

**SUMMER  
2021**



# Selkirk Montessori School E-Newsletter

## Administration Reminders

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- Have you picked up your yearbook? Contact Laura! Special thanks to Eriko Fedoryshyn for her hard work again this year!
- New families and new siblings: have you given Laura your paperwork and other items yet?
- If your child requires medications at school in September, please ensure that you have an updated prescription. Karma will email medical forms later in the summer.
- New class placements for students in grades 1, 3 and 5 will be available to you when the fall session begins in Transparent Classroom. Beginning August 24th, when you sign into your Transparent Classroom account, you will be able to view your child(ren)'s class.
- Gradual entry has changed for kindergarten/preschool this year. Please check page 5. NOTE: Changes to times for half-day KP! Hours are now 8:45-11:30 am and 12:20-3:05 pm.
- Legion parking passes for the new school year will be available in the office when you come to meet with your teachers in September.
- We will be updated by the BC CDC, WorkSafe and the Ministry of Education in mid August and will be updating all of you as soon as we can.

Here's to a more normal school year in 2021-2022!

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*“It’s summer  
and time for  
wandering.”*

*Kellie Elmore*

# Welcome to Selkirk Montessori School!

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Hello, my name is Etsuko Ito. I am going to be a new teacher in the Eagle classroom this year. Since I have no children of my own, I have always loved the classroom children as if they were my children. I am so excited to join such a cohesive and diverse team of educators at Selkirk Montessori school.

In the year 2000, I finished my Montessori training, followed by becoming an ECE educator in 2009, and obtaining a BC teaching certificate in 2015. During my twenty years of Montessori practice, I have witnessed many students have become passionate learners to explore their life-long educational journeys through the Montessori communities. My goal is always to discover their interests and spark their passion for learning as their first preschool and kindergarten teacher. I cannot wait to get to know all of the students and families from September. I look forward to meeting with you all!



My name is Tanya Tam and I am an early childhood educator. I am thrilled to be joining Katie Wilton and Etsuko Ito in the Eagle Class this September.

From culinary school at Vancouver City College, to UBC and studies in the Cognitive Systems Department, to YiLan, Taiwan where I taught ESL at an international English school, my path has been leading me to education. The best part of my experience in YiLan was the morning English lessons with my group of 3- and 4-year-olds in the "Kindy" program. I felt a deep connection to these young and affectionate children which I have experienced before in my preschool swim lessons and summer day camp programs.

During my ECE practicum placements, I was able to spend 3 weeks at a beautiful Montessori daycare. I was inspired by what I saw in the environment, educators and children and have now started my Montessori 3-6 training. It is a dream come true to be able to join your children at school this September. I look forward to meeting all of you!



My name is Dhana Andison, I am a BC certified teacher and am currently completing my Montessori Early Childhood training. I began working at Selkirk in April 2021, and had an amazing couple of months working in the Chickadee room! I will be back in Chickadee in September.

My happy place has always been working with young children, so I could not be more excited to be returning to Chickadee to teach our kindergarten and preschool friends this year. I have many years of childcare experience behind me, and received my Bachelor of Education of the University of Victoria in 2019. Outside of teaching, I can be found practicing yoga, dancing, roller skating, playing my guitar, hiking, and spending lots of time with my partner and our cat. I hope to see you all around the school soon!

(cont'd on page 3)

## Welcome to Selkirk Montessori School! (cont'd)

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I'm Laura, my friends call me Lau. I will be joining Cassidy and Natalie in the Raccoon Class in September. I have a Geology degree, a Montessori teaching certification for the ages of 3-6 and the Elementary teaching certification for the ages of 6-12.

I was born and raised in Colombia but did most of my education in North America. I've been teaching in Montessori classrooms since 2013. In that time, I've had the pleasure to work with all age groups. When I'm not teaching, I love to design Montessori materials or spend time in nature with my loving and energetic 6 year old son and my husband. I'm very excited to be joining the Selkirk team!



Hello, My name is Natalie and I am excited to join the Selkirk Montessori family. I will be joining the team in the Raccoon Class in September. I have over 9 years experience working as a child educator and specialist childcare worker. I have a love for nature and enjoy sharing my love with outdoor learning.

I am a Mom to an energetic 3 year old and spend the weekends hunting for painted rocks on trails and the beach. I am excited for the 2021-22 school year and making some amazing memories.



Hello, I'm Heidi Howitt. I will be joining Shannon and Sarah in the Cormorant Class in September. I enjoy being on the water whether it's paddle boarding, boating or kayaking. I love to spend time with my family camping or hanging out with friends and family.

