

**DECEMBER
2025**

It's the
SEASON
to be
JOLLY

Selkirk Montessori School E-Newsletter

From the Head of School, Erin Hayes

A season of celebrations is upon us. At this time of year, communities around the world mark winter with celebrations that centre on **FAMILY, LIGHT, and GIVING**—whether through cultural traditions, religious observances, or family customs. However you and your family choose to celebrate, we hope the season brings warmth, connection, and joy.

Our Selkirk Gives Light campaign will kick off on December 1st. We hope that our bulletin board in the front hall will inspire your **FAMILY** to high**LIGHT** the ways you are **GIVING** back to your community. Students are encouraged to record the way they are bringing **LIGHTness** to others through **GIVING** of themselves as they take part in this holiday season. Each school day, a different group of students will announce the spark for the day over the PA system. Children will have from that day until the 18th to fulfill an act of kindness that relates to that spark and then post them on our board to inspire one another. Let's see how much **GIVING** and love Selkirk can send out to Victoria this December.

Our annual holiday concerts offer a wonderful opportunity to gather as a community. Please join us on Tuesday, December 16th (Grades 1–4), Wednesday, December 17th (Grades 5–8), or both, to enjoy the stylings of your beautiful children. It will be a night to remember, so bring your cameras. A big thank you to both of our music teachers, Kristen and Mr. C, who put so much work into these nights. Additionally, keep an eye out for the Sing Along and Cookie Exchange dates for Hummingbird, Chickadee, and Eagle classrooms...

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**December:
A month of
joy, hope
and new
beginnings.**

Message from Erin (cont'd)

When the festivities at school conclude, the staff would like to wish you and yours a restful break and a happy holiday season. We hope it is full of festivity, family, friends, and most of all - light.

Our Tiny helpers brought such joy and heart to a simple fall task as they helped rake up the autumn leaves. With little hands, big smiles and a beautiful spirit of teamwork, the children turned the leaf pile into a place of laughter, connection and care for their environment. It was a heartfelt reminder of how pure and meaningful childhood moments can be when we learn and grow together outdoors.



Together, We Can Turn Books Into Gifts!



3 Books = 1 Gift The Challenge Continued

Every week 1000X5 Children's Book Recycling Project donates 800 of your books. Join the hundreds of families who have taken the three book challenge. As we head into the holiday season, many families appreciate a bit of help with gifts. And what can be a better gift than a bag of 3 books for babies and toddlers? Every month 1000X5 pops 2400 books in 800 gift bags. In the last three weeks, hundreds of books have arrived for the weekly Wednesday sorting by 10 dedicated volunteers. Drop your books for babies and preschoolers off in the pink bin at the front entrance just outside the office.

Pacific Montessori Society

Board of Directors Chair, Penny Barner

At a meeting of the Pacific Montessori Society in November, the directors approved tuition increases of \$310/annum for preschool and 5% for kindergarten, elementary and middle school programs for 2026-2027.

The increase in tuitions was approved specifically to continue to support our incredible staff, who are the heart and soul of Selkirk Montessori. In particular, we wanted to assure our dedicated educators that the directors are committed to continuing to improve their salaries, especially given the contracts and negotiations in the public system.

An updated schedule of fees will be available in January 2026. If you have any questions, please email erin@selkirkmontessori.ca or accounting@selkirkmontessori.ca.



Counsellor's Corner



Social-Emotional Support at Selkirk

At Selkirk Montessori, students are provided with direct instruction on Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) topics through various SEL programs such as Second Step, UR STRONG, and Open Parachute. However, developing social-emotional skills requires ongoing support, discussions, and organic day-to-day interactions. The students are fortunate to have so many adults at school to turn to for support in resolving conflicts, managing difficult situations, and developing confidence to do hard things.

In some cases, students may find it helpful to access school counselling for support with their friendships, feelings, and challenges. This school year, we were fortunate to add a new member to the student support team. Kaylee List has joined us as a Social-Emotional Education Assistant (SE-EA) and is under my supervision to complete her practicum hours for the Child and Youth Care Program at the University of Victoria. As my practicum student, Kaylee will be providing social-emotional support to students throughout the school. This support may be in the form of individual check-ins, small group activities, or in-class assistance. We hope you will give Kaylee a warm welcome!

A message from Kaylee:



Counsellor's Corner

Hello Selkirk Community!!

Some of you might have seen me last year in the KP classrooms or in the extended day program. I've returned this year as a social emotional support assistant! I'll be spending my time providing direct support when needed or floating around from class to class to be an extra adult in the room for support.

I'm also a 4th year student in the Child and Youth Care (CYC) program at UVIC, and my work this year at Selkirk will be satisfying my 3rd practicum. My values align with my relational approach to practice, and I pull from inclusive, equitable, trauma-informed, strengths-based and decolonial perspectives and approaches. My ultimate goal is to make everyone I work with - students, colleagues, and families - feel welcome and to foster a sense of belonging!

I look forward to learning alongside you all for the remainder of the school year!

Kaylee

If you have any questions about SEL programming or student support services at our school, feel free to reach out!

Warmly,
Carmelle Hermoso
School Counsellor
counsellor@selkirkmontessori.ca

Selkirk Parent Group (SPG) Update

Blink... and now it's December!

Weren't we just checking school supply lists and buying shoes for feet that had grown a full size over summer?

Our lives are busy, but there's always time for a gratitude pause. Thank you, dear community, for the time and energy you have put into supporting SPG activities and efforts. Our fundraisers and events are all about fostering a community that uplifts our children and each other. Thank you for being part of our wonderful extended family!

Board games night

Thanks to everyone who came out to last November's game night, and to the lovely folks at the Interactivity Board Game Café, who supplied games. With tasty offerings from the Kingfisher Café, and a wide selection of games, the night was good fun!



