

JUNE 2024



# 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.  
~Carol Sobieski and Thomas Meehan, Annie*

As another school year draws to a close, we find ourselves bidding farewell to some truly remarkable individuals. To our inspiring graduates, dedicated staff, and supportive families, we want you to know that Selkirk Montessori School will always be your home and we feel fortunate to have known you for your time here.

This year, we celebrate twenty graduates, fifteen of whom began at Selkirk in preschool. The addition of five more along the way has only enriched our community, bringing fresh perspectives and enthusiasm. As they embark on new journeys at various schools, we have no doubt that they will leave an indelible mark on each institution they touch. With their varied interests and passions, and a willingness to take healthy risks, we know their influence will be felt in many different ways around their high schools.

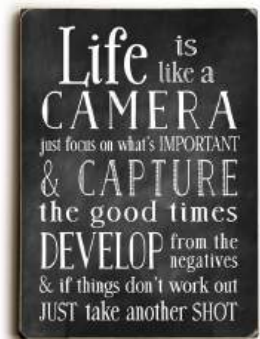
Our graduates of 2024 will be remembered for their artistry, musicality, and their willingness to engage in meaningful conversations. They've embraced all facets of Selkirk life, from athletics to debate, from musicals to Model United Nations. They carry with them the gifts of curiosity, autonomy, authenticity, and rich experiences, and we have every confidence that they will remain true to themselves as they navigate the wider world.

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## From the Head of School (continued)

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In collaborating with the graduates to shape their graduation night, I've been struck by their relaxed demeanor and focus on shared moments rather than rigid formats or traditions. Our hope is that the evening reflects their priorities as they transition gracefully into this new chapter of their lives. Congratulations to Annika, Jude, Isaac, Jaya, Johnny, Madison, CJ, Tess, Sloan, Abigail, Brooklyn, Samuel, Thandiwe, Rhys, Arjuna, Kaiah, Amyah, Jada, Florence, and Hedy. We hope you look back with fondness, seeing the strengths you grew here, including the willingness to have fortitude in a challenge or change.

To everyone who has contributed to making this year possible – students, staff, and parents alike – we extend our heartfelt gratitude. Selkirk Montessori is truly something special, and we eagerly anticipate the adventures the new school year will bring.

“Let us make our future now, and let us make our dreams tomorrow’s reality.”  
— Malala Yousafzai

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## Duck Race 2024!

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The ducks were sorted and put in tubs, tickets were sold, and they were thrown in the Gorge to swim for their lives! The observers followed them to the beach and the winners were announced:

Aurora (Jhoanna’s mom) - First prize  
Vivian (Kai’s grandma) - Second prize  
Austin (Kingfisher Class) - Third prize

Congratulations to our winners and thanks to everyone who participated.



# Happy Pride!

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In honour of Pride Month, we have created a Statement of Commitment to SOGI Best Practices for our school. Our school has always been a very inclusive, welcoming and safe space, and now it's time to reflect our practice on paper!

## Selkirk Montessori School Statement of Commitment to SOGI Best Practices

The Pacific Montessori Society upholds its commitment to providing a safe and supportive environment for all members of our school community, including those who identify as transgender and/or gender non-conforming. Our Board of Directors stands firm in advocating for the rights of every student and staff member to learn and work without fear of discrimination or harassment, and we pledge to actively promote strategies and guidelines that ensure the inclusion, belonging, and respect of all students regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation.

To achieve this commitment, we outline the following principles and actions:

**Leadership:** Our Board will lead by example in fostering inclusion and enabling the free expression of gender identity among students and staff. Discriminatory actions or complaints will be promptly addressed through established policy and procedures, with a commitment to treating gender-based discrimination with the same diligence as any other form of discrimination.

**Learning Resources:** We are dedicated to providing inclusive educational resources that respect diverse gender identities and expressions, and a variety of family compositions. Materials that represent all students sponsor a sense of belonging for all students and staff.

**Student Support:** Our school is committed to providing support tailored to the needs of transgender and gender non-conforming students and staff. We will continue to support the clubs focused on allyship.

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## Happy Pride! (cont'd)

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**Communications:** We will ensure that all communications to students, staff, parents, guardians, and the community recognize and respect the diversity of gender identities, expressions, and families present within our school community.

**Student Information and Privacy:** All students and staff have the right to privacy and to openly discuss and express their gender identity and/or expression as they choose.

**Sex-Segregated Activities:** We are committed to reducing the segregation of students based on sex and/or gender to encourage the full inclusion of transgender and gender non-conforming students.

**Accessibility:** Our school recognizes students' rights to freely access single occupant gender-neutral bathroom facilities.

