

ÉCOLE LORD SELKIRK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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<http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/selkirk/Pages/default.aspx>



THE CEDARS' BARK- February 2017

Principal:	Shannon Burton	604-713-4650
Vice Principal:	Vital Peeters	604-713-4650
Director of Instruction:	Robert Schindel	604-713-4424

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We are approaching the midway point in term two. Thank you to students and staff for busily preparing for conferences which took place on February 8th and 9th. Conferences are an important time to share in the success that students have experienced this term. They provide an opportunity to acknowledge student accomplishments, no matter how big or small. It is also a time to set goals for the remainder of term two. Report cards will go home to parents March 10th, 2017. This leaves a lot of time for students to work hard towards their goals before then. Thank you to families for attending this important midway check in point so they can better know how to support their children's learning at home. Parents can help ensure students are actively engaged in their daily schoolwork and using deep thinking strategies when they come across problems. They can encourage them to go further and develop grit (as I spoke about in previous newsletters). This resiliency towards problem solving is critical for their success in adulthood.

On February 22nd, we will celebrate PINK day where we come together to promote kindness, acceptance and appreciation of diversity. Promoting these key values is an essential part of teaching, both at home and at school. Many of our difficulties are created from the feeling that we're separate and somehow different from everyone else, and we feel alienated due to these differences. Part of our job is helping students see that we are ALL similar and different in various ways. It is both our similarities and our differences that make our community vibrant and strong. We accept people regardless of race, language, ability, appearance, religion, or cultural affiliation. Lord Selkirk School and the Vancouver School District pride themselves on an inclusive approach to education where diversity is celebrated and equality and mutual respect are promoted. I encourage you to help your child see ways they can show kindness and respect to everyone.

The rest of the newsletter has important information about what is happening at Selkirk this and next month. Please let me know if you have any questions. I look forward to seeing you around the school. As always, my door is open.

Sincerely,

Mme Burton

IMPORTANT DATES

February 6-9	Book Fair-library
February 8/9	Early Dismissal 2 pm Conferences
February 13	Family Day
February 17	Selkirk Royale 7-11 no minors
February 22	PINK SPIRIT DAY-AntiBullying Day
February 23	Selkirk Family Movie Night 5:45
February 24	Professional Development Day

WINTER WEATHER IS BACK



Vancouver has had another cold blast bringing snowy conditions. The VSB and our wonderful building engineers work hard to pick away at ice, and salt and sand our campus. Everyone should take care and walk more slowly during these wintery times. Thank you to VSB grounds and our engineers for all their hard work to ensure our safety.

ARE YOU RETURNING FORMS

In order to plan for our school organization for next year 2017-2018 we are asking ALL families to return the "Are You Returning Form" indicating if they would like to have a spot at Selkirk next school year. This very important form is due back by February 15th. We have attached a copy if you need one.

COMMUNICATIONS

Apologies for the recent message from the school on Friday February 3rd not being sent Bcced. Regular Selkirk office staff are very aware of the CASL and privacy restrictions and attend to these diligently. We however had a substitute in that did not follow the process. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. If you have further questions or concerns please contact Ms. Burton.

We are looking for a committee to get together to assess communication methods amongst school and the community. This would entail a few meetings with committee chair Max Birch and Ms Burton. The goal is ultimately to improve communication and ensure all families are able to get information in order to participate in school activities effectively. Please contact Ms. Burton if you would like to be on this committee.

ADOPT OUR SCHOOL YARD PROGRAM IN FULL SWING

Student representatives from the Student Governance Team led great presentations on the litter problem and official roll out our Adopt Our SchoolYard Program.

Each class is now responsible all the time for their section of the school yard. The Adopt-Our-School Yard Program we have developed is designed to make everyone responsible for putting an end to litter.



Classes with the cleanest quadrants will receive recognition.

You can support this program by finding out what section your child has and helping keep it clean.

Thank you for supporting this effort to clean up our school and have the students truly embrace the “I take care of this place” part of our school motto.

