



Selkirk Montessori School E-Newsletter

From the Head of School, Erin Hayes

None of us wear just one hat. As parents, we are chauffeurs, cheerleaders, chefs, counsellors – and those are just the responsibilities starting with the letter “c”. As educators, the roles are much the same, with the specialized educational background in the physical, social, and intellectual development of the child. Montessori teachers have the unique lens of being trained in a time tested and science confirmed methodology that is student focused, as well as the desire to keep growing and learning, researching, and incorporating best practice as what we know about education and children changes.

Some known truths that I have learned from the wise teachers at Selkirk Montessori:

Transitions are challenging (both in life and in the moment): Saying goodbye to

your young child at the door is always harder for you than it is for them.

Relationships matter: Students trust and bond with their teachers if they know that their parents trust and respect their teachers.

Timing is everything: A conversation at bedtime will always be more emotional than a conversation in the morning.

Get past mad, sad, glad: Identifying one’s own emotions takes time. It helps when we model and name feelings about our own interactions so students can recognize and consider their own feelings about their reactions.

Growth takes time: School will not be smooth sailing forever in all areas. Those who cruise through some challenges will be met with different adversities later. Our adversities now help us manage and overcome our challenges later.

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“I’m so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers.”

Anne of Green Gables

From the Head of School, Erin Hayes (cont'd)

Change is sometimes uncomfortable: Grade 1/2 is hard. The social dynamics of moving from 1:1 play to group play needs time and calm respect.

Diversity matters: Adolescent respect and acceptance of diversity really is the first stage of truly accepting and being yourself.

Relationships matter: Every kid needs one adult they feel close to at school.

As I am writing this, I am considering, “Why I am I sharing these realizations?” I suppose it is because I worry that Covid protocols won’t allow those so important teacher/parent relationships to develop in the way they usually do. That would be a shame, because whatever your child is going through, I guarantee, that teacher has

been through it with another family (or something very similar) in recent years. They carry a wisdom and a calm belief that inside of every struggle is a lesson that will ease later frustrations, a skill or experience to be applied in years to come.

So, while each child is unique, as are our relationships with them, each child is also part of large community that loves them and has everything they need, when working together, to support them.

“We shall walk together on this path of life, for all things are part of the universe and are connected with each other to form one whole unity. “

Maria Montessori

Provincial Government Employees—TAKE NOTE!

For parents who are provincial government employees, the fall PECSF campaign runs from September 25 to November 9th so if you don’t already contribute, now is the time to sign up.

You can do so via the ‘Donate to the Community Fund’ link on your *Employee Self Service* site. To contribute to Selkirk Montessori, in step 2 of the sign up process, enter ‘Pacific Montessori Society’ into one of the *My Own Favourites* fields.

Your donations will appear automatically on your T4 slip, making tax time a breeze.

For more information on the Community Fund, look here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/careers-myhr/about-the-bc-public-service/corporate-social-responsibility/pecsf>

Annual General Meeting Information



NOVEMBER 24th
6:00 PM (ZOOM LINK TO COME)

The annual general meeting of the Pacific Montessori Society will be held on **Tuesday, November 24th on Zoom**. We will send a link out closer to the date with a variety of documents.

Board treasurer, Francis Rowe, will go over the financial statements for the 2019-20 school year and the approved budget for 2020-2021 will be provided as well. Directors will also have prepared reports for your review

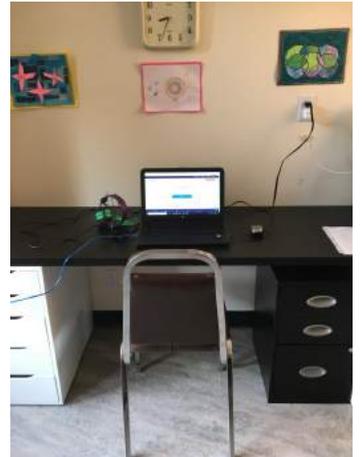
Prospective Board Members

We have two new parents who are interested in joining the board this year. Here is some background info on both of them:

- Greg Atkins—Greg is a partner at Reed Pope Business Lawyers and a father of two Selkirk students, one in the Raccoon class and one in Hummingbird. He describes himself as “highly organized and energetic” and brings a wealth of knowledge in the areas of corporate governance, real estate and employment.
- Julian West—Julian is the founder of Urban Thrive, a social enterprise residential development company. He is also the father of two students at Selkirk, one in Eagle and another in Hummingbird. He describes himself as “knowledgeable and experienced” in a variety of areas that help organizations strengthen their teams and improve performance.
- Courtney (Stewart) Carne—Courtney is a waitlisted parent who wants to volunteer at Selkirk. She has worked in government communications and policy development for eight years and is currently in communications at the Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology. She describes herself as a “dependable, hardworking individual who values mutual respect and teamwork”.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Lara Perzoff for her many years of service on the Pacific Montessori Society Board. She is not running for a third term; however, I am hoping that we can lure her back in the future for another term or two! You ROCK, Lara!

October 2nd Photo Gallery



Above: Mr. C's music class. Below: Katie gives a 'float or sink' lesson to the Eagle class. Left & Top Corner: Chickadees enjoying the afternoon.

Above: Everything is COVID ready for students who need Speech Language Pathology (SLP) services this year.



Above : Someone was excited about losing another tooth today!



Above: One of the beloved Kingfisher Class pets, Kramer.

Selkirk Parent Group (SPG) News

Thank you

Hot Lunch/ Dinner Thank you to our wonderful hot meal team and to the businesses who are helping us this term to try something new!

