

Selkirk Montessori School

Auction Update!



Your auction committee has been working hard planning the “Get Up and Go” auction. It has been very exciting to see your enthusiasm and willingness to support this important fundraiser.

To all the parents who have signed up to volunteer at the auction – thank you! We still need a few more of you, so if you feel you can spare a small amount of time that evening – please sign up on the volunteer sign-up sheets in the front foyer of the school.

Our auction donations are starting to come in. Thank you to everyone who has responded to our call for donations. As you can imagine, the solicitation of auction items is a huge endeavor and a vital part of the success of this fundraiser. We are still accepting donations so please think about all the goods and ser-

vices you use and if you have a favorite, please consider asking for a donation to the school.

Ticket order forms will be placed in your family file the last week of October. Please complete your order form (with cheque) and leave in the in-basket (hanging on the wall) outside Linda’s office. These will be sorted and tickets will be placed back in your family file.

To add a little more excitement to our auction this year, we would like to once again hold our wine collection raffle. We would like to collect a bottle (or two?) of wine from each family. We will divide the wine into a few lots and be selling tickets during the evening for each lot. You could go home with all your wine shopping done for the upcoming holiday season! Please bring your wine into the office before **November 17th.**

With just a few weeks to go, we hope you will all be able to “Get up and go” to our fabulous school auction! We look forward to seeing you all there.

MaryEllen Bercier, Chair

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“Have the courage to follow your heart and your inspiration. They somehow already know what you truly want to become.”

Steve Jobs

Grade 8 Leadership Report—We Day



First of all, the grade 8's would like to thank all those who helped make the We Day trip happen. Thank you to the SPG, for their contributions to our trip, and a special thanks to the Chaperons

who came with us to We Day. From the whole Leadership Class, thank you for supporting this trip.

Our experience at We Day was absolutely amazing. We'd heard that the sound of 18,000 inspirational kids cheering is amazing, and it is absolutely true. When we heard Marc and Craig Kielburger talk to us about the impacts we can make by supporting clean water, education, medical aid, and education, we were shocked to see how our contributions could make a difference. Hearing that we can make a difference was very inspiring; knowing that our help can change someone's life, made us want to do something about it. We Day was not only an inspirational event put on by Free the Children, but also an event which helped us grow. It helped us grow by letting us know that we are the change, and that we can help others in need. When I personally was leaving We Day, I was left very inspired, and wanting to make a change.

After listening to the speakers, we were all left with a sense that we could really do anything if we try. Some of the



changes suggested were clean water projects, alternative incomes development, and improving health care and education accessibility. What inspired us to make these changes even more was the fact that speakers like Marc and Craig Kielburger, right from our age, were also very accomplished charity contributors, and founders of Free the Children. Many other speakers, Mia Farrow, Michel Gorbachev, and Spencer West had different

experiences and ideas of activism to share with us. Michel Chikwanine was very inspiring because he had gone through the experience of being a child soldier, and yet, he still makes a difference in the world.



The previous Leadership class returned from We Day with the project to support people in a village in Ecuador in developing Alternative Incomes so children can go to school rather than work. Many people donated money for cows, sewing machines, pigs, goats, and other supplies that could help bring sustainable income into someone's home. This year, we have decided to work on the Clean Water Project, also by Free the Children, the organizers of We Day. It links into the Alternative Income pillar. Bacteria in drinking water is one of the leading causes of health problems and even death in children around the world. In many places around the globe women and girls have to travel hours to the nearest water source, and more often than not this water isn't even clean. It also causes these girls to not be able to go to school as they're too busy collecting water all day. The clean water campaign will build wells, rain catching systems, and hand pumps to bring clean, drinking water into villages across the world. The Leadership team's goal this year is to raise \$5,000 for the cause, to supply clean water to an entire village in Kenya and we hope you'll support our fundraisers year-round. The first was the raffle baskets - thanks to all who bought tickets. The draw for the lucky winners was made at the Halloween Dance.

Why Kenya? In 2003, 56% of the Kenyan population lived in poverty. That means 56% of families had less than 17\$ a month in rural areas, and less than 36\$ per month in urban areas. Almost 30% of the population lives on under a dollar

a day. One in 10 children die under the age of 5, and one third of the remaining children are stunted, showing signs of extreme malnutrition. That's 14 times higher than expected in a healthy community. 26% of children are living in child labour, 25% of girls under the age of 15 are married, and, although something as simple as a mosquito net could cut the chances of malaria in half, only 15% of children under 5 have the opportunity to sleep under one. We're helping by giving a child in a village water, but another school will give them education, another health care, another still a sustainable source of family income that does not interfere with the children's education. If you just give a village food or education or health care, they still won't have a way to grow, they can still get sick from malaria or malnutrition, and they still won't be able to provide for their families.

