

**SUMMER
2026**



Selkirk Montessori School E-Newsletter

From the Head of School, Erin Hayes

Ah, summer - a season to rest, recharge, and reconnect. At least, that's often true if you're a child! Even for the adults in our community, summer offers welcome opportunities to slow down a little, spend time with family and friends, make lasting memories, and dream about what lies ahead.

We look forward to hearing all about the adventures, camps, travels, discoveries, and quiet moments that filled your summer when our Selkirk families return in September. While many of you are enjoying a well-earned break, our staff will soon be busy preparing for another wonderful year of learning. Classrooms are being thoughtfully refreshed, materials carefully organized, and prepared environments intentionally crafted to warmly welcome students back. A few staff members are also settling into new roles, bringing fresh energy and excitement to their learning communities.

In Montessori education, we know that a carefully prepared environment supports much more than academic success. It helps teachers begin the year feeling organized, confident, and present, allowing them to greet each child with calmness and intention. In turn, students can transition into the new school year feeling secure, connected, and ready to learn.

Families play an important role in this transition as well. Children naturally look to the important adults in their lives for cues about what to expect. Speaking positively about the upcoming school year and expressing confidence in the teachers and learning community helps children approach September with excitement rather than uncertainty. Even if classroom placements have not yet been announced, speaking warmly about all of the wonderful educators at Selkirk helps foster trust and reinforces the sense that every teacher is someone who will care for, support, and believe in them throughout the year.

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**Let your
dreams
shine as
brightly as
the summer
sun.**

Message from Erin

As we prepare to come back together as a community, September is also a wonderful time to revisit one of the foundations of Montessori education: Grace and Courtesy. Our classrooms, hallways, playgrounds, parking lot, and gathering spaces are all shared environments where each of us has an opportunity to contribute to a culture of kindness and respect. Simple acts—offering a warm greeting, waiting patiently, speaking thoughtfully, holding a door, including others, respecting shared spaces, and assuming positive intentions—help create a community where everyone feels safe, welcomed, and valued. Children learn these lessons most powerfully by watching the adults around them, and we are grateful for the many ways our families model patience, empathy, and respect each day.

We can't wait to welcome everyone back for another year of curiosity, growth, and joyful learning together. We will send out a link to book your welcome back meetings the week before Labour Day and look forward to seeing families who are available, and find the meetings helpful, then.

Our teaching teams for next year will be as follows.

Chickadee – Glenys, Tanya, Angie and Jessa

Eagle – Etsuko, Peter, Iryna, Karen

Hummingbird – Katie, Lia, Natalie, Daisy

Marmot – Doug, Natasha, Suki

Otter – Beth, Chriselle, Krisha

Raccoon - Cassidy, Noel, Alex

Orca – Liz, Lau, Emma

Owl – Lana, Chelsea, Shan

Cormorant – Adam, Brad, Laura (part time)

Sea Star – Nikta, Angela, Gina

Kingfisher – Jhoanna, Shannon, Cassandra (welcome!), and Susan (part time); with special guest support from Judy

Please feel free to use the facebook page to keep in touch over the summer. We love hearing about adventures and miss seeing the students' smiling faces.

Selkirk Parent Group (SPG)

About the Selkirk Parent Group (SPG)

As parents and caregivers of children in the school, you are all members of the Selkirk Parent Group (SPG). The group is an independent committee of the Pacific Montessori Society, led by a volunteer executive. It has two main goals:

- Raise funds to support our students, and
- Via caregiver involvement, foster an inclusive, effective school community...

[Have a look around our website](#), to learn more about what we do and how we support our students (hint: bus rides to and from swimming lessons!).

Getting Involved

Starting in September, the SPG meets roughly monthly throughout the school year. Our meetings are relaxed and full of laughter! They're a great way to learn more about what we do. Email spg@selkirkmontessori.ca to get the full meeting details—you're welcome to attend and just listen in!

Meetings aside, there are a multitude of ways to get involved. Watch for information in these monthly school newsletters and through emails.

Already familiar with the SPG and some of our activities? We'd love help with:

The Back-to-School BBQ happening Wednesday, September 3 at 11:30 on the green

Class reps, who share regular updates and reminders with classes throughout the year

The Hot Lunch Program, starting up soon after school is in session

An SPG Chair, a Volunteer Coordinator ... and more! Reach out about other open positions or attend one of our meetings.

Volunteering with the SPG is a great way to meet other caregivers, support our kids, and build community. See you out there!

