

October News



**Grande Prairie
Public School
Division**

PARKSIDE MONTESSORI

Montessori News

The colours of fall can be viewed all around us and the crisp morning air assures us that the season has changed, and fall has arrived! We have been so fortunate to enjoy warm afternoon temperatures and outside adventures over the last few weeks. Thank you for partnering with us on our eighth September as a school community!

September is a time for reviewing expectations, routines, and for building our school community. Each fall we spend time determining our student's areas of strength and areas for growth to enable us to plan for each child at their current level of achievement. Classroom teachers are completing formative assessments to guide their planning to ensure that instruction and learning are targeted to best address each students' individual needs. Parkside teachers are engaged in continual learning and improvement to ensure that we are providing the best for each child. Montessori materials have come out and we have a busy and exciting learning environment at Parkside! If you have questions about your child's learning or classroom activities, please reach out to a member of our team.

This fall we were fortunate to open our brand-new playground! Thank you to the Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori, our school community, and the Maintenance Staff of GPPSD for the many hours put in to achieving this dream for our students. The smiles on their faces and excitement in the recess conversation and play reflect very happy children with their new playground!

This fall we held our second annual Social Emotional Learning Play Day for students in grades 1-6 and our annual Zones of Regulation Color Days. We used

these opportunities to provide classes with time spent together building community, reviewing some of the Social-Emotional Learning concepts we've been learning and engaging in reflective conversation to build connections amongst students.

The children of Parkside also put together a beautiful art display to honor the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Many Parkside families were able to come to the school and complete an "Art Walk" and view the artwork. Each classroom has spent time this month talking about the role that we all play and our school efforts to support truth and reconciliation.

It is important to us that we engage meaningfully with parents and our School Council is one way that you can participate in offering feedback and learning about our school. Meetings are the first Monday of the month at 6:00 at Parkside. Another way that you can be involved in our school community is by participating in the Fundraising Guild. The Fundraising Guild also meets the first Monday of the month at 7:15. Thank you to the executive of both the School Council and The Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori for supporting our students and school community in their roles.

During this time of Thanksgiving, we continue to be grateful for the joys we find in watching children learn and grow each day, our collaborative school community that works together for student success, and the support of our parent community. Wishing all our Parkside Families a safe and healthy Thanksgiving season!

-Miss Corrine & Miss Terra

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**Autumn is a second spring
when every leaf is a flower.**

-Albert Camus

On the Calendar...

October 2023 ✦

- October 2- School Council @ 6pm; Fundraising Guild @ 7:15pm
- October 5- Evacuation Drill
- October 6- Hot Lunch (State & Main pre-order through MunchaLunch)
- October 9- No school for students & staff, *Thanksgiving*
- October 10-13, Fall Read-A-thon!
- October 13- M.A.L.T. volunteer forms are due
- October 16- School Spirit Day
- October 18- Anything But a Backpack Day
- October 20- M.A.L.T. afternoon; Fall Read-A-Thon forms & money due.
- October 24- Photo Retakes at T. Sedore Photography Studio
- October 26- Hot Lunch (Major's pre-order through MunchaLunch)
- October 27- No school for students (Professional Learning Day for staff)
- October 31- Halloween Costume Day

MunchALunch is open for orders!

Please email theguild.pm@gmail.com if you have any issues restoring your account or setting up a new one.

First orders are due Sept. 29 for the Oct. 6 lunch
Happy Lunching!

Menus Available: (Scroll down and click Next)

10/06 (Fri) - State & Main
10/26 (Thu) - Majors
11/09 (Thu) - Harvey's
11/24 (Fri) - Boston Pizza
12/08 (Fri) - Mucho Burrito
12/22 (Fri) - Donut Day! w/ Friendship Donuts

Order in
advance up
to
Dec. 22!

NEW parents register here:

<https://munchalunch.com/schools/ParksideMontessori>

RETURNING parents login here:

<https://munchalunch.com/login>

**RETURNING FAMILIES
PLEASE NOTE: ORDERS
NOW AUTO-CANCEL
WITHOUT PAYMENT
AFTER 2 HOURS**

School Council & Fundraising Guild

School Council of Parkside Montessori will be holding our first regular meeting of the 2023-2024 school year on Monday, October 2nd, in-person at Parkside Montessori.

