

JULY 2020



# Selkirk Montessori School E-Newsletter

## From the Head of School Erin Hayes

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How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard. ~Sobieski, Carol and Thomas Meehan, Annie

How lucky we all are to be saying farewell to some very special people this year. For those inspiring grads, dedicated staff, and supportive families, know you will always have a home at Selkirk Montessori School.

Our graduates this year head off to several different schools where, without a doubt, they will make a lasting imprint on the communities they join. This group will fondly be remembered for their commitment to setting exceptional goals and working hard to achieve them, being reflective learners, and expressing and respecting individuality. They have a strong sense of self we know they will hold onto in the high school setting. They have explored, sung, Zoomed, and collaborated their way through the year with a vibrant curiosity: problem solving and advocating, listening, and articulating. We know they will stand out in their high schools, making their mark to better the community. We are confident they will hold onto their true selves because each individual has so much to be proud of! Goodbye dear Alexia, Ben, Bryan, Gabriel, Ginger, Gull, Hannah D., Hannah J. Isabella, Jonas, Liza, Mahum, Mia, Rachel, Selkie, Sophie, Tia, and Zaria.

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“SPREAD JOY.  
CHASE YOUR  
WILDEST  
DREAMS.”

PATCH ADAMS

## Message from Erin Hayes (continued)

Just to make the goodbyes a little more tearful, we are going to send off three staff members with a fond farewell.



Susie Rialp, our beloved Raccoon Room teacher is retiring. She will be greatly missed as both teacher and model of Montessori pedagogy and practice. After 36 years at our school, we know Susie's creative influence will continue to be live on in the traditions she embedded in our community. She will spend her retirement exploring the many other diverse and artistic interests that teachers rarely have time to explore.

Marlene Wallis, our beloved Casa teacher is also retiring. She worked at our school when we were still the Montessori Centre of Victoria and came back when her children were grown up. We are so glad she did! Her love for the children shines through. She has been a rock in the Casa program and will be very much missed by her colleagues, students and families.



Anne, another cherished Casa teacher failed at retirement and came back part time to bring music, stories and joy into the program. This time we send her off to spend more time with her grandchildren and children. We wish her adventure and send her off with love.

Thank you to all who helped make this strange year happen - the students, staff, and parents. We have something so very special here and not even a pandemic could disrupt our learning and relationships.

Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened. – Dr. Suess

## Message from Erin Hayes (continued)

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### Staffing for 2020-2021

We have an incredibly dynamic and flexible teaching staff who benefit from complimentary partnerships. When we do have to make changes, they are carefully considered and always end in refreshed collaboration across and between grades.

We are happy to announce our classroom teaching staff for the 2020-2021 school year:

- ♦ Hummingbird – Amabel and Lia
- ♦ Chickadee – Jasmine, Glenys & Katie (PM)
- ♦ Eagle (Casa) - Angie, Krista, Nicola & Katie (AM)
- ♦ Otter – Noel, Jacqueline & Shan
- ♦ Marmot – Doug, Natasha & Dominga
- ♦ Raccoon – Megan, Cassidy & Ken
- ♦ Owl – Lana, Ayako & Deanna
- ♦ Orca – Angela, Beth & Yoshiko
- ♦ Seastar – Margie, Danielle and Devon
- ♦ Cormorant – Shannon, Sarah & Kim
- ♦ Kingfisher – Gigi, Judy, Jhoanna & Trevor

Our Learning Support and Counselling team of Marie, Chriselle, Penny T. and Carmelle are back in September.

All of our Specialists — Bree, Brian, Danica, Christopher, Christine, Elizabeth and Kristen — will also be back.

You may have noticed some unfamiliar names on the list. We will share more information about the new staff members in the Summer newsletter.

We can't wait to get back to school in September!

# Crazy COVID Times at Selkirk Montessori School



Be Calm, Be Kind, Be Safe.



We had a partial return to school for three weeks in June and we had to use all of our entrances. We were happy to see everyone! A spray of hand sanitizer, a quick health check and they were up to their classrooms.