One of the main reasons children can't go to school is because they're busy helping to make an income, collecting water, or taking care of a sick family member. Simply building a school can't help. No one would be allowed to go without taking away from their families. If you were to simply give a village health care, they still couldn't treat most sicknesses without clean water, especially if the sickness was started by a lack of it. There still wouldn't be a school to go to, and many wouldn't want to go to a hospital for extended periods if they were needed to make a financial contribution. Last but not least, simply giving someone a way to make money wouldn't mean water would suddenly appear, nor would the village have enough to go into the building of a school, and again, going to a hospital for too long could mean losses for the rest of their household. Together, with all 4 pillars, a village can do all of this. Children can go to school without worrying about such heavy responsibilities, no one has to travel for hours to get water, their parents can make money, and they can go to a hospital without worrying about the welfare of the rest of their family. One school can't do it all, but when we all work together with other students across the country we really can make a change.

Another commitment students make at We Day is to get involved in our local community. One of the issues we have chose to address in our own community this year is hunger. Using the Halloween for Hunger model, many of us chose to go door to door for non-perishable food items instead of candy this year. In addition, we organized a school-wide food drive. Thank you to all those who contributed. The Mustard Seed was truly grateful for our donations.

A couple of other events we are planning, with the help of all the students, parents, and teachers are the Vow of Silence, a Used Book Sale, a donation of small items for kids in Kenya, and "Date Night" before holiday shopping. Now, to go in a bit more detail, the Vow of Silence is another activity inspired by We Day and Free the Children. It's where, for one day, anyone who chooses to isn't allowed to speak. Those fully participating go so far to have no communication to anyone- no Facebook, email, texting, or notes. The purpose of this is to bring awareness to child labourers in third world countries. These children don't have a voice. They can't speak up for themselves, no matter what happens to them, and it's our duty to speak up for them.

Keep an eye out for info on the other upcoming events. The donations of small items for kids in Kenya will take place in early November. The donations will go to orphanages, where kids don't have all the luxuries, or even necessities that we do. Now... Date Night! This was done last year, where, for a donation, we would watch over your kids for a few hours and give parents a break. This year, we're planning for December. That way you can sign up to drop your child off and then do holiday shopping, decorating, or just spend a peaceful night at home or go on a date. The Used Book Sale hasn't been planned yet, but more info will soon be coming about when or where to donate and buy! All of the proceeds will go to the Water Project.

Achintya Choudhari and Alecia LeBlanc

Grade 8 Leadership

Alumni Update—Allegra Bonifacio



[Allegra after performing with the Reynolds marching band in the Victoria Day Parade.]

My name is Allegra Bonifacio, and I graduated from Selkirk in 2006. Four years later, in 2010, I graduated from Reynolds Secondary School. I am currently 19 years old and in my second year at UVic.

My time at Selkirk served as a foundation for a great

deal of what I love today. Music is and always has been a passion of mine, and if it weren't for all the creative outlets and opportunities at Selkirk, I wouldn't have the confidence or the love for music I have today.



I started playing Clarinet in grade 6, which I used as my band instrument in high school. I was also introduced to choral singing in grade 1, and guitar in grade

5. The talent shows and concerts put on in my elementary years helped with stage presence and confidence, and inspired me to take on a number of music projects, each more enriching than the next.

I'm so thankful for my time at Selkirk. I'll always feel at home whenever I visit.



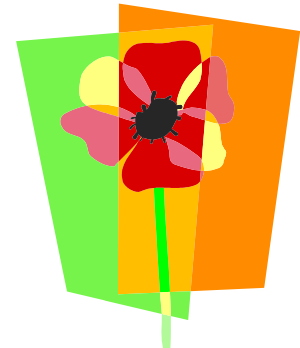
Dates to Remember

November 10—
Remembrance Day Ceremony

November 11—
Remembrance Day (no school)

November 19—**Get Up and Go Auction!**

November 25—Parent/Teacher Conferences (no school)



Selkirk Parent Group (SPG) News

Highlights from our October meeting:

Welcome to new parent reps from many classrooms.

Thank you! A **class rep is still needed for the Preschool 3 Afternoon class**. The parent rep attends the monthly SPG meeting and acts as a support to communication between the classroom, the SPG and other parents. Please email Rhonda @ rhondasylyven@shaw.ca if you are interested.

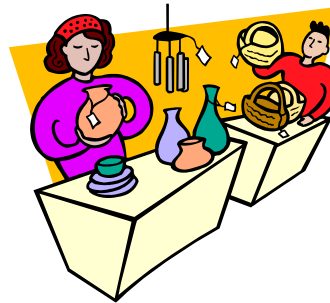
Victor in the senior class gave a report on their trip to the Me to We meeting in Vancouver—inspiring and fun! As a result the group is doing “Hallowe’en for Hunger” food drive. Good work!

