

December News



**Grande Prairie
Public School
Division**

PARKSIDE MONTESSORI

Montessori News

The sparkling snow continues to fall, and the children of Parkside are enjoying the winter fun! As the temperatures begin to cool off and snow falls, it is important that students are dressed for the weather. When the temperature is -25 or below including windchill, we are inside for recess. During inside recess, students engage in activities that are safe to do indoors (i.e., gym time, boardgames, stacking cups, etc.). It is hard to believe that the Christmas holidays are right around the corner!

We are looking forward to our first Celebration of Learning for the 2024-2025 school year! Preschool Progress Reports and K-6 Report Cards are coming this week. It is important to our school community that you receive up to date communication regarding your child's progress. If you have feedback for our team on how we can improve, please let us know. If you are unable to attend, and would like to meet with your child's teacher, please contact them to arrange an alternate time. We are very grateful and feel fortunate to have a parent community who take such great care of our staff and are thankful for the supper being provided by our School Council. New for this year we will be offering mini-sessions for parents on our first Celebration of Learning evening. Make sure that you check out the schedule and attend any that are of interest to you.

In November we recognized Remembrance Day and were able to acknowledge many Parkside Montessori family members on our annual Wall of Honour. Also, in November we had School Spirit Day, Wacky Hair Day, and M.A.L.T. Our 4-6 students also had the opportunity to engage with a team of Engineers from the University of Calgary. Guided by the engineering team, they explored computers and electricity. This was an amazing, hands-on opportunity for our Grade 4-6 students!

December brings some new and traditional community building events at Parkside! We are looking forward to sharing student learn-

ing with our parents through our report cards and Celebration of Learning. A parent letter and Division Parent Guide has been sent home. If you did not receive it, please let your child's teacher know. In December we will also come together as a school community for our Christmas Concerts December 17th (Casa and Grades 4-6) and December 19th (ELMO1-3). More information and tickets for families will be coming home with students this week. We are looking forward to our annual Brunch for Lunch, seeing our students dress up for Red and Green Day and the excitement of bringing teddy bears to school for PJ & Decem-Bear Day!

We feel fortunate to be welcoming the CONNECT team back to Parkside. The children of Parkside were able to learn from the CONNECT team last year through the Slumberkins, Little Spot and DBT programming. The team is funded by the AHS MHCB grant with the intention to promote positive mental health in children, youth and families in the communities where they live. The initiative is based on research and best practice that demonstrates that mental and emotional wellbeing can be developed, nurtured and supported through promotion and prevention efforts. MHCB programming build capacity of knowledge and skills and bolsters protective factors in children and youth so they can achieve the best possible health outcomes across their lifespan.

On behalf of the staff and students of Parkside Montessori, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year. We hope that you have time to enjoy the company of family and friends and stay safe and healthy.

-Miss Corrine & Miss Terra



Inside this issue:

December Events/Christmas Concerts	2
School Council, Guild/Casa News	3/4
Lower & Upper ELMO News	5/6
Celebration of Learning/Caregiver Ed News	7

Be filled with wonder,

Be touched by peace.

-Unknown

On the Calendar...



Parkside
Montessori

December

Dec. 2- Hold and Secure Drill
School Council @ 6pm
Fundraising Guild @ 7:15pm
Dec. 4- School Spirit Day
M/W Preschool Reports sent home
Dec. 5- Hold and Secure Drill
T/Th Preschool Reports sent home
Dec. 6- No School for Casa Preschool & Kindergarten students.
Casa Celebration of Learning.
Hot Lunch (State & Main pre-order)
K-6 Report Cards available in PowerSchool
Dec. 11- Celebration of Learning, Parent Learning Sessions, Book Fair, 3:30-7pm.
Dec. 12- Celebration of Learning, Book Fair, 4-6:30pm.
Dec. 13- No School for Students (Professional Learning Day)
Dec. 17- Casa & ELMO456 Christmas Concert, 6:30pm
Dec. 18- Red & Green Day, Brunch for Lunch
Dec. 19- ELMO123 Christmas Concert, 6:30pm
Dec. 20- PJ & Decem-Bear Day, Hot Lunch
December 21-January 5, Christmas Break

We ♥ our
Volunteers

THANK YOU to the many parents and grandparents who shared their time and talents with our students for our November 29th M.A.L.T. morning.

Our next M.A.L.T is the morning of Wednesday, Feb. 5th, 2025.



We look forward to hosting our Parkside Montessori families for our upcoming Christmas Concerts!

The first concert is on Tuesday, Dec. 17th featuring our Casa dei Bambini and ELMO Gr. 4,5,6 students.

The second concert is on Thursday, Dec. 19th featuring our ELMO Gr. 1,2,3 students.

