

January News



**Grande Prairie
Public School
Division**

PARKSIDE MONTESSORI

Montessori News

Welcome back! We hope you were able to enjoy a relaxing Christmas break and spend some time as a family enjoying the mild temperatures. We are excited to be back and look forward to all the 2023 will hold for our school community.

We are grateful that the temperatures are starting to warm up and we are excited to be able to enjoy outdoor recess and activity as we head into January. Please remember to send warm clothing with your child so that they are ready for outdoor fun! Extra socks are also a good idea.

December was a busy month for the children of Parkside. We enjoyed hosting our Christmas Concerts, participated in learning about various winter celebrations, dressed in PJs and had our first Brunch for Lunch. Thank you to all our parent volunteers who supported our Brunch for Lunch. We would not have been able to have this event without the team that prepared, served, and cleaned up. Thank you, parents, and friends, for your service to our school. Our students thoroughly enjoyed their lunch!

As part of our January School Council meeting, Miss Corrine and Miss Terra will share our annual Results Report. This report is publicly posted with our Education Plan and can be found on our school webpage [HERE](#). Our Education Plan outlines our priorities, outcomes, and strategies to support student learning. The Results Report brings together multiple pieces of evidence, discusses our interpretation of the evidence, and identifies strategies to support continual improvement across multiple aspects of our school.

We are also looking forward to our annual Literacy Week, January 23rd-27th, during which we take time as a school community to engage in school-wide activities centered on various components of Literacy. Information on these events will be coming home in our weekly parent email so watch for more information over the next two weeks. We will also participate in another M.A.L.T. and Flannel Day in January. Hot Lunch ordering is open for all full day Casa and ELMO 1-6 students through MunchaLunch. To kick off February, we will be having a Montessori Learning Parent Night on February 2nd. Keep your eyes peeled for additional information in the coming weeks.

It has been our goal this year to keep you advised on the learning happening within our school through our newsletters, Facebook page, Instagram, weekly emails, and general school communication. Please let us know if you have feedback for us so that we can continue to refine our communication practices as a school community.

Thank you for your on-going support of our school. We are excited to continue learning with your children as the second portion of our year unfolds and remain committed to giving our best each day.

-Miss Corrine & Miss Terra



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Joy is the simplest form of gratitude.

-Karl Barth

On the Calendar...

January 2023

Jan. 9- Classes resume; School Council @ 6pm; Fundraising Guild @ 7:15pm

Jan. 10- Flannel Day! Wear your coziest & comfiest flannel clothes.

Jan. 20- School Spirit Day!

January 23 to 27 is Literacy Week! Watch for more details.

Jan. 27- M.A.L.T. morning

Jan. 30- NO SCHOOL for students
(Professional Learning Day for staff)



Mark your calendars!

LITERACY

Week 2023

January 23-27th

WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS

A stack of four books with blue, red, and grey covers.

#ParksideYear7

Watch your weekly email for more information about our upcoming Literacy Week events!

School Council & Fundraising Guild

Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori December Highlights:

Thank you for supporting our most recent fundraisers:

- 50/50 Raffle ticket sales were \$6570
Parmjit Mhal-Gill was our winner, receiving \$3285– congratulations!

The Fundraising Guild received a donation from the Rotary Club of Grande Prairie for \$10 000 as well as a donation of \$5000 from a community for our playground! Exciting news!

Hot lunch is available for January through Munchalunch [HERE](#)

- Harvey's, Friday, January 13th
- Subway, Friday, January 27th

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are still looking for volunteers to fill positions for **Casino Nights on March 26/27**. We have 16 time slots to fill and could really use some help from our parent community, please consider participating if you are able.

- Filling positions for Casino Nights on March 26/27. Sign-Up [HERE](#).

Thank you 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 attend any of our monthly meetings!

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

Both the School Council of Parkside Montessori and the Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori are active on Facebook. Find us on Facebook!



EVERYONE is welcome to our monthly school council meetings.

As part of our discussion on January 9th, we will be looking at the Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA), Creating a Hopeful Vision for Education. Our School Council will be collecting parent input on the following: **"What are the solutions you would like to see the Alberta government implement to improve education for your children and/or school?"**

Your input is important! If you are unable to attend the meeting, please take a moment to visit the ASCA site [HERE](#) and provide your input directly by the February 3rd deadline.

Additionally, Stand for Education is hosting round table discussions (in person & virtual) and is looking for similar feedback. To provide input click [HERE](#).

The Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori holds a public meeting every month following our School Council meeting. Join us Monday, January 9 at 7:15 pm, in-person at Parkside Montessori

Casa dei Bambini, Preschool & Kindergarten

Happy New Year!