Please check out our program information board on the second level by the washrooms. Attached is map of the areas with a list of divisions responsible.

PINK DAY-FEB 22nd

We are looking forward to hosting VSB Diveristy Mentor, PrideSpeak and Out in Schools for Pink Day February 22nd. Pink Day started as a result of an amazing act of friendship by a group of students in Nova Scotia in 2007. We are encouraging all students to wear a pink shirt or anything pink on February 22nd to stand together against bullying and all forms of discrimination. Help us celebrate Selkirk diversity and acceptance.



There are several actions you as a parent can take, at home and at school, to help your child feel more connected to his or her school, including:

- Encourage your child to talk openly with you, teachers, counselors, and other school staff about his/her ideas, needs and worries.
- Attend school meetings, read information that the school sends home to you and talk to teachers and staff. Find out what your child is expected to

learn and how they should behave in school, and support these expectations at home.

- Help your child with homework and teach him/her about good time management techniques.
- Encourage your child to participate in school activities. Keep informed of these by reading school newsletters, attending parent meetings, checking out the school website, etc.
- Get your child involved in helping other adults – at home, school or in the community. Volunteering is a great way to do this.
- Attend term meetings with your child’s teacher to discuss his/her behaviour, accomplishments, challenges, etc.
- Get involved as a parent in various school activities, committees or working groups.

These are only a few ways that you as a parent can get involved. Talk to other parents or those in your school community about what you can do to help support or create a positive school culture, so your child is more connected and supported at school.

10 Tips for Parents that Foster Connections to School

1. Model respectful, cooperative, positive behaviour in your everyday interactions.
2. Participate in school events.
3. Show interest. Be involved in your child’s academic activities.
4. Maintain regular contact with your child’s teacher.
5. Monitor your child’s homework completion and work with him/her on homework assignments that involve family participation.
6. Be present when things go wrong.
7. Know your child’s friends and their parents.

8. Ask school leaders what you can do to support them.
9. Volunteer at school.
10. Nominate effective school leaders for local awards.

If you have any questions about this topic, please do not hesitate to speak with Shannon Burton, Selkirk School Principal.

SELKIRK PAC

Hello from your PAC Executive + Members at Large!

We are working hard on Selkirk projects to benefit our students, our school, and our community. Please join us online or at our next meeting to get up to date information on our 2016-17 Projects such as:

- Buddy Benches
- Kindness Bookmarks
- Our advocacy initiatives
- Our community engagement activities (bike to school week, the multicultural dinner, year end picnic and dance party, and more!)

Have questions? Comments? We'd love to be in touch with you. Please connect with us via the options listed below, or stop to talk in the school yard. We look forward to speaking with you soon!

- Check our website: <http://selkirkelementary.com>
- You can like us on Facebook to stay up to date on the latest Selkirk Events: <https://www.facebook.com/selkirkpac>
- Sign Up for our eNews: <http://selkirkelementary.com/enews-sign-up/>
- Or send us an email: lordselkirkpac@gmail.com

6th Annual Selkirk Royale - Advanced Tickets onsale now!

Advance Tickets are on sale now for only \$12.50! <http://selkirkroyale2017.bpt.me>

New this year:

- Photo Booth - by donation, with unlimited prints
- Late night Dessert Bar
- Heads & Tails Game

Do you have a connection that can make a donation to the event? Please email the PAC and put Silent Auction Committee in the subject line to make your offer!

lordselkirkpac@gmail.com

Do you have time to help out at the event?

Here is the link to Google Docs for Royale Shift Sign

Up <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1PYPx-8r1C48vrKUmQY0KSeIELhLxrRjX1Idi1a1lkhk/edit?usp=sharing> If you are interested in staffing a Bar Shift, please note that Serving it Right is preferred.

Clean for a Cause Fundraiser for the PAC!

The PAC is once again fundraising with Second Nature Home Boutique and Sapadilla brand soap in the Clean for a Cause program!

