

April News



**Grande Prairie
Public School
Division**

PARKSIDE MONTESSORI

Montessori News

Happy April Families of Parkside Montessori! Spring is here! We hope you enjoyed a restful Spring Break with your families and are as excited as we are for the warmer temperatures and springtime learning adventures! 'Tis the season for puddles and outdoor fun! Please make sure that your child has extra clothes and socks with them each day at school. If they choose to play in the puddles, they might get wet and require a change!

March was an exciting month for Parkside Montessori. We started off the month with registration for new Kindergarten and Pre-school families. It is affirming to see the strong interest in our program from the community. We were very excited to host Celebration of Learning again this term for students to demonstrate what our Montessori classrooms and learning looks like! If you didn't have the opportunity to participate in Celebration of Learning and would like to make an appointment to come in, please contact your child's teacher. It is very important to our school community that parents feel informed about their child(ren)'s learning. Our 4-6 teachers hosted more traditional Parent-Teacher Interviews this term. Please let us know if you have feedback on this new format.

March held many opportunities for students to engage in community building events. As a school community we engaged in focused practice of basic math facts during March Math Madness. Parent information with strategies to support students at home will be sent home at the end of the week. Each child will also be bringing home a set of flashcards to practice with. Please practice with your child to continue building their fact fluency. March also included Anything But a Backpack Day, Shelter in Place drills, Green Day, Al-

berta Musical Theatre Company, and Report Cards.

It is hard to believe that we are headed into the final part of our school year. There are many exciting events on the calendar for the month of April at Parkside. We will have a visit from Professor WOW!, our annual Egg Hunt, Pattern Day, Beach/Sunglasses Day, MALT, and we will be able to recognize our new Administrative Assistant, Miss Kara. Our Grade 1-3 students will also have an exciting opportunity hosted by Alberta Lacrosse to participate in a Lacrosse Literacy Day!

Thank you to everyone who completed the Provincial Assurance Survey (Gr. 4-6 Parents, Students Gr. 4-6, and Teachers) last month. Information regarding a second survey, our Division Assurance Survey, will be emailed home today for all parents. Our staff uses the data from both surveys to help determine our school priorities and to adjust current practices to better serve our school community. We appreciate your ongoing feedback.

Please feel free to join us for our monthly School Council and Fundraising Guild meetings on the first Monday of each month! Both opportunities allow us to connect, share information, and receive feedback from our parent community.

As always, if you have feedback for us, please let us know!

-Miss Corrine & Miss Terra



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*Spring's greatest joy
beyond a doubt is when
it brings the children out.*

-Edgar Guest

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.

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

*We ♥ our
Volunteers*

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our incredible volunteers. Your unwavering support and dedication to our students make a significant difference in our school community. We truly appreciate the countless ways you contribute, whether by assisting in the classroom, organizing events, or providing mentorship. Your efforts not only enrich our students' learning experiences but also inspire them to reach their full potential. Thank you for being such an essential part of our school family!

CELEBRATING
VOLUNTEERS
WE THANK YOU ALL!

Casa dei Bambini, Preschool & Kindergarten

Hello April and Happy Spring!

March was a busy and fun-filled month in our Casa classrooms. As we prepared for Celebration of Learning, students had the opportunity to focus on recognizing their accomplishments and set goals. It was wonderful to talk with our students about things they were proud of and areas of interest to drive their learning in the third term of the school year. This is always an exciting process as we have seen so much growth and have lots to talk about and to celebrate.

Our Casa dei Bambini classes are very excited about the changes we have been seeing in the weather and in identifying signs of Spring in our world. We are looking forward to many more outdoor learning experiences in April and hope to take on some nature walks this month, some planting and plant-care opportunities, and simply having the chance to closely observe our natural surroundings as our Northern world wakes up from its long winter nap! This also means that it will be very important for our students to come dressed and prepared for the weather.

In the next few months, we are also hoping to get out into the community to delve deeper in to our Social Studies and Science curriculum for the third term. We will be exploring places and leadership roles in our community as well as examining and describing our surrounding environments. We look forward to having our students experience many of the wonderful things our community and the natural world around us has to offer.

-Miss Laura & Miss Trisha



Lower Elementary, Gr. 1, 2, 3



Hello from the ELMO 1,2,3 Team!

