

**JANUARY
2026**



Selkirk Montessori School E-Newsletter

From the Head of School, Erin Hayes

As we welcome a new year at Selkirk, I'm delighted to invite all families to our Open House and Transition Night on January 22nd. This annual event is a wonderful way to reconnect after the winter break, celebrate the growth we've witnessed so far, and look ahead to the many opportunities still to come. It also provides a chance for those curious about Montessori education to step inside our classrooms and experience firsthand the thoughtful, purposeful learning that defines our community.

One of the highlights of the evening is always our Grade 8 student leaders. Each year, they guide guests with confidence and warmth, modelling the integrity, independence, and mentorship we strive to cultivate from the earliest years. Their presence is a reminder of the long arc of Montessori learning—how small steps taken with care eventually grow into strong, capable leadership.

Our school is unique in bringing together Preschool/Kindergarten, Elementary, and Middle School programs under one roof, each deeply rooted in Montessori philosophy. This structure allows families to see the full continuum of development: the curiosity of our youngest learners, the expanding competence of our elementary students, and the emerging maturity of our adolescents. During the Open House, students share meaningful work that reflects not only what they are learning, but how they are growing as thoughtful, responsible members of their community.

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**January: A
month of
new chances,
new smiles
and joyful
learning.**

Message from Erin (cont'd)

The Transition Night portion of the event offers a glimpse into what lies ahead for your child as reregistration comes to a close. As students progress through our programs, they gradually assume greater ownership of their learning—developing strong work habits, personal integrity, and a sense of purpose. This steady, supported journey prepares them not only for academic success, but for a life filled with curiosity, compassion, and confident decision-making.

We look forward to welcoming you on January 22nd—to connect, to celebrate, and to explore the exciting pathways that await your child at Selkirk.



Welcome Baby June!

Congratulations to Carly on the arrival of her beautiful baby girl, June! Wishing Carly and her family lots of love, joy and wonderful memories together as they begin this exciting new chapter. 🧡

Pacific Montessori Society - Board of Directors

As you know, one of our top priorities at Selkirk Montessori is to deliver a quality education in a cost-efficient manner. Board members are also mindful of the significant contribution made by parents and, accordingly, we seek to keep fee increases to a minimum.

At a meeting immediately following the AGM in November, the directors approved tuition increases of \$330 for Preschool/ Kindergarten and 5% for 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 want to assure our dedicated educators that the directors are committed to continuing to improve their salaries given current contract negotiations with BC Teachers.

This has resulted in the following fee adjustments:

- * Full Day Preschool: \$ 13,810 (before rebate)
- * Full Day Kindergarten: \$12,110
- * Elementary/Middle: \$12,060

The Family Statement of Commitment, which you sign each year, is still in force. We need the school, parents and child to work together to develop a healthy respect for the common expectations of the school and to employ the resources deemed necessary by the staff for the success of the child.

Anybody with questions or concerns regarding changes to the Schedule of Fees, the Family Statement of Commitment or the Registration process is encouraged to contact Erin Hayes at erin@selkirkmontessori.ca and Sara McCormick at accounting@selkirkmontessori.ca



Counsellor's Corner



ERASE = Expect Respect & A Safe Education

Erase is an initiative provided by the BC Ministry of Education and Childcare. The program provides annual training and resources to K - 12 educators, counsellors and administrators in the province of BC. In addition to a wide variety of information, resources, and tools, the erase website provides free trainings and workshops for both caregivers and students.



Topics featured on the erase website include:

Diversity and inclusion

Mental health and substance use

School and online safety

Feeding Futures

Indigenous Education

Online Safety Trainings

The erase program, in collaboration with Safer Schools Together and the International Center for Digital Threat Assessment, will be offering free online family sessions. These sessions were designed to support families and caregivers in navigating the digital world. Below are descriptions of the two free courses currently available:

- ***Establishing Safe, Caring, & Respectful Digital Communities***

This session covers all things digital, from how to be a good digital citizen, the criminal consequences of cyberbullying, and how to report and receive support in cases of sexting/sextortion.

Counsellor's Corner

- *Some of the most prominent concerns currently surrounding use of social media platforms, smartphones, and artificial intelligence will be discussed.*

The course is intended for:

Parents/Caregivers/Grandparents and youth aged 10 and up

To learn more and register, visit: <https://pages.saferschoolstogether.com/erase-family-session>

- **Establishing Family Practices for Safeguarding Against Cyberbullying and Sextortion**

This session covers the global issue of bullying, as well as cyberbullying within the Canadian context. The presentation highlights warning signs for if someone is experiencing cyberbullying behaviours, and the steps to take if you are a victim of cyberbullying behaviours.

The presentation also explores sextortion, explaining how it occurs, key apps you should be aware of, the role of artificial intelligence in this issue, as well as the necessary steps to take if you are a target of sextortion.

The course is intended for:

Parents/Caregivers/Grandparents and youth aged 10 and up

To learn more and to register, visit: <https://pages.saferschoolstogether.com/erase-establishing-family-practices-for-safeguarding-against-cyberbullying-and-sex-tortion>

If you your child need additional support or resources, do no hesitate to contact me at the email address below.

Warmly,
Carmelle Hermoso
School Counsellor
counsellor@selkirkmontessori.ca

Selkirk Parent Group (SPG) Update

A New Year has begun, a new school term is underway - what better time to get involved with the Selkirk Parent Group (SPG)? There are so many ways to help out. Attending an SPG meeting is the best way to hear about volunteer opportunities ... But if fitting in a meeting doesn't work for you, don't let that stop you! Send us a line anytime, and we're sure to have a volunteer opportunity that fits your schedule and skills: SPG@selkirkmontessori.ca.



