

JUNE
2026



Selkirk Montessori School E-Newsletter

From the Head of School, Erin Hayes

How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard. ~Carol Sobieski and Thomas Meehan, Annie

As another school year draws to a close, we find ourselves preparing to say goodbye to an extraordinary group of graduates. To our students, families, and staff, thank you for making Selkirk Montessori School the vibrant and caring community that it is. While graduation marks the end of one chapter, we hope each of our graduates knows that Selkirk will always remain a place where they belong, and we feel deeply fortunate to have shared in their educational journeys.

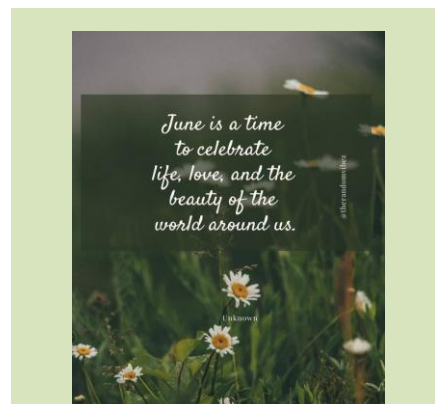
This year, we celebrate one of our largest graduating classes to date — a remarkable and diverse family of students whose paths, passions, personalities, and perspectives have enriched our school community in countless ways. Many of these students began their journeys at Selkirk in preschool, growing here over many years into thoughtful, capable, and compassionate young people. Together, they have helped shape the culture of our school through their curiosity, creativity, leadership, humour, empathy, and willingness to support one another.

As they move on to a variety of schools and new experiences, we know they will continue to leave meaningful impressions wherever they go. Whether through athletics, academics, the arts, service, leadership opportunities, debate, music, community involvement, or quiet acts of kindness, each graduate carries unique strengths and gifts that will contribute to the communities they join. Their varied interests and perspectives remind us that there is no single path to success, and we are proud of the authenticity and confidence they have developed during their time at Selkirk.

(cont'd on page 2)

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Message from Erin (cont'd)

We look forward to celebrating these graduates together during the second half of the Senior Concert evening. We warmly invite all staff, students, and families to join us as we honour this exceptional group and mark this important milestone in their lives. Our hope is that the evening reflects the spirit of this graduating class: joyful, reflective, inclusive, and full of possibility.

To our graduates: we hope you leave Selkirk with fond memories, lasting friendships, and confidence in the strengths you have developed here. May you continue to approach the world with curiosity, compassion, courage, and an openness to new perspectives and evolving relationships. **Aashoka, Alex, Ameer, Asher, Cameron, Egan, Eli, Eric, Holden, Kallisto, Karman, Keerat, Kieran, Kohen, Landon, Lily, Molly, Natalie, Noah, Olivia, Penelope K., Penelope M., Sophia R., Sophia W., Suraiya, Tobiah, and Vincent** your high schools are lucky to have you and we know you will leave a positive impact on your new communities. Know that Selkirk will always be your home and you are welcome to visit anytime!

To everyone who has contributed to making this year possible — students, staff, and families alike — thank you. Selkirk Montessori School is truly a special place because of the people within it, and we eagerly look forward to all that lies ahead.

“Go confidently in the direction of your dreams.” – Henry David Thoreau



Message from Erin (cont'd)

The Selkirk Montessori Admin Team wishes our dear Judy a wonderful retirement. We send Judy off with well wishes and are excited that she will continue to support the school transforming and building core components of the adolescent program in Kingfisher, and maybe even a little teaching. Her joy for service learning and lasting personal connections are two of her legacies and will positively impact students for years to come. Thank you, Judy!



Pacific Montessori School

Board of Directors Chair – Penny Barner

Director Wanted!

The Pacific Montessori Society (PMS) invites applications from committed, energetic individuals who want to be part of shaping the future of the Selkirk Montessori School by serving on the Board of Directors.

