

SELKIRK MONTESSORI SCHOOL



We acknowledge with deep gratitude the Ləkʷəŋən Peoples, known today as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, upon whose lands we are fortunate to teach, learn, and live.

Save the Date!

A Night at the Movies
Silent Auction Fundraiser
March 1, 2025



DECEMBER 2024

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

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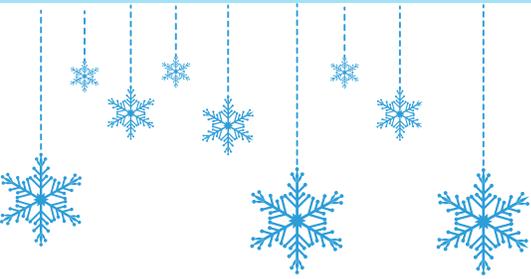
FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL, ERIN HAYES

As we approach the winter break, I can't help but feel so grateful to be part of such a wonderfully diverse school community. This time of year is filled with incredible traditions, delicious foods, heartwarming lights, and an abundance of love that truly remind us how special this season can be.

Of course, the holidays can sometimes bring stress—especially if the traditions we grew up with don't quite fit our current lives. But this is also a time to reflect on what brings you joy now. What customs make your family's heart sing? My holiday wish is for every family to feel free to shape and celebrate traditions in a way that feels authentic and meaningful to them.

For our Selkirk Montessori family, I hope we continue to create a space where everyone feels encouraged to share their unique customs and stories. These moments—whether they're big celebrations or small rituals—help your children, especially your teens (yes, even the eye-rolling ones!), feel connected, grounded, and loved. So, hold on tight to the traditions that light you up and let go of anything that doesn't. Here's to a season filled with joy, connection, and the beautiful diversity that makes our community shine!

A great place to celebrate traditions as a community is the annual Holiday Concert. Please join us on Tuesday, December 17th (Grades 1-4), Wednesday, December 18th (Grades 5-8), or both to enjoy the stylings of your beautiful children. It will be a night to remember, so bring your cameras!



When we return in January, you will notice a few staffing changes.

After over 33 years of joyful service to the school, Gigi, our Senior class/Kingfisher model of kindness, dedication, and passion, is allowing herself the peace of retirement. I can say first hand that she is an exceptional mentor who has ushered many young partners to finding their sense of optimism, humour, and confidence when working with adolescents. She has just the right approach to maintain professionalism while building warm and trusting relationships. She brings out the best in others, students and staff. We will miss her greatly and are delighted to say she will continue to coach debate, so you will see her around from time to time. We will be welcoming our very experienced and highly capable teacher, Angela, back from maternity leave to fill this position. Many children will have fond memories of being in her class in previous years.

You will also see a change in the Sea Star room as Ayako begins her new career with government. We appreciate all her work in building upon the grade 5/6 program's strong foundation. Her model classroom is peaceful and supportive, as is Ayako. They will be lucky to have her in the Ministry of Education and Child Care. She will also not be a stranger as she is continuing her position with the South Island Montessori Training Institute – so if you really miss her, consider checking out the program. Carly, who is a teacher with a wide range of experience and has been teaching art in the Sea Star room already, will be partnering with Nikta to continue the exceptional learning opportunities.

The staff would all like to wish you and yours a restful break and a happy holiday season. We hope it is full of festivity, family, and friends!



WINTER CONCERT INFORMATION



Grades 1-4 Concert

December 17th: 6pm CONCERT

Strings - 5:30 Arrival - Come to the library for tuning!

All Students - 5:45 Arrival

Grades 5-8 Concert

December 18th: 6pm CONCERT

All Students - 5:30 Arrival

Concert Dress

Winter themed Clothes!

- Black pants/skirt with leggings
- Colourful tops/sweater/scarf/elf & santa hat
- Dresses or suits are also acceptable
- NO track pants, shorts, t-shirts or hoodies

Concerts begin at 6pm with drop off at 5:30 for most students.
Children should remain with their parents until classrooms open.

There will be an Accessible Drop Off Zone at the back of the school in the front two spots of Kiss and Go. There will be students there to assist.

PACIFIC MONTESSORI SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHAIR, PENNY BARNER

At a meeting of the Pacific Montessori Society in October, the directors approved tuition increases of \$300/annum for preschool and 6% for kindergarten, elementary and middle school programs for 2025-2026.

