

January News



**Grande Prairie
Public School
Division**

PARKSIDE MONTESSORI

Montessori News

Welcome back! We hope you were able to enjoy a relaxing Christmas break and spend some time as a family enjoying the winter weather. We are excited to be back and look forward to all that 2025 will hold for our school community.

December was a busy month for the children of Parkside. We practiced our Hold and Secure Drills, celebrated School Spirit Day, celebrated student learning through report cards and Celebration of Learning, hosted a Book Fair and a series of parent mini-learning sessions. We also held two Christmas Concerts, had Red and Green Day, enjoyed Brunch for Lunch and had our very first PJ and Decem-bear Day!

A special thank you to our parent team who donated funds, prepared and served Brunch for Lunch. We would not have been able to have this event without the team that prepared, served, and cleaned up. Thank you, parents, and friends, for your service to our school. Our students thoroughly enjoyed their lunch!

In January Parkside is thrilled to be hosting Science in Motion from the Telus World of Science. We are fortunate to have the Mobile Planetarium on site for all three days. Parkside students will have the opportunity to explore planets, stars, and the night sky! Our Casa students will also have the opportunity to explore building new things through the "Built It" program.

We are also looking forward to our annual Literacy Week, January 27th –30th, during which we take time as a school community to engage in school-wide

activities centered on various components of Literacy. Information on these events will be coming home in our weekly parent email, so watch for more information over the next two weeks. We will also have a Onesie/PJ Day and School Spirit Day.

As part of our February School Council meeting, Miss Corrine and Miss Terra will share our annual Results Report. This report is publicly posted with our Education Plan and can be found on our school webpage. Our Education Plan outlines our priorities, outcomes, and strategies to support student learning. The Results Report brings together several pieces of evidence, discusses our interpretation of the evidence, and identifies strategies to support continual improvement across multiple aspects of our school.

It has been our goal this year to keep you advised on the learning happening within our school through our newsletters, Facebook page, Instagram, weekly emails, and general school communication. Beginning in January we will be sending home our annual Assurance newsletters to highlight different parts of our school community. Please let us know if you have feedback for us so that we can continue to refine our communication practices as a school community.

Thank you for your on-going support of our school. We are excited to continue learning with your children as the second portion of our year unfolds and remain committed to giving our best each day.

-Miss Corrine & Miss Terra

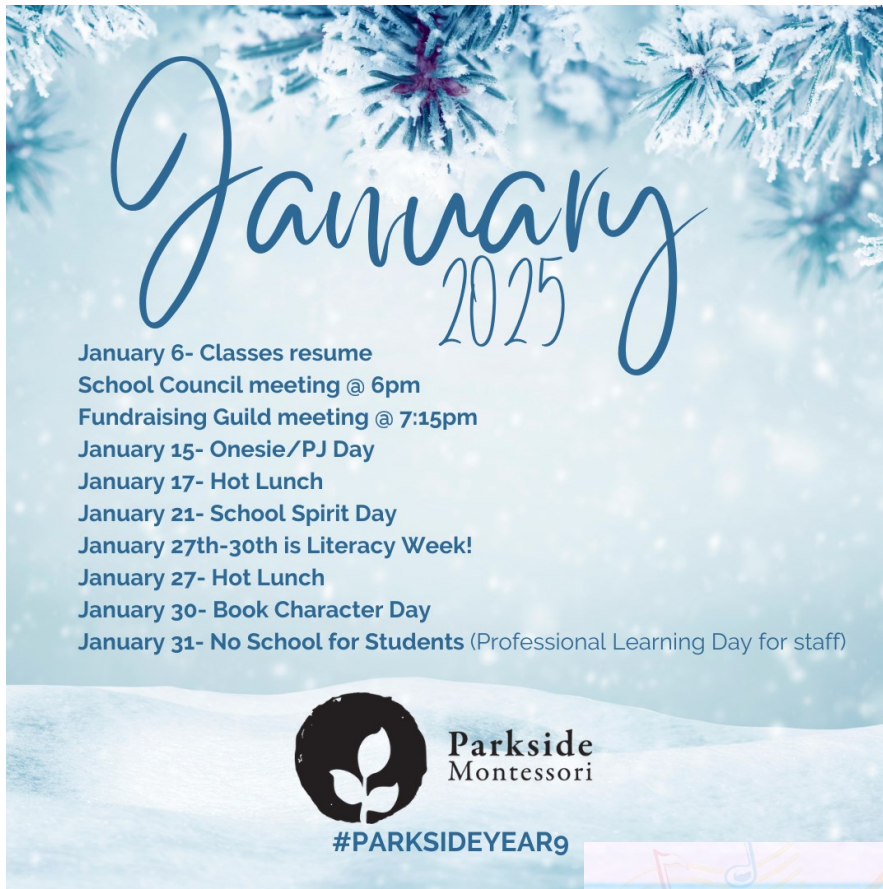
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The child's inner need: help me to do it by myself.