Hello Selkirk Families!
A FEW SUMMER REMINDERS

As we head into the summer break, here are a few things to keep in mind before we return to school in September:

- 1 MISSING SOMETHING?**
Did your child leave behind an instrument, binder, or other belongings? Give the office a call at **250-384-3414** to check if we have it waiting for pickup.
- 2 NEW FAMILIES & NEW SIBLINGS**
Please make sure all required admissions paperwork has been submitted to the office. We also need your child's comfort items and photos for their school files.
- 3 MEDICATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER**
If your child will need medication at school, please make sure you have an up-to-date prescription. Medical forms will be emailed by the office later this summer.
- 4 CLASS PLACEMENTS**
Students entering Grades 1, 3, and 5 will be able to see their new class placements in Transparent Classroom when the fall session begins. Please check your account later in August to view your child(ren)'s class.
- 5 LEGION PARKING PASSES**
Parking passes for the new school year will be available at the office when you come in to meet with your teachers in September.
- 6 UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION**
Have you moved or had any changes to your contact information since completing your 2026-2027 registration forms? Please log in to Transparent Classroom and make sure your address, phone numbers, and emergency contacts are current and accurate.

Wishing all our families a fun, relaxing, and sunny summer holiday!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING EVERYONE BACK TO SELKIRK IN SEPTEMBER!

Graduate 2026



A Heartfelt Congratulations to Our Graduate 🎓

As you take this next exciting step, please know that saying goodbye is never easy. Watching you grow, learn, and become the wonderful person you are today has been such a special part of our journey at Selkirk Montessori School. Although you are graduated and beginning a new chapter, you will always be a part of our Selkirk Montessori family. Your laughter, your smile, and the memories you've created here will stay with us and we will truly miss you. Congratulations on this beautiful milestone. We are so proud of you and can't wait to see all the wonderful things your future holds. **Once a Selkirk Montessori student, always a part of our family.** ❤️



Timing for Start of School in September

Welcome Back to Selkirk Montessori!

Selkirk is happy to welcome you back to school on **Tuesday, September 8th**, following the Labour Day long weekend.

In past years, we have learned that a gradual intake of students over the first week makes for a very smooth transition for everyone.

Please read the following schedule closely to ensure your child/ren return to school on the appropriate day.

All parents will be contacted by teachers close to the end of the summer and offered a chance to arrange a meeting during the 1st week of September. This is a time for your child to meet their classroom teachers, find out about class routines, check and return forms, get the class calendar, and pick up Legion parking passes.

We recommend that both parents and child attend the meetings. **Returning parents, every year is a “new” year for your child at Selkirk. Please make time to meet with the teachers.**

PLEASE NOTE THE SCHEDULE FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS BELOW:

Schedule for the First Week of School — Grades 1–8

- **Tuesday, September 8th:** 8:45–11:00 a.m.
- **Wednesday, September 9th:** 8:45–11:30 a.m.
- **Thursday, September 10th:** 8:45 a.m.–3:15 p.m.
- **Friday, September 11th:** 8:45 a.m.–3:15 p.m.

Schedule for the First Week of School — Kindergarten/Preschool

September 08, Tuesday and September 09, Wednesday serve as an orientation for **NEW students**, which allows them, in small groups, to become familiar with the classroom and to receive some important presentations on how to use basic Montessori materials. This also gives the new children the opportunity to make friends and become comfortable with routines before the returning K/P students join us.

Tuesday, September 8th — New Children Only

Group 1:

8:45–9:45 a.m.

Group 2:

10:00–11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, September 9th — New and Returning Children in Separate Groups

New children from Groups 1 and 2:

8:45–10:20 a.m.

Returning children:

10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Timing for Start of School in September

Thursday, September 10th — New and Returning Children

8:45 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Please pack snacks and a lunch.

Friday, September 11th — New and Returning Children

8:45 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Please pack snacks and a lunch.

IMPORTANT NOTE

All Before/After School Care Programs will not begin until Monday, September 14th.





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We can make a difference!

www.selkirkmontessori.ca



New/Returning Families,
If you received an email requesting a **Comfort Kit**, please make sure to bring and submit it to the office during the **first week of school**.

Dates to Remember

- * September 07 – Labour Day
- * September 08 – Gradual Entry Begins
- * September 09 – Welcome Back Barbeque / Kingfishers to camp
- * September 15 – Parent Orientation
- * September 18 – Soccer Jamboree (Gr 4 & 5)
- * September 21 – NID (Non-Instructional Day)
- * September 22 – Terry Fox Assembly
- * September 23 – Ultimate & Cross Country
- * September 29 – Parent Education Night
- * September 30 – Truth & Reconciliation Day

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.