The increase in tuitions was approved specifically to continue to support our incredible staff, who are the heart and soul of Selkirk Montessori. In particular, we wanted to assure our dedicated educators that the directors are committed to continuing to improve their salaries given the contracts and negotiations in the public system.

An updated schedule of fees will be available in January 2025. If you have any questions, please email erin@selkirkmontessori.ca.





SELKIRK PARENT GROUP

Selkirk Parent Group (SPG) update - December 2024

Thank you, thank you, thank you

This time of year is busy. Really busy. Bustling. Frenetic. Chaotic.

Which actually makes it an ideal time to pause, take a breath, and extend our deep gratitude to the school community. The SPG is sincerely thankful for the time and energy you have put into supporting our activities and efforts. Our fundraisers and events are all about fostering a community that uplifts our children and each other. Thank you for helping us build durable, collaborative networks!

Teacher Appreciation

Watch for information from class reps about kudo boards and optional donations to celebrate our teachers, support and administrative staff this holiday season. **Please sign the kudo boards!** Student and family messages, photos and funny gifs make these cards so meaningful to the teachers and staff.

Spirit Wear Update

We are excited to announce the launch of our [Selkirk Spirit Wear Shop!](#) Designs this year feature artwork by Selkirk parent Salomeh Ryan. This shop will be open year-round, with bi-weekly drops to our school for easy pick-up whenever orders come in. Order by December 11th to secure Spirit Wear before our winter break. Note that, due to reduced postal services at the moment, some stock may be limited for holiday orders, but should be back in early January!



SPECIAL SHOUT-OUTS!

- **Angel gifts** - thank you to Erin W. for leading this initiative, Class Reps for coordinating with each class, families for contributing, and kids for wrapping and decorating. This is truly a community effort!
- **Spaghetti Social** - special kudos to Noel L. and Penny N. for pulling off this herculean feat. Grazie mille!
- **Fundraiser leads** - thank you to Renee W. for coordinating Purdys, Eva F. for McTavish art kits, Susan E. for managing Paradise Island Cheese, and a big thank you to Sacha S. for making the drive to Nanaimo to pick up the cheese packs.
- **Board Game Night** - Last November's game night - run in collaboration with Interactivity Board Game Café - was another crowd pleaser! The Kingfisher Café offered yummy snacks to keep up player energy, and there was a great choice of board games to try out. Thank you to Noel L. for organizing, and to those who took part!

KEY DATES FOR DECEMBER



9th

- Order and pay by noon for Pizza Day on Dec. 13
- Purdys and McTavish art kit orders ready to be picked up at school

11th

- Paradise Island Cheese orders ready to be picked up at school
- Spirit Wear orders and payments due, if you want items before winter break
- Community Education Night with Robin Kiernan - "Responsive Parenting for the Montessori Child" - 6:00 - 7:30 pm, Kingfisher Room

12 - 27th

- Ordering for term 2 hot lunches, with payments due Dec. 27; lunch deliveries begin on January 6 (the first day back at school after winter break) and run until spring break



Counsellor's Corner

Self-Care During the Holiday Season

With over two dozen holidays celebrated in the months of December and January, many families find that winter is the busiest time of year. Similarly, it is also a busy time at school, with holiday activities, rehearsals, and concerts. As much as possible, your children's teachers try to maintain their usual routines, while also balancing time for fun and relaxation.

As the holiday season is typically filled with events and later-than-usual nights, it is natural for our children's behaviours to reflect how they're feeling. Having conversations with our kids about what to expect over the holidays can help them mentally prepare for what's to come. For example, to prepare for the final week of school before the holidays, you may decide to go over the class calendar together to look at what activities are happening. A question you might ask your child is, "To make sure you have enough energy for all the special events next week, what are some things we can do at home?"

You might word things differently depending on the age of your child, but the hope is that you and your child will come up with some ideas like the following:

- Get enough sleep
- Schedule some quiet time
- Listen to some relaxing music
- Take a break from after school lessons/practices
- Eat nutritious meals and snacks
- Spend time in nature



By having these conversations about self-care during busy times, children will more likely begin to identify helpful activities and habits that they can use any time of year. Some children may respond well to a battery analogy, where you describe certain self-care habits as ways to “recharge”. Since we are all different, one person’s ways to recharge may be very different from another’s. Sharing the ways you recharge with your child can help them recognize that self-care is important at all stages of life.

