

February News



**Grande Prairie
Public School
Division**

PARKSIDE MONTESSORI

Montessori News

Happy February Parkside Families! This month we will surpass 100 days of school for the 2024-2025 school year. The year is flying right by, and Spring is right around the corner. Soon we will see the green grass again!

January included our annual Literacy Week which was enjoyed by all. We read around the school, read with our families, dressed as our favourite book characters, read and participated in trivia based on some familiar books. Starbooks Café was a hit again this year! Students were able to order a beverage and treat and sample some new books. We are grateful to our neighborhood Starbucks that donated the cups for a more authentic experience for our students. Parkside students also had the opportunity to participate in programming in the planetarium from Telus World of Science. Student explored many aspects of the solar system and learned about the legends of the sky. Check out the photos on our Facebook and Instagram pages! Parkside also had the opportunity to create positive messages and pictures on coffee sleeves to be used in local coffee shops. January was a busy and engaging month for the students of Parkside.

We are looking forward to many events coming up in February and focusing on kindness and spreading positivity in our local community during Community Kindness Week. This year our school will be connecting with Palliative Care Society, The Centre for Newcomers, schools in our Division, GPPSD Central Office Team, Grande Prairie Friendship Centre, STARS Air Ambulance, Bandaged Paws, GP Care Centre, Odyssey House, Cancer Centre, Phoenix Youth, and our local neighborhood community. Later this month, our students will share their talents in our annual Parkside's

Got Talent! We can't wait to celebrate the various talents of our students. In February we will also recognize Pink Shirt Day, Have a Heart- Red, White & Pink Day, MALT morning and celebrate our staff during Staff Appreciation Week!

It is hard to believe that it is almost time to have our existing families express their intent for next year. More information will be coming home in the next two weeks. As has been past practice, we will allow families that are already enrolled at Parkside to express their intention to return prior to opening for registration for new families. Registration for new families will take place online this year and opens March 10th. We are pleased to be able to offer Academy programming to our Grade 4-6 students again next year. This option, a fee-based program, provides and opportunity for students to participate in a variety of different Academy programs (dance, soccer, athletics, hockey, etc.). You can find additional information on our Division webpage [HERE](#). Academy registration typically fills with a waitlist and opens March 10th, 2025.

Our annual Education Results Report from the 2023-2024 school year has been reviewed by our School Council and has been posted on our webpage. Please let us know if you have curiosities about the report or student learning at Parkside that you would like to discuss. We appreciate your on-going engagement with us as a school community. As always, if you have feedback for our team, please let us know.

-Miss Corrine & Miss Terra



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*We rise by lifting
others up.*

-Robert Ingersol

On the Calendar...

February

Feb. 3- School Council @ 6pm
Fundraising Guild @ 7:15pm

Feb. 5- M.A.L.T. morning

Feb. 6, 10, 11- Lock-Down Drills

February 10-14 is Community Kindness Week!

Feb. 14- Have a Heart Day, wear pink, red or white

Hot Lunch (Major's pre-order)

Feb. 17- No School for Students & Staff (Family Day)

Feb. 19- School Spirit Day

Feb. 21- Talent Shows

February 24-28 is Staff Appreciation Week!

Feb. 24- Hot Lunch (Edo Japan pre-order)

Feb. 26- Pink Shirt Day

Feb. 28- No School for Students (Professional Learning Day for Staff)

Community Kindness Week 2025!

Community Kindness Week is February 10th-14th. During International Random Acts of Kindness Week for the past several years, we have been able to build relationships and support a number of different organizations in our community and we are excited to continue this initiative again this year.

Each of our classes is spending time forming a connection with a community organization including learning about the organization, building a relationship, and learning what our school could do to support others in our community. The efforts of each class will look slightly different and are linked by a common focus **to CONNECT, IMPACT and CHANGE.**

FEBRUARY 10-14, 2025
COMMUNITY
**KINDNESS
WEEK**

Parkside Montessori
#PARKSIDEYEAR9

Parkside Montessori

TALENT SHOW

FRIDAY,
Feb. 21st
exact time
TBD

SAVE THE DATE

Please note that this is considered a public event.
Photos may be taken &/or shared.

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

Welcome February!

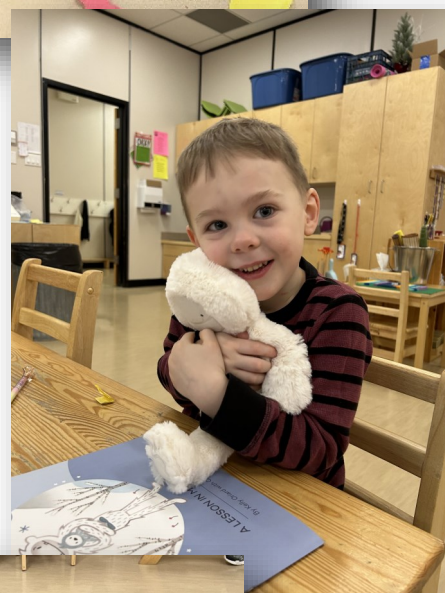
January was a busy and fun month in the Casa dei Bambini classrooms. We spent some valuable time getting back into our daily routines and revisiting our expectations after Christmas holidays. We also had the opportunity to focus on our social emotional learning as we completed our Slumberkins lessons with the CONNCT team. Casa students had the chance to think about and discuss their feelings while making connections to the stories and characters in this interactive program as well to their peers as they engaged in these positive mental health practices. We hope to carry these practices and discussions forward with us for the remainder of the year and beyond.

