

October News



**Grande Prairie
Public School
Division**

PARKSIDE MONTESSORI

Montessori News

The leaves of green have changed and the brilliant colors of yellow, red, and orange can be seen all around us! The familiar sounds of rustling and crunching leaves remind us that Fall has arrived. Our staff and students have settled into the 2024-2025 school year. Thank you for partnering with us on our ninth September as a school community!

September is a time for reviewing expectations, routines, and for building our school community. This year we hosted our first Leadership Academy. Each day for 9 days, children at Parkside explored learning different leadership skills and skills for interacting successfully with others. We also had our annual Color Days which were a time to review the Zones of Regulation and continue building our skills for self-regulation.

Each fall we spend time determining our students' areas of strength and areas for growth to enable us to plan for each child at their current level of achievement. Classroom teachers are completing formative assessments to guide their planning to ensure that instruction and learning are targeted to best address each student's individual needs. Parkside teachers are engaged in continual learning and improvement to ensure that we are providing the best learning for each child. Montessori materials have come out, creating a busy and exciting learning environment at Parkside! If you have questions about your child's learning or classroom activities, please reach out to a member of our team.

The children of Parkside also put together a beautiful art display to honor the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Many Parkside families were able to come to the school and complete an "Art Walk" and view the artwork. Each classroom has spent time this month talking about the role that we all play and our school efforts to support truth and reconciliation.

Coming up in October we will have our annual Fall Read-A-Thon. This fundraiser has 100% of funds collected going to the children of Parkside. Funds are used for school purchases such as sporting events, school fun days, and special presentations (i.e., Telus World of Science Presentations, Alberta Musical Theatre Company, author, artist, musician visits, artist in residence, etc.), Practical Life materials and activities, M.A.L.T. materials, special craft and art materials, specialized PE equipment, student choice Library books, field trips, etc.) Student packages will come out the second week of October. We are looking forward to focusing on our reading and fundraising at the same time!

It is important to us that we engage meaningfully with parents. Our School Council is one way that you can participate in offering feedback and learning about our school. Meetings are the first Monday of the month at 6:00 pm at Parkside. Another way that you can be involved in our school community is by participating in the Fundraising Guild. The Fundraising Guild also meets the first Monday of the month at 7:15. Thank you to the executive of both the School Council and The Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori for supporting our students and school community in their roles.

During this time of Thanksgiving, we continue to be grateful for the joys we find in watching children learn and grow each day, our collaborative school community that works together for student success, and the support of our parent community. Wishing all our Parkside Families a safe and healthy Thanksgiving season!

-Miss Corrine & Miss Terra



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**Gratitude turns what we
have into enough.**

-Anonymous

On the Calendar...



October

- Oct. 2 & 3- Fire/Evacuation Drills**
- Oct. 4- Gr. 1-6 Field Trip to GP Storm**
- Oct. 7- School Council @ 6pm; Fundraising Guild @ 7:15pm**
- Oct. 10- Dress Like a Teacher Day**
- Oct. 11- Hot Lunch**
- Oct. 14- No School for Students & Staff, Thanksgiving**
- Oct. 15-18, Fall Read-a-Thon!**
- Oct. 18- School Spirit Day**
- Oct. 21- Hot Lunch**
- Oct. 23- M.A.L.T. Afternoon**
- Oct. 24- Read-a-Thon money & forms due**
- Oct. 25- No School for Students (Professional Learning Day)**
- Oct. 30- Halloween Costume Day for Casa only**
- Oct. 31- Halloween Costume Day for Everyone**

#ParksideYear9



**Parkside
Montessori**

Multi-activity Learning Time, MALT is a special time that students from Parkside Montessori engage in extending our curricular learning to areas of specific passion. We partner with our school community to offer students sessions in a variety of subject areas. Examples of M.A.L.T. morning or afternoon activities may include, painting, music, drama, construction, baking, sewing, nature walks, and different physical activities and much more! Our first MALT afternoon of the 2024-2025 school year is on Wednesday, Oct. 23rd. We would love it if you would consider being a session leader or session helper! Forms were sent home Oct. 3rd looking for volunteers. Please contact the school office if you have any questions about this.

School Council & Fundraising Guild

Parkside Montessori School Council Mission Statement:

Parkside Montessori School Council seeks to support the social, emotional, and academic well-being of our students in partnership with parents and our school staff. As representative, we aim to engage our diverse school community and support initiatives that reflect their unique perspectives.

School Council of Parkside Montessori meets on the first Monday of every month at 6pm in the school library.

All parents of Parkside Montessori students are welcome. 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.

[HERE](#) is the link to the School Council section of our Parkside Montessori webpage.