**Dress:** Students and staff have the right to dress in a manner consistent with their gender identity or expression.

In accordance with this commitment, 'sexual or gender minority' or LGBTQ+ persons encompass a range of identities including, but not limited to, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit,

intersex, queer, or questioning persons, as well as those with immediate family members who identify as such.

*Furthermore, 'gender nonconforming' refers to individuals, particularly children, whose expression of gender differs from societal expectations based on their assigned sex at birth. 'Trans' or 'transgender' individuals include those whose gender identity and/or expression differs from their assigned sex at birth, with some choosing to undergo medical or social transition.*

*Through these commitments and definitions, we strive to create an environment where every member of our school community feels valued, respected, and supported in their authentic expression of self.*

# Badminton Photo Gallery



Congratulations to our grade 5-8 badminton players on another great season! We made the finals with three doubles teams.

# Selkirk Parent Group Update

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Giving thanks is a year-round practice and for the SPG, June is especially rich with opportunities! We're sending our deep gratitude to:

- All our SPG volunteers, who help in an untold number of ways throughout the year;
- All the parents, grandparents, friends, extended family and others who support our fundraisers throughout the year—funds raised in one year support student activities, classroom special requests, and community social events for the next academic year;
- All school staff—teachers and admin staff—who work to support our fundraisers and invest energy in our social events in a multitude of ways;
- Freddy, our beloved janitor, who keeps our school looking awesome;
- Our Hot Lunch Vendors!, some of whom have been with us for a very, very long time and are instrumental in keeping our largest fundraiser going!

We appreciate your energy and enthusiasm, the children appreciate the enrichment you've helped provide, and you have helped shape the school community into the supportive, friendly and kind place that it is.

## We'd Love Your Help

We have two very fun events coming up - Freezies on the Green and the Back-to-School BBQ - and we'd love some more helpers to make them a success. We're also looking for some longer-term help, starting in September.



- **June 21**, at Freezies on the Green: there's no better volunteer position than putting a freezie in the hand - and a smile on the face - of a child. Or, actually, hundreds of kids;

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## Selkirk Parent Group Update (continued)

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- **Late August and early September**, at the Back-to-School BBQ: we have an event lead, but could use more helping hands
- **Starting September**, on the SPG executive we have some openings:
  - SPG Secretary - recording SPG meeting minutes, keep records, distribute meeting minutes, keep up membership lists and manage correspondence
  - SPG Fundraising Coordinator - with the SPG, develop the annual fundraising calendar, identify fundraising leads and assist with fundraising events as necessary
  - SPG Volunteer Coordinator - with the SPG, sort out volunteer requirements for fundraisers and events, and organise volunteers
  - Hot Lunch Helpers - with our well-seasoned volunteers, help feed our largest fundraiser and serve a valued program to our school community

We're a friendly bunch and provide guidance and support for these roles. We'd love for you to be involved! For more information about any of these roles, reach out to: [spg@selkirkmontessori.ca](mailto:spg@selkirkmontessori.ca).

### Key Dates for June & September ...

- June 3: SPG meeting - to get more info, [sign up on the SPG website](#)
- June 21 (last day of school): Freezies on the green, starts at 3:00 - everyone welcome! Come say, "Happy summer" to friends and teachers, and a big "Happy retirement" to Penny!
- Sept. 4: Back-To-School BBQ starts at 11:30 - come catch up with friends in the September sun

# Feeding Futures

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Dear Selkirk Families,

Living in Victoria comes with so many blessings of nature and community. We feel very fortunate that you have continued to choose Selkirk Montessori for your child. We appreciate the trust and the sacrifice you make for education and the investment in the whole child's development

We also know that, for different families at different times, expenses can become overwhelming. We understand that the inflation rates have left some families with deficits in their budgets that could not have been anticipated and are leaving them with tough decisions, including in relation to feeding their families. Earlier in the year, the province provided a one time Feeding Futures grant intended to be disbursed through the school to support families struggling with the rising cost of food and at risk of food insecurity.

With the help of additional donations from families and staff, and some left over funds from Feeding Futures, we have more gift cards to share at this time.

If you are a family requiring access to these funds, please do not be shy about letting us know. We will ensure you get any financial support there is available. You can feel confident that there is no judgement – people's circumstances change as our lives evolve – and the utmost confidentiality will be maintained.

Please email [erin@selkirkmontessori.ca](mailto:erin@selkirkmontessori.ca) and we will work on getting grocery cards to families as soon as we know how many are in need.

