

May News



**Grande Prairie
Public School
Division**

PARKSIDE MONTESSORI

Montessori News

May has arrived and the beautiful signs of Spring are popping up all around us! We continue to spend time exploring the outdoors and taking our learning outside when the weather permits. We have been fortunate to start the month off with such beautiful weather. We are looking forward to the arrival of our butterfly larvae, and our Casa-Grade 3 students will have an opportunity to watch the butterfly life cycle unfold. There will also be additional spring learning opportunities in classrooms as students gain hands-on, up-close experiences with life cycles of plants and living creatures. Thank you to International Paper for supplying these for our school!

May 1st-5th is Staff Appreciation Week and we are recognizing the dedication of the teachers, educational assistants, support staff, and additional professionals who are part of our team. Thank you to our School Council for coordinating acts of appreciation for our staff and to all parents and students who participated. Your kind words, thoughts, and acknowledgements are greatly appreciated and warm our hearts.

Planning for the 2023-2024 school year is in full force as we begin to prepare for new students to join our school, our sixth cohort of Grade 6 students to move on to their next schools and our current students advancing to the next grade level. Thank you to Miss Nancy who has been very efficient in completing our enrollments for next year!

As part of our on-going school planning and assurance to stakeholders, we are also in the process of refining our 3-year Education Plan for Parkside Montessori. If you are interested in engaging in discussion about the priorities of our school, please let us know! We continue to share

and discuss our existing priorities, strategies, and results with our School Council each month. At our June School Council meeting, we will share some of our draft planning thus far. Thank you also to our parent community for completing the Division and Provincial Assurance surveys. The information we receive back from the surveys is used to assist in planning priorities, outcomes, and strategies for our school. We will share highlights from these surveys over the next few weeks.

May is going to be another exciting month of learning for the children of Parkside. We are looking forward to our Mini Sticks Club final game this week. Thank you to Henry, Miss Jennifer, and Mr. Monty for organizing this recess club for our students. Also, in May we have Music Monday, Star Wars Day, will participate in the APEGA Science Olympics, welcome Joe and Jo for a Social Media presentation for grades 4-6, participate in the Tri-Division Ball Hockey and Soccer Tournament, host Science in Motion, welcome an Indigenous Storyteller and Author, and have another M.A.L.T. morning. At the end of the month we will tour families that are brand new to Parkside, have Western Day and practice our Fire Evacuation drills. There are so many fun and engaging learning opportunities happening at Parkside!

Wishing you a May full of sunshine, laughter, and hope.

-Miss Corrine & Miss Terra

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On the Calendar...

May 2023



Parkside
Montessori

May 1st through 5th, Staff Appreciation Week!

May 1- Music Monday (assembly at 2:30pm);
School Council @ 6pm; Fundraising Guild @ 7:15pm

May 3- Hats On for Mental Health

May 4- Star Wars Day

May 9-Social Media Presentation for Parents @ Maude Clifford School

May 12- School Spirit Day

May 18- M.A.L.T. morning

May 19- NO SCHOOL for students (*Professional Learning Day for staff*)

May 22- NO SCHOOL for students & staff (*Victoria Day*)

May 26- Western Day

May 30 & 31- Fire/Evacuation Drills



On Wednesday May 3rd, Parkside Montessori will be participating in Hats On for Mental Health.



School Council & Fundraising Guild

We are pleased to announce we have opened an account with Tru Earth! Although mainly known for their laundry strips, today they offer a variety of environmentally sustainable household cleaning products. To check this out click [HERE](#).

Take it easy and enjoy Mother's Day (or get ready to sit back and enjoy May long weekend) by shopping at M&M Food Market on May 13 & 14! At check out, be sure to tell them you're shopping for Parkside Montessori School and 10% of sales



May 2023 FUNDRAISING CALENDAR

- May 1** - Guild Regular Board Meeting
7:15pm School Library
- May 4** - Deadline for Growing Smiles Orders
- May 9** - Deadline for Art Cards Orders
- May 12** - Hot Lunch (Harvey's pre-order)
- May 13&14** - M&M Food Market Rewards Days
- May 18** - Growing Smiles Order Pickup at School
- May 26** - Hot Lunch (Boston Pizza pre-order)



We are grateful 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 join us at any of our monthly meetings.

