

APRIL  
2026



# Selkirk Montessori School E-Newsletter

## From the Head of School, Erin Hayes

It has been delightful to see students enjoying the refreshed Checkerboard space. The project took patience, cooperation, and collaboration but to wonderful results. Our sincere gratitude for the local company, Kinsol, for creating the beautiful design. The city worked with us for this unusual project, being on city land but refreshed by the school. After all the work on design and installation, the city saw the potential of the space and added more finishing details. Play matters and this has been a wonderful enhancement to the play happening at recess.



Speaking of play, another type of playing is becoming increasingly important at this time of year. As we move into the final stretch of the year, we are excited to be preparing for two important musical milestones at our school: the Senior Musical and our year-end concerts, including the Graduation Concert. These events are a celebration of not only performance, but of growth, commitment, and community.

Music plays a powerful role in shaping a vibrant school culture. It engages students physically, emotionally, and even spiritually, while offering a clear and tangible example of how dedication leads to progress. In music, students quickly discover that improvement is not about innate talent or luck, but about consistent effort and practice. With regular rehearsal, they can hear and feel their own development—in tone, memory (both mental and physical), and technical skill.

Just as importantly, music teaches students how their individual contributions impact the group. When each student commits to practicing, the entire ensemble is strengthened. This shared responsibility builds a deep sense of connection, accountability, and pride.

(cont'd on page 2)

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April reminds us that Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's begin again."

# Message from Erin (cont'd)

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Here's a simple way to bring this learning to life at home: at the start of the term, record a short video of your child playing a piece or singing a song. Then, set a regular practice schedule and record the same piece each week. Watching these recordings over time allows students to see and hear their own progress, reinforcing the value of steady effort. It also helps them develop an awareness of how they contribute to the overall sound of the group.

While music is a valuable skill in its own right, it also provides a meaningful platform for conversations about perseverance, excellence, collaboration, and communication. We encourage you to open your calendar, create a consistent practice routine, and let music support your child in becoming a confident and capable learner—both in the arts and beyond.



## **A Big Thank You from the Owl Class!**

The Owl Class is thrilled with the new play structure! Students are having a fantastic time at recess, exploring and playing every day. A big "Thank you!" to everyone who made this possible!

## **Books Donated by our school as of April 2026**

Braefoot	5060
Campus View	7876
Cloverdale	3990
Craigflower	1918
Doncaster	10867
Eagle View	6197
Early Childhood	257
Empire Donuts	1542
Former	22564
Frank Hobbs	4365
George Jay	2791
Glenlyon Norfolk	9115
Hillcrest	9591
Individual	9707

# Message from Erin (cont'd)

James Bay	4537
Lake Hill	3849
Library	3515
Macaulay	4968
Margaret Jenkins	10304
Marigold	4962
McKenzie	7393
Northridge	4757
Oaklands	5032
One time	9090
ORCA	53196
Pacific Christian	4433
Purchased books	60585
Quadra	5707
Rogers	7980
Rotary	4826
Selkirk Montessori	8833
Sir James Douglas	15893
South Park	3708
St Josephs	2437
ST Margarets	2770
St Michaels	2870
St Patricks	2234
Strawberry Vale	7293
Sundance	1023
Tillicum	4993
Torquay	8367
Unkown sources	8895
Vic West	7745
View Royal	7163
Willows	14263
	375198

389461

Thank You Thank You Thank You

**Thanks to you, 1000X5 has been sending books to families with babies and preschoolers for 15 years reaching a total of 390,000!!!!**



**Selkirk Montessori School has donated 8833 books (and counting).  
Take your extra baby and preschooler books to the pink bin outside the office.  
Help change a child's future.**

# Counsellor's Corner

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## Mental Health Resource: Open Parachute

One of the resources we use as a school is called Open Parachute, a mental health skills program developed by a team of clinical psychologists, educators, program developers, and filmmakers. This program provides schools with documentary film clips centered around real experiences of children and youth. In addition to lessons and resources for teachers, our school's Open Parachute subscription also provides families with access to caregiver resources, videos, and trainings modules. Some of the caregiver topics include:

- Building Resilience
- Teaching Empathy & Accountability
- Healthy Habits with Social Media
- Building Self-Esteem
- Coping with Anxiety & Depression
- Teaching about Boundaries & Consent

To access Open Parachute's caregiver resources, please visit:  
<https://learn.openparachuteschools.com/parent/login>

Warmly,

Carmelle Hermoso

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

# Selkirk Parent Group (SPG) Update

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Spring is in the air ... and as the weather warms, the days lengthen and the flowers bloom, creativity blossoms as well. Read on for information about our annual Art Cards fundraiser and other SPG activities.

