

Welcome!



**Grande Prairie
Public School
Division**

PARKSIDE MONTESSORI

Montessori News

Welcome back to Parkside Montessori! It is refreshing to hear the sounds and see students engaged in their learning once again! We are off to a great start and are looking forward to the 2024-2025 school year. We are entering our ninth year as a school community and are grateful for the ongoing support of our parents and community partners. Thank you for sharing your children with us.

The children of Parkside are settling into their classroom and getting right into learning. For this first part of the school year, one of our primary focuses is on reviewing routines, procedures, and expectations. To support this learning, we are holding our first Leadership Academy, guiding students to be the leaders we all know they are within the classroom, the school, and community. We continue to emphasize Social-Emotional Learning, using common language and holding common expectations. We want to equip our students with a toolkit full of strategies to help support their well-being. September 16th-19th will be our Colour Week, where we review the Blue, Red, Yellow & Green Zones, and will practice specific strategies for self-regulation. The morning of Saturday, September 21st is the GPPSD Elementary Fun Run. We hope to see some of our Parkside families join us for this event!

As part of our Emergency Response Procedures, a letter was sent home to families the first week of school explaining our Student Release protocol. If you did not receive it, please let your child's teacher know. We will also be sending letters specific to each type of drill we will be practicing throughout the school year.

Our School Council will be holding an Annual General Meeting on Monday, September 23rd at 6:00pm at the school.

Please see the weekly parent email for additional information. We are looking forward to our continued partnership with this fantastic group of parents who play an integral role in providing feedback and assist our team to plan for our school.

The Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori will also host an Annual General Meeting on September 23rd at 7:15pm at the school. You can connect directly with the Guild by emailing theguild.pm@gmail.com. The Fundraising Guild has worked very hard toward the building of our new playground and supports our students through their fundraising efforts. Soon you will see the students of Parkside using brand new gym mats that the Fundraising Guild helped to purchase last year. We are grateful for all that they do to enhance our school community.

It is important to us that our parents are well informed about school events, activities, and what children are learning at school. We make regular use of several forms of communication to share information with our families. We post regularly on social media through our Facebook and Instagram accounts (@pm.gppsd). Parkside families also receive a weekly email from their child(ren)'s classroom teacher(s) with important dates and updates about learning in the classroom. A Family Calendar of theme days and scheduled events was sent home during our first week together. 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 2024-2025 school year will hold and are happy to be on this journey with you!

-Miss Corrine & Miss Terra

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Imagination does not become great until human beings, given the courage and strength, use it to create.

-Dr. Maria Montessori

On the Calendar...

September 2024

Sept. 3- First Day of School!

Sept. 3-9- Casa dei Bambini Preschool & Kindergarten staggered entry

Sept. 9- First day of regular schedule for Casa friends

Sept. 13- School Spirit Day

Sept. 16-19, Colour Days! Zones of Regulation review!

Sept. 16- Blue Day

Sept. 17- Red Day

Sept. 18- Yellow Day

Sept. 19- Green Day

Sept. 20- No School for Students (Professional Learning Day for Staff)

Sept. 21- GPPSD Fun Run

Sept. 23- School Council & Fundraising Guild Annual General Meetings

Sept. 24- School Photos (schedule will be emailed home)

Sept. 25- School Photos (schedule will be emailed home)

Sept. 26- Fire/Evacuation Drill

Sept. 27- Orange Shirt Day

Sept. 30- No School for Students & Staff, *National Day for Truth and Reconciliation*

#PARKSIDEYEAR9

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 Friday, September 27th to show support of this important event.

School Council & Fundraising Guild

Join us!



School Council of Parkside Montessori Annual General Meeting

**Monday, September 23rd, 2024
6pm at the school**

All Parkside Montessori
parents/guardians are welcome
to attend.

School Council of Parkside Montessori will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Monday, September 23 @ 6PM, in-person at Parkside Montessori. All parents of Parkside Montessori students are welcome.

We have two School Council Executive positions to fill this year:

Council Chair and Vice-Chair

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 at 6pm in the library.

Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori

BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED



As we begin the 2024/2025 school year, the Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori is putting out a call for volunteers so that we can continue to support and enrich the school community.

