

March News



**Grande Prairie
Public School
Division**

PARKSIDE MONTESSORI

Montessori News

February was a bustling month of activity for Parkside Montessori! We hosted Montessori Parent Night focused on Numeracy, had our first School Council Valentine's Day dance, recognized Pink Shirt Day and had our Open House for new families. Community registration for new families is off to a strong start, and we are excited to welcome new students to our Parkside Montessori family!

Thank you for your support in another successful Community Kindness week. Our students and staff were able to build relationships with and support many different community groups and our community First Responders! If you haven't had a chance to check out our video on Facebook, take a moment to see the results of Community Kindness Week 2023! This year we were able to support My LuvPak, the Grande Prairie Public School Division Education Foundation Snack Program, the Grande Prairie Care Centre, Sunrise House, In The Woods Animal Rescue, the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre, the Grande Prairie Hospital Foundation, the RCMP, Ambulance Services, City Bylaw and the Grande Prairie Fire Department.

The Parkside Montessori Team hosted a Montessori Parent Night for current parents focused on providing parents with information on the tools and strategies that their children are using to explore several numeracy concepts. Feedback on this session has been great and we are looking forward to hosting additional parent information sessions. Please let us know if there are topics that are of interest to you.

Beginning in March, parents of students in grades 4-6 from our school should have received a survey package titled "Alberta Education Assurance Survey" (AEA) in the mail from Alberta Education. Parents with more than one child in grades 4-6 will have received one package per child. This survey provides valuable feedback to our

school community and supports our planning and identification of priorities. More information on this survey has been sent home over the last few weeks. Please reach out if we can support you in providing this feedback to Alberta Education and our school.

March brings our second set of report cards and opportunity for parents to come and be part of our Celebrations of Learning. Progress report cards for Preschool will be sent home March 15th and 16th. K-6 report cards will go live via the Parent Portal in PowerSchool on March 17th at 12:00 p.m. If you need support in logging in to your account, please let us know. The process for accessing report cards remains the same as last term.

We are excited that our Celebrations of Learning on March 22nd (4:00-7:00) and 23rd (3:30-6:30) will be in-person and student led. As is typical for our in-person Celebrations of Learning, there will be an additional student and their family in the room with your family during your visit. If you would like to book an appointment to speak to your child's teacher one on one or are more comfortable receiving a phone call instead of an in-person Celebration of Learning, please let your child's teacher know. It is important to our school that our parents are informed about student progress and development. Please join with us in celebrating the excellent learning your child is doing at our school. Information regarding signing up for Celebration of Learning will be coming home next week. Our spring Book Fair will also occur in-person during Celebration of Learning.

We are looking forward to another M.A.L.T. afternoon and experiencing the art and music of Alberta Opera toward the end of March. Wishing your family, a marvelous March! As always, please let us know if there is anything we can do to support your family at Parkside!

-Miss Corrine & Miss Terra

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**Believe you can and
you're halfway there.**

-Theodore Roosevelt

On the Calendar...

March 2023

March 1, 2, & 3– Shelter in Place drills

March 6– School Council @ 6pm; Fundraising Guild @ 7:15pm

March 8– Hot lunch (Boston Pizza pre-order)

March 9 & 10– NO SCHOOL for Students (Teacher's Convention)

March 15– M/W Preschool Reports sent home

March 16– School Spirit Day/Green Day; T/Th Preschool Reports sent home

March 17– NO SCHOOL for Students (Professional Learning Day for staff); K–6 Report Cards go live on SchoolEngage

March 22 & 23– Celebration of Learning

March 24– Casa Celebration of Learning (NO SCHOOL for Casa Students); ELMO1–6, Inside Out Day!

March 29– M.A.L.T. Afternoon



Parkside
Montessori

#ParksideYear7

Don't miss our Scholastic Book Fair!

The Book Fair will be in-person during our
Celebration of Learning,

Wednesday, March 22 & Thursday, March 23, 2023.

School Council & Fundraising Guild

Fundraising Guild February Highlights:

Valentine's Day Dance raised over \$3500 thank you to everyone who donated items, purchased tickets and volunteered to help facilitate the event!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We have **one more position** to fill for our March 27th casino and are hoping to have **3-4 extra volunteers** who may be able to fill in last minute on either March 26th or 27th if necessary.

