



September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

OUR VSB

# Selkirk Elementary Newsletter

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## September the Month of Belonging/Appartenance

This month we explored having a sense of belonging to one another and to the Selkirk community. During the assembly we invited students and staff to think about what belonging means to them. By the office, you can see the reflection/representations from each class. Our hallways are also decorated with students' work presenting who they are. A strong sense of belonging begins with a sense of self.



## Faculty Change

Some more changes occurred since the beginning of the year: Ms. Lam has accepted a resource teaching position at our school. Ms. Chan is currently teaching the Grade 1 class full-time until the hiring process has completed. Ms. Parkin is also staying on to teach our K class as we are in the same hiring process for that position. Nicola will no longer teach the Grade 5/6 class on Mondays, she has instead taken on a position to be a resource teacher at our school two days a week and prep teacher one day a week.

## Lunch Time Clubs

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the week, Grade 6 & 7s are invited to attend the Selkirk MAC (Music Appreciation Club) led by Mr. Johnston in the gym. Students are learning about two different artists/bands during these lunchtimes. The next one is on October 5<sup>th</sup>. This year, Mme. Lamonde leads the Glee Club in her classroom in the Frame building on Tuesday at lunch time. This club is for our Grade 4-7. There will also be some Grade 6-7 pianists joining them. Soon we will also have a Lego club on Fridays and the very sought-after Chess Club on Wednesdays under Ms. Smith's supervision. Our Diversity Club continues to be stronger than ever this year, with many staff leads including Mme. Ashley, Mme. Arielle, Ms. Reeghan, and Ms. Kaye. Thank you to all our staff who support lunch time clubs.

## Truth and Reconciliation

On Friday the 29<sup>th</sup>, there was a sea of orange shirts to acknowledge the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. In preparation, many classes attended the virtual reading/visit from author David A. Robertson. Among many other books, he wrote "When We Are Alone", illustrated by Julie Flett. Other authors and titles were used to engage students in discussions and reflections. Some classes read "The Secret Pocket" written by Peggy Janicki, published last spring [www.orcabook.com/The-Secret-Pocket](http://www.orcabook.com/The-Secret-Pocket). The power of hearing the stories and understanding the past allows us to tread forward positively. I am sharing with you a link to many great titles to learn more about Residential schools and to read and celebrate Indigenous authors. [www.cbc.ca/books/when-we-were-alone-1.4119444](http://www.cbc.ca/books/when-we-were-alone-1.4119444)

As a school, going forward, we will begin our gatherings and assemblies with the Coast Salish Anthem. Last week Ms. Reibin and Ms. Sardihna's students began learning it to share with the whole school. The song belonged to the Late Chief Dan George and his family from the Tsleil-Waututh Nation. He gifted the Prayer Song to the Salish Nations in support of standing and singing together in strength and unity. If you would like to start learning it at home, below are three versions of the song.



Sung by Chief Leonard George - son of Chief Dan George

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3JluwScSPc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3JluwScSPc)

Sung by Gabriel George - grandson of Chief Dan George

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=hrzveOSwHZw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hrzveOSwHZw)

Sung by Gordon Dyck from the Tsleil-Waututh Nation

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQk-rVgnW\\_I](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQk-rVgnW_I)

This version does not have the lyrics but has local animal visuals.

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/SQK-RVGNW\\_I](https://youtu.be/SQK-RVGNW_I)



## Sports and Sporting Events

Thank you to Mme. Wendy and Mme. Houle, our Terry Fox run was again a success this year. We had great Grade 7 leaders for the warm-up and then two locations for the run: at school for our younger learners and at Trout Lake for our older students. Thank you to all the families who donated money to the Terry Fox Foundation.



There were more than 100 participants in the first Cross Country meet at Trout Lake last Thursday. This year, students from Grade 2-7 can be runners. Thank you to Ms. Chan, Mme. Celeste, Mme. Kyra, Ms. Reid, our coaches for the season, and all the families who helped during the first mini-meet. Cross-country is a short yet exciting season ending on October 20<sup>th</sup> with the District final meet at Trout Lake.

Soccer also began in September. Thank you to Mme. Ashley, Mr. Patterson-Morris, and Mr. Haynes for coaching our teams and for facilitating our students participating in games.

Volleyball started this week, thank you to our coaches this year: Mr. Johnston, Ms. Wong, and Mme. Celeste. Selkirk's sense of belonging is felt strongly through all sporting activities.

## Construction this Month

There were numerous constructions/repair projects taking place this month. Our district plumbing crew came to help with pipe blockage and breakage. There is still an area in front of the main building cornered off where some digging occurred, as the grounds' crew is waiting for the soil to settle in a bit before reopening that area. The playground has now been closed and every day is an interesting day for us to learn more about what the workers will be working on. It is impressive how much has been done in three days. Students are adjusting to finding different ways to play in different areas. We look forward to our upgraded and more accessible playground in a few weeks.



## Meet the Teacher(s)

Thank you to all the Grade 1-7 families who were able to attend the meet the teacher(s) sessions during the last week of the month. We treasure the connections we are establishing with you. I truly enjoy getting to meet so many of you; your kindness and welcoming makes me feel like I too belong to Selkirk. Merci!

## What's next?

Continue being safe when driving around the school. We needed support from the VPD traffic officers already this month as there were some unsafe driving practices. Let's make sure we are safe coming to school and going home. Good news, the School Street program will be back during the month of May!

October is the month of respect at Selkirk, and we will seek different ways to grow respect for self, for others, and for this place. Our school conferences are also in October. This means that on October 25<sup>th</sup> and October 26<sup>th</sup>, students finish their school day at 2pm for families to come in and attend a goal-setting meeting with the classroom teachers. This point of connection will allow us to work together to focus on each student's growth.