

# December News



Grande Prairie  
Public School  
Division

PARKSIDE MONTESSORI

# Montessori News

The snow is finally here to stay, and we are so fortunate to have had a lovely start to our winter! The students of Parkside enjoyed time outside, building snow sculptures, snowmen and enjoying the sunshine and snow. When the temperature hits -25 or below including the windchill, we are inside for recess. During inside recess, students engage in activities that are safe to do indoors (i.e., gym time, boardgames, stacking cups, etc.). It is hard to believe that the Christmas holidays are right around the corner!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our first Celebrations of Learning for the 2022-2023 school year! It is important to our school community that you receive up to date communication regarding your child's progress. If you have feedback for our team on how we can improve the experience, please let us know. If you were unable to attend, and would like to meet with your child's teacher, please contact them to arrange an alternate time. We are very grateful and feel fortunate to have a parent community who takes such great care of our staff and are thankful for the supper that was provided for our staff by our School Council!

In November we also recognized Remembrance Day and were able to recognize many Parkside Montessori family members on our annual Wall of Honour. Miss Jen and Mr. Josh's classes led us in a Remembrance Day Assembly and for the first time we had great grandparents with pictures on the Wall of Honor attend our Remembrance Day Assembly in-person! Also,

in November our ELMO 456 students engaged in a "Coffee Shop" project where they researched, budgeted, planned, and hosted their own Coffee Shops during Celebration of Learning. Our ELMO 456 students were also honored to host the Honourable Jackie Clayton, Mayor of Grande Prairie. November brought our second M.A.L.T. of the school year which is a student favorite activity full of fun learning experiences for all.

We are looking forward to some new and traditional community building events at Parkside during the month of December. As is Parkside tradition, we learn about and recognize many different winter celebrations. December 15<sup>th</sup> is a new theme day for Parkside "Bow and Tie Day" and December 22<sup>nd</sup> is "Spirit of Christmas Day", where students are invited to wear their crazy Christmas clothes or pjs to school. This week you will be receiving an Assurance Newsletter that identifies some of the ways that Parkside Montessori meets various aspects indicators on the annual Alberta Education Assurance survey that will come out this spring.

On behalf of the staff and students of Parkside Montessori, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year. We hope that you have time to enjoy the company of family and friends and stay safe and healthy.

-Miss Corrine & Miss Terra



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**There are two ways of spreading light; to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.**

-Edith Wharton

# On the Calendar...



Parkside  
Montessori

## December 2022

- December 1- Celebration of Learning
- December 2- Casa Celebration of Learning (no classes for Casa only); School Spirit Day, ELMO1-6
- December 5- School Council, 6pm; Fundraising Guild, 7:15pm. Meetings are in-person at the school.
- December 8- Casa & ELMO456 Christmas Concert
- December 9- NO SCHOOL for Students (PL Day for staff)
- December 13- ELMO123 Christmas Concert
- December 15- Bow & Tie Day
- December 22- Spirit of Christmas/PJ Day!
- December 23- NO SCHOOL, Holiday break begins!

**#PARKSIDEYEAR7**

# Christmas Break

DECEMBER 23 TO JANUARY 6, 2023  
CLASSES RESUME, MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2023



# School Council & Fundraising Guild

## Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori Monthly Summary

Thank you for supporting our most recent fundraisers:

- Sales from Growing Smiles Wreaths, Poinsettias, etc. raised \$1010.30
- Sales from Purdy's Chocolate raised \$2981.08 (YIPEE!)

The Fundraising Guild was also notified in late November that they have been awarded the \$5000 Community Improvement Grant from the city of Grande Prairie for our playground! Exciting news!

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

- Subway Dec. 8th,
- Boston Pizza Dec. 22

Look out for a 50/50 raffle taking place this month (Draw date Dec. 15) and save your freezer space for a perogies fundraiser coming up early in the New Year!

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Our Fundraising Guild has secured two major opportunities to raise funds:

- Working ticket sales for the Rotary Dream Home (February 9-12). Sign-Up [HERE](#).
- Filling positions for Casino Nights on March 26/27. Sign-Up [HERE](#).

We have many time slots to fill and could really use some help from our parent community, please consider participating if you are able. If you'd like more information, please reach out to [theguild.pm@gmail.com](mailto:theguild.pm@gmail.com)

**With your help, we could raise close to **\$30,000** for our playground through these two opportunities!**



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

**It's true!**

[HERE](#) is the link to our meeting agendas & minutes.

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**

**The Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori holds a public meeting every month following our School Council meeting. Join us Monday, December 5 at 7:15 pm, in-person at Parkside Montessori**

# Casa dei Bambini, Preschool & Kindergarten

Happy December!

November went by in a flash! Everyone was busy with their learning and preparing for their Celebration of Learning. Casa students continued their learning of letter sounds and have almost completed the whole alphabet. In Math, students were exploring patterns and matching quantities to 10. We learned about Remembrance Day and began exploring healthy habits, such as healthy eating, good hand washing, and personal space.