● Dances ● Playground ● School Equipment & Materials ● Pax's Den

Experience is not necessary. We need members who have time to commit to our fundraisers and month to month operations. The more time we have invested by each member the easier it is for our board as a whole.

Board Members:

- Attend monthly meetings (1st school session Monday of each month).
- Assist with making/review agendas and meeting materials prior to meetings.
- Are willing to lead/assist with a minimum of 1-2 fundraisers per year.
- Are respectful of the procedures/policies and bylaws we operate in compliance with.
- Bring different ideas to the table and respect board majority decisions.

- **Make a HUGE difference to our school community!**

Please consider joining us at our AGM coming up on
Monday September 23 2024 at 7:15pm in the School Library
We will be electing a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer & 3 Directors.

TO INQUIRE MORE, PLEASE EMAIL US AT THEGUILD.PM@GMAIL.COM

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK TO SEE WHAT WE DO! WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PARKSIDEFUNDRAISING
OBJECTIVE OF OUR SOCIETY: To Raise & Allocate Funds to Support and Enrich The School Community

Parking at Parkside Montessori



Please note that there is no parking on the school side of 91a Avenue from the light standard next to the parking lot entrance all the way west to the far edge of the sidewalk leading to the building. This is our bus zone. Parents may park on the north side of the street, west end of 91a Avenue, or in the city lot at the back of the school. For the safety of our students, please do not park within 5 meters of the crosswalks.



Doors open at 8:15 and lock again at 8:33 each day. If your child arrives late to school, please have them enter through the main doors.

MEET OUR 2024-2025 Stabb

Miss Corrine, Principal

Miss Corrine adventured to San Francisco this summer and spent time with friends in Sylvan Lake. She enjoyed lots of time relaxing, reading, and eating ice cream! Miss Corrine also enjoyed spending time out at the family farm and listening to music at the Bear Creek Folk Festival.

Miss Corrine is passionate about supporting staff and students to believe in themselves and what they can accomplish as members of our school community. She is curious by nature and loves to learn alongside the staff and students of Parkside Montessori.

Miss Corrine is looking forward this year to building connections with our Parkside families, watching children be curious and make new discoveries in their learning, and continuing to build a safe, caring, and welcoming learning environment!



Miss Terra, Vice Principal

Miss Terra travelled to Iceland this summer on an adventure with her mama. They explored Reykjavik, visited thermal pools and geysers, saw volcanoes and waterfalls, took a boat tour of a glacial lagoon and held a piece of an iceberg that was 1000+ years old, saw puffins nesting, walked the paths of Vikings and learned many of the stories about this amazing country!

Miss Terra loves music and had a great time at the Bear Creek Folk Fest . She also took her daughter, Zooey, to experience her first BIG stadium concert for Pink's Summer Carnival Tour.

Miss Terra loves leading and learning at Parkside Montessori. She tries to encourage others to follow their curiosities, and to do their best each day. She believes that everyone brings something special to our school community and looks forward to connecting with everyone this year!



Miss Nancy, Administrative Assistant (left)

Miss Nancy had a fantastic summer with her husband Sean, her children Xavier and Faith, and their dog Rosie. She also enjoyed reconnecting with her roots by visiting her family in Newfoundland.

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

Mr. Monty had a wonderful summer outside in or on the water: paddleboarding, swimming, bodysurfing, snorkelling, boating and, knee boarding (he tried but can't stand up on a wakeboard, YET). He is very excited to see everyone, and as usual, he is a little nervous to start the school year but knows once we get going it will be great!



Miss Toni, Library Technician (left)

Miss Toni is happy to be back at Parkside after a summer filled with fun and family.

Some of her favourite things include reading, crocheting, and hanging out with her family and puppy. Miss Toni is looking forward to our annual Book Fairs!



Miss Kimberly, Literacy & Numeracy Intervention Educational Assistant

(right)

Miss Kimberly spent most of her summer outdoors, and on many adventures. Lots of time was spent with friends hiking, paddle boarding, playing baseball and pickleball. Some highlights were the Calgary Stampede, Kelowna, Tumbler Ridge, and Seattle. Look up Seattle gum wall, disgusting...

Miss Kimberly is excited to be returning to Parkside for another amazing year!!



