

Welcome!



**Grande Prairie
Public School
Division**

PARKSIDE MONTESSORI

Montessori News

Welcome back to Parkside Montessori! We are excited to welcome many new families to our Parkside family. It is refreshing to hear the sounds and see the sights of students engaged in their learning once again! Learning milestones are being reached and celebrated each day! We are off to a great start and are looking forward to the 2022-2023 school year.

For the first time in our school history, we were able to celebrate Maria Montessori's birthday on the first day of school and shared popsicle treats together. Our first theme day is coming up this week and we are looking forward to seeing all the "Wacky Hair." As a school community we will continue to emphasize social emotional learning this year. The staff of Parkside will focus on building our students' social and emotional skill set and supporting our students with wellness. This month we will review the Green, Red, Yellow, and Blue Zones, and will practice specific strategies for self-regulation. This will be on-going throughout the year, and we will continue to share our focuses with our school community as we go. September also brings the International Day of Peace. This is a day marked by Montessori schools around the world and we are looking forward to celebrating this day with our students.

This month we will also practice our Evacuation drills as part of our Emergency Response Procedures. You should have received a letter specific to our Evacuation drills last week. If you did not receive it, please let your

child's teacher know and we will send one your way.

Our School Council will be holding the seventh Annual General Meeting on Monday, September 19th at 6:00 p.m. Please see the weekly parent email for additional information. We are looking forward to continuing to partner with this amazing group of parents who play an important role in providing feedback and assisting in planning our school. The Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori will also host an Annual General Meeting on September 19th at 7:15 p.m. You can connect directly with the Guild by emailing theguild.pm@gmail.com. The Fundraising Guild is working toward building a new playground and supports our students through their fundraising efforts.

To ensure that you are up to date on our school events and activities, like our Facebook page, follow Instagram account (pm.gppsd), and make sure to sign up for our newsletters. You should be receiving an email with weekly reminders and information from your child's teacher. If you have feedback for us on the style of communication you prefer as parents, please let us know. It is important to us that you feel informed about events, activities, and your child's progress at our school. We are looking forward to all that the 2022-2023 school year will hold and are glad to be walking this journey with you!

-Miss Corrine & Miss Terra



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**Keep your face to the
sunshine, and you cannot
see a shadow.**

-Helen Keller

On the Calendar...



Parkside
Montessori

September 2022

August 31- First Day of School for Gr. 1-6 students; Day 1 of Casa staggered entry

September 2- School Spirit Day

September 5- NO SCHOOL, Labour Day

September 7- First Day of regular Casa dei Bambini Schedule

September 8- Wacky Hair Day

September 12-15, Colour Days! (Sept. 12- Blue, Sept. 13- Red, Sept. 14, Yellow, Sept. 15, Green)

September 16- NO SCHOOL for students (Professional Learning Day for staff)

September 19- School Council AGM @ 6pm; Fundraising Guild AGM @ 7:15pm.

September 19, 20 & 22- Fire/Evacuation Drills

September 21- International Day of Peace

September 26 & 27- School Photos

September 29- Orange Shirt Day

September 30- NO SCHOOL, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

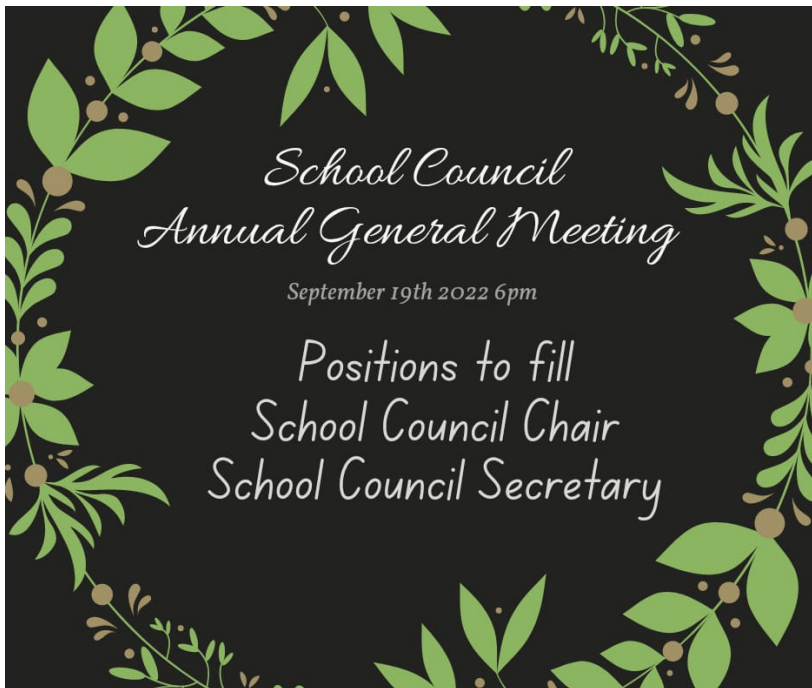
#ParksideYear7

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SIM) residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in the spring of 2013. It grew out of Phyllis Webstad's account of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually. Orange Shirt Day is also an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

We encourage everyone to wear their orange shirts to school on Thursday, September 29th to show support of this important event.