Both concerts are held at People's Church, with a 6:30pm start time.

Tickets will be issued to families closer to the concert dates in December, ensuring that we do not exceed the number of seats available.

These concerts are considered public events. Photos may be taken &/or shared by those in attendance. If this is a concern for your family, please let your child's teacher know.

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

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

BOTH CONCERTS WILL BE AT PEOPLE'S CHURCH, 11850 108 STREET
6:30PM START FOR BOTH



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.

The School Council of Parkside Montessori meets regularly on the first Monday of every month at 6pm in the school library. All Parkside Montessori parents are welcome to attend meetings.

PARKSIDE MONTESSORI PRESENTS

PARENT SESSIONS

JOIN US FOR PARENT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11TH DURING
CELEBRATION OF LEARNING, 3:30-7PM

*These mini-sessions are geared at building parent understanding.

MINI-SESSION TOPICS:

- Not Yet Days
- What is UFLI? Phonics in ELMO123
- Stamp Game & Grammar
- Reading Strategies
- Golden Bead Material
- Language Materials
- How Montessori materials support Upper Elementary students
- Moveable Alphabet
- Snake Game

*Sessions are approx. 20 mins. each
See parent letter for schedule.



Volunteering Opportunities in December...

Celebration of Learning

Potluck- Our School Council is organizing this potluck to provide meals for staff during the upcoming Celebration of Learning. Please visit their Sign-Up [HERE](#) to see how you may support.

Brunch for Lunch- Brunch for Lunch is our special whole-school holiday meal on Wednesday, December 18th, 2024.

On this day, School Council volunteers organize, prepare and serve pancakes, toppings and sides to our students and staff.

A sign-up will be shared to volunteer for this event in the weekly parent email from teachers.



December 11 th Parent Sessions		
3:30-4:00	Not Yet Days Mr. Monty RM:1411	
4:00-4:30	What is UFLI? Phonics in Grades 1-3 Miss Julianne and Miss Karissa RM:1426	What is an LST and what does Learning Support look like at Parkside? Miss Jen RM:1411
4:30-5:00	Grade 1-3 Stamp Game Mr. Josh and Miss Melissa RM:1426	Grade 4-6 Stamp Game and Grammar Miss Desiree and Miss Jackie RM:1411
5:00-5:30	Reading Strategies Grade 1-3 Miss Jen RM:1411	Golden Bead Material Miss Lisa RM:1426
5:30-6:00	Grade 1-3 Montessori Language Materials Miss Shalini and Miss Terra RM:1426	How do Montessori materials support Grade 4-6 students? Miss Stefanie and Miss Kristen RM:1411
6:30-7:00	Moveable Alphabet Miss Trisha and Miss Laura RM:1411	Snake Game Miss Lisa RM:1426

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

Thank you for supporting our all of our Fall 2024 Fundraisers!

Casa dei Bambini, Preschool & Kindergarten

Happy December!

We are excited to welcome winter in our Casa classrooms and to begin our countdown to Christmas holidays. We've already begun practicing for our upcoming Christmas concert and can't wait to share songs and dances with you! November was a busy month filled with lots of wonderful learning. Students enjoyed beginning our continent study and learning more about North America. We are continuing this study as we spend time learning about the traditions of our own families, our cultures and our histories to share with classmates. Through sharing, we hope to deepen our connections within our classroom communities and to celebrate one another's unique identities and families.

In our Montessori environment, we spend much time encouraging independence. This means that we encourage students to get outdoor gear off and on, practice hand hygiene, prepare and clean up their snack, and to choose and carry out classroom work for which they have received presentation on their own. Our Practical Life shelves incorporate many activities that support this development as well as students practice pouring, scooping, and tweezing just to name a few. Casa dei Bambini students have made wonderful progress in this area in a few short months! Practicing these skills at home is another way to support your child's independence in these areas.

As we count down to Christmas holidays, Casa students are taking part in many activities that work to build number sense. We are practicing counting forwards, backwards, and even skip counting! Some of our winter and Christmas themed activities that encourage number sense require students to perform tasks such as connecting quantity to a numeral, subitizing— that is, to recognize how many are in a set without having to count, recognize and make patterns, and to problem solve.

In Language this month, along with continuing learning the letters and sound of the alphabet, we will be focusing on retelling stories and putting narratives into sequence. We will also continue playing rhyming games and taking on other fun activities that encourage phonological awareness.

We hope everyone has a lovely December and a joyful holiday season.