- Casino Sign-Up [HERE](#).

If you'd like more information, please reach out to theguild.pm@gmail.com

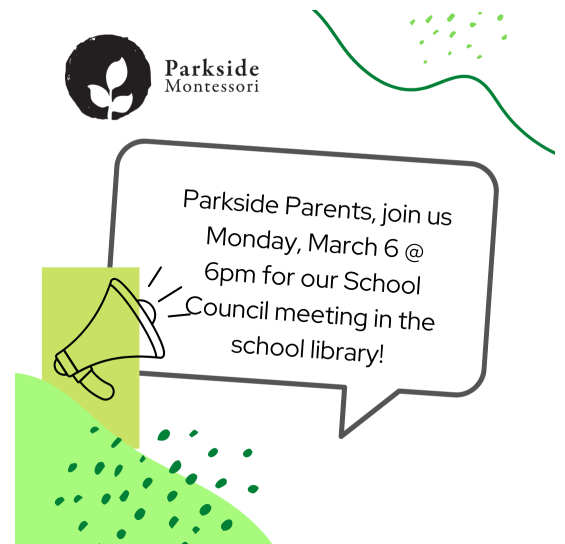
Thank you to our parent volunteers who helped us staff our shifts selling tickets for the Rotary Dream Home Lottery, if you haven't had a chance to check out this year's beautiful home, we recommend you do! We are grateful to all of those who have supported The Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori in our efforts! Anyone interested in more details of our operations or joining the Guild is welcome to join us at any of our monthly meetings.



**MARCH 2023
FUNDRAISING CALENDAR**



- March 3** – Sweetness Coloring Cookie Kits Fundraiser Opens
– 50/50 Raffle Opens
(watch Facebook and weekly bulletin email for Rafflebox link)
– Deadline for Done like Dinner Fundraising Orders
- March 6** – Fundraising Guild Regular Meeting 7:15pm
(school library and via Zoom, email for link)
- March 8** – Hot Lunch (Boston Pizza pre-order)
- March 17** – Deadline for Sweetness Coloring Cookie Kit Orders
(delivered week of March 27)
– Draw Date for 50/50
- March 24** – Hot Lunch (Subway pre-order)
- March 26/27** – Casino Nights
- March 31** – Pick up date for Done like Dinner Orders



The Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori holds a public meeting every month following our School Council meeting. Join us Monday, March 6 at 7:15 pm, in-person at Parkside Montessori

Casa dei Bambini, Preschool & Kindergarten

February was another busy month in Casa! The kids worked hard to create amazing Identity Fair projects and it was a great opportunity for them to learn more about their friends. We spent the month learning about acts of kindness and being “Kindness Ninjas” around our school! Our Kindness Ninjas also made suncatchers for the residents at the GP Care Centre for our Community Kindness project.

By the looks of it, March is going to be another fun-filled month for us! Students will be busy preparing for our Celebration of Learning, and to show off the skills they have learned this term. We are also going to also be exploring community helpers and what they do for our community.

In Math, we are going to be focusing on composing quantities within 5 and 10. We will have some seasonal St. Patrick's Day activities as well. In Language, we are continuing to focus on beginning, middle and end sounds. We will also start looking into different characteristics of books such setting, characters, and events.

Have a wonderful March!

-Miss Trisha & Miss Emma



Lower Elementary, Gr. 1, 2, 3

Hello, Parkside families!

February passed quickly with all of our events and fun themed days. We celebrated Community Kindness Week, our Identity Fair, the 100th day of school and Pink Shirt Day. In addition, Teachers have been collecting data from this great term of learning. There has been incredible growth this term, both academically and socially. Report Cards will be available online March 17th and our Celebration of Learning is taking place March 22nd & 23rd. Please keep your eyes out from your child's teacher with more information regarding our Celebration of Learning.

Starting in March and for the remainder of the year, Grade 1's will be working towards fluently adding and subtracting to 20, Grade 2's to 100 and Grade 3's to 1000, in addition to our investigation of measurement, money and time.

In Science, we will be using the following questions to guide our learning in Science: *How do plants and animals survive?* and *What is investigation?*

In Language Arts, we have been practicing sequencing and summarizing stories read to us. In March, we will continue this learning by creating our own stories.

Thank you families for your incredible involvement this past month, and always.