## **Art Cards (or Puzzles or Magnets or ...)**

Our annual Art Cards fundraiser is a colourful way to support our students. Children in all grades prepare a special piece of art specifically for this fundraiser. You'll be able to order cards featuring their artwork, and many other items, too: puzzles, keychains, magnets, blankets, mugs ... Even if you don't order anything, you'll have the artwork to keep!

If you do choose to order something, remember to **return the artwork to the school** so it can be scanned. Don't worry, you'll get it back when your order is filled. Artwork will come home on **Wednesday, April 15** and needs to be back at school **Monday April 27**, with your items ready to pick up in May - watch for more information closer to those dates.

## **Spring Social on May 2!**

Do join us for this fun evening! It's a great way to connect with the community before the end-of-year activities ramp up in June. There are many opportunities, large and small, to help out ... but most of all, we'd love to have your smiles and energy fill the space. Watch the weeklies and your email for full details.

## **Key Dates for April ...**

April 1 - 14: Ordering and payments for the Parachute Ice Cream gift card fundraiser

April 2: Pick up Purdy's orders (reminder: school is closed Friday, April 3)

April 9: SPG meeting at 6:00 pm

April 10 - 13: ordering for April 17 Pizza Day

April 15: Artwork for Art Cards fundraiser goes home

April 17: first Pizza Day of term 3

April 27: Art Cards orders must be in, and artwork is due back at school for scanning (pick up your items in May)

# Assemblies and Observances

Immersion Week was a truly exciting and memorable experience as students dove into a wide variety of engaging and hands-on activities. Throughout the week, children explored new interests, discovered hidden talents, and developed important skills in sessions such as Paws, Diving, Circus, Karate, Glass Class, Fly Fishing, Read and Review, Robotics, Foodies, Leisure Sports, Party Games, Styling, Fitness and Acrobatics, Pottery and Painting, Puzzling, and Fabulous Felting.

From creative arts and crafts to sports, movement, and problem-solving challenges, each activity encouraged curiosity, teamwork, and self-expression. Students not only learned new techniques and strategies but also had the opportunity to collaborate with peers, share ideas, and celebrate their accomplishments. Immersion Week provided a rich and inspiring environment where every child could explore passions, try new experiences, and make lasting memories, all while having immense fun in a supportive and joyful community.



# Assemblies and Observances



Throughout the week, the atmosphere was filled with laughter, curiosity, and collaboration. Students were encouraged to step outside their comfort zones, discover hidden talents, and celebrate each other's successes. Whether it was the joy of mastering a new skill, the excitement of trying something completely different, or the satisfaction of creating something beautiful with their own hands, Immersion Week offered meaningful experiences that inspired confidence, creativity, and a love of learning.



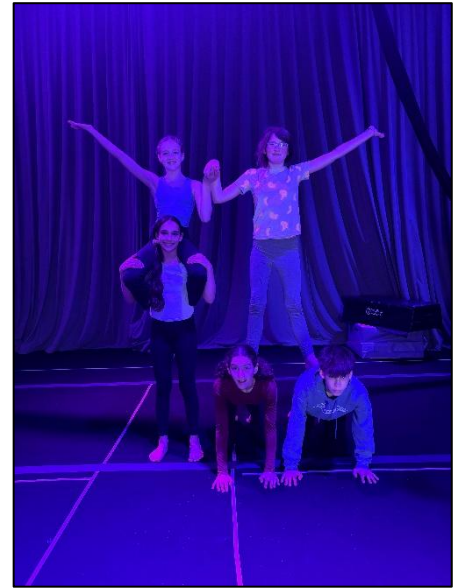
# Assemblies and Observances



Charlotte was all smiles as she held one of the service dogs, clearly enjoying the moment. Her happiness was contagious and brought extra warmth to Immersion Week. It was a joyful sight that everyone loved seeing.