-Dr. Maria Montessori

On the Calendar...



January 2025

- January 6- Classes resume
- School Council meeting @ 6pm
- Fundraising Guild meeting @ 7:15pm
- January 15- Onesie/PJ Day
- January 17- Hot Lunch
- January 21- School Spirit Day
- January 27th-30th is Literacy Week!
- January 27- Hot Lunch
- January 30- Book Character Day
- January 31- No School for Students (Professional Learning Day for staff)

 **Parkside Montessori**
#PARKSIDEYEAR9

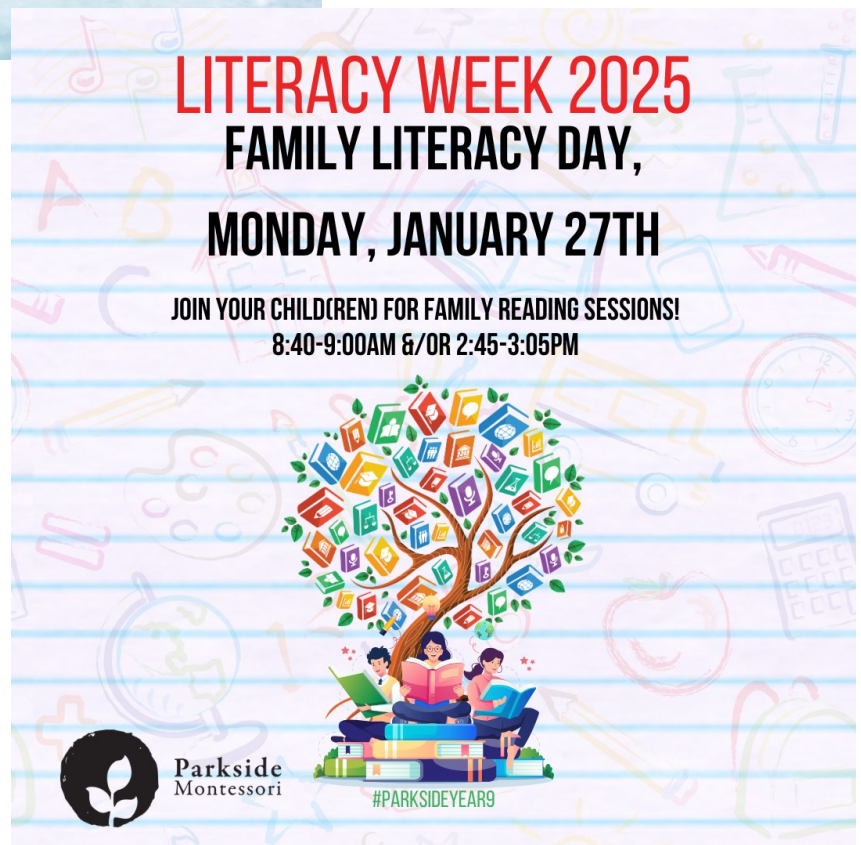


We are looking forward to Literacy Week 2025!

We are kicking off the week with Family Reading Sessions on Monday, January 27th. Families are welcome to join their Parkside Montessori student(s) at the school to read together. We have two sessions scheduled for the day- 8:40-9:00AM and 2:45-3:05pm. Join us for one or both!


Family Literacy Day takes place every January 27th to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. To learn more about *Family Literacy Day* click [HERE](#).

Watch your weekly email and our social media for information about the other special events & activities we have planned for Literacy Week 2025!



LITERACY WEEK 2025
FAMILY LITERACY DAY,
MONDAY, JANUARY 27TH

JOIN YOUR CHILD(REN) FOR FAMILY READING SESSIONS!
8:40-9:00AM &/OR 2:45-3:05PM

 **Parkside Montessori**
#PARKSIDEYEAR9

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.

