

PARKSIDE MONTESSORI ASSURANCE NEWS



BACKGROUND

Each year, parents of students in grades 4, 5, and 6 receive a survey from Alberta Education in the mail. These surveys are to be completed online using the random-access code provided directly to parents and are anonymous.

The information we receive from the Alberta Education Assurance survey is extremely important for accountability in the delivery of education and builds assurance that schools are moving in the right direction. This information assists our school specifically in planning our priorities, strategies, and selecting evidence for our three-year education plan.

The survey asks for feedback from students, parents, and teachers on various aspects of quality instruction; student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates; and includes provincial assessments of student learning.

Students in grades 4, 5 and 6 from Parkside and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school this spring.

Every few weeks for the remainder of the year we will update you on a different section from the survey and our efforts as a school community to support maintaining and increasing our achievement. It is our hope that providing this information will assist our parents in feeling confident in responding to the survey in the spring.



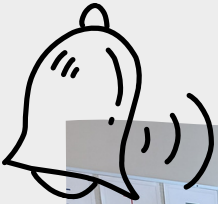
2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- 96% of teachers, parents and students agree that students are engaged in their learning
- 97% of teachers, parents and students are satisfied that students model the characteristics of active citizenship
- 99% of teachers, parents, and students are satisfied with the overall quality of basic education
- 98% of teachers, parents and students agree that their learning environments are welcoming, caring, respectful and safe
- 93% of teachers, and parents are satisfied with parental involvement in decisions about their child's education.



FEBRUARY ASSURANCE HIGHLIGHT

There are 9 specific areas looked at within the Provincial Assurance Survey. We will highlight one area in each edition. For the fourth February edition, the focus is sharing how our school community supports Montessori Practice.



MONTESSORI PRACTICE

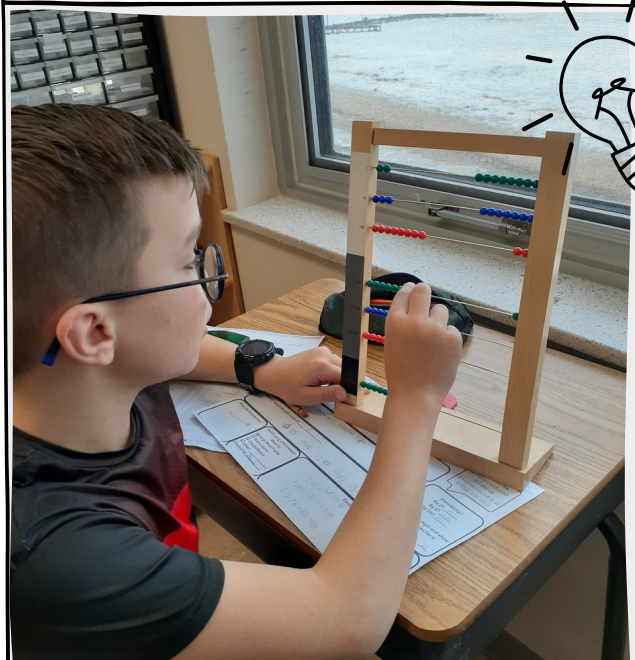
In School Planning

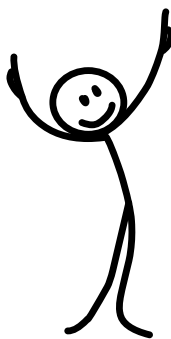
- Professional learning prioritizes making connections between Montessori materials and presentations with the understanding, implementation, and assessment of the new Alberta Curriculum.
- Prioritization in planning and budgeting for resources to support teaching and learning with Montessori materials.
- Dedicated time on Professional Learning Days for staff to build staff understanding and skills to support the continuity of Montessori practice.
- Providing Parent Learning Sessions to expand understanding and learning about Montessori Materials and presentations.



In School Culture And Extra Curricular

- Maria Montessori said, "Follow the child." We support students in taking the lead in creating clubs and planning events that appeal to their peers and provide opportunities for leadership (Drama Club, Basketball Club, Volleyball Club, Mini-Sticks, Cree Club, Box-bots Clubs; Halloween Dance & activities; End of the Rainbow Family Dance).
- Providing students with opportunities to expand their connection and engage in community events (Community Kindness Week, 3D Soccer and Ball Hockey tournament, Grandbuddies visits, going-out field trips).





MONTESSORI PRACTICE

In Learning

- Providing a holistic approach to learning through Montessori philosophy and teaching where presentations align with students' developmental level and support learning.
- Hands-on Montessori materials that build understanding from the concrete to the abstract
- Montessori presentations support student learning align with curricular outcomes.
- Montessori structure of three combined grades allows for all children to experience being the youngest, middle and oldest in their classroom community.



- Staff guides student learning through individual &/or small group presentations and activities
- Students can work at their own level and pace.
- Students are provided with opportunities to follow their curiosities to develop deeper understandings in areas of passion.
- We have Celebration of Learning twice per year when students get to share with their parents the learning they are doing as well as the activities & materials they regularly use.

