



Selkirk Montessori School E-Newsletter

From the Academic Head, Erin Hayes

February is the month of love. This month we are talking about how we can love in many different ways, but all love has the essential elements of Respect, Open-Mindedness, Communication, and Kindness. Join the conversation with your child and ask them what they have to say about these universal characteristics of love.

On Valentine's Day, you can show your love for your school by participating in the third Spirit Day hosted by our Leadership students. They are asking that all students (parents, too!) wear red or pink for the day. Bonus if you can manage those colours from head to toe! Thank you to all who participated in the second spirit day, Wacky Hair Day.

Every February, the issue of bullying is highlighted on the 25th with Pink Shirt Day. A few years back, in response to preparations for this day, we had a student ask a question worth reflecting on each year. "Why should it matter if I wear a pink shirt? People can wear shirts whatever colour they like. There are no boy colours and girl colours."

This wasn't a question demonstrating misunderstanding of the intention of the day; the student understood the history and the context of the Pink Shirt movement. Instead, it was a reframing of the focus. Rather than responding to injustice and judgement, the student was maintaining an expectation of respect, kindness, and acceptance. What a reaffirming moment in a school that responds to conflict with the expectation of accountability, communication, and reparation. Whatever your feelings about Pink Shirt Day, take some time this month to chat with your child about what virtues and values matter in your family and how those look in action, both with friends and those we find difficult to get along with.

So how do our teachers and students work at building healthy relationships and boundaries and develop the ability to communicate when someone isn't behaving as expected? We talk about types of behaviour, not types of people. We share experiences and problem solve with learned strategies and supported practice.

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"Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none."

William Shakespeare

From the Academic Head, Erin Hayes (cont'd)

If Pink Shirt Day is meaningful for you, we encourage you to participate. I know some of us here will be.

We encourage you to help your child to couple wearing the shirt with an intent for that day about how they will treat others in challenging situations. Write your intention somewhere visible in the house and continue to revisit it from time to time. The intent can be set with or without the shirt!

It would give me great joy to hear what your child sees as a good intent for Pink Shirt Day. Please feel free to pop by or drop a line and share what gems your child comes up with.



Nature Lovers



The City of Victoria has determined that this tree at the Checkboard is “dead or in severe decline where pruning is not an option.”

Our grade 3-4 students expressed strong feelings about the loss, saying, “But it’s been there since we were wee!”



Selkirk Parent Group (SPG) Update

Thanks for:

Supporting the holiday **Purdy's Chocolate** campaign! We raised....drumroll please....**\$2800!**



All the donated **socks and shoes** for our poorest neighbours, and toonies for **Angel Gifts** in December. All were truly appreciated.

The ongoing work by the **Lunch Program volunteers**. Think of the logistics involved!

Everyone who attended the SPG meeting on January 11, including Marijke who represented the Grade 8 leadership team. Our future is in kind, energetic and fun hands!

Just happened:

Family Board Game Night

The second family board game night was a great success.



Looks like there will be another one coming up in April — keep your eyes out for the date and time.

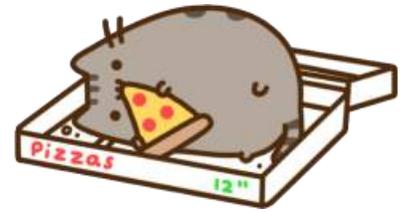
Upcoming:

Parent Ed nights - arrangements for two evenings are in the works.

Fundraising:

Watch for the Purdy's chocolate sale at Easter time and Art Cards later in the spring.

Thanks for your support of the **Lunch Program**.



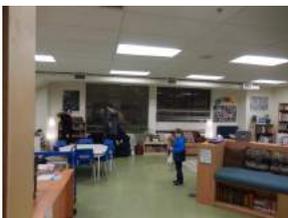
A word about the **Thrifty Smile Cards** -- did you know that the \$s earned through this generous corporate donor is being directed at more free play for your kids?

The school is working to fence the perimeter of the property in order to facilitate running! And skipping, hopping, bopping, bouncing and a zillion other kinds of gross motor play! Once the school boundaries are clearly defined by fencing, the children will have significantly more opportunity to move about the property, and to find corners for social play as well. You might be thinking you're just buying bread and bananas but your kids will know you're buying them fun! If you need a new card please see Karma in the office.

Please join us for our **next meeting on Thursday, March 1 at 7:00 pm** in the staff room.