Winter Session Hot Lunches!

The next round of hot lunches is now available to order through MunchaLunch! Hot lunches are organized by the Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori and occur approximately twice per month. All ordering is done through the online MunchaLunch system. Please note that hot lunches can only be ordered for ELMO (Gr. 1-6) and Casa students who attend all day on the day of the lunch. [HERE](#) is the link to the MunchaLunch ordering system.



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 New Year to all of our Casa families! We hope you had a fantastic break, and we are enjoying to getting back into the routine for the month of January.

In Language, we will continue to focus on phonemic awareness and letter sounds. We will also continue to have a letter of the day that we focus on. As more of our students are learning their sounds, they are beginning to practice blending sounds together. This starts at a basic level, using compound words in oral language. For example, students learn that fire and truck can be put together to make one word– firetruck. As students become proficient with blending words together, they start blending letter sounds. We do this orally, as well as with the moveable alphabet for those who are ready. We can put together the sounds c-a-t to make the word cat.

In Math, we are focusing on patterns. We will identify, extend, reproduce, and create patterns. We will use sounds, pictures, objects, symbols and actions to make our patterns.

In Science, we will focus on the movement of objects, humans and other animals. Students will learn that movement is a change in position as well as moving objects in a variety of ways.

We are looking forward to a fun month of learning in January!

-Miss Laura & Miss Trisha



Lower Elementary, Gr. 1, 2, 3



Happy New Year!

We hope that everyone had a fun and restful holiday break. We are excited to be back together and continuing our learning adventures. December was filled with fun, hands-on learning opportunities. Our Lower ELMO classes have been working with and getting to know their Reading Buddies over the past few months. This helps to build a sense of community within our school. We are looking forward to completing more activities with our buddies in the new year!

In Science this month, we are starting our Energy unit and will be investigating how forces affect the movement of objects. Students will be applying their Science vocabulary in P.E. with Mr. Monty as well! In Social Studies, our students will begin to learn about how decisions are made in our province. Over the term we will simulate a similar decision-making process in our classrooms, i.e., voting. In Math, students will be starting a Geometry unit. In Language Arts, Grade 2 & 3 students are working on reading fluency through book clubs! Please check your weekly email for the skills being practiced in your child's classroom.

We will be monitoring the weather daily and school grounds conditions daily to spend as much time as possible outside for recess. Please ensure that your child is dressed in layers and winter footwear. Having outdoor gear (i.e., gloves, mittens, hats, and more) labeled will help us reunite lost items with their owners if they are dropped outside, in the boot room or hallway. We are looking forward to another exciting month of learning!

-Miss Karissa, Miss Julianne, Miss Jen, Miss Lora Rae, Miss Melissa, and Mr. Josh



Upper Elementary, Gr. 4, 5, 6

Hello Families,

We have had a wonderful start to the 2025 year in Upper ELMO. Students have been settling back into their routines and helping one another with our classroom expectations and transitions throughout the day.

In Math, students will explore, extend and describe various sequences. They will be determining if the sequence is arithmetic (adding or subtracting) or if it is geometric (multiplying or dividing). They will also work with statistics by creating their own surveys and analyzing data. Using that data, they have and will continue to interpret and display it in different types of graphs and charts. This connects with many of our Language outcomes as students interview one another and work on public speaking skills to share their data!

In Language, we will focus on writing and reading many different genres. At the end of January is Literacy Week. To spark excitement we will review Fiction genres like fantasy or realistic storytelling, and Non-Fiction genres like biographies and informative texts. We hope to share book recommendations with one another and make meaningful connections to stories as the month goes on.

All students are starting the Space unit in Science and will get to explore the Science in Motion planetarium! In Social Studies, students are learning about the systems in Canada and around the world for how governments and communities work.

In Art, we are finishing up line drawing and will be starting a textile art unit. If you have any interest and want to lead a small group in knitting, crocheting, cross-stitch, embroidery, or other fabric arts, please let us know! In Music, we have started ukuleles and learning more about music theory on days that students are not playing the

ukulele. We will start with picking open strings and then learn strumming with easy chords.

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



Thank You!

The students and staff of Parkside Montessori would like to extend heartfelt thanks and appreciation to our Parkside Montessori School Council and the many hands that contributed to making our December Brunch for Lunch a success!



Parkside Montessori
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Caregiver Education Team Newsletter January / February 2025



Recovery Alberta 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.