School Council & Fundraising Guild

School Council of Parkside Montessori will be holding our Annual General Meeting on **Monday, September 19 @ 6PM, in-person at Parkside Montessori**. All parents of Parkside Montessori students are welcome. The agenda includes meeting the current Executive board; brief overview of School Council purpose; vacant positions available (vote); learn more about what the council does. 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 2021 AGM draft minutes.



Did you know that all Parkside Montessori parents are members of the school council?

It's true!

EVERYONE is welcome to our monthly school council meetings.

Both the School Council of Parkside Montessori and The Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori are active on Facebook.

Find us on Facebook!

Parkside School Council Group

Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori



Contact the Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori directly to receive the agenda for the AGM, email: theguild.pm@gmail.com





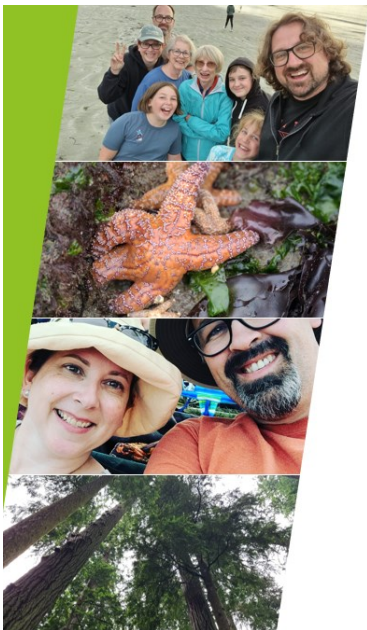
Meet OUR STAFF

Miss Corrine, Principal

Miss Corrine had an amazing summer filled with family, friends, and adventure. She travelled to Vancouver Island and spent time in Victoria, the Northeast part of the island and Salt Spring Island. Highlights of the trip included spending time on the beach, sight seeing, hiking, and taking part in a beautiful wedding.

Spending time at the family farm was also a highlight of the summer, especially having the opportunity to help bottle feed several calves which is her favourite farm activity!

Miss Corrine is excited to spend another year with the families of Parkside Montessori watching each child uncover new learning and make discoveries. She is proud of our school community and is honoured to be the Principal of Parkside!



Miss Terra, Vice Principal & Learning Support

Miss Terra had a summer filled with family and fun! She and her family travelled West to Vancouver Island. They were joined by her brother, niece, and nephew from New Zealand. They spent time in Victoria and Tofino with lots of time enjoying the beach, rainforests and more!

Miss Terra's summer favourites included long walks with her dogs, reading a good book, sitting on her deck watching the swans, birds & ducks, listening to music, learning new things, and spending time with family and friends.

Miss Terra is excited to start the new school year with the amazing staff, students, and families that make our Parkside Montessori community a great place to be.

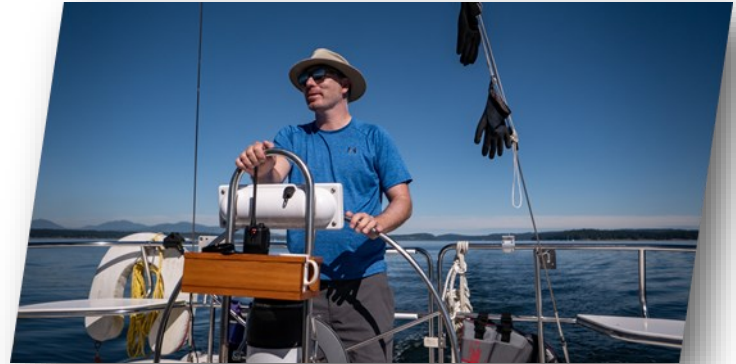


Miss Nancy, Administrative Assistant (left)

Miss Nancy took a break from her normal summer travelling and spent her time at home in Grande Prairie with her husband Sean, her children Xavier and Faith, and her Goldendoodle, Rosie.

Mr. Monty, Phys. Ed. Teacher (below)

Mr. Monty had a great summer full of adventures which included a trip to San Francisco, the California Redwoods, camping, sailing and most of all spending time surrounded by close friends and family. He is very excited to be back at Parkside Montessori!