All in, 100%.



## Kudos For Our Admin, Teachers and Staff

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*Thanks to all our families for your support and patience this year! We were overwhelmed with your kind comments. We couldn't fit them all in one newsletter!*

Selkirk was able to pivot to remote learning readily! They used the spring break to create a learning program in these times of uncertainty. We have been part of the Selkirk community for 11 years and have been impressed with the professionalism and teacher/administration engagement over the years!

*We wanted to reach out and say thank you so much to you all and the entire staff at Selkirk for the tireless work that you have all put in to make this changed school year happen. The online learning curve must have been considerable and overwhelming at times yet you all pulled it off and were ready to go as soon as March break was over. Doing this as well with families and stresses of your own is nothing short of incredible. And although the pictures of the changed classrooms were more than a little heartbreaking when they first came out, the opportunity for the children (that could go back) to see their friends and the teachers they love in a safe environment and still have some hands-on learning was so fantastic. When [our daughter] came home on June 4<sup>th</sup> and we asked how her day was, she said 'It was the BEST!' and clarified that it was better than Christmas. As someone who once sang The Twelve Days of Christmas to her every night at bedtime for 142 nights straight just a couple of years ago, I can tell you that she does not say that lightly.*

*Your dedication to all of our children is simply unmatched and not only do they learn at Selkirk, they are loved and they can feel it. We thank you!*

*Please also pass on our thanks to Bree, Christine and Mr. C - [our daughter's] stories were filled with fun times and so much knowledge from her interactions with you all in the library, gym and music class! (She schooled us on string instruments more than once!)*

Bravo on another amazing year, particularly over the past 3 months of unprecedented events.

I was amazed at your continued calmness and patience in steering your wonderful cadre of dedicated teachers and staff (and managing the myriad concerns and questions from parents that you undoubtedly received over the past 3 months) to deliver an amazing, high quality learning experience for our children, using online resources to their fullest to keep our children engaged and focused on learning

The speed and efficiency with which you literally transformed the entire way of teaching over Spring Break was astounding, and your professionalism and dedication and strong leadership focused the entire community (teachers, staff, parents and children) on making the final 3 months of the school year a success, despite a global pandemic! I've always marvelled at your leadership of the school, but this year was especially exceptional.

My family joins me in thanking you so much for another great year of music, musical and choir. It is unfortunate that the musical didn't happen but Nathan really enjoyed the rehearsals and was looking forward to the show. Tess loved singing with you throughout the year. It has been such a pleasure to hear her voice singing on Wednesdays along with you and the class. We really appreciate your dedication and enthusiasm, particularly since going online. The project that you and Mr. C did together was AMAZING and we wanted to say a special thank you to you for all your efforts in putting that together.

## Welcome to our Selkirk Montessori School Community

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We finally welcomed Atlas West to the family on June 17th, weighing a big 9.7lbs! Espen is so thrilled she can hold him and see him. She is already being so helpful and loving towards her new brother :)

The West family

Meet Lucy Davalovsky  
(middle name still not decided)

She arrived on Friday June 5th at 8:30pm

Weighing 6 pounds, 7 oz and 20 inches long.

A healthy baby and healthy Mom, delivery went smoothly. Jakob is so excited to be a big brother and is a great help. We are in awe of our little girl!