Fundraising forms went home with students last week and we would like to say thank you very much for supporting all of our PAC initiatives through this fundraiser. Products may be picked up from the school lost-and-found area on Wednesday, February 22nd from 2:30 to 4:00pm or on Thursday, February 23rd from 8:30am - 9:15 am. Please contact lordselkirkpac@gmail.com if you have any questions.

QUEBEC FUNDRAISING

SPUD Fundraiser



Great success so far with the ongoing SPUD fundraiser! Organic & local groceries delivered to your home or workplace.

SPUD.ca donates 25% from 8 different organic produce boxes back to Lord Selkirk PAC fundraising. To get started... go to SPUD.ca and under the main menu tab select SPUD fundraising. Add a produce box to your order, enter FUNDRAISING in the promo code box and select Selkirk Elementary. For more information, go to the Lord Selkirk Elementary PAC Facebook page, or <http://www.selkirkelementary.com/fundraiser> page. We appreciate your support!

Selkirk Constitution

To all Selkirk Adults: We are in the process of revising the PAC Constitution and would love your input! Please visit the Selkirk PAC website to review the latest draft of the updated Constitution, which will be up for discussion at the next **PAC general meeting on Tuesday February 7, 2017:** <http://selkirkelementary.com/pac-constitution/>

If you are unable to attend the meeting, we would still love to hear from you! Please feel welcome to email your comments to: Holly Hergesheimer at joshnholly@hotmail.com

The Grade Sevens have just come back from an amazing time in Quebec. They stayed in a small rural town called Mont-Laurier which is between Ottawa and Montreal. While in Quebec they did activities such as dog sledding, ice fishing, skiing and much more. Overall the trip was a wonderful experience they will remember forever.



From the Grade 7 Parent Team:
Purdy's Fundraiser



You're invited to participate in our Easter 2017 Fundraiser Campaign!

The French Immersion Quebec Exchange is fundraising with Purdy's Chocolatier, just in time for Easter! If you'd like to support us through purchasing some Easter gifts for friends, family and yourself, please follow the link below:

<https://www.purdysgpp.com/join/34817>

After you've signed in you can buy chocolates or invite others to join and support our Fundraising Campaign. Thank you...Allison Newton (snewtdog@gmail.com)

Popcorn Sales



Popcorn Sales will continue on Fridays. **Sales will start at 12:30 and all students must eat lunch before purchasing popcorn.**

Sale dates are:

Feb 17

Mar 3, 10, 31

Apr 7, 21, 28

May 5, 12, 19

SPORTS CENTRAL



Basketball Update

Basketball is up and running. Schedule is below:

Practices

Sr. Girls (Coach - Peter Nickel)

Tuesday 8-8:55am and

Wednesday 8-8:55am and Wed 12:05-12:52

Jr. Boys (Coach - Peter Nickel)

Tuesday 8-8:55am and Friday 12:05-12:52

Sr. Boys (Coaches - Brian Ee, Sherman Wong)

Thursday 8-8:55am

Fri 3:00-4:30

Jr. Girls - (Coaches - Kristina Kernohan, Adrienne Gee, Jennifer Trachtenberg)
Mon and Thurs 8-8:55am

Game times

Jr. Boys - Mondays

Jr. Girls - Tuesday

Sr. Boys - Wednesdays

Sr. Boys - Thursdays

The Junior Girls Basketball team has been practicing hard and learning new skills this year. In each game, the girls have shown a tremendous amount of progress, passion, and sports(wo)manship. We love coaching them-- they are a group who support each other, work hard, and are determined to improve their skills all while smiling and having fun.

Congratulations, girls, on an amazing season so far!

Ms. Kernohan, Mme. Trachtenberg, and Ms. Gee, and our volunteer coach, Heather

Sun-Run Team

Selkirk Sun-Run Team is starting practices with Mr. Audet next week. We are excited to see returning faces and many new ones as well. Thank you to our Gladstone volunteers.

