

# March News



**Grande Prairie  
Public School  
Division**

PARKSIDE MONTESSORI

# Montessori News

February was a bustling month of activity for Parkside Montessori! We had our Lock-Down drills, Have a Heart& wear Red/Pink Day, Valentine's Day, M.A.L.T., Pink Shirt Day, Talent Shows and our annual Community Kindness Week. We also recognized our staff during Staff Appreciation Week and are grateful for the overwhelming showing of appreciation from our school community. Thank you for all that you did to recognize our team.

Thank you for your support in another successful Community Kindness Week. Our students and staff were able to build relationships with and support many different community groups and our community First Responders! If you haven't had a chance to check out our video on Facebook, take a moment to see the results of Community Kindness Week 2025!

New to Parkside this year is March Math Madness! For the entire month of March, our students will be focusing on basic facts fluency. Developing fact fluency is an important foundational skill for success in numeracy concepts. All students at Parkside will receive targeted instruction on the skills to develop fact fluency and our entire community will be practicing basic facts for 15 minutes per day. At the end of the month you child will be bringing home flashcards that you can use at home. Watch our Facebook page and weekly email to learn more about the specific strategies we are learning.

March also brings our second set of report cards and the opportunity for parents to be a part of our Celebrations of Learning. Progress report cards for Preschool will be sent home March 19th & 20th. K-6 report cards will go live via the Parent Portal in PowerSchool on March 20th. If you need support in logging into your account,

please let us know. The process for accessing report cards remains the same as last term.

Based on parent feedback, we are making some changes to our Celebration of Learning this term. Grade 4-6 teachers will be running a more traditional style parent-teacher interview. If you would like, you are still welcome to bring your child with you. The structure will be a conversation between teacher, child, and parent. For our Grade 1-3 families, we will continue with student-led Celebration of Learning however, we will change the schedule to have one family at a time in the classroom. This will allow our 1-3 parents to ask questions about their learning and also have their child show some of the learning that they are excited about. We will be asking for feedback from our parent community afterward, so please let us know your thoughts on the changes.

If you are unable to attend Celebration of Learning, please let your child's teacher know and an alternate date/time can be accommodated. It is important to our school that our parents are informed about student progress and development. Please join us in celebrating the excellent learning your child is doing at our school. Information regarding signing up for Celebration of Learning will be coming home next week. As always, please let us know if there is anything we can do to support your family at Parkside.

*-Miss Corrine & Miss Terra*



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

*-Dr. Maria Montessori*

# School Council & Fundraising Guild

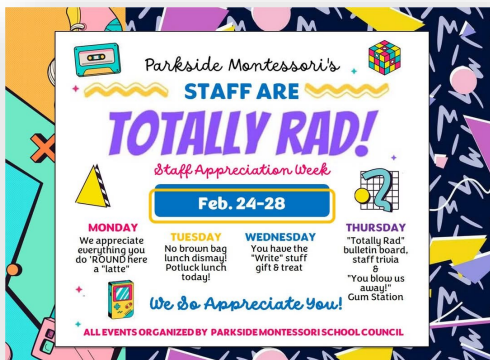
## Parkside Montessori School Council Mission Statement:

*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.



Thank you to our amazing parent community for making Staff Appreciation Week 2025 so special!



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](mailto:theguild.pm@gmail.com)



# Casa dei Bambini, Preschool & Kindergarten

Hello, March!

February flew by and it is hard to believe we are already in March! We had a great month filled with kindness and friendship. March will be just as busy and full of learning.

In Language, we will be continuing our work with letters and Phonemic Awareness. The children have become excellent at identifying the beginning sounds of words. We will keep practicing middle and ending sounds.

In Math, we are working on patterning. Recognizing and creating patterns helps students to develop problem solving and critical thinking skills. You can practice this work at home by pointing out patterns in your environment (i.e., tiles, fabrics, etc.), using toys to create a pattern, or by clapping rhythms.

In Science, we will explore how animals and objects move in their environment. We will use materials such as ramps and marble runs to play with this concept.

In Social Studies, we will continue to work on our identity project. We will sort wants vs. needs and begin to understand the balance between wants and needs. We will also finish our continent study on Asia and begin our continent study on Europe.