Selkirk Parent Group (SPG) Update

December happenings

Angel gifts - thank you to Erin W. for leading this initiative, Class Reps for coordinating with each class, families for contributing, and kids for wrapping and decorating. This is truly a community effort!

Watch for information coming about a community education night

Teacher & staff appreciation

Watch for information from class reps about electronic cards and optional donations to celebrate our teachers, support and administrative staff this holiday season. Please do sign the cards! Student and family messages, photos and fun gifts make these cards so meaningful to the teachers and staff.

Key dates for December...

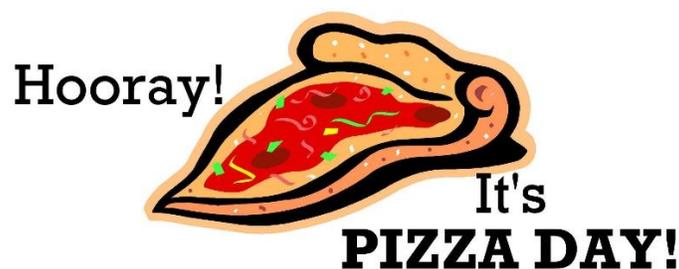
Dec. 5 at 12 noon: orders and payments due for Dec. 12 Pizza Day

Dec 5 at 3pm -Dec 18 at 12 noon: ordering for term 2 hot lunches, with payments due Dec. 18 at noon; lunch deliveries begin on January 5 (the first day back at school after winter break) and run until spring break

Dec. 8: pick up Purdys & McTavish art kit orders

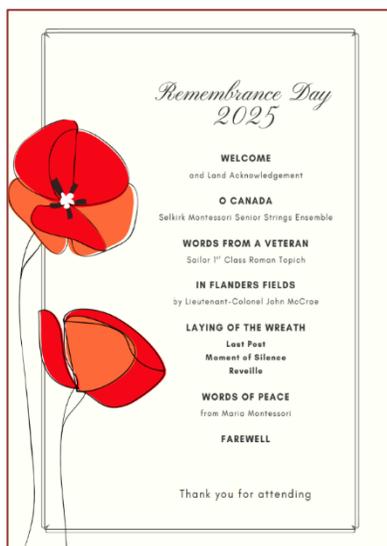
Dec. 12: Last Pizza Day of 2025

December 12, 2025



Assemblies and Observances

This year's Remembrance Day assembly was thoughtfully hosted by the Cormorant Class, who created a meaningful and reflective experience for our school community. As everyone entered the gym, all were welcomed with a special invitation letter, setting a respectful tone for the ceremony. The assembly began with a Welcome and Land Acknowledgement, followed by a beautiful performance of O Canada. We were honoured to hear words from a veteran, Sailor 1st Class Roman Topich, who shared his experiences and reminded students of the importance of recognizing the sacrifices made by those who have served followed by a moment of silence to honour the sacrifices made by veterans, active service members, and all those who have served in the pursuit of peace. The assembly continued with Words of Peace from Erin Hayes, emphasizing the values of empathy, global citizenship, and peaceful conflict resolution—principles that guide our school community. The event concluded with a brief Farewell, and attendees were thanked for taking part in this important day of remembrance.



Events & Activities



The Kingfisher class hosted their Kingfisher Café serving baked goods and hot drinks to families and students before school. Students managed the café themselves — greeting customers, taking orders, handling payments, and serving treats like brownies and cinnamon buns.

The event created a warm, busy, and friendly atmosphere, with many families stopping by to support the class. It was a great example of teamwork and community spirit at Selkirk Montessori.



Our Middle School basketball team has been off to a fantastic start this season! The players have been working hard, showing strong teamwork, determination and great sportsmanship on and off the court. Guided by their dedicated coach, the team continues to grow in skill and confidence with every game. We're proud of their commitment and the way they represent Selkirk Montessori School

Events & Activities



Our 4th Annual Winter Wonderland Extravaganza was a wonderful success! Thank you to all the families, staff, and community members who joined us in celebrating. A special congratulations to our Grade 8 Leadership students, whose hard work and enthusiasm made the event truly shine.

We are grateful to the volunteers who supported the booths and assisted with setup and cleanup—your help made a big difference. All proceeds from the event will support the Grade 8 year-end Field Study to Squamish.

Thank you for contributing to such a joyful and memorable school community event!

Winter Concert Information



Grades 1 – 4 Concert

December 16th: 6PM Concert

Strings: 5:30PM Arrival – Come to the Library for tuning!

All students: 5:45PM Arrival

Grades 5 – 8 Concert

December 17th: 6PM Concert

All students: 5:30PM Arrival

Concert Attire Grades 1-8:

Nice button up shirt (colourful is fine)

Nice dark pants or skirt

Black Jeans, Nice Khaki's

Colourful dress, or skirt (with leggings)

Suit

Tuxedo

Bright coloured scarf

Santa Hats

Reindeer antlers

selkirk
MONTESSORI
school

Selkirk Gives Light



Mark your calendars ✦

Tuesday, December 16:
Grades 1-4

Wednesday, December 17
Grades 5-8

Come join us for an evening of music,
laughter and community.
Cameras welcome!

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



Please make sure you bring everything home before the break! Our **Lost & Found** is brimming full of winter clothes!

Dates to Remember

- * December 2 - Board Meeting
- * December 12 – Pizza Day and Fire Drill (K/P Only)
- * December 16 - Junior Winter Concert
- * December 17 -Senior Winter Concert
- * December 18 - School Wide Pajama Day
- * December 19 - First Day of Winter Break
- * January 05 – Classes back in Session

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