Volunteers – thank you to all the new class reps and coordinators for volunteering this year!

What's New

Thrifty's Smile Card program

Each year, the Selkirk Parent Group (SPG) raises funds for student activities, equipment and supplies through a variety of fundraising activities. One of our fundraising activities is the Thrifty Foods Smile Cards program. Our current effort under the Smile Card program is raising funds to go towards the purchase of a projector and screen for the gymnasium.



The Smile Card program makes supporting our Selkirk Montessori community as easy as bringing home the bacon, or eggs, or tofu, you get the idea. Funds raised through this program helped the SPG purchase the much loved snug-play playground equipment for the second-floor outdoor play area.

How it works: Thrifty Foods will donate an amount equal to 5% of the amount you load on your Smile Card to the SPG. There is absolutely no cost to you. Take the Smile Card with you to Thrifty Foods when you go grocery shopping. Ask the cashier to load any amount you wish onto the card before having your grocery order rung through. Pay for the card load with cash, debit card or credit card. Ring the grocery order through and pay for the order with your Smile Card. When the card balance is running low, load it again to continue to support the SPG every time you shop! It's that simple!

Your Smile Card can be reloaded year after year, so you don't need to pickup a new card each year. If you need a replacement card or a second one, Smile Cards are available for pickup at Selkirk reception (knock on the front school window and Laura can help you get a card).

Thanks to all for your continued support of this fundraising program.

Wiser WASH disinfecting products fundraiser is ready for orders! <https://spg-fundraising-store.myshopify.com/> Password is: Selkirk2020

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Selkirk Parent Group (SPG) News (cont'd)

Wiser WASH by Draught WISE

is proud to present the next Selkirk fundraiser!

We are very excited to offer our sanitizing and disinfecting products to help raise funds for our school. Especially at a time like this where such products are so important.

With increasing environmental awareness and ongoing regulatory changes, balancing the needs of our families and the environment has become increasingly important. And we have the right solution!

Our line of eco-sensitive GRASSROOTS and TERIGEL products have been specially formulated to meet national standards for green products and will enhance your environment safety. We know there are many 'green' products out there, but here's what is different about ours: they work as well as the less responsible chemical products so you can rest easy!

- Health Canada approved!
- Environmentally responsible!
- Contains no harsh Chemicals or abrasives!
 - Non-Toxic!
 - Child safe!
 - Foodsafe!

(all when used as directed, Of course, still keep out of reach of children)

Check out our products at <https://spg-fundraising-store.myshopify.com/>



Looking for a fun way to volunteer?

If you are interested in getting involved in the SPG it's a great way to get to know other parents and staff at the school. Currently we are looking for SPG Communications rep, Volunteer coordinator, Fundraising rep, Hot Lunch & Dinner volunteers - contact selkirshotlunch@gmail.com

Looking for creative and safe ways to build Selkirk school community connections!

If you'd like more information about volunteering with the SPG, please contact us at SPG@selkirkmontessori.ca

Health & Safety—Karma Wolski

Welcome back everyone!



As you know I have jumped into a new role at the school and I am still on a big learning curve. I am thankful to everyone for their patience and encouragement as I learn the ropes. I hope everyone is starting to find their groove in this “new normal”.

A reminder to all families that we are a PEANUT free school. This includes all derivatives of peanuts. If there are any foods that come into the school in lunches, they will be returned home with a note reminding you that this is not allowed in the school.

There may also be students with other allergies. If there are any allergies in your child’s class, then the classroom teachers will have been in touch with all parents in the class about the food allergies and additional food items that may be restricted on a class by class basis.

This year, due to Covid-19, we are asking that no shared items are brought to school, even for special occasions, such as birthdays or class parties. Thank you for understanding.



As we head into the cooler fall months and we will continue to spend as much time outside as possible, remember to send your child with the appropriate clothing for any type of weather that may come up. This might mean extra layering and a change of clothing for those students that need it, especially for the younger students.

It’s certainly been a different start to the school year, and we do miss seeing all of your faces in and around the building. I wanted to say a big thank you to everyone for doing your part follow the school’s Health & Safety guidelines related to operations during the Covid-19 pandemic.

A reminder that all updated school guidelines and information can be found on our school website.

We appreciate everyone’s efforts to clear the school grounds and surrounding areas at dismissal time. We know it is hard to not hang around and have a quick visit, but we all need to do our part to follow the guidelines and help others in the neighborhood feel safe.

“This is not forever, but it is for now.” ~Bonnie Henry

Take Care Everyone!

Karma

PS I can be reached via email at karma@selkirkmontessori.ca if ever you have questions or concerns.



Home About Community Programs Admissions Club

Health & Safety



Peace Assembly—Hummingbird Class



Despite the pandemic, we were able to celebrate the International Day of Peace thanks to the teachers and children of the Hummingbird morning class! We had a Zoom assembly and every class prepared a Peace poster to share.



“Peace begins with a smile.”
Mother Theresa





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We can make a difference!

www.selkirkmontessori.ca



“Light a candle for Peace
Light a candle for Love
Light a candle that shines all the way around the world.”
Raccoons for peace!

Dates to Remember

- * Monday, October 12—
Thanksgiving Day (no school)
- * Tuesday, October 13—
Individual Student Photos
- * October 19-22—Child Hosted Visits (more info to come)
- * Friday, October 23—Non-Instructional Day (no school for children)

Selkirk Montessori School is located on the traditional territories of the Lekwungen people, today known as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations. We extend our appreciation for the opportunity to live and learn on this territory.