In Math this month we will be focusing on identifying and creating repeating patterns. Patterns are things that repeat in predictable ways that we can observe to build mathematical thinking and learning. Being able to recognize and make patterns allows children to predict outcomes based on what they observe—an important skill in math and in life. Students will be encouraged to begin looking for patterns everywhere in our community and in nature. If you see a fantastic pattern with your child, please feel free to send along a picture (or nature artifact) to their teacher so that we can explore it in class. Similarly, if your child creates a pattern that they wish to share with their class, sent it along!

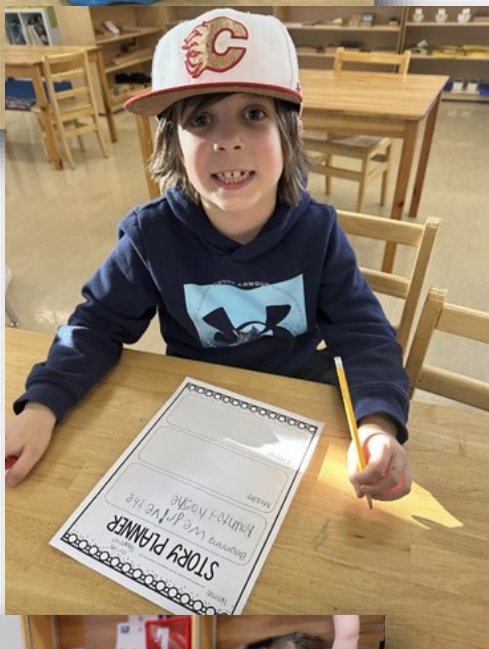
January was a wonderful month to focus on diversity in our community and to explore the different ways people in our community and around the world recognize and celebrate the new year. This work aligned well with our cultural geography focus as we shifted from North America to Asia. We delved into Lunar New Year and the children had a blast learning about important symbols of Lunar New Year and the Chinese Zodiac. Our students had fun finding out what zodiac year they were born in and the associated attributes this predicts. They also enjoyed making crafts for this year, the Year of the Snake. Everyone is looking forward to cooking a delicious feast in the Practical Life room which we will revel in by getting Casa 1 and Casa 2 together to celebrate. Throughout this learning, it has been wonderful to see our students embrace diverse cultures and celebrations. As we inquire deeper this month into the concept of cooperation and the notion that we can achieve much more together than we can on our own, we will continue to incorporate our cultural geography and our learning surrounding expressions of traditions, cultures, and histories. Another way that we will be exploring cooperation this month is through the lens of contribution as a part of our special whole-school initiative, Community Kindness Week. Casa classes will be taking part in giving back to our community as well as taking on some other Random Acts of Kindness challenges to life our community up this month.

As the weather fluctuates, please remember to send appropriate outdoor clothing to help your Casa child enjoy the conditions.

-Miss Laura & Miss Trisha



Lower Elementary, Gr. 1, 2, 3



Hello from the ELMO 1,2,3 Team!

Our classes have been enjoying our time visiting our Grand Buddies at the GP Care Centre. We really appreciate all our parent volunteers who make these visits possible. This month in Science we are learning about Force (push, pull, friction and gravity). Later this month we will be learning about municipal and provincial governments and the services they provide in Grande Prairie. We hope to get out into our community again to visit both municipal and provincial buildings. ELMO 1,2,3 classes are also learning about Geometry. Students have been investigating shapes and angles and will be building 3D shapes by relating to what they learn about 2D shapes.

We are so impressed with the effort students have put in working through the Universal Screeners in both literacy and numeracy. Each teacher has been reviewing the results and is using it to guide instruction, ensuring that we are planning and teaching targeted skills based on identified student needs.

As always, please reach out to your child's teacher with any questions or concerns. We appreciate our partnership with you!

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



Upper Elementary, Gr. 4, 5, 6

Hello Families,

Expectations are growing in all areas, and we are hopeful that leadership in our students will shine through! At this point in the school year, students are expected to be well-versed in the classroom routines and expectations for both academic and interpersonal skills. We are committed to providing support, guidance and scaffolding for them as well as keeping families updated on progress as the next few months comprise vital parts of the school year.

In Math, students continued working with both sequences and statistics. One interesting piece of knowledge that we explore was the Fibonacci sequence. It is a wondrous and beautiful pattern that is often found in nature. Ask your child to share some of the examples that we have discussed in class! Besides the current topics in Math, we are continually looping back through the 'Number' concepts we introduced in Term One. You will often find students working on the four operations, fractions or decimals when they are working independently or with their teacher during work block.

In Language, many students have chosen to engage in a writing contest through the Grande Prairie Public Library. The story topic is all about a 'Carnival' and has allowed students to focus on various literary elements such as describing their five senses, having an exciting hook, building suspense or showing character emotions instead of just telling them. Our teacher-team will continue to look for real-world opportunities to showcase our student writing. The contest factor has been a great motivator for many of our writers and they have been so encouraging and helpful in giving and receiving feedback.

Science was quite epic this past month as all of our Upper ELMO students had the opportunity to explore the Science in Motion Mobile Planetari-

um! Planets, the sun, constellations and galaxies; students were transported across time and space by our knowledgeable host Josh. We are wrapping up the Space unit with some fun 'Alien Passport' projects. Ask your child if they are researching the sun, moon or a planet! In Social Studies, we are expanding our understanding of historical and modern democracy—including the furth trade for Grade 4 & 5. All students played an interactive game to sort the three levels of government: municipal, provincial, and federal. Check it out at home [HERE](#).

We are strumming away on ukuleles in music, learning the four basic chords. In Art, students are connecting some art projects to Literacy week and then diving into some hands-on textile projects. We look forward to sharing our Community Kindness projects with everyone in February!

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



LITERACY WEEK 2025: STARBOOKS CAFE



IT'S COOL
TO BE KIND

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.

Parkside Montessori

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