



Administrative Notes from Penny

We're back! On behalf of the administration, teachers and staff, I extend a warm welcome to our new families and a big hug to our "returnings"!

It's been a wonderful summer and the weather has been lovely these past weeks. Lots of sun and so many events and activities to enjoy in the Greater Victoria area. I even attended the Saanich Fair for the first time this year!

We have many exciting events and activities for you to enjoy at Selkirk this year, as well. If you didn't receive a copy of our annual calendar, please check our website at www.selkirkmontessori.ca to download one for your fridge.

You will see some new faces around the school again this year. Hopefully we will all remember to wear our name tags, so you will be able to identify teachers and staff. We'll be introducing you to everyone at the parent orientation evening later in the month.

In the next few weeks we'll be exploring, camping, learning, dragon boating and having lots of fun with your children. Seems like summer will never end!

In the meantime, please check into the office to say hello and tell us about your break. We've missed you!

Save the Date!

ROCK! THE MUSICAL
WEDNESDAY,
MAY 9, 2012
SMS GYM



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"My friends, love is better than anger. Hope is better than fear. Optimism is better than despair. So let us be loving, hopeful and optimistic. And we'll change the world."
— Jack Layton

Pacific Montessori Society Board Update

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Pacific Montessori Society will be held on Wednesday, October 12th at 7:00 pm at the school.

We are pleased to introduce you to two parents at the school who are interested in positions on the board:

Beattie, Diane—children in grades 4 and 1 this year. Diane is interested in helping us with strategic policy development and policy writing! She is an Environmental

Management Analyst with the provincial government and has been supported by parent and former member of the board, Lisa Paquin.

Norcross, Colleen—a child in grade 2 this year. Colleen works at Mayfair Shopping Centre as an Administrative Assistant. She has been active as a member of the Fun Fair Committee and is also serving on the Auction committee this year. Colleen is interested in the operation and the direction of Selkirk Montessori and has previous experience as a member, trustee and

treasurer of various boards. She is supported by parent MaryEllen Berrier.

Happily for us, we don't have to choose. We have room for both of these wonderful volunteers on our board!

Join us on the 12th and get the low-down on the financial health of the Society, enjoy some delicious treats from the hospitality Committee and get to know us better!

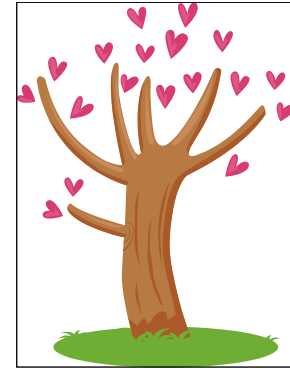
Provincial Government Employees' Community Services Fund

Thank you for including us in your donations through the provincial government Employees' Community Services Fund.

For those who aren't in the know, the campaign runs between September and November, and is a

very easy way for parents who are provincial employees to contribute to the school!

If you have any questions, please contact parent Daisy Jassar at daisy.jassar@gov.bc.ca.



Dates to Remember

- September 14-16—Camp T (Senior Class)
- September 16—Night at Selkirk (Gr. 5/6)
- September 19—Pro-D Day
- September 22—Parent Orientation (6:30 pm)
- September 28—Terry Fox School Run
- October 3—Individual Portraits
- October 10—Thanksgiving
- October 12—Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Pacific Montessori Society (7:00 pm)
- October 13—We Day (Leadership)

“Get Up And Go” Auction Update



Our “Get Up and Go Auction” is November 19th! We need lots and lots of donations to make this event a success. Please ask your family, friends and neighbours for a contribution! Check with your favourite restaurant or spa. Ask the local grocer. Don't take no for an answer!!

We've already received a number of fun items, from books to Body Shop treats to gift certificates from local eateries and attractions. My niece has even knitted a lovely baby sweater again this year.



Do you bake? Why not offer a dozen cookies a month for 12 months? These types of donations are priceless.

Come talk with Linda or Penny in the office if you are looking for ideas. We're old hands at this auction stuff. Funds raised will be used to install a climbing wall in the school gym and to purchase other gym equipment.

It's time to “Get Up and Go” everyone!!



Linda's Corner

Wow, what a great start to the school year! Seeing everyone's smiling faces and feeling the happiness in the air is wonderful. I think it's nice when we can all get into a routine again, both students and adults alike.

We have had a great sign up for parking passes at the legion and I am so very pleased to see the number of bicycles in the racks and families walking to the school. What wonderful weather as well! The first week of school and everyone is moving smoothly through the Kiss and Go area on Jackladder Lane. Gosh, this has to be a sign of a great school year ahead.

I would like to remind everyone if you have had any changes over the summer months (i.e. address, phone, cell, contacts), please jot them down and pass along to Sonia so that the information can be updated in the office.

There have been a few emails sent out to families in the last week so if you haven't received any of them please email Linda at office@selkirkmontessori.ca and provide an updated email.

There have been a handful of emails that have “bounced back” and we want you to know about the activities and events happening around the school.

Welcome back everyone and here's to the 2011/2012 school year!

Linda



Alumni Update—Chrissey Farwell



My name is Chrissey Farwell, though most folks will remember me as Christa (and my mum will insist that's all I should ever be called!). I “graduated” from Selkirk Montessori School in 1999, after being a student all the way from half-day preschool (at age 3) to the senior elementary class (age 13). In those ten years, I learned to speak three languages, play four musical instruments, and remember all my times tables! I had the opportunity to attend countless multicultural potlucks, complete two grades of math in one year, feed a turtle (and two rats, and a goldfish), and sing, among other things, Octopus' Garden in choir (before I even knew who the Beatles were!). My creativity was always welcomed and encouraged, and I can't remember anyone ever imposing limits on what I wanted to do with my learning (I have a 25 page short story I wrote when I was twelve to prove it!).