We have a busy December ahead and lots to look forward to! We are practicing lots to perfect our Christmas songs for the concert and boy do they sound good! We will be doing lots of seasonal crafts throughout the month and a certain elf just might show up! We are excited to have a tree set up in the room for the kids to decorate with ornaments that they will make throughout December. We hope you keep warm and have a wonderful month!

Happy Holidays to you all!

*-Miss Sonja & Miss Emma*



# Lower Elementary, Gr. 1, 2, 3

November flew by and we are looking forward to an exciting December. It was amazing to see everyone at the Celebration of Learning. The kids were very excited to show their families everything that they have been learning this year. They spent a great deal of time reflecting on areas of growth and the areas that they can continue to improve on next term. If you were unable to attend your child's Celebration of Learning, please connect with their teacher to set up a time for your child to share their learning.

Miss Jen's and Mr. Josh's classes had the privilege of hosting this year's Remembrance Day assembly. Everyone did a great job fulfilling their hosting duties in a respectful and thoughtful manner. They worked very hard learning their lines, poems, and songs. We are very proud of the independence and maturity that they showed while putting together this important assembly.

Our Lower Elementary classes continue our exploration into the Montessori Cosmic curriculum by sharing The Second Great Lesson: How Life Came to Earth. This lesson shows the evolution of life on earth over time and the interconnectedness of all living things. Students were fascinated when learning about the animal kingdoms. The children were then able to explore different classifications of animals through our Montessori shelf activities. Next, we will learn about 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 been finishing our unit on the seasons. We have spent a great deal of time talking about the Earth's relationship to the Sun. Students applied this knowledge to explaining the effects of the seasons on humans and other living things.

In Social Studies, we completed our unit on mapping. Each Lower ELMO class will now take turns learning about a different country around the world. Be sure to ask your child what country they are currently studying! 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.

As the temperature gets colder, please ensure that your child is dressed for the weather. We will be going outside for recess whenever possible. Students may also wish to dress in layers as the temperature can fluctuate in the classroom throughout the day.

Have a wonderful December!

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





# Upper Elementary, Gr. 4, 5, 6

Greetings from Upper ELMO!

What a busy and fun month November was! It was so wonderful to get to visit with you at Celebration of Learning. A huge thank you out to all the families who helped with our coffee shops. Our students were so excited to learn all about marketing and sales. The highlight was getting to make use of our beautiful Practical Life room to bake and display our goods!

Students have been working hard on their writing and peer editing. They are remembering to indent new paragraphs and that paragraphs should be around one main idea. Arranging details and description within that paragraph is also important. Getting a peer to read and give feedback for what would make it flow better has been a strategy to improve our writing this month.

In Math, we wrapped up our introductory work on basic operations as well as fractions and decimals. Students enjoyed using this learning in the real-world context of our coffee shop. Applying concepts of fractions, decimals, ratios and even time to the baking, prepping, and ordering stages of a successful coffee shop really made their learning come alive! As the year progresses, we will focus on other units in math such as statistics or geometry while looping back to the more complex number concepts that were introduced in this first term.

In Social Studies, we learned about Canada. Between our focus on Remembrance Day and our guest speakers, both in-person (Honourable Mayor Jackie Clayton) and virtual (the Mayor of Iqaluit) students were able to learn about our country both in the past and present. Meanwhile our grade six students wrapped up their forensics unit and are excited to investigate a crime scene.

Our grade four students are loving watching their plants grow. The green of the plants brightens up the classrooms during this cold snap.

Music classes this month have been devoted to preparing for our upcoming concert, December 8. We encourage all students to also be practicing at home to feel more prepared if they wish. Painting continued to be a key skill developed in Art this past month and we look forward to crafting and hands-on creations in the weeks to come.

*-Miss Becky, Miss Desiree & Miss Stefanie*



# Nutrition for K-8 Program

## If your child needs a lunch, we can help.

Funding from Alberta Education allows GPPSD to support students in kindergarten to grade 8 who are in need of a lunch.



No explanation required. Email us and your child will discreetly receive a healthy, home-made lunch.

To sign your child up for this program, send an email to:

[parkside.montessori@gppsd.ab.ca](mailto:parkside.montessori@gppsd.ab.ca)



Please be respectful of the marked parking stalls for those who have disabilities and have the appropriate placard. Bylaw will issue fines to anyone parked in those stalls without a placard. Thank you for supporting our families who have placards and require parking in these stalls daily.



## January Reminders

Monday, January 9- Classes resume; School Council meeting @ 6pm; Fundraising Guild meeting @ 7:15pm in the school library

Tuesday, January 10- Flannel Day!



Parkside Montessori



# Celebrating Success!

Thank You  
for helping us raise  
over \$10 000 for our  
2022 Fall Read-a-thon!



**THANK YOU** to our AMAZING Parkside Montessori community for helping us raise over \$10 000 in our 2022 Fall Read-a-thon! We were so happy to recognize our Top Readers and Top Fundraisers with a certificate of recognition, a book, and a gift card. Great job, everyone!

## Caregiver Education Team Newsletter December 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 December 2022 CYF Caregiver Education Newsletter!



**Parkside Montessori**  
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