All parents of Parkside Montessori students are welcome. School Council is a great way to get involved as a new or returning family. We work together to make sure everyone feels welcome & supported. Council meets on the first Monday of each month from October to June.

[HERE](#) is the link to the our meeting agenda.

Meet our 2023-2024 School Council Executive!

(pictured right)

Danielle Pellerin, Chair

Amy Johann, Vice-Chair

Desiree Miguel, Secretary



Meet our 2023-2024 Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori Board

(pictured left)

Desiree Miguel, Vice President

Brenda Yeates, Secretary

Danielle Harvey, Director

Terri Murray, President

Jasmine Grosz, Director

Gavin Meyers, Treasurer

Not pictured: **Danica Peters, Director**

The next Regular Meeting of the Board for the Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori is Monday, Oct. 2 at 7:15 pm in the school Library (& Zoom, email for link). If you'd like to learn more about our operations or how to get involved please feel free to join us. If you're interested in short-term volunteer opportunities, have suggestions for fundraisers or have any other feedback, we invite you to email us at: theguild.pm@gmail.com

NOTICE! SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING for the Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023, 8:30pm (on Zoom). All general members of the Guild are invited to vote on a special resolution. This resolution is to amend our bylaws (Section 8:3).

Currently reads: The maximum number of consecutive terms, in the same Officer or Director position on the Board shall be three consecutive terms.

Amendment: The maximum number of consecutive terms, in the same Officer or Director position on the Board shall be three consecutive terms, unless otherwise decided by the majority vote of the membership at the general meeting.

Casa dei Bambini, Preschool & Kindergarten

Happy Fall and Welcome to October!

It has been a lovely month of getting to know one another and in developing our daily expectations and routines. The children are learning important Montessori practices such as how to use and roll up a mat, how to properly care for the materials and put them back on the shelves, and how to treat one another with grace and courtesy in the classroom.

The Casa dei Bambini classes have been enjoying the beautiful weather of the season and have been bringing elements of autumn into our classrooms as we delved into explorations of leaves and pumpkins during September. Casa students enjoyed carefully washing pumpkins, sorting pumpkins by colour and size, collecting leaves, tracing leaves, and making imprint art in clay with their unique textures.

We also spent time learning about the Zones of Regulation and practicing identifying and naming how we feel. Recognizing and saying how you feel is an important part of self-regulation, and Casa students have been making great strides.

In October we will be adding to our self-regulation tool kit by learning some new breathing techniques and practicing mindfulness. We are also looking forward to our sunflower study this month. We hope to use all of our senses in this exciting theme. We plan to create beautiful sunflower art, investigate the parts of the sunflower, and even make use of the seeds for counting and in preparing delicious snacks!

Fall is a great time to get in the kitchen, and we're looking forward to spending time in our Practical Life room to bake, prepare food together and connect with each other in this special way. As the weather begins to get colder, please remember to help your child come to school each day dressed to be outdoors. Layers are great this time of year!

We look forward to getting outdoors and enjoying our new playground and this beautiful autumn!

-Miss Amber & Miss Laura



Lower Elementary, Gr. 1, 2, 3



It's been a great beginning to the school year and the Montessori normalization process is well underway in our classrooms! Our students are doing a wonderful job learning the routines and expectations in each classroom and our Grade One students are adjusting to full days of school. We are working on building and strengthening the relationships we have with each other and on learning to work as a team. Each day we see evidence of students supporting each other with love and kindness and we are so proud of them.

The days are becoming a bit chilly now. The students are enjoying our new playground and we are taking advantage of opportunities to be outside before the snow arrives. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather each day. It is helpful to write your child's name on their outerwear in case it gets lost.



