

# November News



**Grande Prairie  
Public School  
Division**

PARKSIDE MONTESSORI

# Montessori News

The cold weather has arrived! Time to bring out the toques, mittens, ski pants, and warm clothing! The children of Parkside will continue to take learning outside during the winter months and we have spent time talking about changes and adaptations that occur during the change from fall to winter. Seasonal cycles and changes are an important concept in building understanding about patterns in nature as well as our connection to the land.

October brought several community-building events including school pictures, Read-A-Thon, Thanksgiving, Anything But a Backpack Day, M.A.L.T., Hot Lunch, and many Halloween themed celebrations. We also welcomed Indigenous Drummer Al Crawford to Parkside and supported the Academy WE Scare Hunger event. November will bring many more school events and activities. We are looking forward to Jersey Day and our second M.A.L.T. of the year!

In November we will also have our annual Remembrance Day Assembly, which is hosted by Mr. Josh and Miss Jen's classes this year. As a school community we will recognize the contributions of veterans and peacekeepers who have served or are serving in various global conflicts and are connected to children of Parkside through our Wall of Honour.

In the month of November, we bring together our student assessments, reflect on our student growth and communicate this to our parents through our report cards and Celebrations of Learning. K-6 report cards will be in digital form again this term and will be accessed through the Parent Portal in PowerSchool on November 24th. Preschool report cards will be emailed home on November 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. It is a good idea to log

into your Parent Portal prior to the day that reports cards go live. Please connect with Miss Nancy in the office if you haven't been able to access your Parent Portal.

Information about Celebrations of Learning and Report Card access will be coming out the first full week of November. It is important to us that parents feel informed of their child's progress at school. If there is anything that we can do to support building your understanding of the new curriculum or our reporting or your child's learning, please connect with us.

We continue to be grateful for our School Council and Fundraising Guild parent teams who support our school in many ways. Please contact the Fundraising Guild ([theguild.pm@gmail.com](mailto:theguild.pm@gmail.com)) if you have questions about hot lunches &/or Munchalunch this year or if you would like to know more about how you can be involved in raising funds to support our school! All parents of Parkside are members of our School Council. Please consider coming out to both the School Council and Fundraising Guild meetings that take place on the first Monday of the month. More information is included in our weekly parent email.

Thank you again for all that you do to engage with us and help us provide the best educational experiences for our students! If you have feedback for our team, please let us know!

*-Miss Corrine & Miss Terra*



### Inside this issue:

November Events/Remembrance Day	2
School Council/Fundraising Guild	3
Casa News/Lower ELMO News	4/5
Upper ELMO News	6
Parent Info/PL Day/ CYE newsletter	7

**Peace begins  
with a smile.**

*-Mother Theresa*

# On the Calendar...

## NOVEMBER 2023

**November 4-** Gr. 5 & 6 Triple Ball Tournament

**November 6-** School Council Meeting, 6pm & Fundraising Guild Meeting, 7:15pm

**November 9-** Remembrance Day Assembly @ 10:30am; Hot Lunch (Harvey's pre-order)

**November 10-** No School for Students  
(*Professional Learning Day for Staff*)

*November 11, Remembrance Day*

**November 15-** Jersey Day

**November 22-** M/W Preschool Reports sent home

**November 23-** School Spirit Day! T/Th Preschool Reports sent home

**November 24-** Hot Lunch (Boston Pizza pre-order); K-6 Report Cards in PowerSchool; No School for Casa students only, Casa Celebration of Learning

