

February News



**Grande Prairie
Public School
Division**

PARKSIDE MONTESSORI

Montessori News

Happy February Parkside Families! This month we will surpass 100 days of school for the 2023-2024 school year. The year is flying right by, and Spring is right around the corner. Soon we will see the green grass once again!

It is hard to believe that it is almost time to have our existing families express their intent for next year. More information will be coming home in the next two weeks. As has been past practice, we will allow families that are already enrolled at Parkside to express their intention to return prior to opening for registration for new families. Registration for new families will take place online this year and opens March 11th.

January included our annual Literacy Week which was enjoyed by all. We read around the school, read with our families, dressed as our favorite book characters, and enjoyed many guest readers. New to Literacy Week this year at Parkside was our Starbooks Café. We are grateful to our neighborhood Starbucks that donated the cups for a more authentic experience for our students. January also included another M.A.L.T. morning with a wide variety of new activities and opportunities for students to experience. Thank you to all our session leaders and volunteers for supporting our M.A.L.T. days! Our Grade 1-3 students had the opportunity to participate in programming at the Phillip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum and enjoyed a hands-on day making discoveries and exploring curiosities. Wrapping up January we hosted Indigenous storyteller Denise Miller for an afternoon of engaging tales. Check out the photos on our Facebook & Instagram pages!

We are looking forward to many events coming up in February and focusing on kindness and spreading positivity in our local community during our Community Kindness Week. During our annual Community Kindness Week each of our classes spends time thinking about what our

school could do to support others in our community and spread kindness. The efforts of each class will look slightly different and are linked by the common focus of engaging students in building connections and taking an active role in positively impacting others. Our Grade 5 and 6 mini-basketball teams are starting to practice this week and will be participating in the annual GPPSD Mini-Basketball tournament Saturday, March 2nd. We are looking forward to cheering on the Parkside Pax! In February we will also recognize Pink Shirt Day and Have a Heart Day!

Grade 4-6 families should have received a letter regarding an upcoming survey titled "Alberta Education Assurance Survey" in the mail from Alberta Education. Students in grades 4-6 and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school. The survey is designed to obtain feedback from parents, teachers, and students in several different areas. As you answer your survey, please feel free to call and ask if you have questions regarding the programming of our school or require additional information to answer questions. If you feel a question is not applicable or do not feel comfortable answering, leave the response blank or fill in the circle under "N/A". A blank response or response under the "N/A" category does not count toward the total number of responses. Though all responses are valid, if you choose "don't know" as your response, our school receives a negative score of "0" for that response. Our hope is that we can provide you with all the information that you need to answer your survey questions so that we can obtain the best feedback possible.

Please reach out if you would like additional information or if we can support you in completing the survey. We will continue to send home editions of our Assurance News to provide examples of our efforts to attain excellence for each of the indicators. Feedback from our parents, students and staff is important to creating the best school experience that we can for the children of Parkside.

-Miss Corrine & Miss Terra

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Try to be a rainbow in someone else's cloud.

-Maya Angelou

On the Calendar...

February 2024



Parkside
Montessori

- February 1- Hot Lunch (Boston Pizza pre-order)
- February 2- No School for Students (*Professional Learning Day*)
- February 5- School Council @ 6pm; Fundraising Guild @ 7:15pm
- February 6- School Spirit Day! Wear your school gear & colours!
- February 7, 8, & 13- Lock-Down Drills
- February 12th-15th, Community Kindness Week 2024!
- February 14- Have a Heart Day, wear red &/or pink!
- February 16- No School for Students & Staff (*Non-operational Day*)
- February 19- No School for Students & Staff (*Family Day*)
- February 22- Hot Lunch (State & Main pre-order)
- February 23- No School for Students (*Professional Learning Day*)
- February 28- Pink Shirt Day

#ParksideYear8

Community Kindness Week, February 12th-15th, 2024

Watch your weekly email from teachers with information about what each class will be doing for their kindness project. There are also opportunities for families to help us with deliveries into the community. Helps us as we connect, impact and change.

