

JUNE 2022



Selkirk Montessori School E-Newsletter

From the Head of School Erin Hayes

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

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

Our largest ever group of graduates will soon head off to a number of different schools where, without a doubt, they will enrich and shape the communities they join. This group will fondly be remembered for their willingness to try new things, their playfulness, and their readiness to lead their school community in reigniting connections as COVID restrictions lifted.

They are open to exploring their own identity and learning about others, and we know that is a key element of starting high school with peace and confidence. They are stand up human beings and stand-outs in music, sports, academics, debate, social justice, and leadership. They care for each other, applying their critical thinking and communication skills to both their academics and to conflict management.

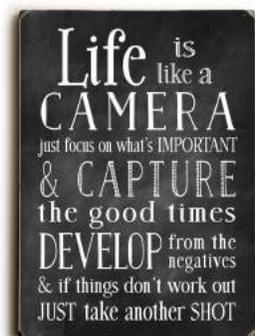
They have all they need to make positive contributions to their new communities and will leave a lasting mark at Selkirk Montessori, where they will always have a home. We are confident they will hold onto their true selves because each individual has so much to be proud of!

Goodbye dear Adison, Ana, Angelina, Adrijana, Beckett, Bella, Benjamin, Cole, Isabella, Jackson, Jamie, Jolie, Lyza, Miko, Mila, Oran, Phyfer, Romy, Sadie, Samantha, Sophie, Soren, Tai, and William!

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From the Head of School (cont'd)

Just to make the goodbyes a little more tearful, we are going to send off our beloved and longest standing staff member, Amabel, with a fond farewell.



Amabel, our beloved Hummingbird Room teacher is retiring in June. She will be greatly missed as both a teacher and staff leader. After 40 years at our school, we know Amabel's modeling of exceptional Montessori lessons, inviting prepared environments, and prioritizing of community will continue to influence our staff and students in such a positive way. She always made time to have important conversations, contribute to and ensure a healthy climate and culture, and make sure each person she is speaking to — children and adult alike — feel valued. We agree with her family that this is likely to be "retirement lite" and that Amabel will be seen around the school from time to time helping all of us maintain the community and quality of learning she has so very much helped to build!



We are also saying good-bye (for now) to some of our beloved staff who are moving on to new adventures.

You may have heard that Danielle Andersen and her family are sailing around the world on a sabbatical year. We look forward to hearing all about their adventures upon their return.

Megan is off to Alberta to join her partner. We wish her success on this adventure and send her off with love.

We are sad to say goodbye to Danielle Smith on May 31st. Although she has only been with us since last year, she has become an important member of the administration team and we hope to lure her back in the future. Check out Page 8 to find out who is taking over for her!

We are very excited to welcome Angela back from her maternity leave. She will join the Owl Room as Ayako moves up to join the grade 5/6 team.

Thank you to all who helped make this beautiful year of learning happen - the students, staff, and parents. We have something so very special here and are excited to see everyone at the concerts.

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

Selkirk Parent Group (SPG) Update



The spiritwear shop is now open! Store closes on Sunday, May 29, so get your orders in now. <https://store.passionsports.ca/selkirk/shop/home>

Items ready for pickup, June 10

Join us for **Freezies on the Green** on the last day of school (morning and afternoon dismissal).
Deebee's Organic Freezies generously donated by Chickadee parent, Becky Julseth

Volunteers needed:

1. Back-to-School BBQ, September 7 – 10 volunteers needed to purchase ingredients, serve food and setup/clean up
2. Spaghetti Social, Fall 2022 – don't miss out on the best fun of the year!

Contact the SPG to see how you can help.

Teacher appreciation updates coming soon from class reps

Hot Lunch Notes

1. One more **Pizza Day** event: **June 10**
ordering details coming soon
2. **Last lunch delivery: June 9**
Please pack lunches for the final week of school



Congratulations to our 2022 Graduates!

And congratulations to the parents and families of our graduates. They couldn't have done it without you!

For those families "graduating" from the school, we wish you all the best. And we wish to acknowledge a special few "graduating" parents who have shown exemplary service to the SPG: Brandi Allen, Karma and Kevin Wolksi, Kim and Richard Poulin, Echo and Jon Michiel, and Danielle and Bjarke Andersen. We also want to make a special mention of Kate and Brian McKenzie who said goodbye earlier in the school year. Thank you all.

Keep in touch!

Contact the SPG at SPG@selkirkmontessori.ca

40th Anniversary



We are ready for the second phase of our labyrinth project! Thanks to a very generous donation from one of our families, we have ordered the benches and plant boxes and can't wait to see the finished product installed and ready to go soon.

We are still hoping for a few more donations to purchase plants, etc. If you haven't already, please go to the following link to make your donation: [40th Anniversary](#). When you are finished, a tax receipt will automatically be sent to you. You are also welcome to e-transfer a donation to accounting@selkirkmontessori.ca. Every dollar counts!

Very special thanks to the following corporate and individual donors for their support:

Jawl Properties

Sui Family

Adax Management (Kees van Linden Tol)

Selkirk Parent Group

Amabel De Lara and family

Dodd's Furniture & Mattress

Mega Power Installations Ltd.