Miss Toni, Library Technician (left)

Miss Toni spent the summer relaxing and enjoying the calm. She enjoyed spending time with her husband, daughter and dogs. She also developed a love for indoor plants and read whenever she had the chance.

Miss Kimberly, Literacy & Numeracy Intervention Educational Assistant (right)

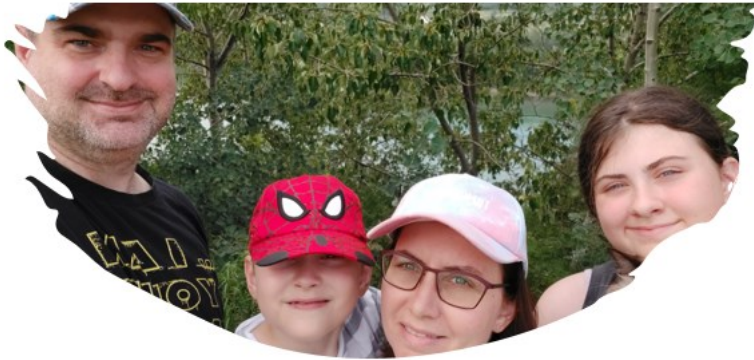
Miss Kimberly enjoyed her summer with family and friends. She spent most of her time outdoors hiking, mountain biking, and paddle boarding. Miss Kimberly is excited to be back at Parkside Montessori and looks forward to seeing the children's smiling faces as they return to school.



Mr. FM, Head Caretaker

Mr. FM is the Head Caretaker of Parkside Montessori. He spent the summer with his family at home. They had some picnics by the lake and spent some time doing his favourite hobby- riding his motorcycle!





Miss Sonja, Casa dei Bambini Teacher (left)

This is Miss Sonja's first year at Parkside Montessori and she is very excited to join the team. She has taught grades one & two previously. Miss Sonja and her family love nature! They enjoy hiking, swimming & biking. During the summer break they enjoyed hiking various trails. Their cat, Charlie, loves going with them on these adventures! Her hobbies are baking and reading. You will often find Miss Sonja trying out new recipes in the kitchen or reading a book in a cozy corner. She also plays the piano and the flute and enjoys listening to music.

Miss Emma, Casa dei Bambini Teacher (right)

Miss Emma had a very busy summer! She had the chance to be in her friend's wedding in July. She also got to be a tourist in Alberta and see Banff for the first and try paddleboarding!

She did many projects around her home and soaking in the beautiful sunshine. Her dog definitely enjoyed not being home alone all day!

This is Miss Emma's fourth year teaching and will be her first year at Parkside in Casa 2. She is excited for a wonderful year!



Miss Laura M., Educational Assistant (left)

Miss Laura is an EA in Casa 1 this year. She has been a Montessori EA for 9 years and an EA with GPPSD for 11 years. She is a mom of two girls that are 15 and 18. Her hobbies include photography and anything crafty.

This summer Miss Laura, her daughters and mother-in-law went to Grande Cache on a horse trail camp out.



Miss Katie, Educational Assistant (Left)

This is Miss Katie's first year as an educational assistant at Parkside Montessori. She is very excited to be a part of such a great school and can't wait to have a fun school year! She will be working in the Casa 1 classroom.

Miss Katie has three children, Hali, Violet, and Tripp, a dog named Biggie, and two cats. This summer she explored Alberta with her family, enjoyed the Bear Creek Folk Music Festival, spent lots of time outside and ate lots of ice cream.

Miss Katie loves to bike the Muskoseepi trails, golf with her husband, go for walks with her dog, do yoga, and spend time with her family and friends.



Miss Anita, Educational Assistant (left)

Miss Anita is one of the educational assistants in Casa 2.

This summer was a quiet one for Miss Anita and her family. She had foot surgery at the beginning of July and had to spend time off of her feet. She and her two children, Tristin and Lee, stayed home and enjoyed some quiet time settling into their new home, unpacking and spending quality time together with their two kitties, Luna & Willow. At the end of the summer, they travelled to southern Alberta for a wedding, which turned into an impromptu family reunion as well.