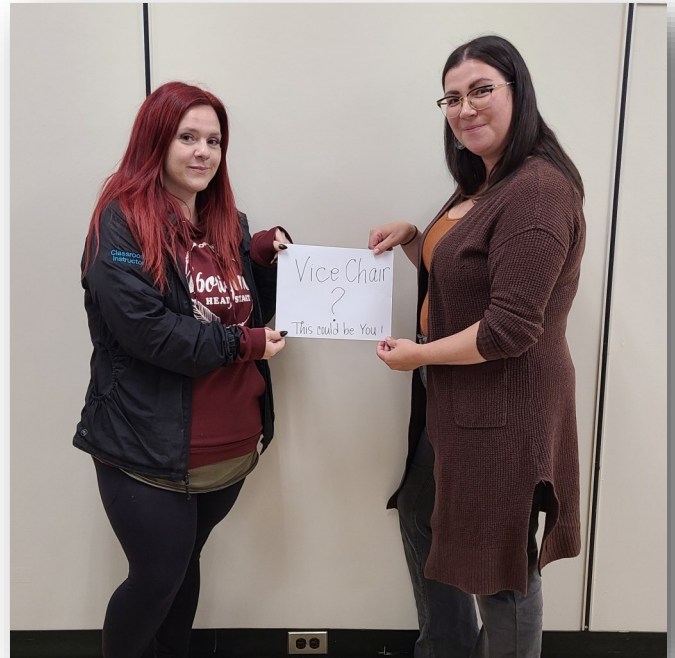
Meet our 2024-2025 School Council Executive!

(pictured right)

Keedra Wilkinson, Chair

Desiree Miguel, Secretary

Vacant Position, Vice-Chair



Meet our 2024-2025 Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori Board

(pictured left)

Blythe Mahaney, Director

Keedra Wilkinson, Secretary-Treasurer

Brenda Yeates, President

Desiree Miguel, Vice President

Danielle Harvey, Director

Regular meetings of the Board for the Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori are on the first Monday of every month at 7:15 pm in the school Library (& Zoom, email for link). If you'd like to learn more about our operations or how to get involved please feel free to join us. If you're interested in short-term volunteer opportunities, have suggestions for fundraisers or have any other feedback, we invite you to email us at: theguild.pm@gmail.com

Casa dei Bambini, Preschool & Kindergarten

Happy Fall and Welcome to October!

Casa dei Bambini classes enjoyed a busy and wonderful September getting to know one another, building and strengthening our relationships and setting important routines and expectations for this school year. We spent time talking about the Zones of Regulation and our feelings - practicing identifying how we feel and naming our feelings towards self-awareness and to communicate and share our feelings with others. We also brainstormed ideas on ways to calm down and feel better to get back into the Green Zone.

Our students have been learning and working purposefully, taking important Montessori practices to heart such as how to use and roll up a mat, how to carry and properly handle materials, how to walk in a line, and how to treat one another with grace and courtesy. We will focus on these and other foundational skills towards normalization throughout the school year.

We are so glad it's October and have lots of exciting and engaging work ahead of us. We hope to take full advantage of this beautiful season and explore apples and the falling leaves. We plan on getting outdoors lots to observe the changes in the season firsthand. We also hope to bring the outdoors into our classrooms for further study, continued hands-on learning and to inspire us in the work we do. We look forward to all of the wonders and curiosities that autumn will bring for our students and can't wait to see where this will lead their learning.

We will also spend time in the Practical Life room this month baking, preparing food to share, building independence, and spending time intentionally growing our sense of community in these ways. We look forward to many apple-cinnamon scented days ahead!

It's going to be a fun, learning-filled month at Parkside!

-Miss Laura & Miss Trisha



Lower Elementary, Gr. 1, 2, 3



Hello from the ELMO123 Team,

The first month has flown by. It is hard to believe that it is already October. We have had many exciting learning opportunities, and we have many more to come this month.

We spent a great deal of time in September working towards normalization of our classrooms. In Montessori education, this term refers to the creation of a respectful and joyful learning environment where students complete activities with full concentration and independence. This is an important step in the development of a safe and caring classroom, where each child can feel successful working at their own pace.

One way that we helped to foster normalization within the classroom was through our daily Social Emotional Learning and Zones of Regulation. Through Social Emotional Learning, students learned the importance of skills such as leadership, perseverance, and cooperation. Through the Zones of Regulation, students learned about the four zones and created a toolbox for getting to and remaining in the Green Zone. These lessons will continue throughout the year as needed by each individual classroom.

Another Important part of our Lower Elementary Montessori curriculum is The Five Great Lessons. These lessons are designed to awaken the students' curiosity and imagination. These broad lessons are told at the beginning of the year before students are introduced to more specific areas of study. These lessons include The First Great Lesson - Coming of the Universe and the Earth, The Second Great Lesson - Coming of Life, The Third Great Lesson - Coming of Human Beings, The Fourth Great Lesson - Communication in Signs, The Fifth Great Lesson - The Story of Numbers. All ELMO 123 classes have introduced the First & Second Great Lessons. The students will be listening to the remaining lessons in the coming weeks.