During winter break, you can have similar conversations with your child about activities that might require some preparation. My own child’s OT described these conversations as “Tomorrow Talks” where you discuss tomorrow’s activities and anticipate any possible things that they may need to prepare for. For example, your child might have difficulty sharing toys and you know there will be other children at a holiday party tomorrow evening. You might say something like, “Tomorrow we will be spending time with Jennifer and Julie. What is an activity we can bring to their house that you can do together?” Or “If you notice yourself getting overwhelmed and need a break from the other kids, what is an activity you can do on your own for a little while?” You know your child best, so based on previous experiences, you can anticipate situations they will need help navigating. It is impossible to be prepared for everything, but setting up our children for success means a more joyful time all around!

For any additional information or resources, please feel free to contact me via email at counsellor@selkirkmontessori.ca

Warmly,
Carmelle Hermoso, M.Ed., RCC
School Counsellor





ASSEMBLIES & OBSERVANCES

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS



Thank you Sea Star and Cormorant Classes for hosting a beautiful Festival of Lights Assembly.

December Hallway Displays



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



SPAGHETTI SOCIAL

Our Spaghetti Social was a wonderful opportunity to gather as a community and share a meal together. Thank you Otter Teacher Noel, for taking the lead on organizing this event! Thank you to our SPG and a swath of family volunteers who prepared food, made decorations, and helped put the gym back together at the end of the night. It was an eventful weekend!

DOOR PRIZE SPONSORED BY THESE
WONDERFUL LOCAL BUSINESSES

 [Bows Victoria Roastery Cafe](#)

THANK YOU!!!

WINTER WONDERLAND EXTRAVAGANZA!

Many talented crafters showcased their handmade goods at the Winter Wonderland Extravaganza, on November 16th. The Kingfisher Cafe was also there selling hot drinks and festive treats to shoppers.



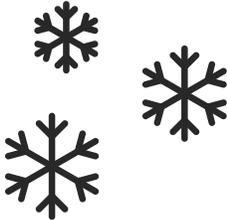
**ANYTHING
BUT A
BACKPACK
DAY**



DEBATE CLUB

Debate Club participated in the Tri-City Fall Cup 2024, debating teams from around the Island, the lower mainland, and out of the province.

All our teams were experiencing their first debates in the novice category. We were very proud of their performance and can't wait for the debate regionals in the new year!



Need a baby sitter over this holidays?

Penelope Kiernan Baby Sitting
Red Cross Certified Baby Sitter
\$10 per hour for 1 child, \$15 for 2
E-Mail: penelope.kiernan@gmail.com

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A BABYSITTER?

PERHAPS AN HOUR TO YOURSELF, OR NIGHT TO GET AWAY? NO PROBLEM I'M HERE TO TAKE CARE OF THE LITTLE ONES!

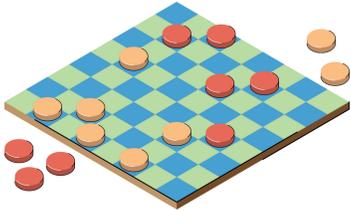
My name is Nora, and I'm 13 years old. I hold a Red Cross babysitting certification, as well as a Red Cross first aid certification, and I have had several years of experience caring for younger siblings. I'm comfortable with sitting ages 2 through 8, and I would be thrilled to spend time with your little one!

**EMAIL ME AT:
NORADEWJI@GMAIL.COM**
FOR MORE INFORMATION

BOARD GAME NIGHT



A huge thank you to Interactivity Board Game Café for another fun evening of games!



Please make sure you bring everything home before the break! Our **Lost & Found** is brimming full of winter coats, hats and mittens!



REMEMBER



FEEDING FUTURES

We would like to thank Fairway Market for supporting our Feeding Futures program and helping support families facing food insecurity this winter.



December: 17th - Winter Concert (1-4)
18th - Winter Concert (5-8)
19th - Last Day Of School

happy holidays

January: 6th - Classes Back In Session
- Re-Registration Begins
13th - K/P Observations
20th - NID: No School For Students
23rd - Open House / Transition Night
30th - Junior Musical
- Re-Registration Deadline

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