This funding is intended for families with students currently enrolled in the school at risk of food insecurity, including staff. If you are a staff member whose children have moved into high school, their school will have received a similar grant and we encourage you to reach out to your child's school for similar support.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. Asking for help takes courage and our school is a community. This is a safe place to accept support.

Wishing you well,

Erin Hayes





# Multi-Cultural Social Photo Gallery



*“Diversity is about all of us, and about us having to figure out how to walk through this world together.” – Jacqueline Woodson*



Many thanks to Sarah Bolen and all the Selkirk Parent Group volunteers for making the social such a success! The food was amazing and so was the entertainment! Looking forward to even more community events next year.

## Play Space Renovation

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Thanks to generous donations from our school community and friends of Selkirk Montessori, we have raised over \$86,000!

7Spring Ventures  
Acera Insurance  
Adax Management  
Adgam Salinas  
Amabel de Lara  
Amalia Colussi and Federico Vanoli  
Andrea Harbeck  
Andrew Wender and Arezoo Zamany  
Andy Chen  
Angela Heathfield  
Anonymous – you know who you are!! <3  
Arielle Nash  
Arthur Rowe  
Ashley Kiptoo  
Atkins Family  
Barbara and Syd Bulman-Fleming  
Bartosh Michalik  
Bindra Family  
Bonnie Wong  
Brandes Family  
Catherine MacKinnon  
Catherine Scorey  
Celia Culley  
Cheryl Brown  
Chris White  
Christabel Padmore  
Christopher Clarke  
Chun Cui  
Coast Geotechnical Consulting Ltd.  
Courtney Stewart  
Derek Young  
Dewji Family  
Dina Wood  
Dominga Passmore  
Dr. Krishna Poinen  
Dr. Leachman  
Du Jiang  
Eleanor Street  
Emelinne Luna  
Erika Zimmerman  
Erin Hayes  
Estelle Kurier  
Fiona Scanlan  
Gauthier/Kaltenbach Family  
Glen Wu & Family  
Hannah Oluka

Hao-Ping Wang  
Harley Syyong  
Helen Neilson  
Inesa Fitsner  
James Bay Inn  
Jared Raath  
Jason Wang  
Jean Thomson  
Jennie Lam-O'Grady  
Jerry Du  
Jesse Moore  
Jessie Atkins  
Jiao Huang  
Jiaqi Wu  
Joel Marc  
Karen Kit  
Karren Donald  
Katherine Hellner  
Keith Newhook  
Kent Gorrie  
Kevin Wade  
Krisztina Szalay  
Lam-O'Grady Family  
Lara Engst  
Laursen Family  
Leah Koehle  
Llano Melina  
Luke Mills  
Madeleine Jang  
Malia Allan  
Mandeep Bains  
Mary Bulman-Fleming  
Michael Gair  
Michael John  
Michalik Family  
Milena Pabla  
Mitozcelle Valenzuela  
Mojgan Ghaffari  
Naser Sharafaddin-Zadeh  
Nate Heagy  
Nate Knight  
Neil Wells  
Nicole Rohani  
Parimal Diwakar  
Penny Barner

Richard Johnson  
Richard Slocomb  
Robert Morris  
Sameer Jinnah  
Samson Mow  
Sarah Laursen  
Saurabh Shukla  
Schmunk, Gatt, Smith & Associates  
Selkirk Waterfront Properties  
Shirin Purewal  
Shuang Liu  
Sidarth Sumesh  
Stefan Kalenchuk  
Steve Hollar  
Steven Madsen  
Stirling Chow  
Sumesh Kariyil  
Sung Il Lee  
Susan Elliot  
Ted Deng  
Trish Aplan  
Vincent Lee  
Warren Bailey  
Wice Family  
Ying Huang  
Yuki Evans  
Zen Tharani  
Zoe Jackson



If you haven't already, please donate now by e-transfer to [accounting@selkirkmontessori.ca](mailto:accounting@selkirkmontessori.ca) or login [here](#). You will receive a charitable receipt and our sincere thanks for your generosity.

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Operated by the Pacific Montessori Society

***We can make a difference!***

[www.selkirkmontessori.ca](http://www.selkirkmontessori.ca)



The focus for Sustainability Club this year has been creating a video series that showcases the sustainable practices of our community and local businesses. Our first interview was with a school favourite - Selkirk Cafe! The students involved interviewed people, filmed, and edited the videos themselves. Please take a [look!](#)

## Dates to Remember

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- June 6—KP Year End Concert
- June 7—Non-Instructional Day
- June 12—Jr Year End Concert (1-4)
- June 14—Sr Year End Concert and Graduation (Gr 5-8)
- June 21—Last Day of School for Students

**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.