The weather can change quite drastically throughout the day. It is a good idea to ensure that students are dressed in layers that they can easily add or remove if necessary. Mr. Monty will also be taking students outside for Physical Education on occasion. If students wear Crocs, sandals or rubber boots it is a good idea to have them bring an extra pair of outdoor shoes for gym.

- Miss Julianne, Mr. Josh, Miss Karissa, Miss Melissa & Miss Shalini

Upper Elementary, Gr. 4, 5, 6

Hello 456 Families,

We are making new connections and strengthening existing ones as students settle into the four sections of Upper ELMO. Normalization, becoming independent with the routines and expectations of our classrooms, has been the primary focus as we start the year together. Complete normalization is our ultimate goal - students who are continually challenged to uphold the positive and respectful expectations we have set for work block, lunch, recess, and other learning times throughout our day. When students demonstrate that they are ready, all four homeroom teachers are excited to plan purposeful collaboration to happen so that students from various classrooms have the chance to work together in the 456 hallway!

In Language, we have begun looping various forms of writing throughout the week and will continue this all year instead of doing separate "units" of writing. Students will be able to build on their writing skills in all areas throughout the year and find specific types of writing to be their favourite - whether it be poetry, letter-writing, narratives, or functional writing tasks, we are excited to see what our authors create this year! Students will go through the writing process of plan, draft, revise, edit and publish many times this year and have already given pieces of their writing to their teachers to guide instruction! Regular library visits and use begin in October as guided reading groups and individual novel studies are beginning.

In Math, we have started the year with a review of place value and strategies for the four operations; addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. This work continues all year as students move from using concrete Montessori materials to more abstract pencil and paper algorithms. In October we will expand student knowledge of number as they connect the decimal place value system to fractions and ratios, depending on their grade level. Our Grade 4 students have been exploring the clock and telling time. Be sure to quiz them and practice in your morning and evening routines.

For French, students are learning the basics. From numbers, colours, greetings and calendar - les élèves font très bien! (The students are doing well!). In Art, the theme has been drawing and soon we will explore other mediums such as watercolour and oil pastel. Music has focused on beat and rhythm; students will soon explore notation as they prepare for instrument work later this year!

This year for Science and Social Studies each ELMO456 teacher is responsible for their homeroom

class. Miss Desiree, Miss Jackie, Miss Stefanie, and Miss Kristen get to have time every week to collaborate on planning and preparing engaging activities for Science and Social Studies topics. All students are starting with "Matter" in Science. Grade 4 and 5 will focus on Canadian history in Social Studies and Grade 6 will dive into democracy!

It has been a wonderful start to the year, and we are looking forward to some Fall and Halloween-themed fun in the month ahead!

-Miss Desiree, Miss Jackie, Miss Kristen, & Miss Stefanie



Community Programming

Boys Matter Too!

Ages 8-13.
Explore what strength and confidence means in today's society. Games, new friendships, and lots of fun. Cost is free.

Every Tuesday
from October 1st -
October 29th, 2024
4:45pm - 6:45pm

Email cayprograms@gpfes.com
to learn more or call 780-830-0920

Empowering our young men today, for a brighter tomorrow




Girls Matter!

Connect with your inner strength, and beauty. Build new friendships, talk about stressors, and social media. Have fun and find new ways to love yourself for who you are, naturally.

Everyone is eligible, cost is free

8-13 years of age welcome

Every Tuesday from November 5th - December 3rd, 2024
4:45pm - 6:45pm

Email cayprograms@gpfes.com
to register today
or call 780-830-0920




Circle of Security INTERNATIONAL

Building Attachment Around the World

Circle of Security is a parenting group designed to help connect with the children in their lives.

Circle of Security®
Parent Attending To The Child's Needs



- Focuses on helping caregivers reflect upon Children's attachment needs in order to promote secure attachment
- Enhance the development of your child's self esteem and emotions


- OPEN TO PARENTS & CAREGIVERS
- FREE TO ATTEND
- CHILD CARE & SNACKS TO BE PROVIDED

THURSDAY EVENINGS OR AFTERNOON-CHOOSE ONE

DATES: OCT 3-NOV 7 OR DATES: OCT 3-NOV 7
TIMES: 6:30PM-8:30PM OR TIMES: 1:00PM-3:00PM

TO REGISTER CONTACT PACE

askpace@pacecentre.com 780-539-6692 www.pacecentre.com



NO COST AFTER SCHOOL & EVENING PROGRAMMING

COOL AID SOCIETY

Mental Health Initiative Afterschool Program
Age 5-14, 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM, Monday- Friday

Mental Health Initiative Evening Program
PreTeen & Teen
Age 10-18, 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM, Monday- Friday

Expreience innovative, no cost- programs at The Cool Aid Society! We empower youths aged 5-18 with mental health support, mentorship, and community connection.