Watch for it ...

January on the South Island means garden planning time! Whether you grow in plant pots, garden beds, or expired bike helmets (great hanging baskets!), our spring **West Coast Seeds fundraiser** is a great way to get growing. Keep an eye on the weeklies for full details.

The pies continue ... **Term 2 Pizza Days** will be January 30, February 20 and March 13. Pizza aficionados can order for all three pizza days at once. Not sure you want to commit to all 3 days? Order for just the individual dates you want.

Beautiful wooden **McTavish Art Kits** will be on sale again - be on the lookout for more details soon.

Key dates for January ...

Dec. 19 @ 3pm to Jan. 5 @ noon: Ordering for all Term 2 Pizza Days

Jan. 5: Hot lunch deliveries start, continuing through to Thursday, March 12 (the Thursday before spring break)

Jan. 9 to 13: Late ordering for term 2 hot lunches (deliveries start Monday, Jan. 19)

Jan. 13 to Feb. 3: West Coast Seeds fundraiser

Jan. 16 to 26: Ordering for the January 30 Pizza Day

Jan. 22: Stop by our table at the open house

Jan. 30: Pizza Day

Assemblies and Observances

🎵 Grades 5–8 Concert – December 17th

Our senior students delivered a polished and confident performance that showcased their musical growth and teamwork. Arriving early for preparation, students ensured they were ready to shine on stage. The concert highlighted their dedication and skill, impressing families and friends alike. Students demonstrated strong performance skills and ensemble coordination.

Festive attire, including bright scarves and seasonal accessories, added charm and spirit to the evening.

The energy and professionalism of the students created a memorable concert experience for all.

👏 Well done to all senior students! Your hard work and commitment to music were truly inspiring, and your performance made the concert an outstanding success.



Assemblies and Observances



Grades 1–4 Concert – December 16th

Our junior musicians wowed the audience with their enthusiastic and joyful performances! The students arrived early to tune and prepare in the library, showing responsibility and excitement. Their hard work throughout the semester was evident as they performed beautifully, with energy and smiles lighting up the stage.

Students tuned their instruments and practiced with focus before the concert. Concert attire added a festive touch – Santa hats, reindeer antlers, and colorful scarves made the performance extra special. The audience responded with applause and cheers, celebrating the students' dedication.



Events & Activities



Winter Classroom Concert – Our Little Ones Shine!

❄️ Our youngest students brought holiday cheer to the classroom with their Winter Concert! They sang, played simple instruments and performed with big smiles and excitement. Festive outfits, sparkly hats, and bright scarves made the day even more special.

👏 Well done to all our little performers! Their joy and energy made the classroom celebration truly magical.



Events & Activities



A Grinchy Storytime in the Gym!

🎄 This week, all our students gathered in the gym for a special Grinch storytelling session! Everyone enjoyed listening to the Grinch bring his story to life, filling the room with laughter, excitement, and holiday cheer.

👏 A fun and festive experience for all! Students left with big smiles and the spirit of the season in their hearts.

Events & Activities



Kid's Night Success! 🎉

Our Leadership Class hosted a fantastic Kid's Night on Friday, December 12, filled with fun, movies, and great snacks—including pizza, juice, and popcorn! Students did an excellent job demonstrating ROCKS behaviour, making the evening enjoyable for everyone.

Thank you to our families for your support. All proceeds will support our Blessing Bags Project and help fund graduation activities.

A big congratulations to our Leadership Class for a fun and successful event! 🙌



Registration for 2026-2027



Re-Registration

Re-Registration

Please check your email on the first day of school after we return from the holidays for a link to the re-registration package. As space is limited in some of our programs, the deadline to submit your re-registration is Friday, January 30th.

Siblings

If you are a returning family and have a new sibling to enroll for the 2026-2027 school year, please email Radhika Baranwal at adminassist@selkirkmontessori.ca for a separate priority Application link. Again, the deadline for submission is Friday, January 30th.

Bursaries

Families requiring a bursary for the 2026-2027 school year, please email erin@selkirkmontessori.ca for the application forms. This paperwork must also be completed and returned by the January 30th deadline to be considered. Please note, we do not have bursaries for preschool programs.

Waitlisted Children

We will be in touch with families on the waitlist by mid to late February. Please be patient...but don't hesitate to contact us if you are anxious! We are always happy to hear from parents that they are still keen to get their child(ren) enrolled.

Not Returning

The decision to move a child from one school to another is never an easy one; however, should you decide not to return to Selkirk for the 2026-2027 school year, we'll be sorry to see you go! We ask that you inform us as soon as possible. It has been our experience that children become confused when they are told they are making a move. They wonder, "Is Selkirk still my school? Is there any reason to keep working hard here? Do I still have to follow the rules of the school?" We want to ensure that your child's experience at Selkirk is a positive one, right down to their last day of school. It's a fact of life that some of you will be leaving. Come talk to us about making the transition an easy one for your child, for their teachers and for the school community as a whole.



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



Thanks to Fairway Market for generously supporting food security in our school.

Dates to Remember

- * January 05 – Classes back in Session
- * January 09 – Fire Drill (School Wide)
- * January 12 – K/P Observations 2026
- * January 13 – Board Meeting
- * January 22 – Open House and Transition Night
- * January 30 – Registration Deadline for 2026-2027

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