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



Upper Elementary, Gr. 4, 5, 6

Greetings from Upper ELMO!

February was a very short but very busy month. Our students were thoroughly engaged in exploring aspects of their identities and the value of diversity through their work for the whole-school Identity Fair and Community Kindness Week projects. Our students have proved themselves to be great leaders with many taking on classroom or whole school roles including patrolling and leading or helping to coach clubs for younger students.

March is a time when we are very busy assessing student learning. Students are completing many different assignments and projects and are preparing for their Celebrations of Learning mid-month.

In Math we have been working on Algebra and Order of Operations. Students have been working on balancing equations and preservation of equality. We have enjoyed creating and solving equations that have one or more variables. In March we will shift our focus from Number to Geometry, exploring many concepts including symmetry and tessellations.

In Language students continue to loop through many different concepts in their writing. Our kindness focus in February led to a natural exploration of letter writing and thank you cards. Students have expressed a great interest in narrative writing and are now working on using a plan then following with a checklist to edit their work. Everyone continues to practice grammar and word study in class using their Montessori materials.

In Science our grade 5 students have been learning all about weather, clouds and temperature. Grade 6 students have been learning about matter and energy. They enjoyed creating their own thermometers and discussing the limits of homemade technology. Grade 4 students have been learning about light and shadows.

In Social Studies our grade 5s are putting the finishing touches on their personal "History of Canada" mini book libraries- keep an eye out for them at our upcoming Celebration of Learning. Grade 6 students continue learn about the Iroquois Confederacy and have been discussing the ideas of democracy and consensus. Our Grade 4s continue their work of learning about Alberta and are beginning

to take a deeper look at our history, First Nations, settlers and important people who helped make Alberta what it is today.

We have all been practicing recorders students have been eager to learn many different songs such as "Mary had a little lamb", "Hot Cross Buns", and "Happy Birthday". Art students have been creating yarn/thread art. Many are cross-stitching, making small animals, and yarn landscapes. Once these projects are complete, we will move onto making sculptures.

-Miss Becky, Miss Desiree & Miss Stefanie



Above: Hand-stitched animal craftwork

Right: Working on a special project in the Practical Life room.





GPPSD STAFF WELLNESS/TRY IT DAY

Feb. 10, 2023

Are you curious about what we did during our February PL Day?

Supporting the wellbeing of Division staff is one of GPPSD's priority outcomes. As part of this commitment, our February 10th Professional Learning Day was dedicated to be a Division-wide Staff Wellness Day. Wellness expert, Dr. Robyne Hanley Dafoe, kicked off the day with a keynote presentation on 'Everyday Resiliency in Ever-Changing Times'. Staff then broke off into the community to spend the day attending pre-selected sessions or "try-it" activities related to the elements of wellness (i.e. physical, social, creation or intellectual, career or occupational, spiritual, emotional, environmental, financial & community wellness).



February 22nd was Pink Shirt Day. Kindness and treating others with respect was our focus for the day.



On February 14th we held our Parkside Montessori Identity Fair! We learned so much about our amazing students!

Celebrating Success!

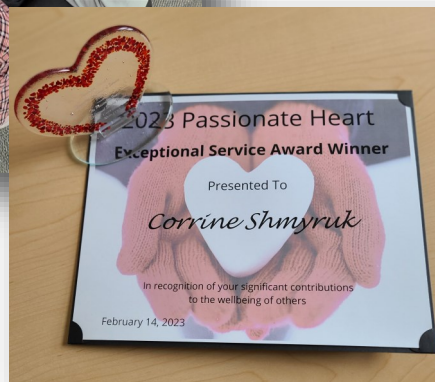


Miss Corrine won a 2023 Passionate Heart Award!

"Corrine is a textbook example of someone who gives 110% to everyone every day without any expectation of praise or recognition. She promotes the quality of the environment for the children and the integrity of the school, and it's a commitment to the Montessori philosophy above all else.

Her love for her students is genuine, and you can see it reflected in the love and respect the students have for her. It's unfathomable what long-term effect she will have on these children as they age and what ripples they will ultimately create as a part of adult society, but we, as parents and witnesses to the magic she creates, know it will be significant."

-from the Nomination Submission



Congratulations, Miss Corrine!

Caregiver Education Team Newsletter

March 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.

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



Parkside Montessori

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