Join us for inclusive Afterschool & Evening Programming to build life & social skills.




www.coolaidsociety.ca

Caregiver Education Team Newsletter

October 2024



Recovery Alberta (formerly a part of 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 view the full edition of the Caregiver Education Team Newsletter.

Community Programming



Youth Drop-In Group

This **FREE** group is for any youth ages 10-15 who want to connect with other youth and make new friends.



October 10th 6:15-7:15
Enjoy Charcuterie while decorating your favorite cookies!

Wellington Resource Center

10407 97 Street, Clairmont, AB T0H 0W5



Parent/Caregiver consent is required prior to youth attending programming



youthsupport@sp-rc.ca



780-402-1579

Register here!



GRYPHON & PHOENIX YOUTH PROGRAM

Laser Tag

FREE

FOR YOUTH GRADES 4 TO 12

SNACKS, & BEVERAGES WILL BE PROVIDED.

DATE: OCTOBER 16TH REGISTRATION REQUIRED/LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE.

A WAIVER FORM MUST BE COMPLETE UPON YOUTHS DROP OFF.

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL YOUTHSUPPORT@SP-RC.CA OR CALL 780-539-7142

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER ONLINE

Alberta Health Services

Grande Prairie's kickstand

THE EMPATHY PROJECT

GRANDE prairie fcss

DATES: EVERY THURSDAY (EXCEPT HALLOWEEN) FROM OCTOBER 10TH - NOVEMBER 21ST, 2024
TIME: 4:30PM - 5:30PM FOR 8-12 YR OLDS
COST: FREE
ONLY 15 SPACES AVAILABLE FOR EACH GROUP

Who am I? Belong
Recognize role in family, community, world. First step to showing empathy to others is being able to be proud of yourself, where you come from, and then see yourself as a strong advocate for kindness.

Feelings
Discussing, naming, and being ok with having them. What feelings can do for and to us. What does it do to others? Healthy vs unhealthy ways of dealing with feelings. Take time for other feelings, why do I feel different than another person, over the same situation.

Cultural diversity/inclusion
Diversity, fairness, recognizing we are all different, we are all the same. Respect and empathy for all, and being able to recognize others paths, and empathize with their story/ journey when it's different than ours.

Celebrating the differences around us
It's all feeling. Make a plan of who you want to be in the world, and who you stand for.

Bullies, bystanders and peer pressure
Examining the different types of bullying, and the ways they play in society. Social media and peer pressure.

Empathy, Culture, Bullying, Respect, Conflict Resolution, and more...

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL cgyprograms@gpfcss.com or call 780-830-0920

PHOENIX YOUTH WORKSHOP

This **FREE** one-day workshop is for preteens in grades 4-6 who may be experiencing difficulties in managing their thoughts and emotions. This fun workshop helps support youth well-being through building healthy coping skills. We explore important topics like:

- Thoughts
- Feelings
- Stress
- Self-compassion

SCAN TO REGISTER TODAY!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

780-539-7142
youth@sp-rc.ca
Text: 780-402-1579

OCTOBER 26, 2024
10:00AM-3:00PM

www.startingconversations.ca

@GryphonAndPhoenixGP



FALL READ-A-THON

It's time for our annual Parkside Montessori Read-A-Thon!

Beginning October 15th, your child will have the opportunity to participate in Parkside Montessori's Annual Fall Read-A-Thon. This is a 100% profit fundraiser with monies going to benefit all students with activities such as sporting events, school fund ays, and special presentations (i.e., Telus World of Science, Alberta Musical Theatre Company, author, artist, musician visits, artists in residence, etc.), Practical Life materials & activities, M.A.L.T. materials, special craft & art materials, specialized P.E. equipment for extensions, student-choice Library books, field trips etc.

Our whole-school goal is to raise \$10 000.00
Read-A-Thon Packages go home October 9th & 10th.
Reading Challenge runs October 15th-18th.

All forms and money needs to be returned to the school office by
Thursday, October 24th, 2024!

Thank you for your continued support!

#ParksideYear9



CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

TUESDAY, DEC. 17TH, CASA & ELMO 456
THURSDAY, DEC. 19TH, ELMO 123

BOTH CONCERTS WILL BE AT PEOPLE'S CHURCH, 11850 108 STREET
EXACT TIMES TBD



Parkside Montessori
Corrine Shmyruk, Principal
Terra Shewchuk, Vice Principal



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