

April News



**Grande Prairie
Public School
Division**

PARKSIDE MONTESSORI

Montessori News

Happy April Families of Parkside Montessori! Spring is here! We hope you enjoyed a restful Spring break with your families and are as excited as we are for the warmer temperatures and springtime learning adventures! 'Tis the season for puddles and outdoor fun! Please make sure that your child has extra clothes and socks with them each day at school.

March was an exciting month for Parkside Montessori. We started off the month with registration for new Kindergarten and Preschool families. It is affirming to see the strong interest in our program from the community. We were very excited to host Celebration of Learning again this term for students to demonstrate what our Montessori classrooms and learning looks like! If you didn't have the opportunity to participate in Celebration of Learning and would like to make an appointment to come in, please contact your child's teacher. It is very important to our school community that parents feel informed about their child(ren)'s learning.

March held many opportunities for students to engage in community building events. Our School Council, Fundraising Guild and a team of Students worked together to bring the End of the Rainbow Family Dance to life! We also hosted the Alberta Musical Theater Company for a showing of Cinderella, had a M.A.L.T. afternoon, Twin Day, Plaid Day and had our annual Egg Hunt! Thank you to all of the volunteers who partner

with us to make these events possible.

It is hard to believe that we are headed into the final portion of our school year. There are many exciting events on the calendar for the month of April at Parkside. We will have Wacky Hair Day, Hot Lunch, celebrate Earth Day, Beach Day, and recognize Miss Nancy on Administrator Professionals' Day. Ending the month, we will have our annual Talent Show and a MALT afternoon.

Thank you to Grade 4-6 parents who completed the Provincial Assurance Survey (Parents Grades 4-6, Students Grades 4-6, and Teachers) during the month of February. Information regarding a second survey, our Division Assurance Survey, will be emailed home today for all parents. Our staff uses the data from both surveys to help determine our school priorities and to adjust current practices to better serve our school community. We appreciate your ongoing feedback.

Please feel free to join us for our monthly School Council and Fundraising Guild meetings on the first Monday of each month! Both opportunities allow us to connect, share information, and receive feedback from our parent community.

As always, if you have feedback for us, please let us know!

-Miss Corrine & Miss Terra



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**The Earth has music
for those who listen.**

-William Shakespeare

On the Calendar...

April

April 1 through 7- Easter Break, No School for students & staff

April 8- Classes resume; School Council @ 6pm; Fundraising Guild @ 7:15pm

April 11- Wacky Hair Day

April 16- School Spirit Day

April 18- Hot lunch (Tito's pre-order)

April 19- No School for Students (Professional Learning Day for staff)

April 22- Earth Day

April 24- Beach Day; Administrative Professionals' Appreciation Day

April 25- Fire/Evacuation Drill

April 26- Talent Show

April 29- Fire/Evacuation Drill

April 30- M.A.L.T. Afternoon

#Parksideyears



Parkside
Montessori

Watch for your weekly email for information about auditions and more about our upcoming Talent Show on Friday, April 26th!

School Council & Fundraising Guild



— we couldn't do it without you —

On behalf of School Council & The Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori we would like to thank everyone for helping us host another fun filled family event with our End of the Rainbow Family Dance!

Every penny, minute and idea contributed is greatly appreciated.

Special thanks to the Parkside Montessori Student Dance Committee for approaching Guild & Council with their idea for a dance and carrying a significant amount of the workload from surveying the school for song requests to assisting with balloon towers, decor, managing the photobooth and even working concession!

We're proud to be a part of such an amazing school community

APRIL 2024 FUNDRAISING CALENDAR

THIS MONTH LOOK FORWARD TO THE STUDENT ART CARD FUNDRAISER!

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| APRIL 1 - | GROWING SMILES SPRING FUNDRAISER OPENS |
| APRIL 8 - | REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD
7:15PM SCHOOL LIBRARY (OR ZOOM) |
| APRIL 17 - | GROWING SMILES SPRING FUNDRAISER DEADLINE |
| APRIL 18 - | TITO'S BISTRO 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

Happy Spring!

Casa classes have warmly welcomed the beautiful weather and loved getting outside during the month of March!

We have been using our five senses to investigate all that spring changes in our world. We are looking for signs of spring and keeping track in our classes. Some of the first signs we've noticed are soft and fuzzy pussy willows growing. We've seen big inviting puddles forming, and we have heard many birds singing! March was a wonderfully busy month in our Casa dei Bambini classrooms. It was exciting to have our second round of Celebrations of Learning and to see our students confidently exhibit their skills in all areas of the classroom. Well done, Casa students!

We also had the opportunity to have some of our students visit the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie this month. The children enjoyed touring the *Weave and Intertwine* exhibition and closely examined the art towards discovering their own wonders and curiosities. Then, they collaboratively created their own masterpieces! It was exciting to see our students explore this creative side of themselves.

In April, we look forward to beginning to learn more about plants and animals and what they need to grow and thrive. We even hope to begin growing some of our own plants, noticing all the parts of a plant and observing life cycles. We can't wait to see, hear, smell, touch and taste all that April brings to our classrooms!

-Miss Amber and Miss Laura



Lower Elementary, Gr. 1, 2, 3

Hello, ELMO 123 Families,

We hope everyone had a wonderful Easter break and returned ready to learn.

