

April News



**Grande Prairie
Public School
Division**

PARKSIDE MONTESSORI

Montessori News

Happy April Families of Parkside Montessori! Spring is here! We hope you enjoy a restful Spring break with your families and are as excited as we are for the warmer temperatures and springtime learning adventures! 'Tis the season for puddles and outdoor fun! Please make sure that your child has extra clothes and socks with them each day at school.

March was an exciting month for Parkside Montessori. We started off the month with registration for new Kindergarten and PreSchool families. It is affirming to see the strong interest in our program from the community. We were very excited to host Celebration of Learning again this term for students to demonstrate what our Montessori classrooms and learning looks like! If you didn't have the opportunity to participate in Celebration of Learning and would like to make an appointment to come in, please contact your child's teacher. It is very important to our school community that parents feel informed about their child's (ren's) learning. We also hosted the Earth Rangers, had a M.A.L.T. morning and engaged with Jack and the Beanstalk presented by the Alberta Musical Theatre Company (formerly Alberta Opera).

There are many exciting events on the calendar for the month of April at Parkside. We will host our second annual Parkside Montessori Egg Hunt, celebrate our EGG-stra special students, recognize School Spirit Day, and celebrate Miss Nancy on Administrative Professionals' Day. Thank you to everyone who completed the Provincial Assurance Survey

(Parents and Students Grades 4-6) during the month of March. Information regarding a second survey, our Division Assurance Survey will be emailed home just after Spring Break. Our staff uses the data from both surveys to help determine our school priorities and to adjust current practices to better serve our school community. We appreciate your on-going feedback.

Please feel free to join us for our monthly School Council and Fundraising Guild meetings on the first Monday of each month! Both opportunities allow us to connect, share information, and receive feedback from our parent community. Our Fundraising Guild was excited to announce being awarded a \$125,000 grant for our new playground. Additionally, they received \$10,000 from Rotary! Thank you to the members of the Guild and our school community for supporting the on-going fundraising to make our playground dream reality for the children of Parkside.

As always, if you have feedback for us, please let us know! We wish all our Parkside Families a restful and rejuvenating Spring Break!

-Miss Corrine & Miss Terra



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Nothing ever seems impossible in spring, you know.

-L.M. Montgomery

On the Calendar...

April 2023

April 3- School Council @ 6pm; Fundraising Guild @ 7:15pm

April 5- Egg Hunt; Hot Lunch (Harvey's pre-order)

April 6 through 16th- Easter Break! (no school)

April 17- Classes resume

April 18- School Spirit Day

April 21- Hot Lunch (State & Main pre-order)

April 27- Beach Day; Administrative Professionals' Day; Hot Lunch (Subway pre-order)

April 28- NO SCHOOL for students (Professional Learning Day for staff)



Parkside
Montessori

Thank you for joining us for our
March 2023 Celebration of Learning!

School Council & Fundraising Guild



It is with great pleasure that we announce that the Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori has successfully secured a matching grant from the province of Alberta to assist in building a brand new playground at our school. We are extremely grateful for the support we have received from our parents, families & community in our fundraising efforts. Without your contributions, this would not have been possible. We will continue to keep you updated on the progress of the playground installation, and we look forward to seeing our children enjoy their new play area.

Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

A giant THANK YOU to all of our parents & school community friends that worked volunteer shifts for the Casino on March 26 & 27. Groups like ours could not function without the help of volunteers. This initiative has raised significant funds towards our playground and we are so grateful to everyone who participated.

Join us for our next School Council and Fundraising Guild meetings on Monday, May 1st in the school library. 6pm Council & 7:15 Guild.

Casa dei Bambini, Preschool & Kindergarten

March was a wonderful month for our Casa children. They enjoyed the opportunity to show off their learning during Celebration of Learning. They have worked hard and shown a lot of growth this year. Their teachers are very proud of the work that they have done.

This month we will investigate signs of spring. Students will observe and record changes that happen as it goes from winter to spring. Hopefully the weather will be nice enough for us to do some outdoor learning!

In Math, we will focus on 2D and 3D shapes. We will look for shapes in nature and describe what we see. We will also investigate 3D shapes through hands-on experiences.

In Language, we will be focusing on Phonemic Awareness and Concepts of Print. Phonemic Awareness is the ability to focus on and manipulate individual sounds in words. As a group we will practice rhyming, blending words, isolating beginning, and ending sounds, and segmenting words. Concepts of Print is the understanding of how printed language works. The concepts we will focus on are:

- The front and back of a book
- Words are made up of letters
- Print is read from left to right and top to bottom
- One print word represents one spoken word when read aloud
- Every word has a first and last letter
- Every sentence has a first and last word

-Miss Trisha & Miss Emma



Lower Elementary, Gr. 1, 2, 3

Hello, Parkside families!

