

SUMMER
2025



Selkirk Montessori School E-Newsletter

From the Head of School, Erin Hayes

Ah, summer- time to rest, relax, and recuperate. At least, it is if you are a kid. But even us adults find opportunities to spend a little extra time with our families, making memories and daydreaming about our futures. We look forward to hearing about the adventures, camps, and excitement had by all when our Selkirk families return in September.

Meanwhile, we are busy turning the school over so it is bright, shiny, and welcoming again when we start the new school year.

There are a few staff moving into new positions and they are slowly and purposefully crafting their prepared environments. We put plenty of time and effort into this work over the summer to set students up for success in their transition as they return to school.

Our environments being prepared help staff to feel prepared, which leads to them feeling composed, peaceful, and present as they greet students during those introductory meetings before Labour Day. In turn, this leads to students feeling calm and connected as they anticipate the year to come.

(continues on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Camp Thunderbird Info—Kingfisher Class	3
From the Board of Directors—AGM Update	4
Admin Reminders for September	5
Timing for Start of School	6
Dates to Remember	7

**“Roll out those lazy,
hazy, crazy days of
summer.”**

Sam Cooke

From the Head of School, Erin Hayes (continued)

Parents can partner in this work by reassuring children that they are excited and confident about their child's upcoming school year. Speaking highly about a child's possible teachers—all the possible teachers—also helps transfer that trusted bond they have with you to the other adults who will care for them day in and day out.

Our teaching teams for next year will be as follows.

- Chickadee – Glenys, Iryna, Tanya, Carly (part time)
- Eagle – Etsuko, Natalie, Peter, Karen (part time)
- Hummingbird – Katie, Lia, Angie, Carly (part time)
- Marmot – Doug, Natasha, Suki
- Otter – Beth, Chriselle, Krisha
- Raccoon - Cassidy, Noel, Daisy
- Orca – Liz, Lau, Alex
- Owl – Lana, Chelsea, Shan
- Cormorant – Adam, Brad, Gina
- Sea Star – Nikta, Angela (Danielle once a week), Laura
- Kingfisher – Jhoanna, Shannon, Judy, Devon, and Susan

This summer, we have also had some changes in the office so please pop by to see our refreshed spaces and new staff.

Also, consider supporting Erin Magnus by checking Botany Fern and Flora on socials, as she has revitalized this wonderful business and revisits a different phase of her life!

Taking over from Erin, Carol Marie comes to us with much administrative support experience in local public education.

Please feel free to use the Selkirk Montessori Facebook page to keep in touch over the summer. We love hearing about adventures and miss seeing the students' smiling faces.



Kingfisher Class to Camp Thunderbird!



Packing List

All gear brought on this field study will need to be transported by students independently. Students are completely responsible for their own gear. Reminder that this is a time to be outside and enjoy nature, so no cell phones, Apple watches, i-Pads, etc. are not permitted.

- * Sleeping Bag
- * Fitted sheet for cabin mattress (if desired)
- * Pillow
- * Flashlight or headlamp
- * Small day pack/string bag
- * Raincoat
- * Waterproof shoes with good tread (if desired or own already)
- * Runners
- * Mid-layer (sweater, fleece, sweat-shirt)
- * Undergarments
- * Bathing suit/swim shorts

- * Towel and face cloth
- * 1-2 long sleeved shirts
- * 2 short sleeved shirts
- * Shorts
- * Pants
- * Socks
- * Pajamas
- * Hat/ball cap
- * Reusable water bottle
- * Toiletries (toothbrush/toothpaste, shampoo/condition, deodorant, sunscreen, brush)
- * Prescription medicine, if needed (in original container/dispenser and placed in a Ziploc bag with name clearly written) to be given to designated teacher.
- * Garbage bag (for wet/dirty clothes)



From the Pacific Montessori Society Board of Directors

The Pacific Montessori Society Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on November 26th at 7:00 pm at Selkirk Montessori School. RSVP pjbarner@shaw.ca if you plan to attend.



Directors will present reports for the last school year, the 2025-2026 approved budget will be available and our Treasurer, Francis Rowe, will review the financial statements for 2024-2025. Current directors Piper London and Chris Bechard will be running for another term. We also have two new members of the school community who are interested in running for office at the AGM:

Sameer Jinnah

I am writing to express my interest in joining the Selkirk Montessori Board of Directors. My son, Lach Ian Boon Jinnah, has been a preschool student at Selkirk for the past two years, and we anticipate his continued education at the institution through grade 8.

My primary motivation for seeking a role on the board is to support Selkirk Montessori in its mission to provide exceptional preschool and elementary education in Victoria. I believe that my unique perspective, stemming from Lachlan's upbringing in two single-parent homes and his diagnosis with ASD, can contribute to informed decision-making on matters related to service delivery and budgeting.

