

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 2022-2023 school year. The year is flying right by, and Spring is right around the corner. Soon we will see the green grass once again!

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 students will take place online this year and opens March 2nd, 2023. We are pleased to be able to offer Academy programming to our Grade 4-6 students again next year. This option, fee-based program provides an 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 wait list and opens March 2nd, 2023.

January included our annual Literacy Week which was enjoyed by all. We read around the school, read with our families, dressed as our favorite book characters, and enjoyed many guest readers. January also included another M.A.L.T. morning that included a wide variety of new activities and opportunities for students to experience. From edible bubbles to soccer to watercolor birds to building and so much more! Thank you to all our session leaders and volunteers for supporting our M.A.L.T. days! Check out the photos on our Facebook & Instagram pages!

We are looking forward to many events coming up in February and focusing on kindness and spreading positivity in our local community. To start the month, we will host a Montessori Parent Night focused

on Numeracy materials. Also included in our February events are our annual Community Kindness Week, Pink Shirt Day, Identity Fair, Open House for new families and a Valentine's Family Dance! The focus of Community Kindness Week is that each of our classes is spending time thinking about what our school could do to support others in our community and spread kindness. The efforts of each class will look slightly different and are linked by the common focus of engaging students in taking an active role to have a positive impact on an organization within our local community. Rounding out February, our Grade 5 and 6 mini basketball teams will be participating in the annual GPPSD Mini-Basketball tournament. We are looking forward to cheering on the Parkside Pax!

Grade 4-6 families should have received a letter regarding an upcoming survey titled "Alberta Education Assurance Survey" in the mail from Alberta Education. Students in grades 4-6 and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school. The survey is designed to obtain feedback from parents, teachers, and students in several different areas. Please reach out if you would like additional information or if we can support you in completing the survey. Feedback from our parents, students and staff is important to creating the best school experience that we can for the children of Parkside.

-Miss Corrine & Miss Terra



Inside this issue:

February Calendar/Parent Community	2/3
Casa dei Bambini/Lower ELMO news	4/5
Upper ELMO/PL Update/Identity Fair	6/7
Celebrating Success/CYF Caregiver News	8

**Kindness is like snow.
It beautifies everything
it covers.**

-Kahlil Gibran

On the Calendar...

February 2023



Parkside
Montessori

February 2- Montessori Parent Night, 7PM

February 6- Dance ticket request deadline; School Council @ 6pm; Fundraising Guild @ 7:15pm

February 9- School Spirit Day; Hot lunch (Boston Pizza pre-order) Valentine's Day Family Dance (ticketed event), 6:30-8:00pm

February 10- NO SCHOOL for students (Staff Professional Learning Day)

February 14- Identity Fair

February 17- Random Acts of Kindness Day

February 20- NO SCHOOL for staff & students (Family Day)

February 21-24, Community Kindness Week

February 22- Pink Shirt Day

February 23- New Student/Family Open House, 6:30pm

February 24- Hot lunch (State & Main pre-order)

#ParksideYear7



School Council & Fundraising Guild

Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori

Hot lunch is available for February through Munchalunch [HERE](#)

- Boston Pizza, Thursday, Feb. 9th
- State & Main, Friday, Feb. 24th



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are still looking for volunteers to fill positions for Casino Nights on March 26/27. We have 4 time slots to fill and could really use some help from our parent community, please consider participating if you are able.

- Filling positions for Casino Nights on March 26/27. Sign-Up [HERE](#).

Thank you to all of those who have supported the Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori in our efforts! Anyone interested in more details of our operations or joining the Guild is welcome to attend any of our monthly meetings!

Valentine's Day Family Dance

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2023
Location: Parkside Montessori Gym
Time: 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Tickets must be presented upon entry.

There will be raffle items as well as a small concession. Funds raised at this event will be donated to the Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori.

Tickets will be sent home on Feb. 7 & 8th. Please enter the school by your child's regular door.

◀ — ♥ — ▶ ▶ — ♥ — ▶

This ticketed event may include members of the public. Photos may be taken &/or shared.