# Provincial Science Fair 2020

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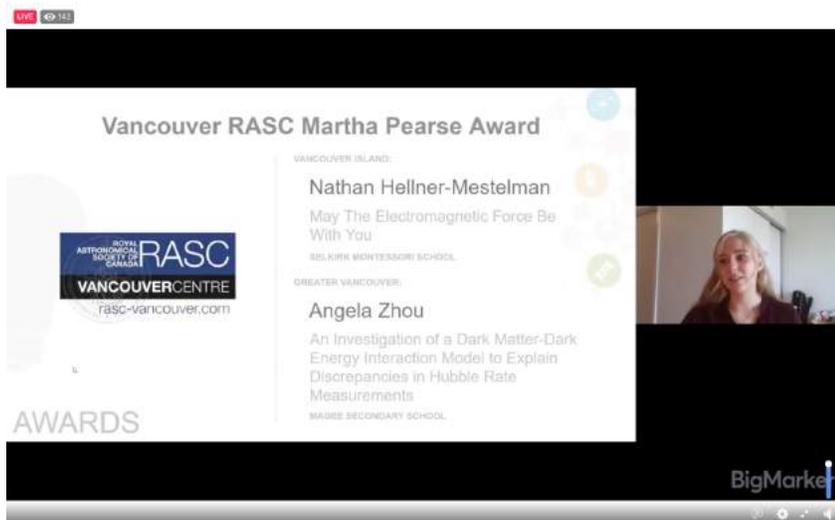
Two of our students took part in the BC Science Fair this year. We asked them to share some details about their experiments.

Tess:

My project is about plastics. I decided to learn where plastic comes from, how it's processed into toys, what happens to toys once they are no longer wanted, and how to reduce the problems of plastics in the environment. Surprised by what I had learned, I designed a questionnaire for students in grades four to eight at my school to test their knowledge about this topic. I then gave a teaching presentation to the students, and finished with a second questionnaire to see if the students had learned something. Most students said they learned something new, and that they felt this new knowledge would change their buying and recycling behaviour.

Nathan:

Earth's magnetic field is relatively stable, but is influenced by changes in the sun's magnetic field caused by solar flares. My project is designed to look at the relationship between solar flares and magnetic fields. Using lasers, homemade magnetometers and rulers, I have taken measurements in multiple locations within the Victoria region, and correlated the measurements with data from NASA and the Victoria Magnetic Observatory regarding the presence of solar flares. Understanding this link between solar flares and magnetic fields could prove useful in interplanetary space and Mars missions to get the crew to safety in the event of a solar flare.



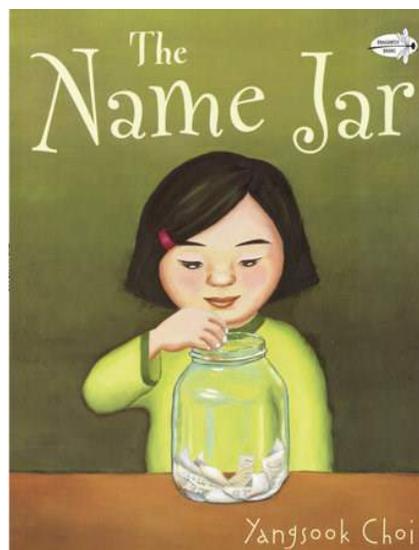
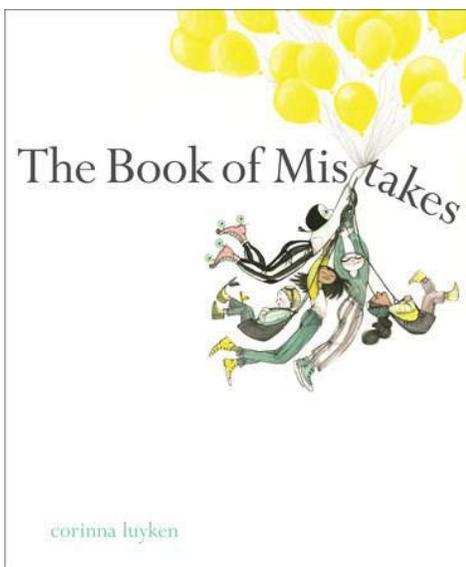
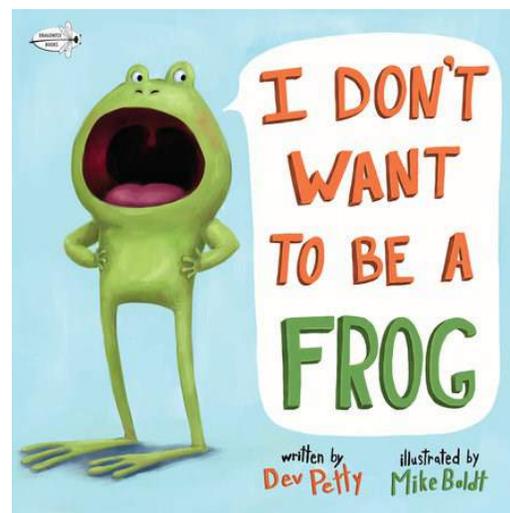
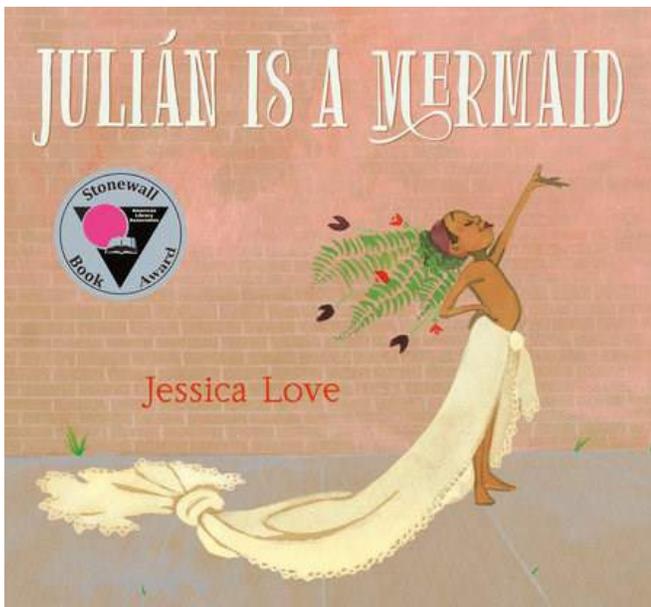
Congratulations to both Tess and Nathan for participating and congratulations to Nathan for receiving the Royal Astronomical Society Martha Pearse Award for Vancouver Island! You both ROCK!