We look forward to seeing everyone at Celebration of Learning at the end of the month!

*-Miss Laura & Miss Trisha*



# Lower Elementary, Gr. 1, 2, 3

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Hello from the ELMO 1,2,3 Team!

February was a time of great celebration with the talent shows being a great highlight for everyone! It was such a special opportunity getting to observe and celebrate the many unique and amazing talents within our school.

Each class also contributed to helping give back to our community during Community Kindness Week! This is such a great opportunity to connect with our community in different ways and be able to have a positive impact in a unique and meaningful way.

We are all so excited to get outside and enjoy the beautiful and warmer weather. There can still be drastic fluctuations in weather in March. Please ensure that your child is coming to school prepared for cool morning and wet sloppy afternoons. Water proof splash pants are an ideal addition to their outdoor clothing.

In our upcoming Citizenship unit in Social Studies, we will be studying Alberta's unique identity as an inclusive society. Students will learn that the protection and promotion of cultural diversity in Alberta can provide opportunities to learn from and accept others. We want to ensure parents are aware that in this unit we will be discussing different religions, as outlined in our Social Studies curriculum. Please contact your child's teacher if you have questions.

We are looking forward to being able to connect with everyone this month during our Celebration of Learning. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher. We truly appreciate the collaborative approach of working together to support your child on their educational journey.

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





# Upper Elementary, Gr. 4, 5, 6

Hello from Upper ELMO!

February was a short but fun-filled month for us in 4, 5, 6. The students have been so excited to get outside in the recent warmer weather—here is hoping that the groundhog was right and spring is on its way soon! A favourite of all students is our Community Kindness Week. Miss Desiree's class supported patients in the GPRH Cancer Unit with cards and art filled with words of encouragement. Miss Kristen's class boosted morale of students, staff and our neighbors with posters and compliments. Miss Jackie's class collected much needed items for Odyssey House. Miss Stefanie's class made posters for the Phoenix Youth Group and hung them up around the city to spread awareness. We are all so proud of our students and the leadership they displayed when making an impactful connection with our community!

In Language, students continue their work in various literacy groups, including instruction and practice with writing skills, phonics, fluency, and comprehension. Our school has shifted to using CORE Literacy assessments. These are based on foundational language skills and assesses students with several shorter tests to give a detailed picture of what specific needs each student has. These assessments have been well received by our students, and as an Upper ELMO team, we have been able to gain so much from the data collected. It guides our teaching time with students and lets us know what gaps or extensions each student needs to be successful.

In Math, students have finished up statistics and sequencing. They have moved onto algebra, order of operations and solving for unknown variables in various equations. It is really engaging for students as they can view algebra as a math mystery just waiting to be solved! Another Upper ELMO focus has been building fact fluency. Each class has been dedicating time to this in their own way and our goal is to increase speed and accuracy when performing multiplication and division facts up to and including  $12 \times 12$ .

The topic of Space is wrapping up nicely and we move onto other living systems soon! In Social Studies, we continue to expand our understanding of Democracy. It is a huge topic in the new curriculum and it is

important for the students to make their own connections to it.

In Art, Grade 4s have been applying several elements of art into a beautiful succulent drawing. We will be moving on to more hands-on art projects in March. Grade 5s have been working on an Eric Carle painted collage project. Grade 6s have been painting pictures with plasticine and will be moving onto handcrafts in March. In Music, all students have been learning a variety of ukulele chords and following along to a mix of traditional and popular songs. Soon they will be tasked with writing their own song!