December was another month that flew by! It was a time filled with many activities, celebrations, and learning. Casa students got to show their wonderful singing skills off to everyone at the Christmas concert, learn about different holiday celebrations around the world, and make holiday crafts. On December 22nd we said farewell to Miss Sonja who has done a great job as our Casa 1 teacher for the first part of this year. We welcome back Miss Trisha on January 9th from her maternity leave.

As everyone returns from the holiday break, we will be reviewing all the routines and classroom expectations. This type of review is always done after an extended break to help students and staff get back into the normalized state to be ready to learn.

January is going to be spent exploring different animals and how they survive the winter. Through stories, games, and activities, the children will learn about hibernation, migration, and different ways animals can adapt to meet their basic needs in winter. We are also hoping that we have winter weather in the New Year that allows us to be outside lots!

It is sure to be another fun month spent in our Casa dei Bambini!

-Miss Emma and Miss Trisha



Lower Elementary, Gr. 1, 2, 3

We hope that everyone had a fun and restful winter break. We are excited to be back together and continue our learning adventures in 2023!

December was full of fun and exciting learning opportunities. It was great to be able to get together for Celebration of Learning! In December we were learning about the many ways in which people from around the world celebrate different holidays through discussions and hands-on activities. We enjoyed performing at the Christmas concerts and experienced a school-wide Brunch for Lunch meal at school!

Our Lower Elementary classes continue our exploration into the Montessori Cosmic curriculum by sharing The Third Great Lesson: How Human's Came to Earth. Through this story the students will learn about how humans have changed over time and the common needs of people.

In Science, we have examined patterns in nature (seasons, day/night) and we were able to celebrate the Winter Solstice on December 21st. We also deepened our understanding of animal changes from fall to winter and we will continue exploring animal classification. We will start our learning on the topics of Energy and Matter through hands-on building activities such as marble race games. Classroom teachers may reach out to ask for recyclables to be sent in to support the learning in this unit.

In Social Studies, each class is taking turns learning about different continents and countries around the world. Through these units, students will explore geography, landforms, food, clothing, religion, animals, and culture. These units will provide everyone with a variety of hands-on art and practical life activities to demonstrate their understanding. Students will also deepen their understanding while completing Montessori Nomenclature activities about their country.

We will be monitoring the weather daily and attempting to get outside as much as possible for recess. Please ensure that your child is dressed in layers for the weather. Having outdoor gear (gloves, mittens, hats, and more) labeled will help us in returning them to their owners if they are dropped outside, in the boot room, or hallway.

We are looking forward to another exciting month of learning! Look out for more information coming your way regarding Literacy Week at the end of January!

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



Upper Elementary, Gr. 4, 5, 6

Greetings from Upper ELMO!

Greetings and a Happy New Year from the Upper ELMO team. It's amazing how fast the first four months of school flew by. The students have been so excited to see the return of many beloved events and the start of new traditions. December was very busy with Christmas concerts, caroling, winter celebrations around the world and our first ever Brunch for Lunch!

In December, students worked on many Practical Life activities and crafting projects that included making pompoms, sewing, and painting.

In Math, we focused on patterns and sequences. Students learned about the Fibonacci sequence as well as arithmetic and geometric patterns. Students were able to use the Montessori Algebraic Pegboard to investigate patterns. They have been using Xtra math to practice basic facts. Daily basic fact practice builds fluency which helps students with problem solving and higher-level skills. We continue to practice multiplication and division and to use our specialized Montessori materials.

Language continues to be a favourite area of the classroom for many students as we loop through many different concepts. We used themes of winter celebrations around the world, and winter to demonstrate the ability to listen, view, respond and create. Students loved creating special "Poet-trees" using many different figurative language concepts.

In Science grade sixes have been learning about the solar system and were finally able to complete their Crime Scene Investigation. The grade fives have started Chemistry with hands on experiments that explore the States of Matter. Some of the grade four students were able to bring their plants home, it was amazing to see how well they grew in the classroom. They have started working on the "Waste in Our World" unit.

