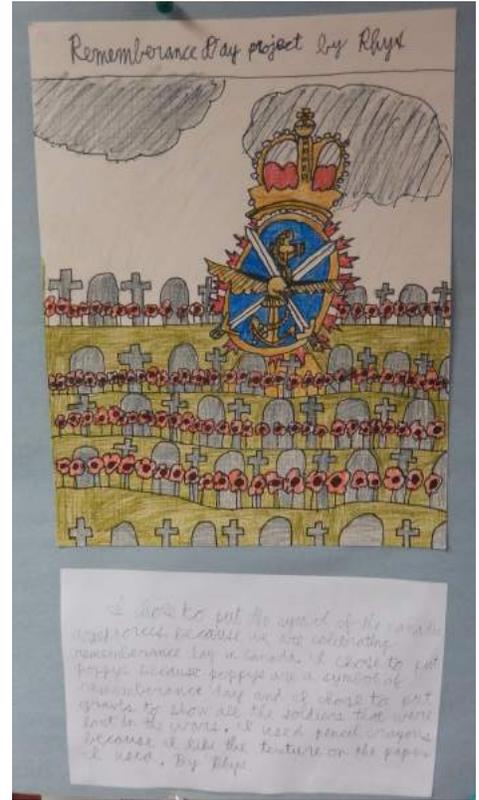


Despite COVID-19, we were able to commemorate Remembrance Day this year with a virtual assembly. Thanks to Ayako and Jacqueline (Owl and Otter Classes respectively), for pulling it all together. Special thanks to Barry Young for his rendition of the Last Post. Please check out our Selkirk Montessori Facebook page for a copy of the video.



*“They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.”*
From ‘For the Fallen’ by Laurence Binyon





Selkirk Parent Group (SPG) Update

It's been a fun semester and we have lots of people to thank. Most notably we'd like to acknowledge our wonderful teachers and administration for keeping programs running and keeping all of us safe!



Thank you Kate and Erin for organizing a great Parent Ed Night with URSTRONG – The Language of Friendship! For background material about putting out Friendship Fires or being a Friendship Ninja: <https://urstrong.com/parents/>

Thank you to the class reps for helping to organize teacher appreciation this holiday season!

Thank you to all our recent fundraising coordinators for running programs and finding safe ways to distribute products: Shelly (Wiser WASH), Dale (Purdy's), Lara (Spiritwear), Kim, Erin and Karma (Cheese)!

Thanks especially to Nazima for organizing  Angel gifts and Laura for organizing  [Cool Aid Society donations](#)! You all ROCK especially in the Kindness department!

Thank you to the Hot Lunch & Dinner Team for organizing a creative solution to provide food for families when lunches weren't possible and for working with the cheese team to make purchasing easier!

Purdy's Chocolates will be available next week!



Spiritwear orders are due to arrive December 11th. If you did not choose to keep your order under wraps, they will be delivered to your child's class, if you did you will be contacted and given dates and times in which you can pick-up your order the following week.



Thrifty's Smile Cards Program This is a great time of year to use your Thrifty's Smile Card, if you don't have one, pop by the office window and Laura can give you one. Thanks to Glen and Shelly for organizing and picking up more cards! To use the card, ask the cashier to load your Smile Card before they begin ringing things through, then use it to pay after the groceries are rung up. The SPG will get 5% of your total to go towards special projects! (Imagine a 5% cash rewards credit card!)

Holiday Gift Ideas If you are looking for some unique and helpful holiday gifts, check out the Wiser WASH fundraiser where you can find small, purse-sized hand sanitizer sprays, larger gel pump hand sanitizer, biodegradable grassroots disinfectant spray and more! <https://spg-fundraising-store.myshopify.com/>



Thank you to all the families for their continued support of the SPG.

We hope everyone has a wonderful last few weeks of school and a healthy and happy holiday!



First Nation's Studies—Eagle Class

As part of their First Nations' studies last month, students in the Eagle Class examined our school totem. Nicola shared the story of the creation of the piece and talked about the creatures incorporated in the totem. They then went on to create their own stories and totems.



Our totem was created by former Selkirk Montessori parent and renowned First Nations artist, Art Thompson.



The following is an excerpt taken from a piece in the Times-Colonist on February 1, 1992:

'School's history carved in wood as totem pole rises at Montessori

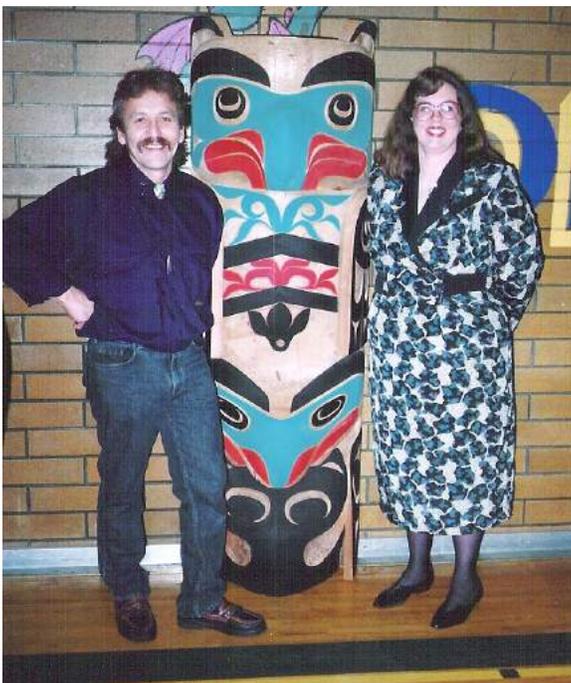
It may be tiny, but a two-metre totem pole carved by Art Thompson and raised in a ceremony Thursday captures the essence of the Pacific Montessori school — as the kids see it.

"Art came to the school and talked about totems. He heard what the children felt was important and incorporated that in the pole," said principal Karen Colussi."

She said the ribs of the Raven represent the school roof, fireweed represents a 1985 fire, and the color green represents growth.

A modified potlatch was held at the school to dedicate the totem, and members of both the Esquimalt and Ditidaht First Nations attended, along with about 200 members of the school community.'

Penny's Note: When we moved to our new location on the waterfront, we were able to give the totem pride of place in the foyer.





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We can make a difference.

www.selkirkmontessori.ca



Eagle students love practical life and we love that they are making our sidewalk safer.

Dates to Remember

- December 18, 2020—Last day before Winter Break
- January 4, 2021—First day back after Winter Break
- January 29, 2021—Re-registration Deadline
- February 12, 2021—Non-Instructional Day (no school for students)
- February 15, 2021—Family Day (no school)



Stay warm over the holidays and we'll see you in 2021!