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF

We would like to officially welcome and introduce you to some fabulous new Selkirk Staff. Please say hello and introduce yourself next time you see them. Presenting....

Ms. Cristina Rei: Office Admin Assistant



Mr. Scott Simons: Supervision Aide



Ms. Doris Shi: Strong Start Facilitator



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

We are encouraging all students in grades 5-7 to be involved in some type of leadership as a lunch monitor, peer helper, etc. Please come see Ms. Burton if you want more information about how your child can get involved.

Selkirk IS student leadership. Part of what makes Selkirk such an amazing place to be is the role that students play in the school. They are involved active citizens that work to help make a difference.

Participating in these activities helps students contribute to the school community while working on developing strong leadership qualities.



VSB 2017-2018 CALENDAR

The draft calendar for 2017-18 is attached here, and the link to the full report is below.
http://www.vsb.bc.ca/sites/default/files/17Feb01_op_commlil_item%201.pdf

For Winter Break, the proposed amended dates are:

Last day of school before the break: December 22

First day back to school after the break: January 8

Feedback on the proposed non-instructional dates and the amendment to the Winter Break can be sent to calendar@vsb.bc.ca until February 24th.

LIBRARY UPDATE

Scholastic Book Fair



Thank you to Mme Teresa and everyone that helped out to make our recent book fair a success.

Also, a reminder that the library is open before school at 8:40. Students are welcome to come in to get a book, read or do homework quietly.

SELKIRK FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT



Please join us for the first movie night of the school year on Thursday, February 23rd. We will be showing “**Finding Dory.**”

Doors open at 5:45 and the movie starts at 6:15. The movie should finish around 8pm. There will be popcorn, juice and water for \$1.00 each.

Please make sure to bring an adult with you to this event. Looking forward to seeing you there!

K CHOICE PROGRAM and NON-CHOICE K ENROLLMENT DRAW INFO

Important Change of Date Information for 2017-18 Choice Program Admission and Change of Date for Regular Kindergarten Admission:

Given ongoing discussions at the provincial level regarding restored teacher collective agreement language and its implementation, the district has determined it is necessary to delay placement offers for **ALL** elementary and secondary district choice programs. This includes the French Immersion program at Lord Selkirk Elementary. The revised date for first placement offers for all district choice programs has been changed to **Wednesday March 1, 2017.**

In addition, it is necessary to delay Kindergarten draws (NON FRENCH/CHOICE) for all full schools. This includes Lord Selkirk Elementary School. We may be required to have a draw for in-catchment main stream English classes.

The revised date for parents to receive information regarding these Kindergarten draws has been changed to Wednesday March 1, 2017.

We apologize for any inconvenience this change of date may cause families.

LICE INFORMATION

Hello!

It's that time of year when I've started to get enquiries about lice. Lice are a common yearly occurrence in schools. Vancouver Coastal Health and the Vancouver School Board no longer do lice checks in schools. It was found to be ineffective, as well as stigmatizing to both students and families. If you do get a notice that lice have been identified in your child's classroom, you will receive a handout on how to treat both your family's hair as well as appropriate household items. There are also handouts in multiple languages available at the school office which staff are aware of. If you would like to look through some treatment options here is a link to an excellent pdf:

http://www.vch.ca/media/Getting_Rid_Of_Head_Lice_2016.pdf

I would suggest the wet combing as the best option as the lice have become resistant to many of the chemical products. It can also be a nice regular ritual during which to connect and talk with your child about their day! We do not keep children with identified lice at home as we don't want them to miss school and head lice do not spread illness or disease. Instead, ensure your child is not sharing hair accessories or hats with other students, and that jackets and toques are stored at school so that they are not in contact with others, as lice do not jump, fly, or swim. I'm afraid we can't help the joyful snow wrestling that's happening these days.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. Tracy Reimer Public Health Nurse
Tracy.Reimer@vch.ca