March was a fun and busy month! The highlight of it being our second Celebration of Learning of the school year. It was truly special to witness our students leading the way in showcasing their achievements in learning. We were thrilled to have families join us to see the incredible progress our students have been making!

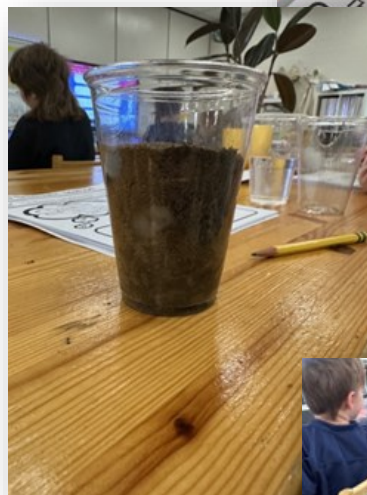
Our Lower ELMO classes are hard at work investigating our new Alberta Science Curriculum. Each class is working on a different aspect of the curriculum this month. The units we are investigating are Energy, Matter, Living Systems, and Computer Science. Within each of these units we are continuing to learn about Scientific Investigation. One highlight of Science learning comes from Miss Jen's class who have been building their own dream houses which connect with their learning about Matter.

In Social Studies, students are exploring how life in Iqaluit differs from life in Grande Prairie. They are discovering fascinating facts that explain the differences and are also learning about how our community compares to where Inuit people live. A highlight from this learning is how Miss Jennifer's class extended their learning with a fun permafrost experiment which connects to learning that in Nunavut, there is permafrost under the ground.

In Math, our Lower ELMO classes will continue learning about geometry, fractions, four operations and measurement.

We thank you again for all that you do to support your child's learning.

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



Upper Elementary, Gr. 4, 5, 6

Greetings from the Upper ELMO team!

March has been an extremely busy month for our students. We had many special days such as Twin Day and Plaid Day as well as MALT and our annual Egg Hunt. March is such a special time because we get to have our second Celebration of Learning. It is so wonderful getting to visit with all our families and share the amazing learning going on in our classrooms.

Students were excited to walk to the Montrose Cultural Centre, Library and Health Unit. We were able to expand our art learning with a special exhibit about weaving that involved art from many different cultures and had a specific focus on First Nations weaving. We hope you were able to see them in our hallway at the Celebration of Learning! A highlight of the trip was the engaging presentations at the health unit. Students loved learning about sun safety, dental hygiene, and hand washing. Thank you to all the parents who joined us and made this trip possible.

In Math, students wrapped up their study of algebra and began working on geometry. Math concepts of symmetry, congruency and tessellation have been very engaging for the students and they have enjoyed seeing the connection between math and art. It is a favourite unit for many as they can connect their learning all the way from Casa to geometrical concepts being studied in Upper ELMO!

In Language, students have been working hard with Montessori Grammar and Word Study materials. These special materials help students understand parts of speech and build valuable spelling and vocabulary skills. Students continue to work in small groups on both writing and reading.

Music students are wrapping up their ukelele lessons and composer studies. They are already starting to practice for the spring concert. In Art, students have finished up weaving for now and are working with digital art as well as symmetry and tessellation projects to tie into Math! Digital art is always a special favourite and gives the students a chance to work with our collection of digital cameras.

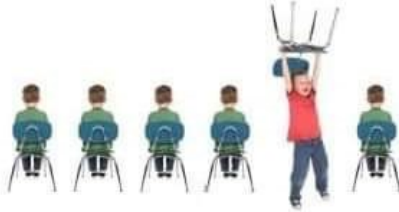
Grade 6 students have really loved building their coding knowledge using the Sphero robots. They have also been learning about energy and forces. Building a simple catapult let them explore spring force. Grade 5 students completed their weather and climate projects and have started coding on the Tynker website and exploring the moon! Grade 4 students have wrapped up our Non-Contact Forces unit and have begun our unit about Space.

In Social Studies Grade 6 students have begun to prepare for the Provincial Achievement Test. This may seem early but practicing with questions and building study skills will help them to feel ready for this test. They are also learning about Canadian government structures. Grade 5 students have completed their mini library project which were displayed in the library for families to see during the Celebration of Learning. They have now begun a self-paced murder mystery that is set on the Canadian railway! Grade 4 students continue learning about the Stories and Histories of the People of Alberta and are currently making mini books on The Fur Trade, The Métis Culture, and the Hudson's Bay Company. Students are using research skills and nonfiction writing skills to create mini books.

-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.



Caregiver Education Team Newsletter

April 2024



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.

Canada Dental Benefit

Smile!
It is here.



For kids **under 12 years old**



For families with an adjusted net income **under \$90,000 per year**



For those who **don't have access to private dental care insurance**

Find out more at Canada.ca/dental or 1-800-715-8836



Click [HERE](#) to view the full edition of the Caregiver Education Team Newsletter.



Parkside Montessori

Corrine Shmyruk, Principal
Terra Shewchuk, Vice Principal



9617 91A avenue
Grande Prairie, AB
T8V 0G7

Phone: 780-532-7429

Email:

Parkside.montessori@gppsd.ab.ca

Facebook:

@ParksideMontessori

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www.gppsd.ab.ca/school/parksidemontessori