-Miss Laura & Miss Trisha



Lower Elementary, Gr. 1, 2, 3



Hello from the ELMO123 Team,

November was a busy month at Parkside Montessori. We started the month with a beautiful Remembrance Day Assembly prepared by Mr. Josh and Miss Desiree's classes. Students did a wonderful job in this leadership role. ELMO 123 students have been demonstrating their knowledge and setting learning goals. Each class has been discussing and practicing using grace and courtesy in our community.

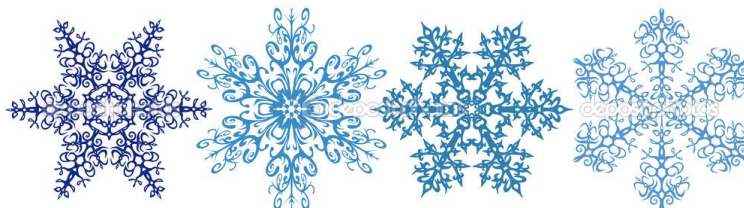
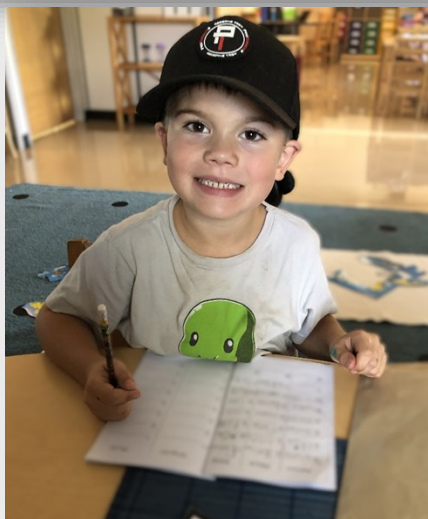
As we enter our new term, we have begun some new learning opportunities and curiosities. In Social Studies, we are finishing learning about Alberta's natural and political boundaries. Next, we will begin learning about government systems. In Science, we are finishing our unit on Matter including states of matter and exploring energy. In Math, we are focusing our understanding of number including place value, basic operations, and skip counting. We look forward to working on winter-themed Montessori activities including snowflake math and winter writing using the small environment. We will also be incorporating winter-themed Practical Life activities in the classroom with tasks such as tying, sewing and baking.



As we enter December with more snow and colder temperatures, please make sure your children are dressed appropriately for the weather and come in layers as we will be spending lots of time outside.

We are looking forward to seeing and sharing learning with families at our upcoming Celebration of Learning. Have a wonderful December!

*-Miss Karissa, Miss Julianne, Miss Shalini,
Miss Melissa, and Mr. Josh*



Upper Elementary, Gr. 4, 5, 6

Hello Families,

It seems like November was over in a flash and ended with so much building excitement for our first Celebration of Learning of the year. Your children have been busy reflecting on all of the hard work they have been doing in Math, Language and other subjects. We also enjoyed our real-life application of our Math curriculum (Fractions, Decimals and Percents) and the Language curriculum (writing, collaboration and communication) when we went on our bowling field trip!

Students have been giving and receiving peer feedback as they continue their writing in Language. Getting a peer to read and give feedback for what would make it flow better has been a strategy to improve our writing this month and will be an effective strategy moving forward in our multi-age classrooms! Some key teacher feedback that we have been giving is to make sure that students indent new paragraphs and that paragraphs should be around one main idea. You can support this work by having your child write at home. Take a fun event or a family activity that you have done and see how your child can arrange details and description to make the most of out paragraph.

In Math we wrapped up our introductory work on basic operations as well as fractions and decimals. As the year progresses, we will focus on other units in math such as algebra, sequencing and geometry while looping back to the more complex number concepts that were introduced in this first term. Since the learning outcomes that we focused on in math for term one are based on a year-long progression, your child will be continually challenged to increase his/her fluency and accuracy with the number concepts we will loop through. For these more complex concepts we have the goal of end-of-year

mastery versus beginning-of-the-year introductions, which you will see reflected in their report cards.

Grade 4 & 5 students have been continuing to explore forces in Science, such as contact and non-contact, push/pull, and gravity to name a few. With Grade 6 also starting to look into forces as well. In Social Studies, digging into the history of Canada and researching key people has been a big undertaking! Grade 6 students have been relating democracy to levels of government and/or other democracies around the world such as what democracy looks like with the Iroquois, Athenians, and Romans.

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



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Celebration of Learning!



Parkside
Montessori

We value your involvement in your child's education and are excited to invite you to our upcoming Celebration of Learning. Our student-led conferences are a highlight of the school year!

Please use the link in your weekly parent email.

Join Us!



Casa ONLY- Dec. 6, 8:45am-3pm



Wednesday, Dec. 11, 3:30-7pm
Thursday, Dec. 12, 4-6:30pm



Caregiver Education Team Newsletter

November/December 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.

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

Parkside Montessori

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