This past month we have been digging into the Montessori Great Lessons. These lessons give students an overall impression of the grand topics of the universe, the earth, and life on earth. They form the heart of the Montessori elementary curriculum. The Five Great Lessons span about 15 billion years! This month the students have been exploring the formation of the universe, stars, and solar system, with a focus on the earth's early development.

Thank you for an awesome start to the school year. We are looking forward to October and all the fun and learning it will bring!

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



Upper Elementary, Gr. 4, 5, 6

Hello from Upper ELMO!

Normalization, or becoming independent of the routines and expectations of our classrooms, has been the primary focus as we start the year together! The 456 classes have been working very hard at making connections and welcoming in the new Grade 4 students as they navigate the Upper ELMO world for the first time. It is so special to have all three 456 classrooms in the same hall – as well as Miss Rebecca and Miss Angie, our Montessori EAs. There are unlimited possibilities for collaboration across our three grade levels and three home-rooms!

In Language, we have been looping various forms of writing throughout the week and will continue this all year instead of doing separate "units" of writing. Last year we found that students enjoyed that they were able to build on their writing skills in all areas throughout the year and found specific types of writing to be their favourite – whether it was poetry, letter-writing, narratives, or functional writing tasks, we are excited to see what our authors create this year! Students will go through the writing process of plan, draft, revise, edit and publish many times this year and have already given pieces of their writing to their teachers so that we can guide our instruction! Students will also be able to get back into our school library this month as guided reading groups or individual novel studies are beginning.

In Math, we have started the year with a review of place value and strategies for the four operations; addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. This work will continue all year as students move from using concrete Montessori materials to more abstract pencil and paper algorithms. Coming up in October we will expand student knowledge of number as they connect the decimal place value system to fractions and ratios, depending on their grade level. Our Grade 4 students have been exploring the clock and telling time, be sure to quiz them and practice in your morning and evening routines.

For French, students are learning the basics. From numbers, colours, greetings and calendar - les élèves vont très bien! (The students are doing well!). In Art, the theme has been drawing and soon we will explore other mediums such as watercolour or

oil pastel. Music has focused on beat and rhythm; students will soon explore notation as they prepare for instrument work later this year! One of our favourite songs we have learnt so far is "Donna Nobis Pacem" a song in Latin for peace.

This year for Science and Social Studies each 456 teacher is responsible for a specific grade level and will plan cross-curricular projects with their group! Miss Jackie has been working with the Grade 4s on mapping Alberta and waste in our world. Miss Stefanie has been working with the Grade 5s on the regions of Canada and matter. Miss Desiree has been working with the Grade 6s on Ancient Greece democracy and the scientific method.

It has been a wonderful start to the year, and we are looking forward to some Halloween or Fall-themed fun in the month ahead!

-Miss Desiree, Miss Jackie, & Miss Stefanie



FALL READ-A-THON

It's time for our annual Parkside Montessori Read-A-Thon!

Beginning October 10th, your child will have the opportunity to participate in Parkside Montessori's Annual Fall Read-A-Thon. This is a 100% profit fundraiser with monies going to benefit all students with activities such as sporting events, school fund ays, and special presentations (i.e., Telus World of Science, Alberta Musical Theatre Company, author, artist, musician visits, artists in residence, etc.), Practical Life materials & activities, M.A.L.T. materials, special craft & art materials, specialized P.E. equipment for extensions, student-choice Library books, field trips etc.

Our whole-school goal is to raise \$10 000.00
Read-A-Thon Packages go home October 4th & 5th.
Reading Challenge runs October 10th-13th.

All forms and money needs to be returned to the school office by
Friday, October 20, 2023!

Thank you for your continued support!

#ParksideYear8



Professional Learning Days, 2023-24

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

On our September 22nd PL Day, staff spent part of the day learning together and reviewing some key Montessori concepts and activities. They also reviewed and began work on crafting their inquiry questions. These questions typically are connected to our school priorities and outcomes and will be revisited throughout the school year.

Caregiver Education Team Newsletter

October 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 view the full edition of the Caregiver Education Team Newsletter.

Visit our school page:

www.gppsd.ab.ca/school/parksidemontessori



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