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Selkirk School

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From the Principal

Following an excellent start, the 2017 2018 year is now in full swing, with all academic programs in both English and French streams enjoying strong beginnings, along with extracurricular sports, music and dance activities. Adding to a great beginning, we extend thanks to our Parent Council for hosting a much enjoyed **family and staff get-together and barbecue** Sept 12th. Meeting one another socially over gourmet hotdogs is a continuing hit for all involved!

Thanks to Brian Macdonald, Laura Orviss Shawna Vedress and Stacy Sippel for hosting **soccer** teams and excellent tournament play at Vanier and CKES Sept 15th. **Volleyball** season is next with senior teams scheduled for tournament play Oct 11th Thanks to coaches Nicole Dore and Jason Cook. The **Selkirk Running Club** has also been active over the last few weeks, with an excellent turnout of students joining Laura Orviss, Andrea Webber, Lindsay Hutchinson, Emily Hood and Adam MacDougall for noon-hour sprints along the Millennium trail.

With support from Grant Hartwick and Katie Avery, 15 beginner students have already been added to the **Selkirk Community Orchestra**. **Selkirk Strings** are also off to a great start on Tuesday Family Nights 5:30-7:00 with Grant Hartwick, Katie Avery and Alison Morham. Special thanks to the SES Parent Council for their \$3000 purchase of new violins, ranging in size from a tenth to full size!

On a social front, Mr Cressman and Ms Dennis organized an excellent **grade seven dance** for all Whitehorse students on Friday Sept 22nd. Students had a great time as the music boomed from 7pm to 10pm. Thanks to students, parents and staff for making the event a great success!

Also on a social front, our Family Night Program held each Tuesday from 5:30 -7:00 pm began with 98 students and parents needing an extra bus to attend our first **Family Night Swim** at the Canada Games Centre Sept 26th!!! While the participation was excellent, we'll need to pre-register for the next swim night to prevent overcrowding at the pool and to keep our wallet from bursting!! As always, interested parents are welcome to host a 3-6 week activity for students in an area of interest or expertise! For information, or to volunteer, contact the school at 667 3688.

Next week, as part of **Family Week**, our **Tuesday Oct 3rd** program will consist of our annual **Family Night Potluck**. All families are cordially invited to share a meal and conversation with one another! Please remember to bring your own cutlery, plates and cups, as well as a favorite dish to share with others along with your good humor! **Begins 5:30, ends 7:00**. See you there!

School News

First Nations Club

Nineteen students have signed up to work with Sothern Tutchone language instructor Linda Harvey and Roberta Behr from the Ta'an Gwich'in Council. Students will be making vest and slipper regalia to accompany their participation in learning more about traditional singing and dancing. This year, we are also hopeful that student participation in creating an exterior wall mural can be arranged!

Carving Program We are at the beginning stages of organizing our annual carving program with the Northern Expressions Cultural Society. A popular program, we were pleased that our student carvers were invited to take part in some of the boatbuilding at the Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre last June. We are hopeful that our carvers can help with traditional designs for the mural we would like to create with students this year.

Terry Fox Run Good weather and excellent participation in our annual Terry Fox Run resulted in \$385 in toonies in support of cancer research. Primary students ran to the footbridge over the river while intermediates completed the Millennium Trail. Thanks to Leah Widdis for spearheading the event and to staff, students and parents for the great support. Well done, all!

Schools of Whitehorse Thanksgiving Food Drive collections will be made Wednesday Oct 4th. Thanks to Mr Cressman and his class of grade seven students for distributing bright green carry bags to our Riverdale parents. Collections will have already received a bright green carry-bag. has become a very important effort within our community, providing the Whitehorse Foodbank with approximately **three months of food** to assist those who have difficulty ensuring food security. Approximately 12% of the population access this foodbank each year, and we know that many families in our schools are among those without enough to eat.

Counsellor's Corner: This term at Selkirk we are focusing on "Caring for ourselves and for others". Since the start of the year we have been celebrating the kind behaviors students show to one another (especially by helping and including our newer students). Noticing when someone is hurt, sad, or nervous and taking action to help them directly or by getting a teacher are being taught and encouraged throughout the school. It has been very heartwarming to see just how often this happens naturally in our school community and to see the positive feelings grow with each caring act. We are hopeful that these 'small acts of kindness' will continue to improve the overall sense of belonging and safety here at school. In October, students in grades 3-7 will once again complete our "School Relationships Survey" that provides us with data to make informed decisions on improving school culture.

Learning Together Program

Families new to Selkirk may wish to know that our Learning Together (LT) is a drop-in program designed for 0 - 4 year olds accompanied by parents or caregivers. The program operates Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 11:30 am and is offered to all parents and children living in the Whitehorse area. An interactive room with high ceilings, bright walls, big windows, and lots of space for movement and high energy, this program provides a great environment and opportunity for parents and caregivers to interact with their children.

Selkirk Family Night

Selkirk School and our Parent Council are continuing to support our **Family Night** program for students in grades 3-7 and families as a school-based, family support and recreation program. Free for families, it is held at Selkirk on Tuesdays from 5:30-7:00pm

As in the past, we wish to include adults and parents within our school community both as **participants** and as **program leaders** to share their skills and talents with students and families. The school is able to provide parent program leaders with funds to cover expenses. Programs usually last for 3- 6 sessions over one or two months. ***If you would like to be a participant or a program leader, please fill out the attached response form below and return it to the school. Thanks!***

What's New?

Student Safety. Thanks to cooperative work involving Yukon education and the City of Whitehorse, we now have a completed circle route for student drop off and pick up in the south parking lot! Signs are still to come, but with this being a no parking/drop off only zone, curbside entry and exits from parent vehicles will certainly improve safe arrivals and departures for our students. Voila!!

Professional Development Friday October 6th is the first of 5 non-instructional days for schools to complete some new work with the redesigned curriculum for Yukon schools. While what we will be doing continues to involve formative assessment to guide instruction, parents can look forward to changes in the reporting of student progress that will include greater student independence and responsibility for their learning. ***Students do not attend on this day.***

Parent teacher conferences will be student led from 3:15-8:00pm Thursday Oct 19 and from 9:00 to 12:00 on Friday Oct 20th To support changes to the reporting process, students are expected to attend with parents and guardians to take on a leading role with parents and teachers.

Dates to Remember

Tuesday October 3rd	Shining Star Assembly 1 pm
Tuesday October 3rd	Family Night Pot Luck 5:30 -7:00pm
Friday October 6	Professional Development Day Students do not attend
Monday October 9	Thanksgiving Monday, no school
Tuesday October 10	Selkirk Family Night, 5:30-7:00
Tuesday October 10	School Council Mtg. 6:30, Library
Tuesday, Oct 18-Fri Oct 21	Book Fair School Library
Thursday, October 19	Parent-Teacher-Student Evening Conferences 3:15-8:00
Friday, October 20	Parent Teacher Conferences 9:00-12:00
Tuesday, October 24	Family Night Swim

Selkirk Family Night Parent Survey PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN TO THE SCHOOL

_____ I am able to **lead** a Family Night program (Activity area) _____
_____ Number of sessions (3 or 6)
_____ Number of students I can host

(Parent Name(s)) _____ Phone(s) _____