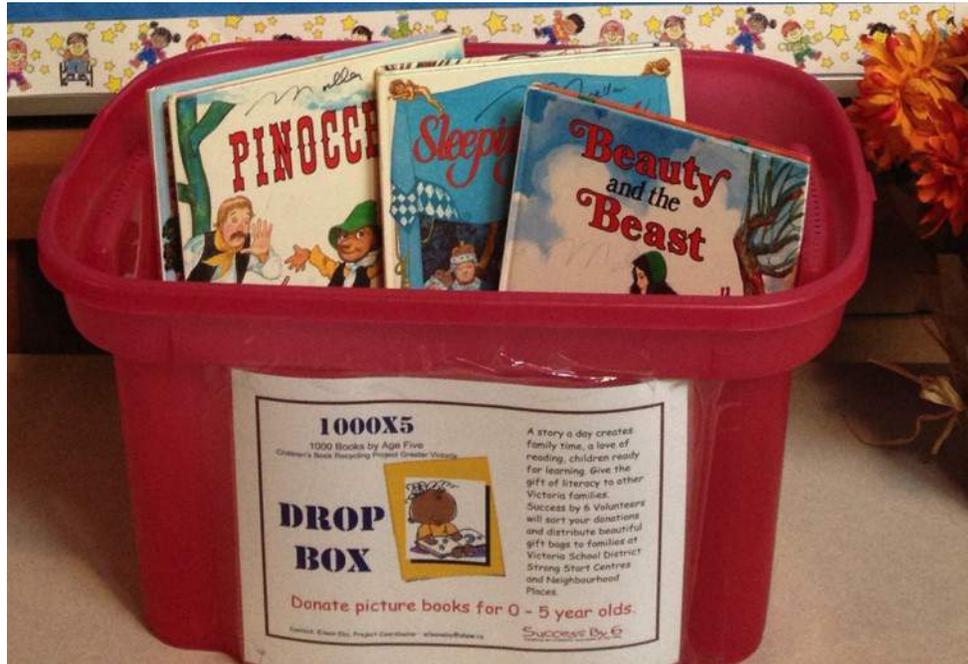
Open House Photo Gallery



So much time, energy and love goes into getting the school ready for Open House. Thank you to all the staff, students, our wonderful Selkirk Parent Group and Hospitality Committee volunteers for helping to make this year's edition one of the best yet!

1000X5

1000 Books by Age Five
Children's Book Recycling Project Greater Victoria



Have you found the pink bin outside the school office?

We thank you for your donations of books for babies and preschoolers. This last week, 12 volunteers cleaned, labelled, and gift bagged books for Songhees Preschool, Victoria Native Friendship Centre and several Best Babies programs – in total, over 700 books!

Thanks to you, next week we will do the same for other families.

Health & Safety—Linda

Thanks to those parents who signed up for the emergency preparedness committee!

Look for more information coming from those meetings in the upcoming months. If you would like to join us, please contact me directly for the meeting information:

office@selkirkmontessori.ca



Yesterday, I was reminded that there needs to be yet another message to all parents about parking and pick up behind the school.

I was asked to go out and talk to parents who were parking/stopping on Jackladder Lane, effectively blocking the laneway. This stemmed from a complaint from one of our neighbours.

Please **do not** line up in the road at the end of Jackladder Lane waiting for a parking spot or for your children to come out for pick up. Please **do not** park blocking the laneway to the underground parking or in front of the CRD housing next door. **There should be no stopping or parking on the roads.**

At most schools, parking can be an issue. We are lucky the Legion has non-reserved spots to park and you can then walk to the school and pick your child up. If you haven't already done so, obtain a parking pass from Karma and use that space.

Just like the neighbours who complain to us, we don't enjoy going out and being confronted by parents who don't seem to care or realize the consequences of stopping in the middle of the road.

Thank you to those parents who already know better and consistently do the right thing.

Drive safe, obey the rules of the road and watch the school zones.

Welcome to our Selkirk Montessori School Community!



Hummingbird student Mateo tells us that he has a new baby sister!

Julianna Clark-Jimenez was born on December 26th — dad's birthday! — and weighed 5 lbs 5 oz.

(Pictured above: Mateo and Julianna)

Our own Lia and husband Cameron Reid are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Peyton Robert. Peyton arrived on December 29th and weighed 7 lbs 7 oz.

Big brother Benson says that mum, dad and baby are doing fine!

(Pictured right: Peyton and Winston)





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We can make a difference.

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The French Club meets every Tuesday with Madame Champagne to learn about Quebec culture, history and colloquial language. Members have been working together to plan a 6 day spring break trip to Montreal.

Dates to Remember

- February 12—Family Day (School closed)
- February 15—It’s a Hit! Junior Musical (Grades 1-3)
- February 23—Non-instructional Day
- March 12-16—Immersion Week (Grades 5-8)
- March 19-April 3—Spring Break
- April 4—First day back after Spring Break/Easter