Miss Jen, Learning Support Teacher (left)

Miss Jen started her summer off by teaching at Reading University and after that she spent as much time outside as possible. She went on her annual trip to Vancouver Island with her children where she swam and paddled in the ocean and learned how to dig for clams and oysters. She even tried eating them raw! She also spent a lot of time in Tumbler Ridge hiking and learning how to fly fish. Now she is excited to be returning to Parkside for her 6th year in her new role as Learning Support Teacher!





Miss Trisha Casa dei Bambini Teacher (left)

Miss Trisha is happy to be returning to Parkside after Maternity Leave. Being in Casa is Miss Trisha's happy place. She loves the playful atmosphere and watching her students grow and learn. She is especially looking forward to baking and getting messy!

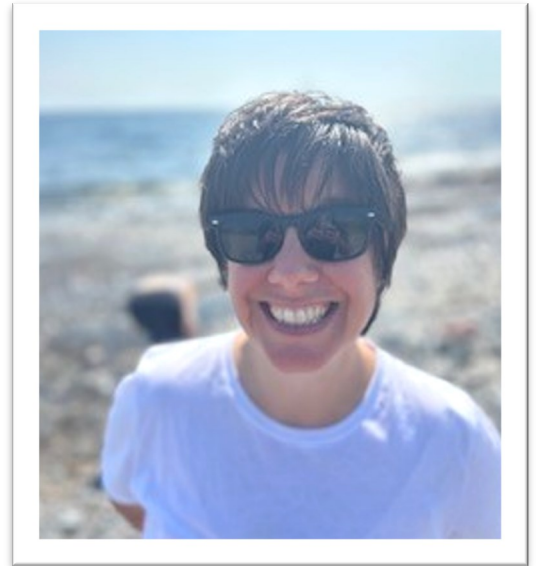
Miss Trisha had a relaxing summer with family and friends. A couple of highlights were going to Monster Jam in Edmonton and Disneyland. Her favourite Monster Truck is Sparkle Smash.

Miss Trisha is excited to reconnect with returning students and meet all the new Parkside students!



Miss Laura N., Casa dei Bambini Teacher (right)

Miss Laura had an awesome summer and is so excited to be back for another great school year at Parkside. Miss Laura and her family spent lots of time visiting family in Newfoundland this summer and spent lots of time swimming and exploring beaches and forests. Needless to say, there will be some lovely new seashells and nature artifacts gracing the shelves of Casa 2 this school year! Miss Laura loves being a Casa dei Bambini teacher and can't wait to see what adventures and wonderful learning this new year brings.



Miss Kristi, Educational Assistant (left)

Miss Kristi is excited to be a part of Parkside Montessori and meet all the wonderful students. Miss Kristi spent most of the summer camping at various locations including Pierre Grey's and Lucerne Campground in BC. Miss Kristi visited many different parks with her son, who also attends Parkside and ate a lot of ice cream.



Miss Gayani, Educational Assistant (right)

Miss Gayani is one of our Casa 1 Educational Assistants. She had a great summer with her husband, Shehan, and daughter, Nuvee. They explored many places in and around Grande Prairie. One of her favourite places was Dunvegan Gardens in Fairview.





Miss Christina, Educational Assistant (left)

Miss Christina is an Educational Assistant in Casa 2.

Miss Christina had a busy summer! She loves spending time outdoors in her garden and hanging out with her family. This school year she is looking forward to building new, and rekindling relationships with students, and helping them grow.



Miss Madalee, Educational Assistant (right)

Miss Madalee is happy to be back with her friends in Casa 2. She spent a lot of time reading, crafting, and exploring nature this summer. She and her family went to Tumbler Ridge to see Flatbed Falls, and the fish were swimming beside their feet. It was so cool to watch! She is so excited to see and work with the new and returning students in Casa 2. It's going to be a great year!

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



Miss Karlla, Educational Assistant (left)

Miss Karlla is back at Parkside Montessori as part of our student support team. She loves the outdoors and enjoys horseback riding on the weekends. Miss Karlla is super excited to see all the new and familiar faces this year!



Miss Kim, Educational Assistant (right)

This summer, Miss Kim had the opportunity to explore the breathtaking natural beauty of Hudson's Hope British Columbia. This trip was a perfect blend of exploration and relaxation, leaving her with unforgettable memories and a deep appreciation for the province's remarkable scenery and culture. She is happy to join our Parkside Montessori team!