Since leaving, I completed my high school diploma at Reynolds Secondary School (in the Flex program), achieved my degree in Child and Youth Care (CYC) at UVic, worked in three different countries (Ireland, UK, and Canada) as a support worker to at risk groups. I cannot tell you how proud I was when we covered concepts of pedagogy in university, and I could speak to the class of my first hand experience using classic Montessori tools for learning (Pink blocks? Moveable phonetic alphabet? So that's where those came from!). Maria Montessori's theories were held in high regard in the academic world of child development, and I was thrilled to be able to connect my own experiences to her brilliant ideas and teachings.



I mentioned earlier that I was a student at Selkirk Montessori School. That word, student, hardly describes what my role truly was. I was and am a mem-

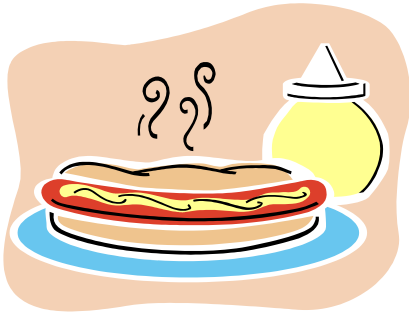
ber of a family, a community of support that will always be there for me. So many times in my professional capacity have I met people who ended up in bad situations simply because they lacked crucial support in a time of crisis.



[Chrissey and her younger sister, Shannon, also a Selkirk graduate.]

Not only have I always had that sense of community to back me up and make me feel safe, but I have learned what it is to contribute to that feeling and help others to find it as well. I consider myself extremely lucky to have been able to plug into this concept at such an early age, and carry it with me through all I have experienced and will experience. To those of you dipping your toes into this pool, I say: jump in! The water's warm, and so is the welcome.

Selkirk Parent Group (SPG) News



We hope you enjoyed the Welcome Back Picnic held on the green Thursday afternoon. It was great to see returning faces and meet new ones. A big thank you to Jennifer Marshall and her team of helpers who buttered corn, stuffed dogs and sliced watermelon. And to top it off, the weather was fantastic!

The SPG (Selkirk Parent Group) is having our first meeting on September 27th at 7pm in the library of the school. We have a number of positions open to those interested in joining the group. Please see the list below. If you are interested in a position, simply attend this meeting. If you are unable to attend, please fill out a contact information card and leave it in the provided box. These will be on the table outside the office during the week of September 12th until our first meeting on the 27th.

Co-Chairs: Derek Fedoryshyn and AVAILABLE

Vice Chair: AVAILABLE

Treasurer: Jennifer Stewart

Secretary: Roberta Campbell

Fundraising Chair: Daisy Jassar

Class Representatives: We need one class rep for each class (including each preschool class – am and pm)

Past Chair: Rhonda Sylven

Fundraising Committee:

Coupon Books: Daisy Jassar and class reps

***Thrifty Foods:** Tanis Masson

* **Purdy's Chocolates:** Tanis Masson and 1 position AVAILABLE

***Snow Days:** 1 position AVAILABLE

* **November Craft Fair:** Rhonda Sylven and 1 position AVAILABLE

Lunch Program Committee:

Shilpa Gandhi, Anastasia Cyprus, Sonia Reyes, Colleen Norcross, Jacqueline Macmillan

Farwell on the Green: *2 positions AVAILABLE

Sports Program Parent Liaison:

1 position AVAILABLE

*Swim Club Organizers: Rhonda Sylven and Daralynn Wei

*Yoga Class Organizer: AVAILABLE

*Other?

***Compost/Recycling Coordinator:** AVAILABLE

Newsletter Coordinator: Danica Gleave

***Winter Charity Event:** Lisa Paquin

One position AVAILABLE

Watch for the start up of our programs in the days ahead. The lunch program order forms will be sent out soon. The Swim club registration will also be open soon, and will start the week of October 3rd for 10 weeks. We are getting the Thrifty Smile Card program organized and you will be receiving a SMILE card in your family file. Finally, remember to make orders for SAVE AROUND VICTORIA books to friends and family.

If you have any questions regarding the SPG and the positions available, please feel free to contact either of us at the addresses listed below. Have a great year!

Rhonda and Derek
Rhondasylven@shaw.ca and
spgderek@gmail.com.



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We can make a difference.



(Photo of the grade 4 class at the Maritime Museum in April 2011)

Special thanks to parent Mike Mitchell for taking photos for us over the past year. We are looking forward to sharing many more with you in upcoming newsletters!

“New Year” Message from FISA

Message from the Federation of Independent Schools' Associations (FISA):

As I was driving back from the BC Interior on Tuesday, I noticed several yellow buses beginning their routes to pick up students for the first day of school. I have been involved in education for the past three decades and have always felt excited about the start of a new school year. There are new teachers to orientate to the school, new parents and students, some starting school for the first time, to wel-

come, and all the returning students anxious to share their stories of the summer that only arrived in late August!

The Board of Directors would like to wish all of the 282 FISA BC member independent schools an excellent start to the school year with much success as they support their students with their learning. The challenges in education continue to increase as schools are asked to provide greater support for students and families that may be struggling with personal, financial or social issues. Despite these challenges, FISA BC believes that next to

parenting, teaching is the greatest profession that allows administrators, teachers and support staff to have a significant impact on the lives of students. We wish all of our school a very successful year!

*Peter Froese,
FISA BC Executive Director*