The month of March flew by with lots to celebrate. Our students planned and built Rube Goldberg simple machines which brought lots of excitement to our classrooms! This month, we received our Language Arts blending boards which has helped us with sounding out and spelling words using the word rules we know. The end of March brought our second Celebration of Learning. It was amazing to be a part of our student-led celebrations and to have you, the families, in to see all the progress we have made! We also sat in on some wonderful school wide-events including Earth Rangers and the Alberta Musical Theatre Company.

With Spring, comes our Needs of Plants and Animals unit in Science. Across our five ELMO123 classes, students will be busy planting and caring for different types of plants and will be investigating and researching the life cycles of different animals. More specific information will be coming your way from your child's teacher. In Language Arts, students are learning how to write simple paragraphs using knowledge from different subject areas. In Math, we are creating and solving word problems in addition to learning about Time and Measurement. In Social Studies, students continue to investigate the different continents, with focus on the following countries: India, Tunisia, Ukraine and Peru. Ask your child about what they might be able to share with you at home!

We hope you enjoy a beautiful Spring Break.

*-Miss Jen, Miss Melissa, Miss Jennifer,
Miss Julianne, & Mr. Josh*



Upper Elementary, Gr. 4, 5, 6

Welcome Spring!

March was a month filled with perseverance and connection! Students worked so hard at creating and sharing items from Term 2 Celebration of Learning nights! Thank you to all parents and families that were able to attend, it means so much to us to have you in our classrooms supporting your child's successes!

In Math, we have been focusing on geometry. Students are working on identifying, reflecting, translating and rotating 2D and 3D shapes on a coordinate grid. We have been able to connect a lot of Art through concepts like Tessellations and discussing shapes within our recent sculptures! There have been some very engaging presentations of Montessori materials such as the Geometry Cabinet, Geometric Blue Solids and Geometric Sticks to show lines and angles.

In Language, we have been able to be inspired by a recent Alberta Musical Theatre Company live performance and are including writing of interactive speeches, readers theatre and passion projects into our writing repertoire this month. Other writing topics of letters, narratives and opinion-based prompts continue to be favourites of our students. As students explore recorders and ukuleles in Music there are many opportunities for their Language work to cross into song writing and other real-world applications of the written word!

Grade 4 students finished up our Science unit on light and shadow and are now starting on building things with a focus on various wheels, levers, and other simple machines! In Social Studies, Grade 4 students are learning about the history of Alberta, the land, the peoples and how it was settled. Grade 5 students are creating weather reports on a

topic of their choice, with presentations ranging from rainbows to tornadoes to the water cycle and everything in between! For Social Studies, we were inspired by our work on our mini libraries and did a novel study called the "Murder on the Canadian" a mysterious adventure set on the trans-Canada railway. Students voted and we will explore one more mystery written by Canadian author Eric Wilson that is set in the West Edmonton Mall! Grade 6 students continued their physics work learning all about reversible and irreversible changes in Science. For Social Studies, they have been discussing the ins and outs of provincial politics. Students will soon be creating their own party complete with compelling campaigns!

Wishing all Parkside families, a restful and relaxing spring break!

-Miss Becky, Miss Desiree & Miss Stefanie





PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAYS



2022-23

Are you curious about what goes on during our PL Days?

Parkside Montessori staff are actively engaged in school improvement and learning to support our students.

On our March 17th Professional Learning Day, Parkside Montessori Staff spent time working with their teams on a variety of topics such as small-group Guided Literacy instruction, examining recent assessments and reviewing class data profiles to help guide upcoming instruction. Time was also spent engaging in the professional inquiry cycle where staff collect data, implement strategies and evaluate progress to best impact student learning. A highlight of our time was when we came together as a whole-group to share updates on individual progress on inquiry questions.



March 23rd we hosted the Earth Rangers. Parkside students were captivated by the animal ambassadors- Delta, Millie, and Sonic.



On March 30th we hosted the Alberta Musical Theatre Company with their engaging production of Jack and the Beanstalk

Celebrating Success!



Congratulations to the Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori!

On Friday, March 24th the Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori was extremely grateful to accept \$10 000 towards the construction of our playground from the Rotary Club of Grande Prairie.

We know that the construction of this playground will enrich not only our school community but also that of the neighbourhood of Highland Park and we are thankful for the support we have received.

We appreciate the local Rotary Club and all that they do to better the community of Grande Prairie!

Caregiver Education Team Newsletter

April 2023



Alberta Health Services is proud to offer FREE online programming to caregivers of school-age children and youth as well as adults in the community who want to learn more about addiction and mental health topics.

Sessions are offered online through the Zoom conferencing application. A link to access the online session will be sent by email to those who have registered for the session.

Parkside Montessori

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[Click here](#) to link to the April 2023 CYF Caregiver Education Newsletter!

Visit our school page:

www.gppsd.ab.ca/school/parksidemontessori