

**NOVEMBER  
2025**



# Selkirk Montessori School E-Newsletter

## From the Head of School, Erin Hayes

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**Mr. Rogers got it right when he reminded us that each of us comes into this world with our own unique strengths and interests — and that we need to begin by recognizing and valuing them. It’s through appreciating our individual selves that we find the courage to take healthy risks and create a more meaningful, fulfilling life.**

**A natural moment for reflection and goal setting often comes when report cards are shared. As you review your child’s report card, start by noticing the qualities and strengths you already recognize and admire in them. Take a moment to truly appreciate that your child has brought these gifts into the school environment — that they have taken the risk of being seen. From there, shape goals together. Notice points of pride and points of frustration as areas to guide your celebrations of learning and to offer guided practice.**

**Perhaps your child has shown great enthusiasm for one subject while seeming hesitant about another. This may signal that they are entering a sensitive period for new kinds of learning. Think of enjoyable, real-life ways to engage in these subjects at home. Provide child-centered opportunities that make learning fun and meaningful — for example, if fractions are coming up, try cooking together and doubling or halving recipes.**

**And remember, by choosing Montessori, you’ve placed trust in the understanding that development unfolds in its own time. Children learn most effectively and retain knowledge best when they are in these natural, sensitive periods for growth.**

(cont’d on page 2)

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**November: A  
Month of  
Gratitude,  
Learning, and  
Community.**

## Message from Erin (cont'd)

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**New this term, is the student voice in each report card. You will have two separate documents published, the progress report and the student self-reflection document. The student's self-reflection will share photo examples and personal reflections in the student's own words about some of the Core Competencies for learning, both growth and goals in those areas. We encourage you to pause and reflect on this document, encouraging your child to share their stories. As they elaborate, you may gain some key insights, as we do, into their learning process.**



**We look forward to seeing you at Parent Teacher, 3-Way or Student-Led Conferences on November 21st. PTC Fast sign up will be out soon through Reception. Have the courage to have hard conversations valuing both yourself and your partner, and the conviction that relationships and people are worthy of critical, creative, and compassionate thoughts. This is at the very core of what makes us all human.**

# Upcoming Assembly and Events

## Remembrance Day Assembly – November 10, 2025

On Monday, November 10, Selkirk Montessori School will hold our Annual Remembrance Day Assembly to honour and remember those who have served and continue to serve for peace and freedom.

Students and staff will come together in reflection, gratitude, and respect as we listen to readings, songs, and moments of silence.



Get ready as our 4th Annual Winter Wonderland Extravaganza is almost here — Saturday, November 15th, from 12–4 PM in the Selkirk Montessori gym!

Hosted by our amazing Grade 8 Leadership students, this festive event will be filled with handmade treasures, delicious treats, and plenty of holiday cheer, all in support of their year-end Field Study to Squamish. 🎁

🚫 Vendor applications are now closed, but we'd love your help spreading the word! Please share our event poster with friends and family to help build excitement and bring in visitors — the more, the merrier!

👋 We're still looking for volunteers, especially booth minders during the event, as well as helpers for setup and cleanup. If you can lend a hand, please reach out to Devon ([devon.b@selkirklearning.ca](mailto:devon.b@selkirklearning.ca)) or Danielle ([learningstrategies@selkirkmontessori.ca](mailto:learningstrategies@selkirkmontessori.ca)).

Come join the fun, support our students, and celebrate the season at Selkirk's most magical event of the year! ❄️

– Devon, Danielle, Susan & the Grade 8 Leadership Students.

# Counsellor's Corner

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## URSTRONG Program

A significant part of each child's experience at school is their social and emotional development. We are fortunate at Selkirk Montessori to have so many wonderful and caring teachers who take the time to support the children in navigating the friendships they make at school. Developing healthy relationship habits starts in the early years, which is why our school uses the URSTRONG program to teach friendship skills. The program's Language of Friendship is first introduced to students in Grade 1 and is revisited each year.