# Selkirk Library Summer Reading List

Hello lovely Selkirk Community,

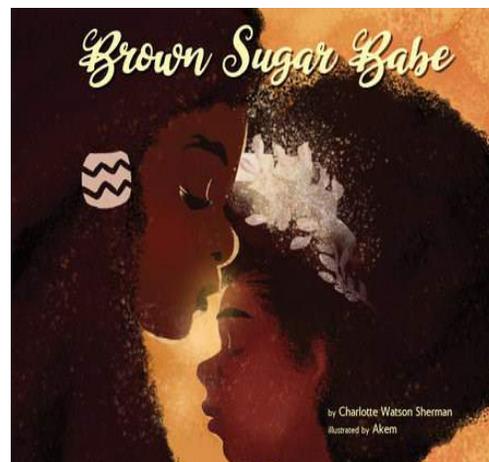
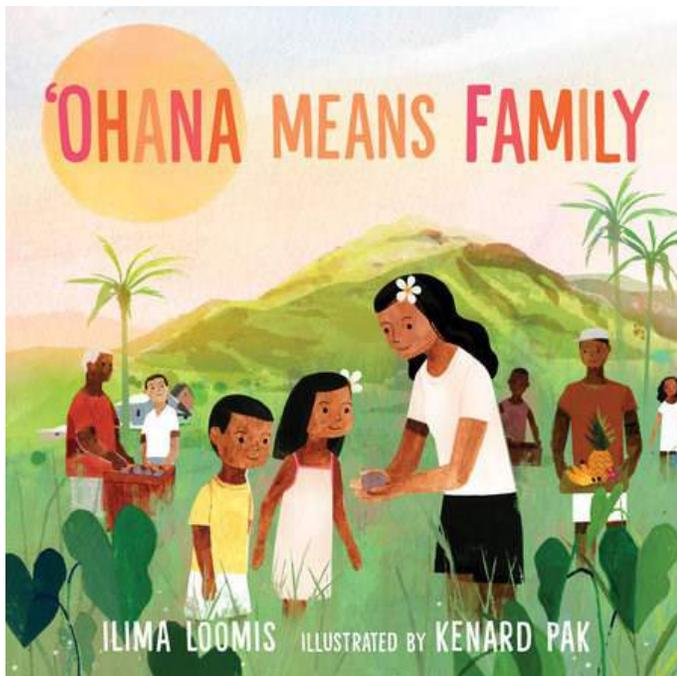
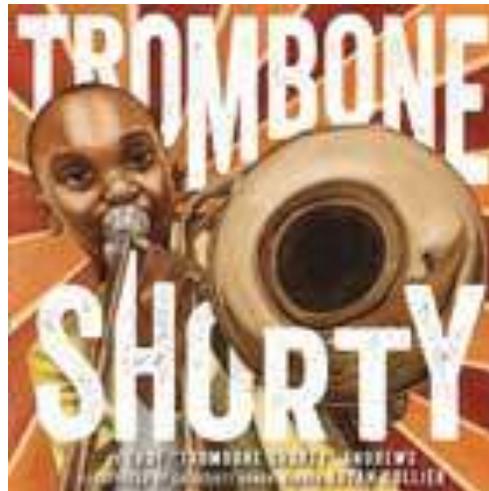
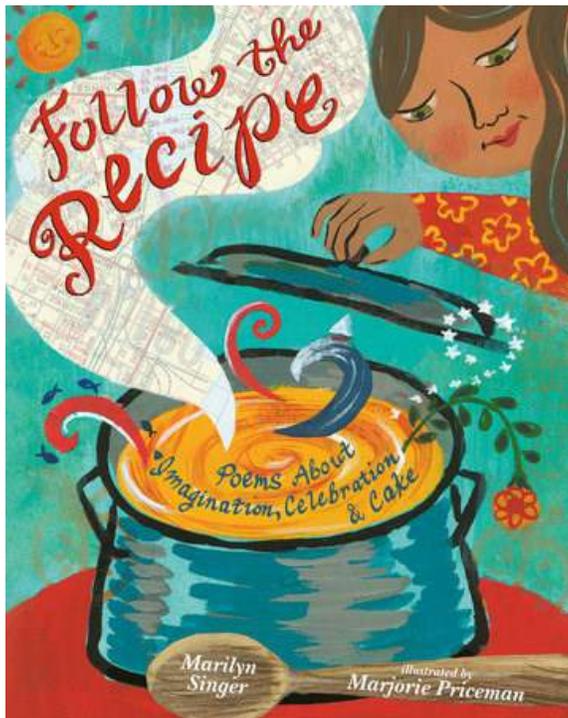
With libraries still being closed and school being out for summer I thought you might be in the market for some new books. Here is a list of some of the books I would want to read this summer if I was a kid these days...