School Council & Fundraising Guild

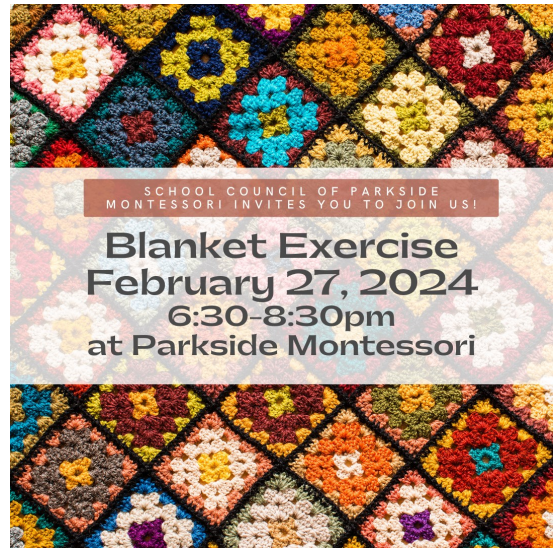
Parkside Montessori School Council meets the first Monday of each month in-person at Parkside Montessori at 6pm.

[HERE](#) is the link to the our School Council meeting information on our NEW Parkside Montessori webpage.

The Parkside Montessori School Council is hosting a Blanket Exercise on Tuesday, Feb. 27th, 6:30-8:30pm

The Blanket Exercise is an interactive learning opportunity where the participants get to walk through history and experiences of Indigenous Peoples in North America and will tell the story using blankets. All Parkside parents are welcome to attend. If you would like to take part in the exercise please sign up [HERE](#).

If you have any questions please contact Danielle at PM.SchoolCouncil@gppsd.ab.ca



The Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori board is happy to share their upcoming fundraising initiatives for February. **Meetings are the first Monday of each month @ 7:15pm.** To receive more information about upcoming meetings and events please contact them at: theguild.pm@gmail.com

A green-themed calendar listing fundraising events for February 2024. The events are: February 1: Boston Pizza Hot Lunch, Online Pre-order; February 5: Regular Meeting of the Board, 7:15pm School Library; February 16: Mom's Pantry Order Deadline, Delivery expected late Feb early March; February 20: Sweetness Cookie Orders Open; February 22: State & Main Hot Lunch, Online Pre-order. At the bottom, a logo for the Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori is shown next to text stating: "THE FUNDRAISING GUILD IS WORKING TOWARDS TWO FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES THIS YEAR. NEW SCHOOL GYM MATS AND A SCHOOL GARAGE WHICH COULD HOUSE MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT AND SCHOOL SPORTS EQUIPMENT."/>

FEBRUARY 2024 FUNDRAISING CALENDAR	
FEBRUARY 1	BOSTON PIZZA HOT LUNCH ONLINE PRE-ORDER
FEBRUARY 5	REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD 7:15PM SCHOOL LIBRARY
FEBRUARY 16	MOM'S PANTRY ORDER DEADLINE DELIVERY EXPECTED LATE FEB EARLY MARCH
FEBRUARY 20	SWEETNESS COOKIE ORDERS OPEN
FEBRUARY 22	STATE & MAIN HOT LUNCH ONLINE PRE-ORDER

 THE FUNDRAISING GUILD IS WORKING TOWARDS TWO FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES THIS YEAR. NEW SCHOOL GYM MATS AND A SCHOOL GARAGE WHICH COULD HOUSE MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT AND SCHOOL SPORTS EQUIPMENT.

Casa dei Bambini, Preschool & Kindergarten

January was a bustling and learning-filled month in the Casa dei Bambini classes! It was wonderful to see everyone return refreshed after the holidays and it felt great getting to spend time reviewing our routines and getting back into the swing of things. Our students were very eager to begin classroom jobs this month! We spent time talking about the added responsibility of taking on a classroom job, and decided together with the children which jobs would be important in our classes. Our students have been doing a fantastic job of carrying out their jobs with dedication and zeal – it is exciting to see them take ownership of these care of the environment tasks and to show such pride in our shared environment.

