



Selkirk Montessori School E-News

Final Auction Update!



Our recent "Get Up And Go" fundraising auction was a rousing success. We raised more than **\$13,000** towards the purchase and installation of a climbing wall for the gym!! It looks as though we may also be able to afford to purchase a golf package to further enhance our physical education program.

The organization, set up and running of the auction was top notch! Congratulations to Auction Committee Chair MaryEllen Bercier and her enthusiastic team of volunteers, including Alex Planeta, Carmen Wear, Colleen McDonald, Jennifer Gunning, Natasha Reed and Valerie LeBlanc. Special thanks to Linda Dombrowski for her dedication and support of this important school event!

Our remarkable hospitality committee, ably coordinated by Brenda Young, Galia Artzy and Dominga Passmore, provided a spread that was more than worth the price of admission! Thanks also to

the Mariott Hotel, Rathskeller, the Bayanihan Community Centre, Sante Gluten-Free Café, Gladys Hozack, Lenore Santos, Luz Santos and the Sianen Family for their delicious contributions.

Cheers to our music teacher extraordinaire Brooke Maxwell and bassist Joey Smith for making beautiful music together for us.

Thanks also to our many staff and parent volunteers. From soliciting and bringing in the donations from our community supporters (Louise, once again you have exceeded expectations in this department!), to welcoming guests, to working in the cash room, to bagging items, to coordinating the silent auction to helping with set up and clean up, it was an outstanding group effort.

Finally, kudos to those who came, brought friends and enjoyed the evening! Ultimately, you made the hard work and effort worthwhile.

Check out more auction photos on page 7!



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"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

William Butler Yeats

Family In Need



This time of year, we become more aware of families who need assistance and support in our community. Many of us will volunteer our time or contribute money to help.

We are asking you to consider making a donation this year to help one of our own. There is a family in our Selkirk Montessori community who is going through a difficult time and the holidays will be especially bleak for the children.

We are hoping to be able to collect enough money to purchase gifts and treats for them. Perhaps instead of buying a gift for your child's teacher, you would contribute that money to the family in need fund? It doesn't take much to make a big difference!

Clubs Corner—Basketball

Thanks to Maria Montessori Academy for hosting a basketball "friendly" on November 24th at their school.

"Coach" Doug Sharp and our Athletic Director Brian Empey organized the visit and we look forward to a return engagement at Selkirk soon!

Thanks also to parents Dina Wood, Kanne Arbour-Boehme and Susan Lucato for volunteering to drive the players to MMA.



Remembrance 2011

This year, our Remembrance Day assembly was organized by Margie and Arlene's grade five/six class and Jean and Jasmine's kindergarten/preschool 3 morning class.



Thanks to our music teachers, Kristen Birley and Brooke Maxwell, and the choirs for their wonderful musical contributions. We were very fortunate to have Selkirk Montessori grandparent Arthur Rowe Sr. play the Last Post on his trombone.

Thanks also to Selkirk parent Mike Mitchell for acting as master of ceremonies for the event.

Our very special guests for the ceremony were Maurice "Migs" Turner and Richard

Reiter. Migs fought in WW II on the allied side, while Richard was a member of the Hitler youth and the Waffen-SS.

It was remarkable to hear the stories of heroism and hardship, as both Migs and Richard shared their experiences with us. Their ability to put past differences aside was an inspiration to all of us.



Later, in the senior class, Richard told us more about what it was like to live in Germany before and during the war. We talked about the famous Nazi

propaganda machine and how he had been taught as a young boy to believe that right was on their side.

Migs told us how he met his lovely wife, Diana, here in Esquimalt and the harrowing tale of how he rescued a sailor who had fallen overboard in the North Atlantic.



We can't thank Migs and Richard enough for coming to our school and helping us to understand what it was like in those difficult days. We will always remember the lesson of their friendship, and hope they will come and share more stories with us in the future.

Dates to Remember

December 15, 2011—
Winter Concert (6:30 pm).

December 16, 2011—Last
day of school before winter
break.

January 3, 2012—First day
back after winter break.

January 19, 2012—Open
House and Transition
Nights (5:30-8:30).



From the Board of Directors



In January, 2010, we told you about the steps the Board of Directors had taken to address longstanding issues around teacher compensation, projected repairs and maintenance and revenue/enrolment sustainability.