I have two boys soon to be 12 and 14 along with two Bernese Mountain dogs. All that keep us very busy!! I look forward to an exciting school year with you all.



Hi! My name is Nikta Sharafaddin and I'm very excited to be joining the Seastar Class as an aide in September.

I am a recent graduate from University of Alberta holding a bachelors degree of Education (elementary). I am grateful for the past opportunities I've had working with children and I am thrilled to put this knowledge into practice this school year. In winter 2019, I travelled to Barcelona, Spain with the International Volunteer HQ to teach English to children in need in public schools for 4 weeks. Additionally, I worked at a non-profit organization this summer called Boys and Girls Club and it taught me a lot about how to

help regulate children's emotions on a day to day basis as well as leading activities. I have a strong passion for cooking, hiking, crafts and any outdoor activities and I am hoping to use these interests in the classroom to connect with students. I am looking forward to a wonderful school year filled with learning and adventures!

## From the Pacific Montessori Society Board of Directors

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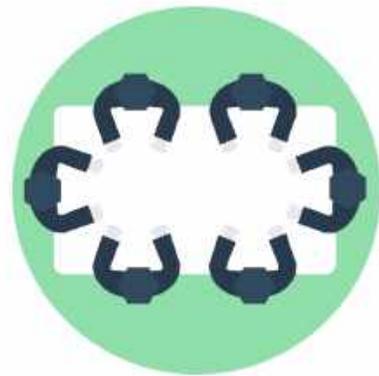
*The Pacific Montessori Society Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on November 10 at 6:00 pm. Depending on circumstances, this may take place online.*

*RSVP penny@selkirkmontessori.ca if you plan to attend. That way, we will have enough chairs and paperwork for everyone if we are onsite.*

*Directors will present reports for the last school year, the 2021-2022 approved budget will be available and our Treasurer, Francis Rowe, will review the financial statements for 2020-2021*

*We hope to have an update on our October strategic planning.*

*As always, our hospitality committee will be providing treats for us to enjoy!*



### **September Professional Development Day**

The first non-instructional day for staff is September 27th. This day lines up with School District #61 (Victoria), which means that our families will be able to access camps/childcare that day.

The Government of Canada has announced a federal holiday for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th. We have put the date in the calendar but are waiting to hear from the Ministry of Education if school calendars will change in response to the federal announcement.

# Timing for Start of School In September



Selkirk is hoping to welcome you back to school on Tuesday, September 7th, the day after Labour Day. In past years, we have learned that a gradual intake of students over the first week makes for a very smooth transition for children and staff alike.

Please read the following schedule closely to ensure your child/ren return to school on the appropriate day. All parents will be contacted by teachers close to the end of the summer and offered a chance to arrange a meeting during the week of September 1st. This is a time for your child to meet their classroom teachers, find out about class routines, check and return forms, get the class calendar and — for Kindergarten/ Pre-school — sign the snack chart.

We recommend that both parents and child attend the meetings. Returning parents, every year is a “new” year for your child at Selkirk. Please make time to meet with the teachers.

## ***PLEASE NOTE SCHEDULE FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS BELOW:***

### **Schedule for the first week of school (grades 1-8):**

- Tues, September 7th—8:45-11:00 am
- Wed, September 8th — 8:45-11:30 am
- Thurs, September 9th—8:45 am-3:15 pm
- Fri, September 10th—8:45-3:15 pm

### **Schedule for the first week of school (Kindergarten/Preschool):**

Tuesday-Wednesday serve as an orientation for NEW students which allows them, in small groups, to become familiar with the classroom and to receive some important presentations on how to use basic Montessori materials. This also gives the new children the opportunity to make friends and become comfortable with routines before the returning K/Ps join us. You will be told if you are Group 1 or 2 at your welcome meetings the week of Sept 1st.

### **Tuesday, Sep 7th - NEW STUDENTS & NEW TO FULL DAY**

- Half-Day Group 1 of new morning children from 8:45-9:45 am; Group 2 of new morning children from 10-11:00 am
- Half-Day Group 1 of new afternoon children from 12:20-1:20 pm; Group 2 of new afternoon children from 1:30-2:30 pm
- Full-Day Group 1 (new to Selkirk) 8:50-9:50 am; Group 2 (new to full day) 10-11 am

### **Wednesday, Sep 8th—NEW & RETURNING**

- Half-Day—8:45 – 10:15 a.m.; 12:20 – 1:50 pm
- Full-Day—Group 1 & 2—8:50-10:20 am; all other returning students—10:30-12:00 pm

### **Thursday, Sep 9th—ALL STUDENTS**

- Half-Day AM—8:45 – 10:45 am; PM 12:20 – 2:20 p.m.
- Full Day—8:50– 12 noon (with their lunches)