One of the key lessons of the program is teaching the children the 4 Friendship Facts:

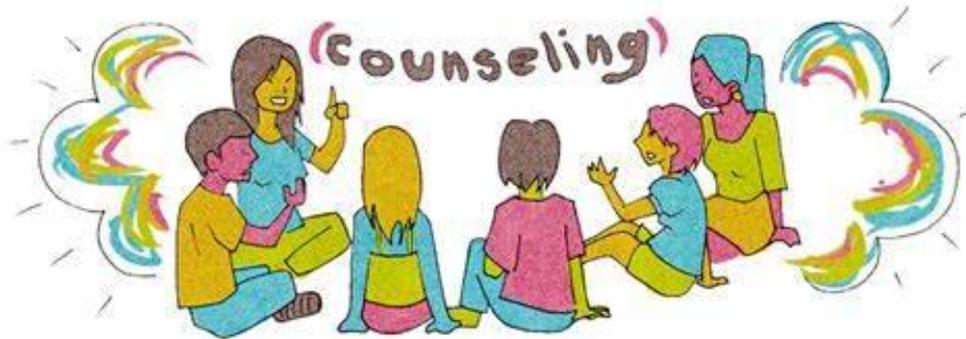
1. No friendship (or relationship) is perfect.
2. Every friendship is different.
3. Trust & respect are the two most important qualities of a friendship.
4. Friendship changes and that's okay.



# Counsellor's Corner

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As parents and caregivers, you can help support your child's social development by familiarizing yourselves with the program's core concepts. The URSTRONG Family Membership is FREE and provides videos, a library of resources, activities, worksheets, and art projects. To access this wonderful resource, visit <https://urstrong.com/parents/>



Helping children learn and practise the Language of Friendship both at home and at school will better equip them to maintain healthy relationships throughout their lives!

Warmly,

Carmelle Hermoso

School Counsellor

[counsellor@selkirkmontessori.ca](mailto:counsellor@selkirkmontessori.ca)

# Selkirk Parent Group (SPG) Update

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Fall means the return of salmon, glossy chestnuts tucked into jacket pockets and leaves, leaves, leaves! Daylight hours may be waning, but we've got some fun planned to brighten the season.



## First Up: Thank You!

Thanks to those who supported the school through the Sun-Oka Farms apple fundraiser. It's our first year running this fundraiser; please let us know what you think of it. Thanks, too, to those who collaborated with the Kingfisher Class to make the annual Halloween Howler such a good howling time.



# Selkirk Parent Group (SPG) Update

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## Board Game Night

This free annual event is such fun! Try a new game or play a familiar one with new friends. Board games are generously provided by Interactivity Board Game Cafe. Swing by the gym on Thursday, November 20, anytime from 5:30 to 7:30. The Kingfisher Cafe will be selling goodies and treats to fuel the fun.

## Watch the Weeklies

Keep an eye on the weeklies and your email for full details on these upcoming initiatives:  
Purdys Chocolates fundraiser - this is a tasty way to help our school because the program gives 25% of the profit back to Selkirk! Order delicious chocolates made from sustainable cocoa for the sweeties on your gift list. Look for vegan and sugar-free options, too!  
McTavish Art Kits - designed and made here on the island, these gorgeous kits have everything you need to get creative: wooden cutouts, paints, glue and instructions.  
Angel Gifts - every year, the SPG collaborates with Our Place Society to sponsor gifts for people who would otherwise not receive anything over the holiday season. It's an opportunity for us to work as a community to create a change in someone's life.