These steps included:

- Increasing salary compensation for our teachers over three years (2010-2012) to achieve 80% of the compensation paid in Category 4 of the School District #61 (Victoria) June 30, 2010 salary grid;
- Enabling the school to meet expected future expenses for repairs and maintenance and to establish a small contingency fund to protect against shortfalls in revenue; and

- Raising tuition fees over three years (2010-2012) to ensure they remain competitive while enabling the continued delivery of a high quality education.

Fee increases for the 2012-2013 school year will be between \$47-78 dollars per month over 10 months; \$39-65 per month over 12 months.

The Board recognizes that even these modest fee increases may cause hardship for some of our families; therefore, we are endeavouring to maintain the bursary program and will continue with the current discounts on tuition for siblings.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Penny Barner at penny@selkirkmontessori.ca or call 250-384-3414.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.



Leadership Report

It's a bright beginning for leadership.

The grade 8 leadership group has been working on numerous fundraisers and awareness raisers. Past fundraisers vary from the raffle in late October which raised a grand total of over \$400 and the Halloween for Hunger which earned 812 pounds of food!



We also participated in the Vow of Silence on November 30. We got a number of children and/or adults to participate. It began Wednesday at 8:45 and was broken December 1. The idea is to raise awareness for those in the world without a various amount of rights.



Three of the grade 8 leadership group collected and shipped supplies to an orphanage in Kenya. It was another successful fundraiser.



The supplies are getting sent with the brother of the grade 8 leadership group teacher, Erin Hayes. Erin Hayes' brother is volunteering as a doctor in Kenya so we thank him for bringing the supplies to them. We hope they enjoy our supplies.

It seems that November has been a successful month for fundraisers.

Special thanks to: Erin Hayes, Penny Barner, Gil Henry and the Selkirk Parent Group.

"Be the change you want to see in the world"

Mahatma Gandhi

Victor Hammontree

Grade 8 Leadership Student

Selkirk Parent Group News

Fifteen brave souls made it through the rain storm to the November 24 SPG meeting—great to see the group growing and there is always room for one more!

The group had the satisfaction of being able to fund all requests put forward by staff this year with the exception of a defibrillator (a longer term plan is in the works to make this happen). A complete list of projects funded will be posted on the bulletin board outside the office as soon as individuals have been notified. Thanks to our able treasurer, Jennifer, for pulling the details together.

Upcoming events:



Angel Gifts program running November 28 to December 2. Students have the opportunity to donate a twoonie to their class collection towards a group gift for a client of Our Place. Thank you Lisa for being the engine behind this project!

Socks and Shoes in Sacks program starting December 5 until the (grades one to eight) school concert on December 15.

Please bring new or gently used adult socks and shoes to stuff the big socks in the main hallway and help homeless and impoverished people have warm and dry feet this winter. See if you can spot the new stocking creatively sewn by mom Jody!



Food Drive also running through December to help fill the shelves of the Mustard Seed food bank...three opportunities to support those in need in our community.



Parent Education Evening Thursday January 12 from 7 to 9 pm. Topic: The Child Nature Connection. Watch the film “Play Again” that explores the lost art of children’s free play in nature, followed by a discussion led by an expert in the field. Google the film for a preview and bring your opinions, passion and hiking boots to the evening. A signup sheet will be posted in early January so we can gauge what size room to use.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 26 at 7:00 pm. All parents welcome.

Auction Photo Gallery!





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We can make a difference.

www.selkirkmontessori.ca



Fun working with a friend in Kindergarten/Preschool 2.

Registration for 2012-2013

Returning Families/Siblings

Registration packages will be emailed to you in January.

As always, registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, so it's important to get your completed forms in as early as possible. There are a limited number of spaces in some of our programs (especially all-day Kindergarten and Preschool in the Casa).

Deadline for re-registration is Monday, January 30th.

A non-refundable deposit of \$200 per child is

required at the time of registration. If you are registering a new sibling, there is no \$50 application fee; however, the \$200 deposit is required.

If you have any questions about space, re-registration or the next step for your child, please come see me, call 250-384-3414 or email me at penny@selkirkmontessori.ca.

Waitlisted Families

We won't have any firm answers about space and numbers until at least the middle of February but please don't hesitate to call me to remind me how keen you are!