## Books to read under the shade of a tree (Great for all ages):



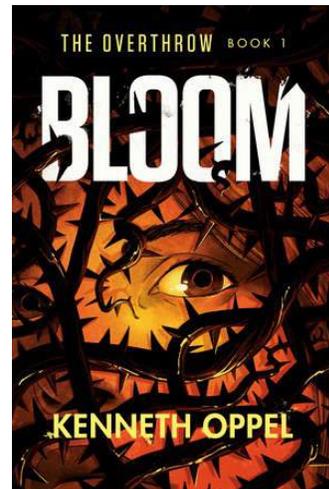
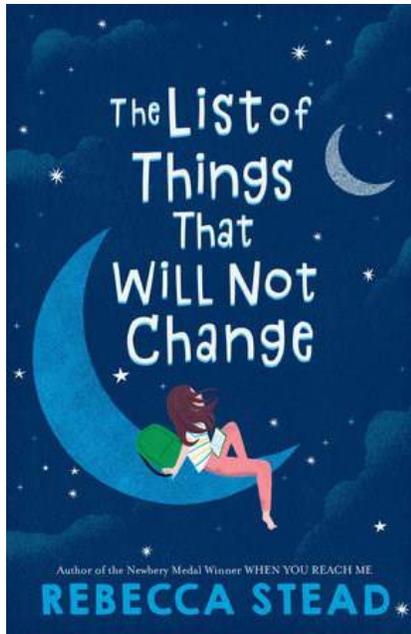
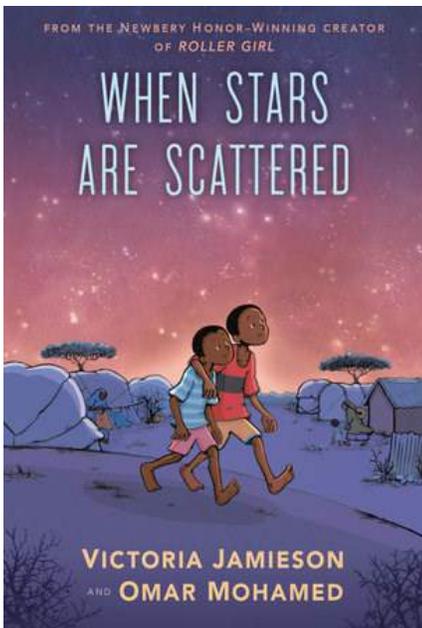
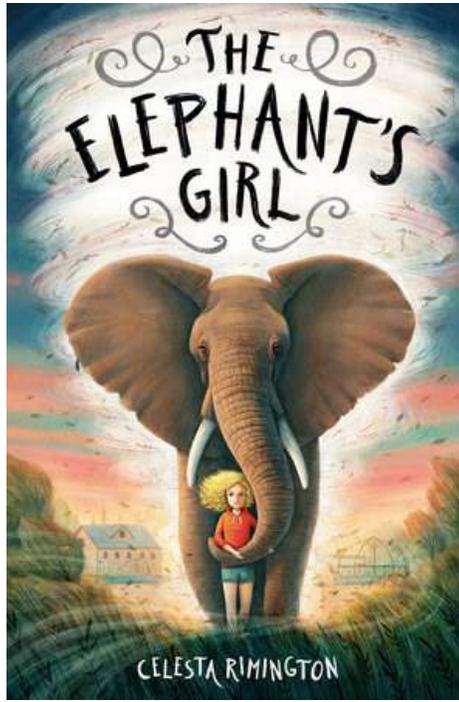
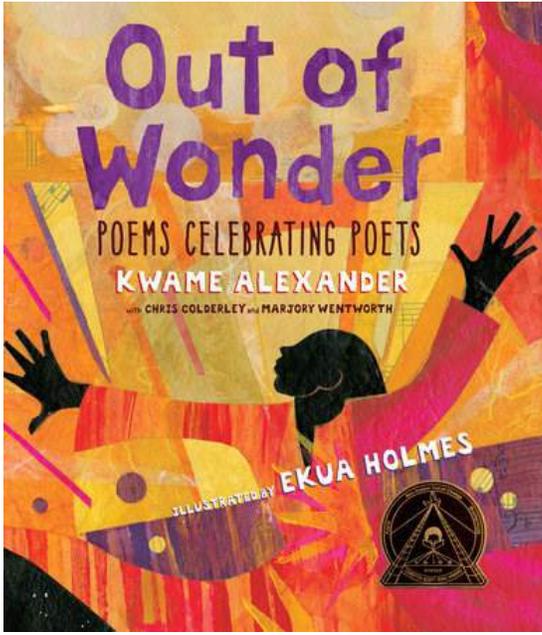
All images obtained from: <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/>

**Books to read as a family (Ages 4-9):**



All images obtained from [www.readbrightly.com](http://www.readbrightly.com)

**Books for solo time at the Beach (Ages 10 and up):**



All images obtained from [www.readbrightly.com](http://www.readbrightly.com)

Wishing you all a fun and healthy summer!

Bree

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Congratulations to our wonderful graduating class of 2020! So happy we were able to capture your moments for you and your families. We will miss you!

## Dates to Remember

We have recently posted our tentative Annual Calendar on the school's website. We'll be in touch over the summer if there are any changes to the return to school plan.

September 1—Staff and teachers return to work

September 8—Gradual Entry begins

September 9—Welcome Back Social

September 28—Non-Instructional Day

TBA—Parent Orientation