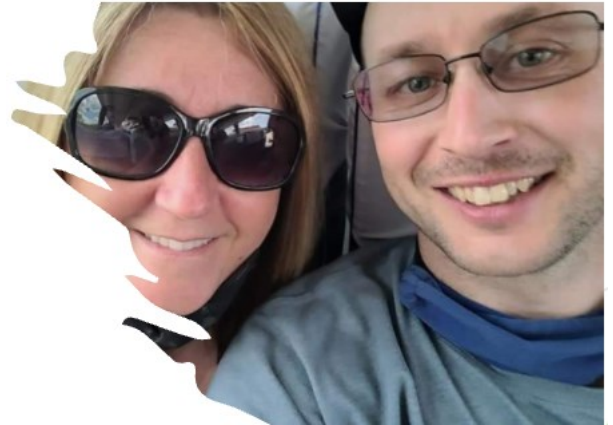
Miss Anita loves sweet earl grey tea, a good book, and can often be found sitting in a sunbeam enjoying life with her kitties. Her family is her whole world, and she spends as much of her free with them as she can.

Miss Lesley, Educational Assistant (right)

Miss Lesley is an educational assistant in our Casa 2 classroom.

Miss Lesley spent her summer spending time with her family at Sturgeon Lake, camping and golfing. She enjoyed growing vegetables in her little garden, and learning lots of new things while studying for her Montessori diploma.

Miss Lesley loves camping, reading, spending time with her family and Parkside Montessori!



Did you know that *Casa dei Bambini* means Children's House in Italian? This is what Dr. Montessori called her first school.



Mr. Blaine, Educational Assistant (left)

Mr. Blaine is excited to join the Parkside team! He spent the summer with his wife, Laura, their kindergartener, Robin, and new baby, Jamie, stay-cationing around Grande Prairie. There are many cool places in our own backyard, and he enjoyed discovering many of them.

Mr. Blaine also had a blast gardening with his family and taking in lots of summer sun and fun. One of the highlights of the summer was visiting Edmonton and getting to go to the World Waterpark at the West Edmonton Mall.

Miss Christina, Educational Assistant (right)

Miss Christina had a busy summer full of kittens and new acreage friends. She enjoyed the quiet early mornings with coffee and tending to the garden. Everything from weeding to watering and soon to be harvesting.

Miss Christina's summer favourites included observing the new bee-hives, having her roof redone, and spending time with her family and friends.



Miss Carly, Educational Assistant (right, pictured in center)

Miss Carly spent her summer eating good food, playing board games with her kiddos, and going on lots and lots of walks. She also went on a trip to Portland, Oregon to visit her sisters. Her family also took their puppy, Goose, on her first trip to Jasper!

Miss Carly is so excited for another year with everyone at Parkside Montessori!



Miss Jen A., ELMO123 Teacher (left)



Miss Jen started off the summer being a reading-teacher to grade three students at Reading University, which was such a fun experience! When that was over, she spent several weeks exploring Vancouver Island with her two kids. They ate lots of ice cream, hiked, played on beaches beside the ocean, stood under waterfalls, and swam in beautiful clear water. When she got home, Miss Jen went for long walks with her dog in the countryside, read lots of good books, and spent time kayaking and paddleboarding on the lakes and rivers near her home. Miss Jen has really loved spending time outdoors in the sunshine with family and friends, but she's excited to be back at school!

Miss Melissa, ELMO123 Teacher (right)

Miss Melissa is excited to join Parkside Montessori this year!

She was born and raised in Grande Prairie. She enjoys spending time with her family, reading, watching movies, playing sports, shopping and traveling.

She had a wonderful summer spending lots of time with family and enjoying outdoor activities.



Miss Jennifer, ELMO123 Teacher (left)



Miss Jennifer had a fantastic summer visiting family and exploring different parts of Canada. She and her partner travelled to Prince Edward Island to see family while also relaxing on some red sand beaches. They also traveled to Ottawa, Ontario to visit Miss Jennifer's grandparents. She even went on the first zip-line to go between two provinces! The zip-line started in Quebec and went across the Ottawa River into Ottawa. It was a very neat first experience for her. Miss Jennifer also picked out her puppy this summer! Her name is Jayda, she is an Australian Shepherd, and will come home on September 10th!

Miss Jennifer's summer favourites: bike rides, nature walks, yard games in the back yard, spending time with friends & family and snuggling her kitties at home.



Miss Julianne, ELMO123 Teacher (left)

This summer Miss Julianne did lots of travelling, with her favourite stop being Scotland. She also had fun at music festivals and spending time with her puppy, Lenny.

Miss Julianne is thrilled to be returning to Parkside Montessori for her second year and is looking forward to all the fun, learning, and love that the school year will bring.

Mr. Josh, ELMO123 Teacher
(right)

Mr. Josh had a fun and exciting summer travelling and visiting family. He began his journey visiting family in Ontario. His children were able to spend some much-needed time catching up with grandparents and great-grandparents.