This is an excellent opportunity for you to meet and work with people who share your interest in, and commitment to, Montessori education. In addition, you will have the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge in new areas and contribute to the governance of PMS. Board terms are for three years, effective November 2025. Meetings are held monthly, except for July and August. Currently, meetings are on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm at the school.

A promotional poster for Selkirk Montessori School. The top left features the school's logo, a tree icon, and the text "Selkirk Montessori School". The main headline is "DIRECTOR WANTED!" in large, bold, blue letters. Below this, it says "Help shape the future of Montessori education." and "APPLY TODAY! Make a difference. Build our future." with a small icon of two people. At the bottom left, there is an email icon and the address "pjbarner@shaw.ca". The background of the poster shows a woman and a man smiling as they interact with three children at a table with Montessori materials. A dark blue banner at the bottom contains the text "Be part of a dedicated community. Support children. Strengthen our School." with a small leaf icon.

at

Please prepare a brief written submission expressing your interest and attach a copy of your resume. Each submission must be accompanied by a letter of support from a non-related Society member in good standing and delivered to the School offices no later than 3:00 pm on June 19, 2026. Selected information from your resume and letter will be distributed to the membership prior to elections at our next Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November.

No submissions or nominations will be accepted at the AGM. Contact pjbarner@shaw.ca if you have any questions.



Healthy Screen Habits



With summer break just around the corner, I imagine families are gearing up for summer camps, vacations, and outdoor adventures. Some families may also be preparing to spend more unstructured time at home. Either way, many children might end up having more pockets of free time and more access to screens over the summer months. To support families in building healthy screen habits, **Kelty Mental**

Health provides recommendations on two main factors, **screen time and screen quality**. Read below for excerpts from their online article: <https://keltymentalhealth.ca/healthy-screen-habits>

Question: *How much time should children and youth spend on screens?*

Answer: *It might be helpful to know that [screen time recommendations](#) vary by age:*

- *For children under the age of 2, experts recommend that they not spend any time on screens.*
- *For children ages 2 to 5, less than 1 hour per day is recommended.*
- *For school age children and youth over the age of 6, no more than 2 hours per day of recreational screen use (outside of schoolwork) is [recommended](#).*

Counsellor's Corner

Question: What is 'quality' or healthy screen use?

Answer: These are experiences with technology that improve health, happiness and motivation – and have a positive effect on your child's mental health.

- Examples of quality screen use are:
- connecting with friends and family (video chatting with grandparents)
- being creative (music, photography, design projects)
- self-care (a mindfulness app or online yoga class)

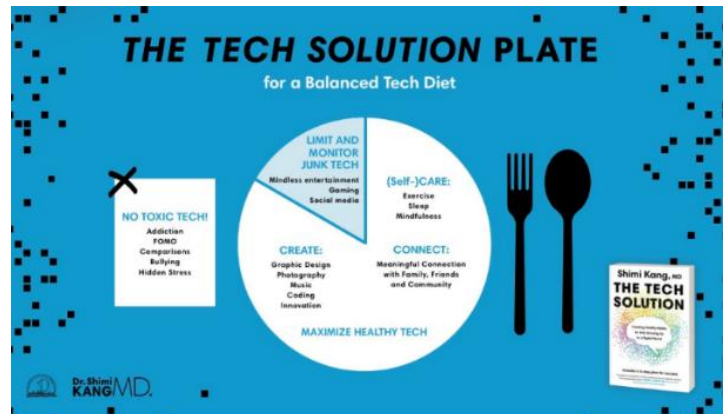
Positive experiences on screens should leave your child feeling happy, excited, confident, or calm. Consider observing your child when they are on a screen. What do you see? Are they laughing and having fun? Are they smiling and feeling light? What does their body language show you?

On the other hand, unhealthy screen use can have a negative impact on your child's mental health and wellness. It increases the risk for anxiety, depression, addictive patterns, etc.