Join us for our next School Council and Fundraising Guild meetings. First Monday of each month in the school library. 6pm Council & 7:15 Guild.

Casa dei Bambini, Preschool & Kindergarten

Happy May everyone!

April was another month that flew by in Casa! We have been spending extra time playing outside now that the snow is gone, and the sun is starting to shine. The kids are enjoying running around without all their snow gear on! Prior to Spring Break, we did lots of Easter activities and enjoyed taking part in the school wide egg hunt. After the break, we reviewed routines in the class, learned about different community helpers, and explored ways that we can reduce, reuse, and recycle for Earth Day.

There are lots of fun and exciting things happening this month! With Mother's Day approaching, we are going to be taking time to prepare a special surprise that the kids will bring home. In Science we are going to be exploring the different ways humans and objects move, such as fast and slow. In Literacy we are going to be looking into different forms of text, and story elements. This would include discussions around whether a book is fiction or nonfiction, the main events, characters, and setting. In Math we are continuing to investigate different 2D and 3D shapes.

We hope you have a wonderful month!

-Miss Trisha & Miss Emma



Lower Elementary, Gr. 1, 2, 3

Greetings From the ELMO 123 Team,

The month of April went by so quickly, but we still had a great month with many exciting events. Before Spring Break, we began the month of April with our school-wide Easter Egg hunt. Students could participate in this event with their class alongside their Reading Buddy class. This was a great team-building activity as the students had to work as a team to find the eggs around the schoolyard, looking for two of each color and size. This fantastic event would not have been possible without all the student-, teacher- and parent-helpers who made it so wonderful. We were able to have the Bunny Bazaar again this year, where the students showed their financial literacy skills by spending their "Bunny bucks" on items of their choice. The Easter bunny also dropped in for a visit, help with the egg hunt, and hand out high-fives and hugs to our students. In April, we also had our Beach Day, which also happened to be Admin Assistant Appreciation Day! Students could show their love for summer and the beach by wearing their beachy clothes to school. Students loved showing their love and appreciation to Miss Nancy in the office by randomly surprising her with smiles and gifts.

In Science, we started the Living Systems unit, which is all about understanding that the living world, Earth, and space are deepened through investigating natural systems and their interactions. Some classes are growing plants and investigating their needs to survive and thrive on Earth. As each class learns and discusses the needs of animals, we are also learning about the life cycles of animals within their different animal classes. We will also take advantage of the warmer weather to take nature walks in our own community, which is an excellent link to our science unit as well. The students are enjoying learning about plants and animals in this Science unit. In Math this month, we focused on measurement and time, which we will continue learning about in

May and June. Measurement is a great unit to teach the students how to measure length, mass and volume using many different materials but also in a hands-on way. In our time unit, students will be learning about how time can categorize change while also learning about time duration and being able to read digital and analog clocks.

As an ELMO 123 team, we are in the process of planning some fantastic field trips for the students to explore in these last few months of school. Stay tuned for more information on these exciting field trips. As the snow is gone and the weather has been lovely, we will want to spend more time outdoors. As we know, the weather can change quickly and drastically during this time of year, please ensure that your child has the appropriate outerwear and a set of spare clothes at school.

We are looking forward to what May has in store for us!

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



Upper Elementary, Gr. 4, 5, 6

Greetings from the Upper ELMO team!

Spring break made April a very short month this year. Even though we were short on days we managed to fill them with many exciting events. In April we had our second Egg Hunt and celebrated Beach Day! The students looked amazing in their bright summer and beach wear. They are ready for more sunshine!

Art students are continuing with their sculpture making, utilizing materials to create a 3D sculpture. Some students are venturing into technographic arts by using drawings and animation to provoke movement in art. In Music we are just beginning our ukulele unit and students are excited to be making music in a new way.

In April, our math focus has been all things geometry. Students have been investigating shapes and angles. They are exploring the attributes of various 2D and 3D shapes. As well as using protractors to create and measure angles! Next month we will move into measurement to explore area and volume.