We hope everyone had a wonderful Spring break and are ready for an exciting season of learning!

March was a fun and busy month, with the highlight being our second Celebration of Learning of the school year. It was truly special to see our students take the lead in showcasing their achievements. We loved having families join us to witness the incredible progress our students have been making!

Our Lower ELMO classes are diving into the new Alberta Social Studies curriculum, focusing on Government Systems and Citizenship. As we explore the concept of citizenship, students will also learn about different cultures and belief systems, broadening their understanding of the diverse world around them.

In Language Arts, we are beginning an exciting unit on poetry! Poetry is a fantastic way to develop strong, descriptive writing skills. Students will analyze poems to identify key grammar elements such as nouns, verbs, and adjectives. They will also build fluency and expression by practicing poem recitations.

In Math, we are starting a unit on measurement. Students will compare object heights, use non-standard units, and work with rulers to develop essential measuring skills.

We look forward to another month of growth, curiosity, and learning!

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



Upper Elementary, Gr. 4, 5, 6

Hello from Upper ELMO!

March was all about wrapping up our learning from Term 2 into some fantastic projects and formal assessments to prepare for report cards. It was great to see so many families at our Celebration of Learning nights! If you did not get a chance to discuss your child's learning progress, we are more than happy to arrange a time to meet in April. As we transition to Term 3, we will make it our mission to excite students in hands-on projects and student-led activities to keep the zest for learning alive and well!

In Language, students will be working with their teachers and peers in various reading and writing tasks. We strive to have a balance each week of narrative and functional pieces. Narrative is related to story writing or fiction books; and functional is related to non-fiction books or communicating research, opinions, or facts within a written piece. Students have their favourite genres in which they tend to gravitate towards during independent work time. It is up to us, as their teachers, to inspire them to push their learning limits by reaching for the other genres in both reading and writing so that they become well-rounded in Language!

In Math, students have really enjoyed solving the 'mysteries' that are inherent to algebra and order of operations! We will be exploring all things geometry to finish off the year! We will work with Montessori materials to build students' understanding with geometric concepts, such as angles, symmetry, and polygons to start. As mentioned last month, another focus that the school has been working on is to develop fact fluency (speed & accuracy) with basic facts! We have been able to practice both multiplication and division facts up to and including 12x12 within our classes, with our reading buddies and even as a whole school. It has been so great, and we hope to keep the momentum going!

In Science, we are learning about how the Earth is made up of four spheres (or systems). Each one is important: atmosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere. This unit is similar to Dr. Montessori's Cosmic Education about how we are all interconnected, and we have a responsibility to our Earth! In Social Studies,

we have registered our classes for 'Canada Votes' and will be simulating civic participation. In Art, Grade 4s will apply several elements of art into hands-on art projects such as clay paintings. Grade 5s will continue working on basket weaving. Grades 6s will be perfecting their embroidery skills! In Music, all students have just begun learning about different types of percussion instruments!

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



On the Calendar...



The Spring Session of MunchaLunch is open for orders! We are happy to announce that after requests, we have added more lunch dates!

We have a couple new vendors to try! A sign-up genius for Hot Dog Day volunteers will be created closer to the date - you can also express interest with the "volunteer" tab after you place your order & we'll make sure to email you the sign up directly when it's set up. Place your orders [HERE](#). If you have any questions send us a message or email us at: theguild.pm@gmail.com

Spring Session Open!

Meta AI

Menus Available:
(Scroll down and click Next)

04/11 (Fri) - Subway
04/25 (Fri) - Brooklyn Dumpling
04/30 (Wed) - Booster Juice
05/09 (Fri) - Major's
05/23 (Fri) - State and Main
05/30 (Fri) - Harvey's
06/02 (Mon) - Edo Japan
06/11 (Wed) - Major's
06/20 (Fri) - Hot Dog Day-Parent Volunteer Made
06/25 (Wed) - Boston Pizza

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. 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...™
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™



contact the Alberta Association of Optometrists
at 1-800-272-8843 or visit
optometrists.ab.ca/esel

Eyewear Partners:



ONESIGHT
Society of Optometric Professionals



Modern Optical
CANADA



**Alberta
Association
of Optometrists**



The Alberta Association
of Optometrists
gratefully acknowledges
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Alberta



hello
SPRING

Caregiver Education Team Newsletter

April 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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