Shmunk Gatt Smith & Associates

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Angelina Lim
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Linda Dombrowski
Lisbet Rygnestad
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Lorien Hammond
Marcus Fedoruk
Rich Poulin
Mari Danice de Lara
Marie Sykes
Meghan Noseworthy
Matthew Humphrey
Mellisa & Nick
Lansigan
Natasha Reed
Newhook Family
Nicole Pan
Nina & Ally Dewji
Novie Dodd
Paul Whittaker
Penny Barner
Rich Poulin
Richard Anthony
Sandra Martel
Sarah Pugh
Sarah van Toorn
Sasha Blinova/Alexei
Roukhlov
Serena Pires
Simon Owen
Stella Castillo
Susan Eddy
Tanya Tan
Trevor Walker
Vivian Chenard
Warren Auto Brokers
Wenlong Xu
Yongmei Chen

We have also received a number of anonymous donations. You know who you are.



Musical Theatre—Aladdin 2022



First musical theatre performance on stage live since 2019! Congratulations to all of our performers and thanks for taking us to a ‘whole new world’!



Very special thanks to music teacher Kristen Birley and all of the staff and volunteers who helped pull the show together.

(Apologies to the Friday night cast, as I wasn't able to get any photos of that performance in time for the newsletter deadline.)



Health & Safety—Ricky & Danielle



Now that summer is coming (summer is coming - right?), more and more of us are getting our bikes out on the trails and roads. This makes it the perfect time to review some tips to make sure everyone is safe while having fun.

The [Canada Safety Council](#) has recommendations to keep in mind before getting on those bikes:

Getting started

Make sure your child's bike and helmet are the right size. At a minimum, your child's first bike should be equipped with a bell and reflectors.

Driveway ride outs - A cyclist rides out of the driveway and gets hit by a car.

Does your driveway have obstructions to seeing passing vehicles, such as bushes or trees? Teach your child about driveway safety; Practice the following steps with them:

- Stop before entering the street.
- Scan left, then right for traffic.
- If there's no traffic, proceed into the roadway.

Running the stop sign - Not fully stopping at stop a sign. Take your child to a stop sign and explain how to:

- Stop at all stop signs regardless of what is happening.
- Scan both directions for traffic.
- Wait for any cross traffic to clear.
- Proceed when safe.



Turning without warning - Teach children to walk their bikes across busy streets; always scan and signal before turning left. Practice riding along a straight paint line while scanning behind.

After dark - Rule out night riding for your young children unless they have the special skills and equipment and training that make this safe. Have them call for a ride home if they are out after dark.

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Head injuries - Most bike accidents occur from falls, or as a result of riders losing control. A bad fall can result from a skid, catching a wheel in a crack or even getting a shoelace caught in the chain.



In a spill, the forehead usually hits the ground first

Up to 88 per cent of serious head injuries could be prevented by wearing a helmet. It is critical for your child to wear a bike helmet that fits properly and is certified by CSA International.

When choosing a helmet, your child should try on several helmets carefully. Level the helmet over your child's forehead and adjust the chin strap to fit snugly and comfortably. It should protect the forehead without slipping forward or backward; and it should not move unless the scalp moves. A trained salesperson will help you ensure the fit is right.

Insist your child always wears a helmet when riding. (It goes without saying that parents must set an example by always wearing theirs when cycling.) Remember, a helmet only works when you wear it!

The best teacher is a good example. Make sure that you model responsible bicycle behaviour and practice what you teach.



Bike to School Week

From May 30 to June 3 the Selkirk Sustainability Club is hosting Bike to School Week, Students who bike (or walk) to school will be entered to win prizes from Spruce Boutique, Bishop Bikes, ecologist, Cycles West, Russ Hay's Bicycles, Goldstream Bicycles, and others.

Don't forget a helmet, a sturdy lock and visible clothing.

If you would like to get the whole family in on the fun, you can join The Selkirk Cyclists on the [Go By Bike Week website](#) and log your rides:

<https://logmyride.gobybikebc.ca/?returnUrl=%2Fteams%2Fjoin%2Ff0389db4-a2f0-48fe-b1bd-c3eefd17d482>

Thanks to the Sustainability Club for putting together this fun event and encouraging us all to get out and ride!

Welcome to our Selkirk Montessori School Community!



Better late than never! Congratulations to Krista and on the birth of their second daughter, Bria McCullough. Bria was born on December 19, 2021. She weighed 7lbs 12 oz and was 52 cm long!



Many families will recognize “Mr” Ricky from St Christopher’s Montessori School where he enjoyed many years as a KP teacher and school administrator. Ricky brings his passion for Montessori education, leadership skills and creativity to our Admin Team as he takes over from Danielle Smith. When not on a travel adventure, Ricky can be found making music or immersed in a good book.



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**Thanks to the parents who
volunteered to keep our school looking
tidy by mowing our school lawn!**

**Emmett Gamroth, Alexandra Blinova,
Sunni Gillespie and David Coney.**

Your help is greatly appreciated.

Dates to Remember

- ◆ June 3—Kindergarten/Preschool AM/PM Concerts
- ◆ June 6—Non-Instructional Day (no school for children)
- ◆ June 8—Grade 1-4 Concert
- ◆ June 10—Grade 5-8 Concert & Graduation Ceremony
- ◆ June 13-15—Kingfisher Year End Trip
- ◆ June 15-16—Grade 5-6 Year End Trip
- ◆ June 17—Last Day of School for Students
- ◆ September 6—First Day Back at School after Summer Break

Note: Comfort kits will be sent home on the last day of school if you are not returning.

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.