- Examples of unhealthy screen use are:
- mindless scrolling
- social media including 'FOMO' (fear of missing out)
- comparing our lives to others online
- cyberbullying

Another way to think about 'healthy' vs. 'unhealthy' technology use is through this [Tech Solution Plate](#) resource, which breaks down technology use into:

- 'healthy' tech use (connecting, creating, self-care)
- 'junk' tech use (mindless scrolling)
- 'toxic' tech use (bullying)



Counsellor's Corner

Other helpful resources on building Healthy Screen Habits:

- [BC Healthy Living Screen Free Resources for Parents and Children](#)
- [Big Life Journal Screen Time Kit](#)
- [Family Media Plan](#)
- [Keeping Tech in Check Podcast](#)

If you have any questions or would like more information or resources, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Happy summer!

Carmelle Hermoso
School Counsellor
counsellor@selkirkmontessori.ca

Selkirk Parent Group (SPG) Update

As another school year wraps up, we're sending our deep gratitude to:

- All our SPG volunteers, who help in an untold number of ways throughout the year;
- All the parents, grandparents, friends, extended family and others who support our fundraisers and events throughout the year;
- All school staff, who work to support our fundraisers and invest energy in our social events in a multitude of ways;
- Our Hot Lunch Vendors, some of whom have been with us for a very, very long time and are instrumental in keeping our largest fundraiser going!

We appreciate your energy and enthusiasm, and the children appreciate the enrichment you've helped provide. Together, we help create a supportive, friendly and kind school community.

We'd Love Your Help

We have two very fun events coming up - Freezies on the Green and the Back-to-School BBQ - and we'd love some more helpers to make them a success.

- **June 19**, at Freezies on the Green: there's no better volunteer position than putting a freezie in the hand - and a smile on the face - of a child. Or, actually, hundreds of kids.
- **Late August and early September**, at the Back-to-School BBQ: we have an event lead, but could use more helping hands

We're also looking for a new SPG chair, a volunteer coordinator, and additional help with hot lunches. For more information about these and other volunteer opportunities, reach out to: spg@selkirkmontessori.ca.

Key Dates for June & September ...

- June 4: SPG meeting at 6 pm
- June 5: Last Pizza Day of the year
- June 19 (last day of school): Freezies on the green, starts at 3:00 - everyone welcome! Come say, "Happy summer" to friends and teachers
- Sept. 9: Back-To-School BBQ starts at 11:30 - come catch up with friends in the September sun

Events & Activities

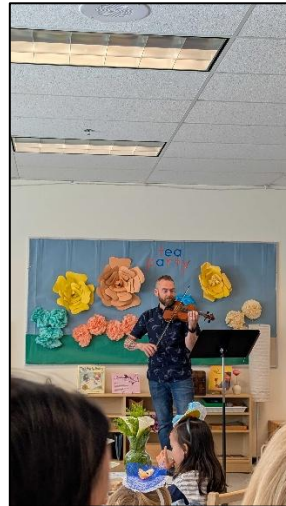
Kindie Concert

Our Kindie students put on a wonderful performance at the Kindie Concert, bringing joy and excitement to everyone who attended. Through songs, dances, and creative performances, the children showcased their confidence, enthusiasm, and talents.

Parents, teachers, and friends enjoyed watching the young performers shine on stage. Their hard work, energy, and bright smiles made the concert a memorable event for all.



Events & Activities



Spring Tea Party

Our Pre/K Spring Tea Party was a heartwarming celebration held by our Eagle Classroom. With their tiny hands and big smiles, the children proudly served tea and treats to their parents creating many special memories. Members of the office staff were delighted to join the festivities, and a special thank you to Mr. C for providing beautiful music throughout the morning.