Allocation of fundraising monies: Every year, the SPG raises money which is divided so that each classroom has a discretionary fund to spend on items or activities the teachers value throughout the year. (\$250 per classroom this year.) On top of this, staff may request special funding for extraordinary events or supplies. Depending on the funds raised, the number of requests, the number of students benefitting from a proposal, etc, the SPG decides how to divide the available budget. October’s meeting was devoted in large part to working through this list. Some details need to be finalized but most, if not all, requests will be met this year. Hats off the school community for its ongoing support. Coming up are our two most popular fundraisers: Purdy’s Chocolates and Celebrate the Season. You may remember Celebrate the Season as Snow Days. It is the same great quality wrapping paper, ribbons, candles and gifts just with a new name. Purdy’s Chocolates make wonderful gifts for friends, families, teachers and corporate clients. These fundraisers will have tight timeframes to ensure delivery in early December in time for Christmas. Please peruse the catalogues and get your orders in as soon as possible.



Report on sports: Parent Alison Rippon has taken on the position of Sports Rep. Thank you! Please check her bulletin if you’d like to volunteer or contact her at arippon@islandnet.com.

Upcoming events:



Artisan’s Craft Fair November 25 9:30 – 4:30pm at the school.

Plan to visit the Island Artisan’s Association and Selkirk Crafters fair on the 25th during your parent/teacher interview. All proceeds will go to SPG fund-

raising efforts.

If you are interested in renting a table, please fill out a table request form and leave your cheque for \$25.00 made out to the Selkirk Parent Group, in the office with Sonia. We will confirm your table rental once your form is received. Forms can be found on the SPG bulletin board outside the office.

Angel Gifts and warm feet winter charities in December in support of clients of Our Place and Coolaid Community Health Clinic. Please see the information below.

Parent Information evening: “Nature Deficit Disorder”. Please note that the Parent Info night noted on the calendar for Nov. 3rd has been moved to Thursday, January 12, 2012. It will consist of a movie, speaker and discussion about the value and lack of nature time for modern day kids.

Next SPG meeting Thursday, November 24 at 7:00 pm in the library.

Socks and Shoes in Sacks

Wet weather means wet feet and for people who are homeless staying dry can be nearly impossible. Socks and shoes wear out quickly and health problems develop rapidly for people who live in damp, dirty socks and shoes 24 hours a day.



We want to help by collecting new or gently used socks and shoes. Look for our giant stockings for the socks and boxes for shoes in early December in the school



foyer. Bring in socks and shoes of all sizes and weights (but adult socks and shoes are in greatest demand.) to help fill the stockings

and sacks! Before the holiday break, the socks and shoes will be given to the Coolaid Community Health Clinic for distribution to Victoria's homeless.

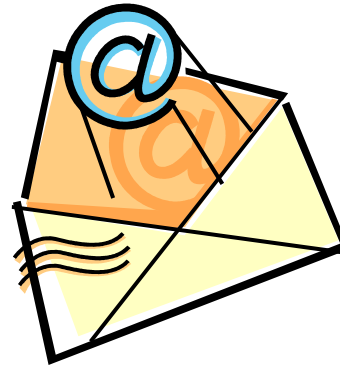
Angel Gift

Each classroom will be sponsoring an Angel Gift. The Angel Gift program, coordinated by the Our Place Society, is designed to make the holiday season a little brighter for some of our downtown community. It provides gifts to the impoverished and less fortunate individuals in Victoria.

Each classroom will sponsor one person. The class will be provided with his or her name, age, gender and size to assist in choosing appropriate gifts.

Toward the end of November we will be asking each child to bring a toonie to their class that will go toward purchasing an ANGEL GIFT.

We will also be requesting the Executive Director, Sandra Danco, from Our Place Society to come in and speak with the children about the homeless and the benefits of helping the less fortunate in our community. We will announce the date that she is scheduled to come as soon as this is confirmed. Parents are welcome to attend.



We have had more parents stepping forward to ask about emails and the school's website.

If you want to join in and be "looped" as I like to say or if you haven't been receiving the emails and can't access the information on the website, please contact me. I will be happy to assist you. If you want to be added, that can be done as well! If you hear of someone who has been having difficulties getting their emails, please pass this message along.



The Auction has been coming along - we still need more volunteers to sign up and donations to come in. Look for more information to come out via email on deadlines, etc., as November 19, 2011 is fast approaching.

With more and more events happening at the school and different people organizing the various events and fundraisers, I think it is time to stop for one minute and look around our wonderful school and the parents and staff that are committed to make this school what it is. Thank you! We should all be proud of what we are creating for our children and those to come.

Linda Dombrowski
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We can make a difference.

www.selkirkmontessori.ca

NEW GYM CLOCK



With a generous donation from the graduating families in June 2011, we purchased a new, digital clock for the gym! We are also able to use it as a timer. Thanks for making a difference—and keeping us all on time!

Erinne Paisley Gets Cut for Cops for Cancer!



Recent Selkirk Montessori graduate, Erinne Paisley, got her head shaved for Cops for Cancer in October. It was part of the Reynolds secondary school drive that ultimately raised over \$84,000!

Congratulations from your Selkirk Montessori family, Erinne! You have also made a difference!!