**November 28-** Celebration of Learning, 4-7pm; Slumberkins Parent Presentation @ 6pm.

**November 29-** Celebration of Learning, 3:30-6:30pm

**November 30-** M.A.L.T. Morning; Movie Afternoon

**December 1-** No school for Students & Staff



Parkside  
Montessori

**Join us Thursday, Nov. 9th at 10:30 am for our Remembrance Day Assembly in our school gym.**

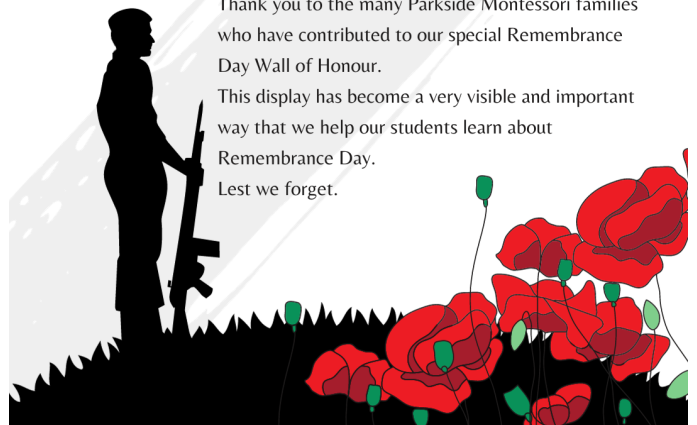
This assembly will be led by the students of Mr. Josh & Miss Jen's Lower Elementary classes. Our school choir will also be singing at the assembly. Parents are welcome to attend this event. Please note that this is considered a public event. Photos may be taken &/or shared. Please let your child's teacher know if this is a concern for you.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY WALL OF HONOUR

Thank you to the many Parkside Montessori families who have contributed to our special Remembrance Day Wall of Honour.

This display has become a very visible and important way that we help our students learn about Remembrance Day.

Lest we forget.



# School Council & Fundraising Guild

**Parkside Montessori School Council meets the first Monday of each month in-person at Parkside Montessori. Next meeting is Monday, November 6, 2023 @ 6pm.**

All parents of Parkside Montessori students are welcome. School Council is a great way to get involved as a new or returning family. We work together to make sure everyone feels welcome & supported. Council meets on the first Monday of each month from October to June.

[HERE](#) is the link to the our School Council meeting s information on our Parkside Montessori webpage.

**The Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori board** is looking forward to some great fundraisers this year! Keep an eye out for our Christmas 50/50 on Facebook in early December. If you are curious about our operations or would like to learn more about the Guild, please feel free to join us at any of our monthly meetings either in person or over Zoom. **Next meeting is Monday, November 6, 2023 @ 7:15pm.**



We are grateful to all of those who have supported The Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori in our efforts! Thank you to everyone who filled out the survey that went home last month. We want our fundraising to be connected to the needs of our school community.

[Theguild.pm@gmail.com](mailto:Theguild.pm@gmail.com)

# Casa dei Bambini, Preschool & Kindergarten

Hello Casa families and Welcome to November!

The month of October was a busy one for our classes and we have seen so much growth in the students' abilities as well as how they interact with one another. Looking back, In October we learned about sorting cutlery, played with different materials in our sensory bins and began focused learning of letters. The students have been practicing their mindfulness strategies that they have been taught as well as reflecting on what zone they feel they are in.

As the weather has begun to shift, we are still planning to find time to explore the outdoors throughout the winter. Please ensure you are sending your child to the school in the appropriate gear. This includes a hat, snow pants, jacket, and mittens or gloves. In November along with finding time to spend outside we have our school Remembrance Day Assembly, School Spirit day, a M.A.L.T. morning, and our Celebration of Learning!

We are so excited to see how the children continue to learn, grow, and play within our classrooms and watch as their relationships with one another develop further. Our Casa classrooms will be beginning an inquiry project as we explore how animals prepare for winter. The goal is to have students deepen their understanding of animals through our new Science curriculum, as well as develop new knowledge of how life changes throughout the seasons.

Please note that there is no school for our Casa students, on Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. November 24<sup>th</sup> is a full day of Celebration of Learning for our Casa teachers. The sign-ups for Celebration of Learning, our student-led conferencing, will be coming in an email. Please make sure that your family signs up for a time to visit the classroom to see and learn what your child has been learning and working on since September.

We are looking forward to another busy month in Casa and we hope to see you at Celebration of Learning!

*-Miss Amber & Miss Laura*



# Lower Elementary, Gr. 1, 2, 3

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Happy November Parkside Families!