January was also the month of the dinosaur in the Casa classrooms! This was an area that we knew we absolutely had to hone in on as most of our students had expressed an interest and curiosity to know more about dinosaurs and the period in which they lived. The student engagement connected to our dinosaur theme has been incredible and we will still be exploring some dinosaur-related paths into February as we follow our students' curiosity.

In February we are also looking forward to learning all about Lunar New Year! As it is the Year of the Dragon, we hope to delve into some dragon art, learn about the Chinese New Year Dragon Dance, learn about, and prepare traditional red envelopes as gifts and to enjoy some delicious food in celebration. February is also a month to celebrate kindness at Parkside Montessori. We will be taking part in Community Kindness Week along with beginning our very own Casa kindness initiative that we hope will have a great impact on our students and the community!

In Language Arts this month, all students will be working on printing their name with just one capital letter at the beginning. Some of our students are getting into their writing work! Working on practical writing tasks at home is a terrific way to get Casa kids to write. For example, you could invite your child to help to make the grocery list, plan meals and make a menu, or make a card for someone special! In Math, we are working with all our students on the Counting Principles. Counting at home is a terrific way to support this process. Counting forwards and backwards from 1-10 and 10-1 is a great start. Counting starting anywhere between 1-10 (for example from 4-10 or 8-1) is also an important skill to practice. It is amazing to see the students develop these integral numeracy skills!

February is going to be great!

-Miss Amber and Miss Laura



Lower Elementary, Gr. 1, 2, 3

Hello Parkside families,

We have been off to a great start to 2024 in the lower elementary Montessori classrooms. The students settled in nicely after the winter break and have been setting and reaching new goals during our work block periods.

In Math, the children continue to work on strengthening their understanding of place value using numbers that are becoming larger as the year goes on. The Montessori colour coded system helps students create a strong foundation to build, compare, and order numbers. With this understanding they can regroup numbers to add, subtract, multiply and divide. In each ELMO class, we are also focusing on other math concepts, such as time, graphing and geometry.

In Language Arts, the children continue to build on their understanding of the sounds that groups of letters make through their daily phonics lessons. This knowledge allows students to blend and segment sounds to read and write new words. They are also building a bank of words that they can quickly identify and can write using conventional spelling. These are often words that do not follow general phonetic rules and that they must learn "by heart." Several ELMO classes have also been developing their letter writing skills. The students have been very excited to share their letters back and forth with each other, and to write important messages to their loved ones at home and in the community.

In Social Studies, each of the classes have been studying a community in Canada. The students are learning about details such as the landscape, climate, economy, history, and recreational activities of the people who live in these communities. Art classes have been a fun way for us to integrate our learning on these communities. Mr. Josh's class made beautiful lighthouses last week after studying Meteghan, Nova Scotia.

In Science, our classes took an exciting trip to the Phillip J. Currie Dinosaur museum! For many of the students, this was their first trip on a school bus and the excitement in the air was

palpable. When we got to the museum, we received a guided tour, completed a scavenger hunt, met the museum's pet tortoise and pet snake, watched a dino movie, and took part in an activity focused on the timeline of life on Earth. This important learning relates directly to our Montessori work with The Great Lessons. The hands-on activity allowed for a stronger understanding of the monumental length of time on Earth before the arrival of humans. Students could also build on our previous work on the classification of animals as they placed examples of each along the fabric continuum of time.

January was a busy month, and we are looking forward to all of the fun and learning that February holds!

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



Upper Elementary, Gr. 4, 5, 6

Greetings from the Upper ELMO team!