# Assemblies and Observances



Immersion Week was not only a chance to learn new skills, but also an opportunity for students to collaborate, support one another, and celebrate creativity in many different forms. It was wonderful to see students so engaged, curious, and proud of what they accomplished throughout the week. We look forward to many more inspiring learning adventures like this in the future.



# Events & Activities

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## Jump Rope for Heart Event

**Our school recently participated in the Jump Rope for Heart event, and it was wonderful to see students having so much fun while staying active and supporting a great cause. The children enjoyed jumping, cheering each other on, and learning about the importance of keeping their hearts healthy.**

**A big thank you to Danielle for organizing this fantastic event. Your effort and dedication made the day enjoyable and meaningful for everyone!**



# Grade 5/6 Spring Clean-Up & Bake Sale

The Grade 5/6 students are hosting a **Spring Clean-Up & Bake Sale** from **April 8–10** in the gym to fund their year-end trip to **Camp Barnard**. Families can **shop for secondhand treasures and baked goods (by donation)** and drop off **quality donations**—books, toys, clothing, and household items—**March 30–April 2** at the gym doors. Every contribution helps make their trip possible! 🌱 🍪



**Selkirk Montessori's**  
**Spring Clean-up & Bake Sale**

**Funds raised will help pay for the grade 5/6 year-end camping trip to Camp Barnard.**

**Donations:**  
We are accepting gently used items - toys, books, household items, and clothing.

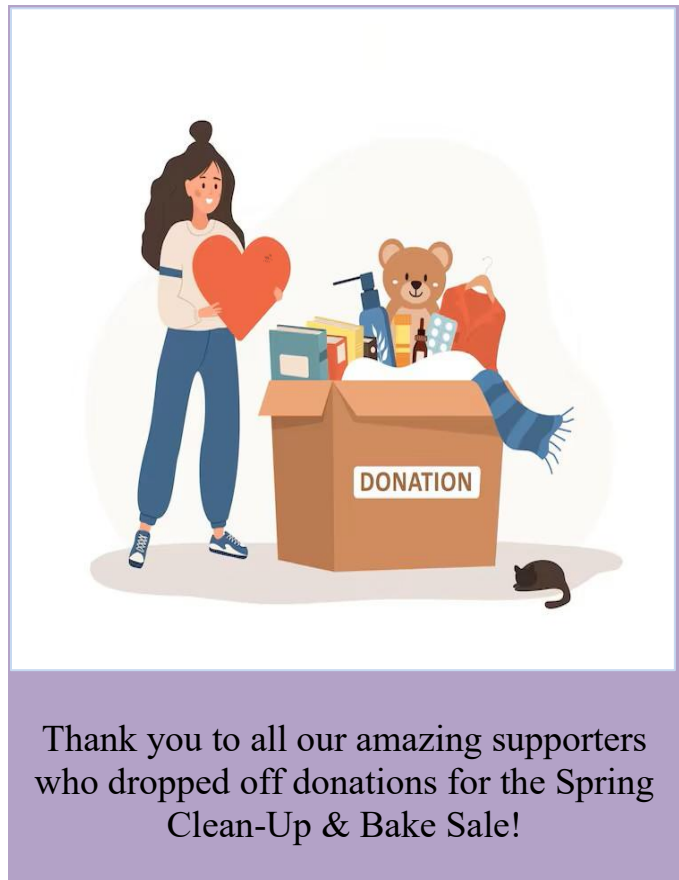
**Drop-off Dates:**  
March 30th to April 2nd  
8:20-8:45am at Jackladder Lane

**Shopping Dates:**  
April 8 - 8:15-8:45am & 3:15-4pm  
April 9 - 8:15-8:45am & 3:15-4pm  
April 10 - 8:15- 8:45am

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*We can make a difference!*

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



## Dates to Remember

- \* April 08 to April 10 – Spring Clean Up & Bake Sale
- \* April 10 – Fire Drill (SCHOOL WIDE)
- \* April 17 – Science Fair 2026
- \* April 22 – Earth Day Assembly
- \* April 28 – Board Meeting – April 2026
- \* April 29 – Senior Musical 2026
- \* April 30 - Class Photo Day 2026

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.