Miss Clara, Educational Assistant (right)

Miss Clara had a wonderful summer. She travelled to visit family in the Caribbean! Miss Clara is back this year supporting students in her role as Educational Assistant.

Miss Clara is bilingual, speaking fluent French and English. She loves art and is very creative. She love being a part of our Parkside Team!



Miss Karissa, ELMO123 Teacher (left)

This is Miss Karissa's first year at Parkside Montessori, and she is very excited to join the team. She is looking forward to getting to know the students, families, and staff of Parkside.

Miss Karissa had a wonderful summer with family and friends. Miss Karissa spent most of her summer reading and traveling. She read many amazing books! Miss Karissa visited five countries in Europe: Iceland, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, and the Netherlands. She loved learning about each country she visited!

Miss Karissa is excited for a wonderful school year!

Miss Melissa, ELMO123 Teacher (right)

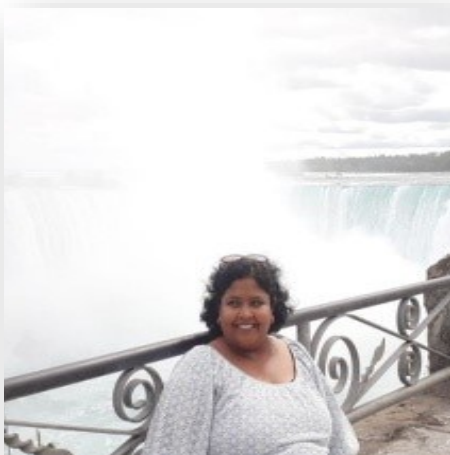
Miss Melissa had a great summer spending time with her family. They went on many mini-adventures in and around Grande Prairie, as well as trips to Edmonton and Ottawa.

She enjoys spending time with her family, reading, watching movies, playing sports, shopping, and going on trips.

She is looking forward to lots of learning both for her and her students this year.



Miss Shalini, ELMO123 Teacher (left)



Miss Shalini enjoyed this summer by visiting friends in Calgary and Toronto. She also enjoyed Edmonton Festivals throughout the summer. Her most memorable time was attending her convocation to receive her Post Baccalaureate Diploma in Education from the University of Manitoba. She is looking forward to getting to know everyone and being a part of the Parkside Montessori team!

Introducing our AMAZING Caretaking Team:

Mr. FM, Head Caretaker

Miss Niluka, and Mr. Romeo





Miss Julianne, ELMO123 Teacher (left)

This will be Miss Julianne's 6th year teaching and her fourth year at our fantastic school, Parkside Montessori. She has a passion for Phonics, Numeracy, and Inquiry Based Learning but her favourite part of being a Teacher is learning with you - the students! She is thrilled to be walking into school this year, after a fun summer under the sun.

Mr. Josh, ELMO123 Teacher
(right)

Mr. Josh spent the first part of his summer working at Reading University. This was his 8th year participating in the program. He loves the opportunity to meet and read with grade 3 students from all over Grande Prairie. From there Mr. Josh went to Calgary where his oldest daughter was participating in a summer ballet school. Next, he went with his family to Orlando where they spent time at Universal Studios and Disney World where his children got to spend some quality time with their grandparents, cousins, aunt and uncle.

He looks forward to seeing his grade 2 and 3 students again and meeting the new grade 1 students that are joining his class. He can't wait to hear about all of your summer adventures.



Miss Lisa S., Educational Assistant

Miss Lisa had a wonderful summer at the lake. She did some boating, played card games, visited and did lots of swimming and paddle boarding. She also played some beach volleyball and some pickleball with her family. She spent some quality time with her husband and her two children.

Miss Lisa LOVES her job at Parkside Montessori and is very excited to see all the kids.

Miss Carly, Educational Assistant
ELMO123 (right)

Miss Carly has a busy summer filled with time outdoors, hiking, swimming, and spending time with her dog, family, and friends.

She is looking forward to reconnecting with past students and making new connections with new students and families.





Miss Lisa P., Educational Assistant

ELMO123 (left)

Miss Lisa had a wonderful summer with her family. She loves animals, reading, yoga, nature, and travelling.

