



September 30th, 2024

OUR VSB

Selkirk Elementary Newsletter

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September, Month of Belonging/mois de l'appartenance

In September we have the opportunity of seeing one another again or of meeting for the first time. This year everyone participated in a collective project to establish connections between one another across the three buildings students learn in. Each student and staff member filled in a post-it with their name and a word or image of something that matters to them tied to a sense of belonging. During the Meet the Teacher(s) night, we invited family members to add their own post-it to our giant hearts. The hearts are spread throughout our buildings.

The Belonging Assemblies were led by students from Mr. Sulit's class. Ms. Hibbert/Ms. Wong's Gr. 2 students sang a wonderful song reminding us that we belong here at Selkirk School. Mme Celeste's students sang the Coast Salish Anthem for both assemblies. We are proud of them for making sure this important song, gifted by Chief Dan George, is heard and sung at Selkirk https://youtu.be/sQk-rVgnW_I?si=DrkmMDP1Yoi2gCUQ. Thank you to Ms. Chan for her work done behind the scenes for our assemblies.



Staff Update

We are sad to share that SSAs Ms. Lin and TJ are now working at different sites. On a positive note, we have welcomed SSAs AJ, Ms. Kathrine, and Ms. Daniela onto our team. SSA Mo has been covering a vacancy many days this month and we appreciate having him on board too. We are glad to share that Ms. Loi will stay as Division 11's Gr. 3 teacher for the whole school year. Ms. Meehan's maternity leave started earlier, and we are looking for a teacher to be in the position until the end of the school year. Families from this class will receive updates as soon as we have some.

Extracurricular Sports in September at Selkirk

Mr. Patterson and Mme Ashley joined forces this year to sponsor and coach Senior Boys (Gr. 7) and Senior Girls (Gr. 7) soccer teams. We are grateful for their time as adding practices and games to the beginning of a school year is no small feat. The practices are held in our gravel field before school Tuesdays and Thursdays. Games are after school at Beaconsfield for the Boys on Wednesdays, and at Selkirk on Thursdays for the Girls. Come and cheer our Selkirk Cedars!

Ms. Laurie, Ms. Keilty, Mr. Sulit, and Rose H. are working together to coach our Gr. 4-7 students Cross-Country Team. They are hosting two practices (Tuesday at lunch and Wednesday morning) and in October, will attend 3 Thursday after school mini meets. This year, the big final meet is on Tuesday, October 22nd at Trout Lake. Many thanks for giving your time supporting Cross-Country.

Clubs During School Time

Many clubs for Intermediate students began in September: Glee Club for Gr. 5-7 in Mme LaMonde's class meets Mondays and Wednesdays at lunch, Diversity Club meets on Tuesdays in Mme Arielle's class, Student Leadership Club meets on Tuesdays in the library, Minecraft Club for Gr. 5-7 meets in Mr. Pugh's room on Thursdays, and floor hockey in the gym for Gr. 5-7 students.

Thank you to all the staff members who are leading these fun clubs and activities during their lunch break! We are looking into upcoming possibilities for younger learners to do during lunchtime as the weather will become cooler and rainier.

Terry Fox Run + Kilometer Club

This year's Terry Fox Run was a perfect blue sky cool day. Everyone gathered by the front entrance of our school for a whole-school warm-up led by three amazing Grade 7 students. Our Gr. 4-7 students went to Trout Lake for the Run while our K-1 ran in the grass field, and Gr. 2-3 ran in the gravel field. Thank you to all teachers and staff for making this event run smoothly. A special thank you to Mme Houle and Mme Wendy for organizing. We are finalizing the money collection and would like to thank you for your contributions to Cancer Research. Mme Wendy's students went from class-to-class during the last week to collect.



Coming in October will be our Selkirk Kilometer Club. Each division will be running at least once a week together outside of their PE times. We will be tallying their distance and add to our whole school tally and see how far we go together. We will keep you informed monthly.

Bookmark Contest

Mme Astrid, Selkirk's teacher-librarian, launched a bookmark creation contest this month. The entries' display is located by the main office. A few bookmarks will be selected and reproduced, shared among Selkirk readers. What an exciting way to invite students to read.

Reconciliation Blanket

We have received a reconciliation blanket woven by the incredible xʷməθkʷəy̓əm artist, educator Debra Sparrow. When the blanket was presented during our assemblies, I asked everyone to think about the generosity and grandeur of this gift for reconciliation, the impact it will have on all of us. I invited everyone to think about what our next action of reconciliation will be, our act of reciprocity; for Ms. Sparrow, for the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, Úxwumixw, and səliłwətał. Starting on October 1st, each class will have the honor of receiving the blanket in their room for a week. This will help them to connect with the meaning of our school being blanketed and to how else we can walk in the path of active reconciliation. Attached to this Report I am sharing more information about Ms. Debra Sparrow and her action of Blanketing the City of Vancouver.





Some Learning in Pictures

Ms. Smith's Grade 3 learners are reflecting upon the autumn wind through their artwork.



The Dot, by Peter H. Reynolds, by inspired students in Gr. 1 (Ms. Feld), Gr. ½ (Ms. Zaitsoff/Ms. Rai-dayal), and Gr 3 (Ms. Loi). It is

a memorable read, have a listen if you have not read it yet. <https://youtu.be/sg-aGFsOk1I?si=JgpvNpGCTcnQDDN4>



Mme Houle and Mme Rama's Grade 2/3 Graffiti art.



What's next?

FSA: Foundation Skills Assessment for Gr. 4 and Gr. 7 students will begin early October. Families of students in those grades have received information about FSAs and can review information shared by the district if they have further questions.

Volleyball: Volleyball will follow Soccer and Cross-Country in the school district Athletics calendar. We have made the call out to staff to find sponsors for the volleyball teams. In the VSB, if there are enough sponsors, there could be a junior boys and a junior girls team (Gr. 6), as well as senior boys and a senior girls team (Gr. 7). At the time of publishing this report, we have not yet secured staff sponsors for our teams.

Field Hockey: is coming to Selkirk during the second week of October during student's regular Physical Activity blocks. We are grateful to the Vancouver Hawks to count us in their program again this year.

Earthquake Drill: On October 10th, most people in BC will practice drop and cover. Our school is also taking part in this important safety drill.

Goal Setting Conferences: Tuesday, October 22nd and Wednesday, October 23rd are early dismissal days. Students need to be picked up at school at 1:58pm as teachers will be meeting with families and students to set learning goals for the school year. Each teacher will be sending information about their own booking. Stay tuned.

Pro-d Day: October 25th is a professional development day across BC. There is no school for students while staff is learning.

náca?mat ct – “we are one” in hənqəminəm.