Parkside Montessori

Parkside Parents, join us Monday, Feb. 6 @ 6pm for our School Council meeting in the school library!

The Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori holds a public meeting every month following our School Council meeting. Join us Monday, February 6 at 7:15 pm, in-person at Parkside Montessori

Casa dei Bambini, Preschool & Kindergarten

January was a wonderful month of learning in our Casa classes. The students settled in nicely after Christmas break and were hard at work. Some favorites from January included colour mixing in Casa 1 and learning about hibernation in Casa 2.

This month will be all about kindness. Students will become Kindness Ninjas and participate in a month-long kindness challenge. Some of the planned activities include surprising people around the school as well as community members. For Community Kindness Week we will be making suncatchers for the Grande Prairie Care Centre. We are so excited so spread joy!

In Math we continue to focus on numbers up top 10. We have added some seasonal Valentine's activities to practice counting.

In Language we continue to refine our knowledge of the alphabet. We are focusing on beginning, middle and ending sounds.

February should be a fun-filled month of learning!

-Miss Trisha & Miss Emma



Lower Elementary, Gr. 1, 2, 3

Happy February Parkside Families!

January went by very fast, and we are excited about everything that is in store for February. January was a very busy month which was a great start to the year 2023. The Lower ELMO team had a field trip to the Grande Prairie Museum this month to meet and learn from Sharon Krushel at the Mother Earth exhibit. It was a wonderful experience for our students to see all of Sharon's beautiful photos on the wall while also learning about the book and all it has to offer. Our students also completed a book scavenger hunt after the field trip as they were still so engaged. This field trip fit right in with our Literacy Week plans which was also awesome.

We ended January with a Friday morning M.A.L.T which was filled with many fun activities for the students to take part in. Many of the sessions were new to us and the students, which was exciting as we love new learning opportunities. We are so thankful that Parkside has such a wonderful school community who are willing to come in and spend time with our students and share interesting and fun activities with them all. From all of us in the Lower ELMO team, thank you to the many session leaders and helpers who made our January multi-activity learning time so memorable!

January 23rd to 27th was Parkside Literacy Week and the students had so much fun! Thank you to all the families who donated to the book swap, our students were excited to have some new books to take home. We had some awesome guest readers throughout the week which the students always love. It was great to be able to take part in "read around the school" again this year. It is a great opportunity for students to be able to read with other peers outside of their classroom and in a spot, they may not be able to read in often. It was great to see so many families come for the family to read around the school afternoon too.

Our Lower Elementary classes continue to learn and grow this month. In Science we have begun an exploration in the Matter unit which is all about properties that can be changed and include, size, length, shape, texture, and actions that physically change the properties of an object include bending, twisting, stretching, cutting and breaking. Matter is a shorter unit, so we will explore the Energy unit too, which is about building and creating using energy. In Social Studies, all our Lower ELMO classes are taking turns learning about a different country around the world which include, India, Ukraine, Peru and Tunisia. Make sure to find out which country your child is currently studying in class. Students will learn about geography, landscapes, food, clothes, religion, animals, and

culture through these units.

February may be a short month, but it is a busy one for us at Parkside. We have our family Valentine's Day Dance, the Parkside Identity Fair, Random Acts of Kindness Day, Community Kindness Week as well as Pink Shirt Day. We are so excited for all February has to offer.

Despite it being February, and some days may seem like spring, it is still winter, please make sure your child is appropriately dressed for the weather. Every chance we have, we will be outside for recess. On warmer days there is also a good chance gym classes will be outside, so it is important to have warm waterproof clothing. Layered clothing may be a good idea for students as the temperature in the classroom can change throughout the day.

-Miss Jen, Miss Melissa, Miss Jennifer, Miss Julianne, & Mr. Josh



Upper Elementary, Gr. 4, 5, 6

Greetings from Upper ELMO!

The start of 2023 has been wonderful, with students were eager to get back into their learning routines after winter break. January was an icy month outside, but our classrooms were warm with the passion of learning burning strong!