It is hard to believe that October is already over! We had a busy October in ELMO123. We are continuing our Montessori Great Lessons by presenting lessons three, four and five and are extending our learning through timeline studies and Practical Life. In addition to the Great Lessons, we will continue our mapping unit and will focus discussions on the Acadian community of Meteghan, Nova Scotia. In Science we are continuing our exploration of landforms such as plateaus, mountains and hills and will be exploring UNESCO World Heritage sites found in Alberta. In Math we will be continuing to reinforce our understanding of place value as well as patterning. Students will learn about repeating and non-repeating patterns found in nature/architecture, as well as increasing and decreasing number patterns. Some language you can use with your child in Grade 1 is 'What is a core?' (the part of the pattern that repeats) or 'How many times does the Core have to repeat itself to make a pattern? (at least 3 times). As the Holiday season approaches, we will continue practicing Grace & Courtesy through our Peace Curriculum.

Students and teachers are busy assessing for Term One report cards. We thank you for your continued encouragement with your child's learning. We look forward to our upcoming Celebration of Learning to connect with you!

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



# Upper Elementary, Gr. 4, 5, 6

Hello ELMO456 families,

October was gone in a blink – but we packed in some new learning projects, special guest presentations such as drumming with Al Crawford and building our mental health capacity with Grade 5 and 6 students. It has been great to have Miss Jancey, our Division Wellness Coach, share her expertise on how to balance peer relationships and emotions! Grade 4 will be starting their work with her in a couple weeks. Upper ELMO students did an excellent job planning, setting up and hosting fun Halloween centers or games for the younger students to end the month. One of our Grade 6 students also led a proposal for the lunchtime Halloween dance, it was so great to see student voice in action! We have also had a few different clubs led by different Upper ELMO students start up this fall, including mini sticks, basketball, and drama! On that note, Parkside Montessori has started our own Student Advisory Council, where representatives from each class bring ideas and issues forward to make a positive impact on school culture and student learning.

In Math, we continued to focus on place value and the four operations. These important numeracy skills build the foundation for our learning all year. Students have enjoyed accessing Xtra Math which is a website that builds fluency and accuracy of basic addition, subtraction, division, and multiplication skills, ask your child how to login! We also started working with fractions, decimals, ratios and percents. Seeing how these concepts work together and applying operations to those as well has been intriguing for many. We will continue all of these numeracy-based concepts all year to build understanding and fluency. It is important to meet each child where they are in their learning and build on successes over a longer span of time.

In Language, we were able to have some friendly competition during our school Read-a-thon week. The three upper elementary classes and three upper elementary teachers compared our reading hours with a couple of graphs in the hallway! Great work reading library books, guided reading books and listening to our class novels, plus all the at-home reading too! In writing, we have been able to continue small group and one on one conferencing with students. Getting timely feedback to students is an important part of ensuring they are growing as writers. In that feedback loop, students are figuring out what the specific things they need to work on are and will continue to revise and edit their work. We know they will have some fa-

vorite pieces of writing to share with you at the upcoming Celebration of Learning!

The Grade 4 students are learning about recycling in Science and landforms and regions in Alberta. The Grade 5 students are reviewing information about Canada and its identity in Social Studies. They have embarked on a new project for Science, Team Air vs. Team Water. They will be exploring and experimenting with creating devices that float and fly as they learn about buoyancy and flight. The Grade 6 students are learning about the history of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and creating their own Grade 6 version! In Science, they are learning about how temperature affects matter and will be building thermometers soon!

At this time of year, the students and teachers are busy assessing learning and reflecting on the first term in all subject areas. This year we have continued the new Language and Math curriculums, as well as brand new Science learning outcomes so the report card will reflect these changes. We would like to thank you for your continued support and engagement with your child's learning. Please continue to reach out to us to ask any questions you may have as Celebration of Learning and report cards approach.

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



Parkside Montessori School Council is excited to invite parents/caregivers to a

## Slumberkins Parent Info Session!

with GPPSD Wellness Coach Jancey Dolen, R.S.W.



November 28th, 6:00pm  
During Celebration of Learning at  
Parkside Montessori in the Music Room



### Professional Learning Days, 2023-24

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

On our October 27th PL Day, staff spent part of the day learning together looking in-depth at our fall data to get a better picture of each class and each student. In completing this exploration, staff built their understanding and making connections that will inform teaching and learning in the weeks to come.

## Caregiver Education Team Newsletter

November 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 view the full edition of the Caregiver Education Team Newsletter.

Visit our school page:

[www.gppsd.ab.ca/school/parksidemontessori](http://www.gppsd.ab.ca/school/parksidemontessori)

### Parkside Montessori

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