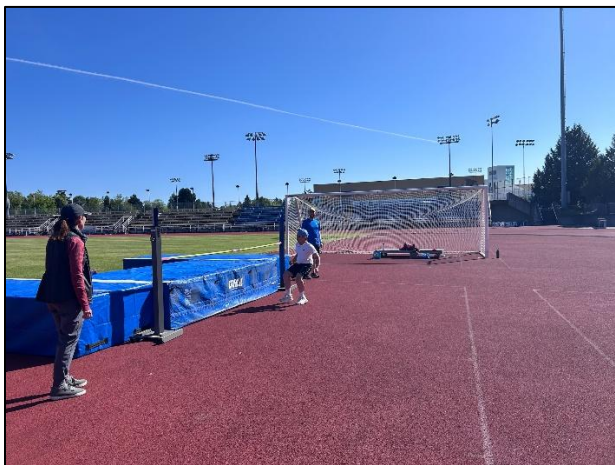
Events & Activities



Track and Field

Our students took part in the Track and Field events with great enthusiasm and effort. Many students performed well, and some won their events. Everyone showed good sportsmanship and made the event enjoyable.

Congratulations to all participants!



Events & Activities



Badminton Team Achievement

Our badminton players displayed excellent skill, determination, and sportsmanship during the school's badminton matches. The competition was exciting, with students giving their best effort on the court. Several players emerged as winners, while all participants demonstrated great enthusiasm and teamwork. Congratulations to the winners and all the players for making the event a success! 🏸 🏆



Summer Music Camps



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SCHOOL**

SUMMER MUSIC CAMPS



**FUN & CREATIVE
MUSIC CAMPS FOR
PRESCHOOLERS, KIDS
AND TEENS!**

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2024**

**SMALL
CAMP
SIZES!**

**COME PLAY
WITH US!**

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- ✓ Rock Band ages 6-12
- ✓ NEW Piano Quest ages 6-10
- ✓ NEW Swifty Music Camp ages 5-10
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More Information 250-590-9095 info@tabermusic.com



Annual Calendar 2026-2027

Selkirk Montessori School 2026-2027 CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER							07	Labour Day
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	09-11	Kingfishers to Camp
		1	2	3	4	5	15	Parent Orientation
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	21	NID
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	30	Truth & Reconciliation
20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
27	28	29	30					

OCTOBER							12	Thanksgiving Day
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	16	Great Canadian Shakeout
				1	2	3	23	NID
4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
25	26	27	28	29	30			

NOVEMBER							11	Remembrance Day
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	27	Progress Conferences
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
29	30							

DECEMBER							18	School Wide PJ Day
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	19	First Day of Winter Break
		1	2	3	4	5		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
27	28	29	30	31				

JANUARY							01	New Year's Day
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	04	First Day Back 2027
					1	2	21	Open House and Transition Night
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	29	Reregistration Deadline
10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
31								

FEBRUARY							12	NID
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	15	Family Day
	1	2	3	4	5	6		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
28								

MARCH							08-12	Immersion Week 5-8
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	15	Spring Break Begins
	1	2	3	4	5	6	26	Good Friday
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	29	Easter Monday
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	30	No School
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	31	First Day back
28	29	30	31					

APRIL								
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S		
				1	2	3		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
25	26	27	28	29	30			

MAY							21	NID
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	24	Victoria Day
						1		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
30	31							

JUNE							10	Senior Concert & Grad
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	11	NID
		1	2	3	4	5	18	Last Day of School
6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
27	28	29	30					

School in Session	Reporting Publishing
Non-Instructional Days	November 27th
Statutory Holidays	March 12th
	June 18th

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office@selkirkmontessori.ca

We can make a difference!

www.selkirkmontessori.ca

A Gentle Health Reminder

As we approach the busy final weeks of the school year, we kindly ask families to keep children home when they are feeling unwell. While we know it can be disappointing to miss special events and activities, this simple step helps reduce the spread of illness and protects members of our community who may be more vulnerable to infection. Thank you for your care and cooperation in helping keep our school community healthy.



Dates to Remember

- * June 06 – Kingfisher Annual Duck Race
- * June 09 – Junior Year End Concert 2026
- * June 11 – Senior Concert and Graduation 2026
- * June 12 – Non-Instructional Day 2026
- * June 15 to June 17 – Kingfishers to Squamish 2026
- * June 17 to June 18 – Grades 5-6 to Camp 2026
- * June 19 - Last Day of School 2026
- * June 23 - Board Meeting - June 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.