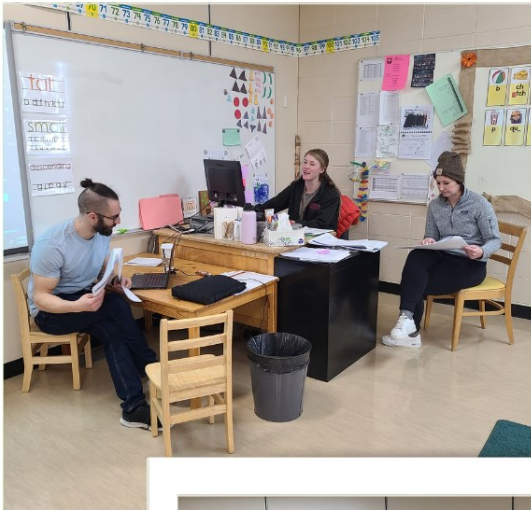
In Social Studies, grade sixes are working on a research project about ancient Athens in preparation for a Greek cultural fair in the new year. Grade fives have started sharing stories of the history of Canada. Students are actively listening to indigenous tales and retelling them in their own series of mini books. This will continue throughout term two. Grade four students have been busy researching

the physical regions of Alberta and creating their own Montessori classroom materials that can be shared with their peers. Examples of this include nomenclature cards, research cards and puzzles.

Looking forward to January, we will be spending time reviewing the expectations and setting individual learning goals. This tends to be a time of great growth for all the students. We can't wait to see what learning in 2023 brings!

-Miss Becky, Miss Desiree & Miss Stefanie





**Parkside
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Our Lower ELMO team worked on developing writing rubrics with guest, Angela DesBarres, that correspond with the new English Language Arts & Literature curriculum.

Professional Learning Day

On our December Professional Learning Day, Parkside Montessori Staff continued their work on supporting new curriculum and reviewed our draft 2021-2022 School Results Report.

M.A.L.T. is an exciting opportunity for Parkside Montessori students to extend curricular learning in new ways!

This is our chance to partner with parents and community to offer students sessions in a variety of subject areas during our school year. Our M.A.L.T sessions each year have been a favorite time of learning for our students and have become part of our school culture.

We need your help! Parents and community members can help us in two ways- by being a session leader or by being a session helper.


During the morning of Friday, January 27th, students, preschool through Gr. 6 will be able to sign-up to take session offered by parents, teachers, and community members.

Session leaders teach/share knowledge in a personal area of passion or expertise. If you have an interest, hobby, or talent that you'd like to share with the kids this is your chance! Session helpers do just that- they help support the leader in the session. We do our best to place helpers in sessions that their Parkside Montessori student will be attending. Extra hands are always welcome! Please pick-up a volunteer package from Miss Nancy prior to January 16th.


We will have two 60 minutes sessions (Session A 8:50-9:50, Session B 10:10-11:10). A session can be designed to take one 60-minute session or can extend to take 120 minutes (both sessions). We will have a recess/snack break in between the sessions.

Please complete the MALT form (available at the office) and return to the school if you can help with our upcoming M.A.L.T. by Monday, Jan. 16th. We will call to confirm materials you require and number of students you can host in your session the week prior to the M.A.L.T. afternoon. **Thank you for considering partnering with us to provide engaging opportunities for our students to extend their learning!**

Celebrating Success!


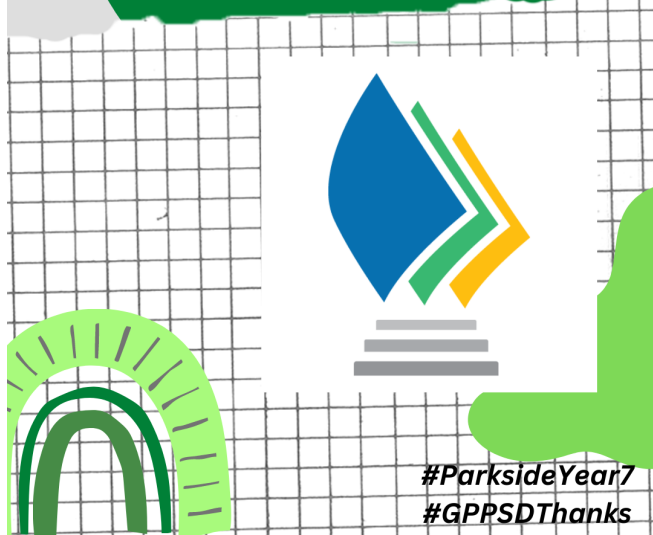


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Thank You

Thank you to the GPPSD
Education Foundation for granting
Parkside Montessori with \$3400 for
our request for LEGO
Robotics/Education Sets!



#ParksideYear7
#GPPSDThanks

Thank You

For your support

Thank you for supporting our ELMO456 Coffee Shops during our Fall Celebration of learning. Together, we were able to donate \$465 to the GP Firefighters' Charitable Foundation 'Sparky's Secret Wish' project!

#ParksideYear7



**Parkside
Montessori**

Parkside Montessori
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Caregiver Education Team Newsletter January 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 December 2022 CYF Caregiver Education Newsletter!

Visit our school page:

www.gppsd.ab.ca/school/parksidemontessori