### **Friday, Sep 10th—ALL STUDENTS**

- Half-Day AM—8:45 – 11:30 am ; PM 12:20-3:05 pm
- Full-Day—8:50 am—3:00 pm (with lunches)

***IMPORTANT NOTE: BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAMS FOR KINDERGARTEN/PRESCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL DO NOT START UNTIL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH.***



# Grads 2021





Many congratulations to our 2020-2021 Selkirk Montessori School graduates! Special thanks to Diane Hong for the photos. (Not pictured: Eddie Biscoe and Vivienne Thiessen) Sending you all off with love. #SelkirkRocks

## Selkirk Parent Group (SPG) Update

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Thank you...

- \* Class reps for organizing teacher appreciation cards and to Kate for organizing the gifts!
- \* Wonderful Selkirk teachers for a fun and successful year!
- \* Shelly for organizing *Freezies on the Last Day of School* this year and to the teachers for safely distributing freezies in class. It was wonderful to continue this tradition!



Next year we have some fun new fundraisers and continued annual events planned! If you are interested in volunteering, please drop us a line (email address below). Events like the Spaghetti Social, Multi-cultural food fair, Games Nights, Freezies on the Green, and programs like Parent Education and the Hot Lunch Program aren't possible without volunteers.

We are looking for a new Vice Chair for the SPG. (The Vice Chair is the back up for the Chair, they co-ordinate Parent Education sessions and help organize class reps). Being involved in the SPG is a great way to connect with the school through fundraising and community activities and get to know other parents and staff.

Please let us know if you are interested in being a general volunteer or in specific SPG positions. You can email us at [SPG@selkirkmontessori.ca](mailto:SPG@selkirkmontessori.ca)



Back to School BBQ will take place Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> 11:30 – 12:30 on the Selkirk Green. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help! Please remember to plan ahead and bike or walk to the event if you can. There will not be parking available on Jackladder lane from 10 AM – 2 PM to allow for safe movement of students and families between the school and green and for the Grillverado and parents/grillers to cook the food!

# 40th Anniversary Update



D'AMBROSIO



If you haven't already, please consider making a donation to our 40th Anniversary Fundraiser to install a labyrinth in front of the school.

We plan to do the project in two phases. The first phase is the preparation and installation of the labyrinth. The estimated cost for this phase is \$30,000 and, thanks to your generous donations, we have reached our first goal! We're hoping to have permits in place soon and the labyrinth completed late this summer!

The second phase will include wooden bench planters and plantings. The estimated cost for this phase is \$20,000 and we will complete it when the funds are available. 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. Help us celebrate our anniversary and make a difference at Selkirk Montessori School!

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

**Jawl Properties**

**Adax Management (Kees van Linden Tol)**

**Selkirk Parent Group**

**Amabel De Lara and family**

**Shmunk Gatt Smith & Associates**

**Megson Fitzpatrick Insurance**

**Catherine Scorey**

Adriana Alvear

Ah Shar Maya

Amalia Colussi

Amanda Provan

Angie Bull

Angie Huang

Angus Forsyth

Arezoo Zamany

Brenda Stoppell

Cara Jay

Carla Green

Carmelle Hermoso

Catherine Gamroth

Catherine McClarty

Cheryl Brown

Christine Block

David Coney

Derek Fedoryshyn

Dr. Leachman Inc.

Erin Hayes

Georgeann Glover

Jean Thompson

Jennifer Simair

Jennifer Stewart

Jiang Tan

Joanne Kaban

Karma Wolski

Kate McKenzie

Katherine Hellner

Kristin Fleming

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Lillian Barei

Lisbet Rynestad

Lorien Hammond

Marcus Fedoruk

Rich Poulin

Marie Sykes

Matthew Humphrey

Natasha Reed

Newhook Family

Nicole Pan

Novie Dodd

Paul Whittaker

Penny Barner

Rich Poulin

Richard Anthony

Sandra Martel

Sarah Pugh

Sarah van Toorn

Simon Owen Tanya

Tan

Trevor Walker

Vivian Chenard

Wenlong Xu

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



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Operated by the Pacific Montessori Society

***We can make a difference.***

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



We are painting, polishing, washing, cleaning, and repairing to get ready for your return!

## Dates to Remember

Our tentative calendar for school year 2021-2022 is now up on our website. The dates are subject to change, depending on the directions of the Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, and the Ministries of Education and Health:

- Gradual Entry Begins —Tuesday, September 7th
- SPG Welcome Back BBG—Wednesday, September 8th
- Non-Instructional Day—Monday, September 27th

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.