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



# On the Calendar...



## Parkside Montessori *March*

- March 1- Gr. 5/6 GPPSD Basketball Tournament
- March 3- School Council meeting @ 6pm
- Fundraising Guild meeting @ 7:15pm
- March 5- Anything But a Backpack Day
- March 6 & 7- NO SCHOOL for students (*Teachers' Convention*)
- March 13- Shelter in Place Drill
- March 14- Hot Lunch (*State & Main pre-order*)
- March 17- Green Day
- March 18- Shelter in Place Drill
- March 19- Shelter in Place Drill
- M/W Preschool reports sent home
- March 20- M.A.L.T. afternoon
- T/Th Preschool reports sent home;
- K-Gr. 6 Reports in PowerSchool
- March 21- NO SCHOOL for students (*Professional Learning for Staff*)
- March 25- School Spirit Day
- March 26 & 27- Celebration of Learning & Book Fair
- March 28- Hot Lunch (*Donut pre-order*)
- Casa dei Bambini Celebration of Learning (*No School for Casa students*)
- March 29 to April 6- Spring Break!

#ParksideYear9



## Anything BUT a Backpack Day

Wednesday, March 5th, 2025

Instead of using a backpack on this day you could use a bucket, a suitcase, a basket, a net, a box, a cart, a hat, a pillow case...




Thank you to our AMAZING Parkside students, staff and families for making Community Kindness Week 2025 a success!

We hope the spirit of cultivating kindness continues!



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

**THANK YOU!**



#PARKSIDEYEAR9



# SPRING bookfair

MARCH 26, 27 & 28, 2025

Open during Celebration of Learning



# Has your child had their annual eye exam? It's important to do before they start school!

## Eye See...Eye Learn™

is a program that provides kindergarten-aged students with a comprehensive eye exam from an optometrist. There is Alberta Health coverage towards your child's eye exams up to age 19. **If required, kindergarten-aged students also receive a free pair of eyeglasses.**



## How kindergarten-aged students participate

**Step 1** Parents can find a participating optometrist at [optometrists.ab.ca](http://optometrists.ab.ca). Click on Find an Optometrist and Eye See...Eye Learn™, then enter your postal code to find a doctor close to you. **Call and book an appointment.**

**Step 2** See your optometrist for the eye exam. Have your health card ready. There is **Alberta Health coverage towards your child's eye exams up to age 19.**

**Step 3** If required, kindergarten-aged students will **receive a free pair of eyeglasses.** Ask to see the frame selection available. The optometrist will order your glasses for you.

**\*Free glasses are covered by a one year manufacturer's warranty.**

## Who can participate?

**Eye See...Eye Learn™** is available to all **kindergarten-aged students** in Alberta. It's important to address eye health and vision problems before children begin school.

Children are eligible from August until they begin grade one.



## Eye exam coverage

There is Alberta Health coverage towards your child's eye exams up to age 19. It's a painless, non-invasive process that could change their lives!

## Did you know?

- 80% of learning is visual.
- 1 in 4 school-aged children has a vision problem.
- An eye exam detects health problems such as crossed eyes or lazy eye.
- Children with vision problems are often misdiagnosed as having learning or behavioural disabilities.
- The earlier an eye health or visual problem is identified, the more likely it can be corrected.
- Children often don't know they have a vision problem, as they believe what they are seeing is normal.
- It is not uncommon for parents to believe they would know if their child has a vision problem, because these issues can be hard to spot particularly if there is a problem in only one of the eyes.

## What is an optometrist?

Your optometrist (doctor of optometry) is a primary source for all your vision, eye health and eyewear needs. They have the knowledge, tools and equipment necessary to diagnose, treat, prescribe medications or refer to a specialist, if needed.



# How well can your child see?



Eye See...<sup>TM</sup>  
Eye Learn!

You can't see the world through your child's eyes, but your optometrist can. During your child's eye exam, your optometrist will assess:


- Visual acuity (how well they can see)
- Lazy eye, crossed eyes
- Nearsightedness, farsightedness, astigmatism
- Colour vision
- Eye coordination, tracking and depth perception
- Eye health



For more information about **Eye See...Eye Learn<sup>TM</sup>**



contact the Alberta Association of Optometrists at 1-800-272-8843 or visit [optometrists.ab.ca/esel](http://optometrists.ab.ca/esel)

Alberta Association of Optometrists 

Eyewear Partners:



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The Alberta Association of Optometrists gratefully acknowledges funding support from the Government of Alberta.







**Pink Shirt Day**



## Caregiver Education Team Newsletter

March 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**  
 Corrine Shmyruk, Principal  
 Terra Shewchuk, Vice Principal



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