In Math, students continued exploring, extending, and describing various sequences. They can determine if the sequence is arithmetic (adding or subtracting) or if it is geometric (multiplying or dividing). They have also started statistics by creating their own surveys. Using the data that they collect from their classmates; they have and will continue to interpret and display it in different graphs and charts!

In Language, students are refining both descriptive and functional writing. It is great to see students seek out feedback from one another during work block which is making their writing even better! We appreciate the revising and editing suggestions that some of our confident writers are sharing. Literacy Week was a huge success, we absolutely loved reading with our friends and siblings around the school and having special guest readers share their love of reading with us. Dressing up as a book character was also a highlight of the week and many students had fun with bringing their favourite book to life!

In Science our grade sixes have been wrapping up their inquiry into sky science. They especially enjoyed seeing videos of Commander Chris Hadfield demonstrating life aboard the International Space Station. Our grade fives have continued with the chemistry topic and have spent a lot of time in the practical life room baking muffins, making Jello, and even using salt for ice cream in a bag! Coming in February will be a new topic of weather watch! Our grade fours have completed scientific methods review and will begin to work with light and shadows.

In Social Studies our grade sixes are finishing up their study of Ancient Athens. They are enjoying presenting their projects to the class before we move on to study the Iroquois Confederacy. Our

grade fives have continued building their mini book library, listening to stories of Vikings, English and French, and other immigrants from around the world. Our grade four students have completed their journey of Alberta, its resources, and communities. This month they will be starting our journey into the histories of the peoples and the land of Alberta.

In Art, we focused on printmaking and will be diving into fabric arts next. If you have an interest and want to lead a small group in knitting, crocheting or other fabric arts please let us know! In Music, we have started recorders. It is important that your child has a recorder and brings it to school for their music class. Health has centered around building a growth mindset and the power of yet! We look forward to seeing the many diverse and special parts of our Parkside family with our upcoming Identity Fair. Projects should be completed at home, if you have any questions, please let us know!

-Miss Becky, Miss Desiree & Miss Stefanie



Above: Dress Like a Book Character Day,

Babysitter's Club

Right: Enjoying some reading time with our Pet Partner, Mowgli.





Parkside
Montessori



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAYS

▶▶▶ 2022-23

Are you curious about what goes on during our PL Days?

Parkside Montessori staff are actively engaged in school improvement and learning to support our students.

On our January 30th Professional Learning Day, Parkside Montessori Staff spent time working with their teams reviewing and prioritizing resources to support new curriculum implementation. Time was also spent engaging in a professional inquiry cycle where staff collect data, implement strategies and evaluate progress to best impact student learning. Teachers also spent time reviewing Division common assessments in literacy and numeracy.



Montessori Parent Night, Feb. 2, 2023

We had a great turn out for our Montessori Parent Night. Numeracy was our focus, with Parkside Staff showing some of our foundational presentations and activities.

Valentine's Day Identity Fair

Families are welcome to join us for the following viewing days/times. Please note that this is considered a public event and photos may be taken &/or shared.

Monday, Feb. 13- 2:30-3:00, Casa M/W pm only
Tuesday, Feb. 14:
 8:45-9:30, Casa & ELMO456
 9:45-10:30, ELMO123
 1:00-1:45, ELMO123
 2:15-3:00, Casa & ELMO456
Wednesday, Feb. 15- 8:45-9:30, Casa M/W am only



Parkside
Montessori



Celebrating Success!



Congratulations!

We are happy to celebrate with Miss Lisa P., Miss Carly and Miss Lesley, on the completion of their Montessori training through the North American Montessori Center!

Caregiver Education Team Newsletter

February 2023



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 link to the February 2023 CYF Caregiver Education Newsletter!

Parkside Montessori
Corrine Shmyruk, Principal
Terra Shewchuk, Vice Principal



9617 91A avenue
Grande Prairie, AB
T8V 0G7
Phone: 780-532-7429
Email:
Parkside.montessori@gppsd.ab.ca
Facebook:
@ParksideMontessori

Visit our school page:
www.gppsd.ab.ca/school/parksidemontessori