In Language, the students continue to build their reading and writing skills. They are working on independently refining and editing their written work. Students are expanding their comprehension skills and connecting what they are reading to information they already know or other things they have read. We continually want to promote passion research projects for students to work on during their own time in daily work block. Ask your child what are some areas that they want to learn more about!

In Science, the Grade 6 students learned all about the sources of energy that we use in Alberta and the environmental impacts of each. In May we will learn about ecosystems and will have a trip to Evergreen Park to explore a local forest ecosystem. Grade 5 students just started a new topic in Science-wetlands! Do you have a wetland near your home? If so, take some time to observe the plants and animals in this special ecosystem. In Grade 4 Science we are learning about simple machines and are

building machines that can move a lion from one point to another.

In Social Studies, the grade six students are learning about the upcoming provincial election and forming their own political parties. They have also begun to review for the upcoming Provincial Achievement Test, this will be the only PAT that Grade 6 students are taking this year as the other subject areas involve new curriculum this year. The Grade 5 students have been continuing their listening and comprehension skills related to a Canadian mystery. They have been great detectives at trying to solve the mystery as I read! For Grade 4 Social Studies students are learning about the history of Alberta and the important people who helped to make Alberta what it is today.

-Miss Becky, Miss Desiree & Miss Stefanie





PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAYS



2022-23

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

On our April 29th, Parkside Montessori staff engaged in hands-on learning! Through the guidance of Cree Knowledge Keeper, Howard LaGlace, Parkside Montessori staff learned about the history and significance of the drum in Indigenous culture. Each staff member then made their own drum.



The drum making was a work of heart for our staff. This was a wonderful opportunity to not only build our foundational knowledge of First Nations, Inuit and Métis history & culture, but also the chance to work & learn with each other in a new creative way. Thank you to Miss Elena and her team for facilitating this experience.



Parent Community

Jo Phillips and
Joe Whitbread



THE JO(E)S

Professional Speakers

Jo Phillips

Public Speaker/Mentor/Coach
Jo loves to listen to the stories of kids and work with them to find solutions to their ideas, and their challenges. With a degree in Psychology focused on motivation and personality, and a minor in Sociology from the University of Calgary, she is able to connect the dots for parents and kids in a healthy, fun, way.

Joe Whitbread

Public Speaker/Mentor/Coach
Joe started his career in broadcast journalism, and took his first gig as an on-air personality in Grande Prairie shortly after graduating from SAIT. As a public speaker, professional emcee, PA announcer, and voice over artist, he's hosted thousands of events in his 25+ year career in the public. He gets excited about helping kids enhance their online opportunity! Like, really excited.

Jo and Joe have been listening to kids in schools since 2016. We bring a different message about social media - a positive message that connects with kids where they're at, while giving the adults around them information and tools to start a real conversation about social media.

- We will listen to the kids. Even if it's a 56 minute convo about Fortnite.
- We will value what the kids tell us.
- We won't tell them their experiences aren't real or valid.
- We will speak on behalf of kids, to adults.
- We will amplify the voices of kids.
- We will talk about social media safety, responsibility and mental health

Presentations can be in-person anywhere in Alberta, or online.



Starting a Social Media Conversation is a program designed to stimulate a continuous, positive social media conversation between kids and the adults in their lives, led by the lived experience of the kids. Parkside Montessori will welcome Jo and Joe from Jo(e) Social Media in Lacombe, Alberta on Monday May 8th for Gr. 4-6 Student Presentation.

Parents, save the date!

We have partnered with our friends from Maude Clifford School to host a **Parent Presentation on Tuesday May 9th @ 6:30 pm**. This presentation will be at Maude Clifford School, 9206 Lakeland Drive.

Parkside Montessori

Corrine Shmyruk, Principal
Terra Shewchuk, Vice Principal



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Caregiver Education Team Newsletter

May/June 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 May/June 2023 CYF Caregiver Education Newsletter!

Visit our school page:

www.gppsd.ab.ca/school/parksidemontessori