In addition to my personal connection, I have a history of active involvement in Victoria's not-for-profit community. I have previously served on the boards of NEED2 Suicide Education and Support and Foundation House (now part of Umbrella Society). More recently, I have volunteered with Our Place and Power to Be on an ad-hoc basis. I am eager to make a meaningful impact in the community by leveraging my skill set, and a directorship at Selkirk Montessori aligns well with my goals.

René Gauthier

My name is René Gauthier, and I'm writing to express my sincere interest in joining the board of Selkirk Montessori School. My son Hiro is currently a Kindergartener and will be entering Grade 1 this fall. As a parent, I've already begun to see how formative these early years at Selkirk are for him — nurturing not only his learning but also his sense of community and belonging. This personal connection has sparked a deep and natural desire to contribute to the future of the school in a meaningful way.

Professionally, I've been an entrepreneur my entire career and do not have a traditional resume. My experience includes founding and leading businesses in the clothing and sustainability space, and I've served on several for-profit boards. I also have a background in raising capital and fundraising, and was a founding board member of the Awi'nakola Foundation, focused on Indigenous-led environmental and cultural renewal.

While much of my experience has been in business, I bring a set of personal values and ways of being that I believe are well-suited to board service at a school like Selkirk. I approach life and leadership with curiosity, tenderness, centeredness, creativity, and playfulness. My particular gift is long-term vision — the ability to hold the bigger picture with care — and I would be honoured to offer that perspective in service to the school when needed.

Administration Notes

Hello Selkirk Families:

Just a few things for you to take care of over the summer months:

1. Missing an instrument, binders or other things you should have taken home? Give us a call at 250-384-3414 and we can tell you if we have them in the office for pickup.
2. New families and new siblings: have you provided all admissions paperwork to the office? We also need your comfort items and photos for the files.
3. If your child requires medications at school in September, please ensure that you have an updated prescription. The office will email medical forms later in the summer.
4. New class placements for students in grades 1, 3 and 5 will be available to you when the fall session begins in Transparent Classroom. When you sign into your Transparent Classroom account later in August, you will be able to view your child(ren)'s class.
5. Legion parking passes for the new school year will be available in the office when you come to meet with your teachers in September.
6. Have you made a move since you filled in your registration forms for 2024-2025? Time to update your main contact information on Transparent Classroom. Please login and confirm that your address, phone numbers and emergency contacts are all up to date for the coming school year

Hope you have a fun and sunny summer holiday!

See you back at Selkirk in September.



Timing for Start of School In September



Selkirk is happy to welcome you back to school on Tuesday, September 2nd, 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 August 25th. 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 pick up Legion parking passes.

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 2nd—8:45-11:00 am
- Wed, September 3rd — 8:45-11:30 am
- Thurs, September 4th—8:45 am-3:15 pm
- Fri, September 5th—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.

- ♦ Tuesday, September 2nd (New children only)
Group 1
8:45-9:45 a.m.
Group 2
10:00-11:00 a.m.
- ♦ Wednesday, September 3rd (New and returning children in separate groups)
8:45-10:20 a.m. (new children from group 1 and 2)
10:30-12:00 p.m. (returning children only)
- ♦ Thursday, September 4th (New and returning children)
8:45-12:00 p.m.
*Please pack snacks and a lunch
- ♦ Friday, September 5th (New and returning children)
8:45-3:00 p.m.
*Please pack snacks and a lunch

IMPORTANT NOTE: BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAMS FOR KINDERGARTEN/PRESCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL DO NOT START UNTIL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH.





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Operated by the Pacific Montessori Society

We can make a difference.

www.selkirkmontessori.ca



As the second stage of changing flooring, at the school, the carpets in the office were replaced over the summer. We are working on a warm and welcoming spot for prospective and current families to enjoy.

Dates to Remember

- Sept 1st—Labour Day
- Sept 2nd—Gradual Entry Begins
- Sept 3rd—Welcome Back BBQ at 11:30 am (Thanks, SPG!)
- Sept 3rd-5th—Kingfisher Class to Camp
- Sept 5th—Grade 3-4 Team Building
- Sept 12th—Grade 1-2 Team Building
- Sept 16th—Parent Orientation
- Sept 22nd—Non-Instructional Day
- Sept 25th—Grade 6 immunizations
- Sept 30th—Truth/Reconciliation Day

Selkirk Montessori School is located on the traditional territories of the Lək^wəŋən speaking people, today known as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations.

We extend our appreciation for the opportunity to live and learn on this territory.