From there he drove to Orlando with his wife, children, sister, brother-in-law, nephews and parents. While in Orlando, he spent time at Disney World and Universal Studios. His favourite part of this was exploring Harry Potter World.



Miss Lisa S., Educational Assistant

Miss Lisa had an amazing busy summer! She spent some wonderful time with family, visited the Calgary Stampede, went golfing, camped at her cabin, travelled to visit friends, hiked and boated in Jasper, built a deck and did yardwork and managed to fit in lots of relaxing in the sun!

She looked forward to seeing her wonderful Parkside Montessori family and getting back to the job she loves!

Miss Diedre, Educational Assistant
ELMO123 (right)

Miss Diedre spent her summer relaxing and spending time with family and friends. She and her family spent time camping, hiking, bike riding, swimming, and playing board games. Miss Diedre and her family spent a lot of time enjoying the beautiful sunny days by the water.

A highlight for Miss Diedre this summer was when they went tenting for a week in Grande Cache with close friends. They were lucky to see the Northern Lights almost every night and even caught part of the Perseids meteor shower!

Miss Diedre is excited to join the ELMO123 team!





Miss Angie, Educational Assistant (left)

Miss Angie had a great summer, enjoying the sunshine, camping, working and spending time with family.

Miss Angie's summer favourites were reading, relaxing, and re-charging!

Miss Angie is excited to be a part of both the lower and upper ELMO teams this year!

Miss Rebecca, Educational Assistant (right)

Miss Rebecca had the most amazing summer spent on the East Coast of Canada in her hometown of Digby, Nova Scotia. She enjoyed soaking up quality time with family and friends. They spent many hours at the beach walking, playing in the sand, collecting sea glass, castle building, whale watching, and taking in the stunning sunsets. They went on many hikes exploring all the beautiful sights in Digby.

Miss Rebecca's summer's best moments: listening to the laughter of her kiddos with their scotia peeps, feeling the sand between her toes, and listening to the waves crash.

Miss Rebecca is excited to be a part of both the lower and upper ELMO teams this year!



Miss Becky, ELMO456 Teacher (left)

Miss Becky is excited to be joining the upper ELMO team this year.

She spent her summer with her husband and daughter travelling and camping. They visited the Enchanted Forest, and the Calgary Zoo. They attended a family reunion at Lake Saskatoon and a wedding on Vancouver Island. Miss Becky and her family played at parks, danced with a street performer playing music and read stories. They learned about birds of prey on the island and more. They had so much fun and made so many wonderful memories this summer.

Did you know that ELMO is short for Elementary Montessori?
We have five lower ELMO classes and three upper ELMO classes.



Miss Lisa P., Educational Assistant (left)

Miss Lisa had a fun summer travelling and spending time with family and friends.

The highlight of her summer was visiting Butchart Gardens in Victoria, B.C.

This will be her second year at Parkside Montessori. She is looking forward to another fantastic year!

Miss Stefanie, ELMO456 Teacher (right)

Miss Stefanie is excited to be back at Parkside for another year of fun in upper elementary!

Miss Stef enjoyed working at Reading University for the first three weeks of the summer. It was her 10th year anniversary working for RU!

In August, she visited her sister, niece and nephews in New York, NY! Her daughter, Henley, loved going on the airplane. While they were there, they fed a giant tortoise and went swimming almost every day!



Miss Desiree, ELMO456 Teacher (left)

Miss Desiree is so excited to be starting her fifth year in upper ELMO!

This summer she enjoyed travelling with her husband and son. She spent a lot of time walking her dog and working on crafts.

She loves to travel, coffee, and all things Halloween!



Our Parkside Montessori staff
looks forward to a wonderful
2022-2023 school year!

Parking at Parkside

Parking at Parkside Montessori-

Please be advised that there is **NO PARKING** on the school side of 91a Avenue from the parking lot to the far edge of the sidewalk leading to the building. Parent may park on the far end of 91A or in the city lot at the back of the school.



Update on our Loading Zone...

The Loading Zone area is for quick pick-ups and drop offs.

We have many buses transferring students at our school. The buses are not able to pull in safely if there are vehicles parked in the loading zone.

Please do not park in the loading zone. Doing so prevents our buses from stopping safely and risks being ticketed by by-law.



PARKSIDE MONTESSORI

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
PICTURE DAYS
SEPT. 26 & 27

Information as to which day each class is having their pictures taken is coming! Watch your email for more details!



Parkside Montessori
Corrine Shmyruk, Principal
Terra Shewchuk, Vice Principal



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Caregiver Education Team Newsletter September 2022



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 September 2022 CYF Caregiver Education Newsletter!

Visit our school page:
www.gppsd.ab.ca/school/parksidemontessori