Miss Lisa is looking forward seeing familiar faces and meeting new students this year at Parkside Montessori.



Miss Melinda., Educational Assistant

(right)

Miss Melinda had a great summer spent with her family here in Grande Prairie. She is happy to join the Parkside team in supporting students.

Miss Melinda may be a familiar face to some of our students as she also drives a school bus each day!



Miss Angie, Educational Assistant (right)

Miss Angie had a great summer working, playing in the garden, reading and took a short trip to Kamloops to visit family. Miss Angie is excited to be back working with the Upper ELMO team this year supporting, students and staff.

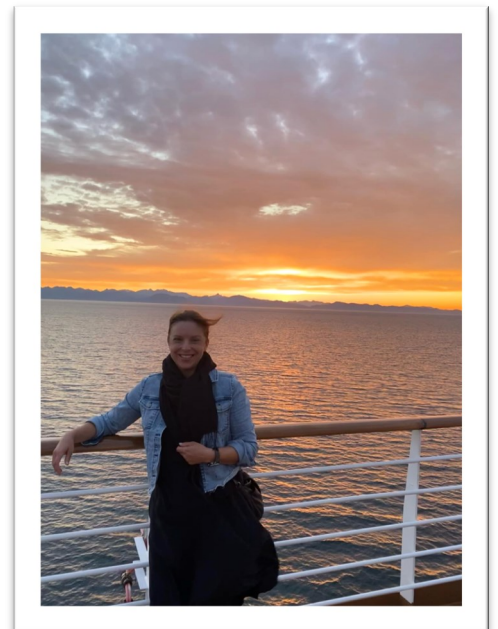
Miss Rebecca, Educational Assistant (left)

Miss Rebecca and her kids spent a lot of time making new memories with friends and enjoying all Grande Prairie has to offer. They had so much fun hiking, camping, swimming, paddleboarding, walking and visiting. They enjoyed the sunshine and played lots of games.

Miss Rebecca is excited to be working again with the Upper ELMO team,

Miss Jackie, ELMO456 Teacher (right)

Miss Jackie had a wonderful summer! She had an awesome time completing the Near Death marathon in Grande Cache, where she enjoyed amazing mountain views, butterflies, flowers, and great people. Afterwards she spent time camping in the area, where she had fun paddle boarding and spending time around the campfire with family and friends. Miss Jackie also went on an Alaskan cruise with her family, where she saw lots of amazing wildlife including whales, dolphins, seals and sea otters! Miss Jackie is ready for another fantastic year teaching in Upper ELMO with the incredible Parkside team.



Did you know that ELMO is short for
Elementary Montessori?



Miss Kristen, ELMO456 Teacher (left)

Miss Kristen is thrilled to be joining the Parkside community and diving into this new adventure. Her summer was a perfect blend of relaxation and exploration—she spent her days hiking, cycling, paddleboarding, and enjoying quality family time. A highlight was visiting a kangaroo farm in Kelowna, where she had the delightful chance to meet Gizmo, a charming sugar glider. The experience was as fun as it sounds, and she's eager to bring that same enthusiasm and energy to our work here!



Miss Stefanie, ELMO456 Teacher (right)

Miss Stefanie spent a lot of time outside this summer in her new hot tub. Her daughter, Henley, enjoyed swimming and splashing too. Miss Stefanie and her family visited Banff and the Calgary Zoo in July before going to visit more family in New York. For the month of August, Miss Stefanie enjoyed reading, connecting with friends, and adding a fluffy white Persian kitty to the family. Miss Stefanie is thrilled to start her fourth year with the students, families and staff at Parkside Montessori.



Miss Desiree, ELMO456 Teacher (left)

This summer Miss Desiree enjoyed spending time visiting family in Ontario. A highlight of her trip was seeing Ottawa for the first time. Even though it was pouring buckets Miss Desiree and her family enjoyed checking out tons of different museums.

Miss Desiree loves animals and has a gigantic dog. Miss Desiree loves all things Disney, Lego, board games, and Halloween. She also loves to travel and enjoys talking about and planning trips. Ask her about where she's planning on going to next.





9617 91A avenue
Grande Prairie, AB
T8V 0G7
Phone: 780-532-7429
Email:
Parkside.montessori@gppsd.ab.ca