We have had a wonderful start to the 2024 year in upper elementary. Students have been settling back into their routines and helping one another with our classroom expectations and transitions throughout the day. We survived a couple of weeks of inside recess and the kids have been enjoying the nice weather as of late – especially in their outside time for P.E. with Mr. Monty.

In Math, students continued exploring, extending, and describing various sequences. They can determine if the sequence is arithmetic (adding or subtracting) or if it is geometric (multiplying or dividing). They have also worked with statistics with creating their own surveys and analyzing data. Using that data, they have and will continue to interpret and display it in different graphs and charts!

In Language, students are exploring various editing tools and how to give and receive feedback as they work on narratives. They are working on writing a draft, revising, and writing an additional draft before publishing. A highlight in the month was Literacy Week – the guest readers, read around the school and Starbooks were all a huge success! Dressing up as a book character was also a highlight of that week and many students had fun with bringing their favourite character to life!

Grade 6 has begun to work on coding and exploring NASA's space jam. In Social Studies, they are learning about the Iroquois Confederacy. Grade 5 has been continued building their mini library, listening to stories of Indigenous, Vikings, English, and French roles in the history of Canada. They also continue to study weather in Grade 5 Science. Grade 4 has been learning about the various uses of the buffalo and the history of Alberta. In Science, they are exploring gravity, magnetism, and electrostatic force.

In Art, we focused on fabric arts and weaving paper dragons for Lunar New Year – Year of the Dragon. If you have an interest and want to lead a small group in knitting, crocheting or other fab-

ric arts please let us know! In Music, we have started ukuleles and learning more about musical theory on days that they are not playing the instruments. We have started with picking open strings and just started learning strumming with easy chords.

-Miss Desiree, Miss Jackie, & Miss Stefanie



ADHD Information Session



What is it?

This presentation is designed to be an overview of ADHD. It includes what ADHD is, where it comes from, how it is diagnosed, the gifts of ADHD, the impact ADHD can have on an individual if left untreated, the impact ADHD has on executive functioning, improving academic outcomes, effective treatments for ADHD and some classroom strategies and parenting tips.

When and Where is it?

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm

I.V Macklin Public School
8876 108 Avenue
Grande Prairie, AB

March 20th, 2024

May 8th, 2024

Alexander Forbes School
7240 Poplar Drive
Grande Prairie, AB

January 24th, 2024

April 24th, 2024

Parenting Anxious Children and Youth



Where and When is it?

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm

I.V Macklin Public School
8876 108 Avenue Grande
Prairie, AB

April 10th, 2024

May 22nd, 2024

Alexander Forbes School
7240 Poplar Drive Grande
Prairie, AB

January 31st, 2024

May 1st, 2024

What is it?

This presentation provides a brief overview of anxiety, including the different types of anxiety, the origins of anxiety and it describes some of the possible ways anxiety can be expressed behaviorally, emotionally, physically and cognitively. There will be discussion on both helpful and unhelpful ways to support children and youth who struggle with anxiety through classroom management, coaching and parenting tips and speaking to your physician about pharmaceuticals.



Parents & Guardians have a voice in education!



Survey closes **Friday, March 1, 2024.**



Preschool & Kindergarten Online Registration

Prepopulate Registration
February 28

Submit Registration
March 11 @ 8:30 am



2024-2025
School Year



Grande Prairie
Public School
Division
Every Student Succeeds



Parkside
Montessori

Attention families with children in Grades 4-6. Please watch your mailbox for an important survey from Alberta Education. Your input will help shape the future of education. Have your voice heard! Read more [HERE](#)

Online Registration for the 2024-2025 School Year opens on March 11. We invite families of Preschool and Kindergarten-aged children to begin early. Preschool & kindergarten school tours are being booked for February 26th & 27th, 2024. Call to book your tour, 780-5327429. To learn more click [HERE](#).

Literacy WEEK 2024

thank
★ you ★

Thank you to our Literacy Week Guest Readers, Parkside Montessori families & friends, and Literacy Week Organizing Committee for making this week of events such a success!



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



Parkside Montessori

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