## Key dates for November ...

**Nov. 9 at noon:** orders due for Nov. 14 Pizza Day - order through MunchaLunch

**Nov. 14:** Pizza Day

**Nov. 20: Board Game Night** - meet in the Kingfisher Room for some fun game time and treats from the Kingfisher Cafe

**YAY! IT'S A PIZZA DAY 🍕**

**14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2025**



# EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

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Our school community came together for a spooktacular Halloween Howler celebration, filling the day with creative costumes, laughter, and festive fun. The excitement was contagious as students enjoyed a variety of thrilling games, delicious treats, and plenty of Halloween spirit throughout the event. From spooky decorations to imaginative outfits, it was wonderful to see everyone's creativity and school spirit shining brightly. The celebration truly captured the joy of the season and reminded us how special it is to come together as a community to celebrate our fun and festive traditions.



# EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

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## Spooky Fun at Halloween Howler's: Tricks, Treats, and Big Smiles



**It's the Otter class flying their bats that they built for an ADST challenge.**

# EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

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**Marmot & Otter Class Historical Halloween**



# EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

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## Halloween Fun at School!

**On October 31st, our students and staff celebrated Halloween with excitement and creativity! Aww... look at Franky, Tobi, and Holly! Aren't they just the cutest in their Halloween costumes? While Carmelle and Franky totally stole the show with their perfect sunflower and bee combo! The day was filled with fantastic costumes, festive activities, and lots of laughter. From spooky decorations to fun classroom events, everyone enjoyed the spirit of the season while making wonderful memories together.**

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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The Pacific Montessori Society’s Annual General Meeting will take place in person at the school on Tuesday, November 18th.

During the meeting, Board Treasurer Francis Rowe will present the 2024–2025 financial statements and share the approved 2025–2026 budget. In addition, directors will provide their reports for review.

We’re pleased to announce that two school parents, Sameer Jinnah and Rene Gautier, are running for election to the board, while current director Piper London is seeking a third term. Our heartfelt thanks go to Chris Bechard for his dedicated years of service—your contributions have truly made a difference!

If you plan to attend, please email [pjbarner@shaw.ca](mailto:pjbarner@shaw.ca) so we can prepare the appropriate number of chairs and information packages.

# LIBRARY NOTE

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## Fall Scholastic Book Fair Success and Gratitude

Hello to our lovely, well-read, Selkirk community,

From quiet moments of reading and discovery to the sugar rush of new and brightly coloured books and toys our annual Fall Scholastic Book Fair was another incredible success! Our first THANK YOU goes to our Kingfisher students who worked like roadies behind the stage of a rock star setting up posters, helping set up, tear down and any random task I could think to delegate. My next THANK YOU goes to ALL the family volunteers who came out to play - and there were many of you - THANK YOU! I cannot and will not do this without your support. For all of those who wanted to volunteer but were turned away, please come back out for the RUSSELL BOOKS BOOK FAIR in February!



We sold over \$7000.00 worth of Scholastic books and merch and that translates into, roughly, \$1500.00 to fund our classrooms and library. Fortunately, and incredibly timely, Orca Books held their Family and Friends 40% off sale (still running until November 7th) right around the same time and we were able to take full advantage. I get a real sense of satisfaction taking the money we earn supporting a huge company like Scholastic and then turning around and using the money to support our local bookstores and booksellers. This ensures that we fill our kid's shelves with beautiful, quality books and resources.

Thank you so much for supporting your children in their reading journeys. It truly is a joy to witness.

See you in February!

Bree and Toby



2970 Jutland Road  
Victoria, BC V8T 5K2  
250-384-3414 (tel)  
250-384-3420 (fax)  
office@selkirkmontessori.ca

*We can make a difference!*

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



Don't forget to bring in your donations for the Community Fridge!

## Dates to Remember

- \* November 4 to November 7  
Classroom -Observations
- \* November 7 - Lockdown Drill
- \* November 10 -  
Remembrance Day  
Assembly
- \* November 11 -  
Remembrance Day  
(Holiday)
- \* November 14 - Pizza Day
- \* November 18 - Board Meeting
- \* November 21 - Progress Conferences (NID)
- \* November 26 – Fire Drill

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