

October News



**Grande Prairie
Public School
Division**

PARKSIDE MONTESSORI

Montessori News

The colours of fall can be viewed all around us and the crisp morning air assures us that the season has changed, and fall has arrived! We have been so fortunate to enjoy warm afternoon temperatures and outside adventures over the last few weeks. Thank you for partnering with us on our seventh September as a school community!

September is a time for reviewing expectations, routines, and for building our school community. Each fall we spend time determining our student's areas of strength and areas for growth to enable us to plan for each child at their current level of achievement. Classroom teachers are completing formative assessments to guide their planning to ensure that instruction and learning are targeted to best address each students' individual needs. Parkside teachers are engaged in continual learning and improvement to ensure that we are providing the best for each child. Montessori materials have come out and we have a busy and exciting learning environment at Parkside! If you have questions about your child's learning or classroom activities, please reach out to a member of our team.

This fall we held our first Social Emotional Learning Play Day for students in grades 1-6 on the International Day of Peace. We used this opportunity to provide classes with time spent together building community, reviewing some of the social emotional learning concepts we've been learning and engaging in reflective conversation to build connections amongst students. Activities included: Zones of Regulation and behaviour bingo (facial expressions and emotions, expected and unexpected behaviours), team building activities that focused on cooperation, perseverance, listening skills, looking for non-verbal clues, expressing gratitude, giving and receiving compliments, and activities for building individual skills (self-regulation, mindfulness, perseverance, peacefulness, determination)

The children of Parkside also put together a beautiful art display to honor the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Many Parkside families were able to come to the

school and complete an "Art Walk" and view the artwork. Each classroom has spent time this month talking about the role that we all play and our school efforts to support truth and reconciliation.

We are excited to welcome Danielle Pellerin and Desiree Miguel back as our Chair and Vice Chair for School Council and Amy Slon, new to the position, as Secretary. Thank you to Frances Russell who completed her time as School Council Secretary. It is important that we engage meaningfully with parents and School Council is one way that you can participate in offering feedback and learning about our school. Meetings are the first Monday of the month at 6:00 at Parkside.

Another way that you can be involved in our school community is by participating in the Fundraising Guild. Currently, the Fundraising Guild is in the final stretch of raising funds to purchase a new playground for our school. President of the Fundraising Guild this year is Amy Slon, Vice President-Terri Murray, Treasurer-Todd Russell, and Secretary-Sandra Marin. Thank you to the executive of both School Council and The Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori for supporting our students and school community in their roles. A huge thank you to Gavin Meyers (Past President and Director of the Fundraising Guild) and Daryl White (Vice President of the Fundraising Guild) for their dedication to our students over the last several years in their executive roles.

During this time of Thanksgiving, we continue to be grateful for the joys we find in watching children learn and grow each day, our collaborative school community that works together for student success, and the support of our parent community. Wishing all our Parkside Families a safe and healthy Thanksgiving!

-Miss Corrine & Miss Terra



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JOY is the simplest form of gratitude.

-Karl Barth

On the Calendar...

HELLO October

October 3- School Council, 6pm; Fundraising Guild, 7:15pm

October 5- School Spirit Day, wear school gear or green

October 7- M.A.L.T. morning (multi-activity learning time)

October 10- *Thanksgiving*, NO SCHOOL for students & staff

October 11-14, Fall Readathon!

October 17, 18, 19- Lock-Down Drills

October 20- Readathon money & forms are due

October 21- NO SCHOOL for students (Professional Learning day for staff)

October 31- Halloween Costume Day

#ParksideYear7



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Multi-activity Learning Time, MALT is a special time that students from Parkside Montessori engage in extending our curricular learning to areas of specific passion. We partner with our school community to offer students sessions in a variety of subject areas. Examples of M.A.L.T. morning or afternoon activities may include, painting, music, drama, construction, baking, sewing, nature walks, and different physical activities and much more! Our first MALT morning of the 2022-2023 school year is on Friday, October 7th. Thank you to the many parents who have volunteered and talents to be a part of this set of sessions. Our next MALT is in the afternoon of Friday, November 4th. We would love it if you would consider being a session leader or session helper! Forms will be coming home soon for this.

School Council & Fundraising Guild

School Council of Parkside Montessori will be holding our first regular meeting of the school year on Monday, October 3 @ 6PM, in-person at Parkside Montessori. 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.



Did you know that all Parkside Montessori parents are members of the school council?

It's true!

EVERYONE is welcome to our monthly school council meetings.

Both the School Council of Parkside Montessori and The Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori are active on Facebook.

Find us on Facebook!

Parkside School Council Group

Fundraising Guild of Parkside Mont-



The Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori holds a public meeting every month following our School Council meeting. Join us Monday, October 3 at 7:15 pm, in-person at Parkside Montessori

Casa dei Bambini, Preschool & Kindergarten

Hello October!

We have had a wonderful start to the school year so far! The children in Casa dei Bambini have been working hard to learn new routines and make new friends. We are learning how to treat others with grace and courtesy to establish a harmonious environment. We have also spent much of the month focusing on normalization. This refers to allowing the children time to get accustomed to the routines of the classroom, independence, and freedom of choice. Taking the time now to help them learn this will give them success in the Montessori classroom throughout the year.

In October we will be learning all about fall! We will be exploring the seasonal changes that occur and the upcoming holidays. We will continue to focus on two letters a week in Language and exploring patterning in Math.

We look forward to a year of fun and learning in our Casa dei Bambini classes!

-Miss Sonja & Miss Emma



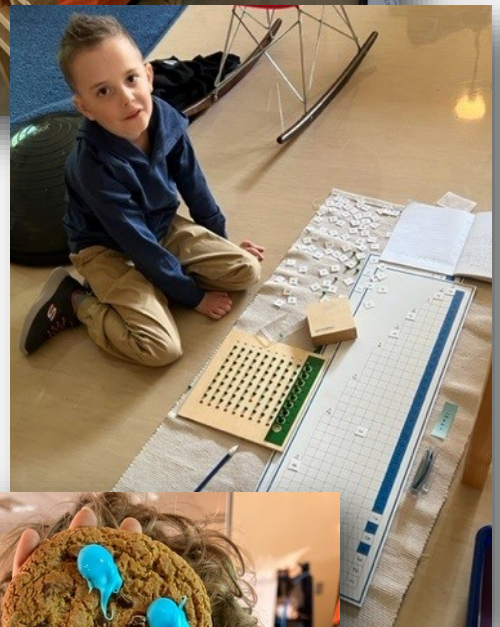
Lower Elementary, Gr. 1, 2, 3

We've had such a busy and fun September in ELMO 123! We have been spending a lot of time getting to know each other, creating new friendships, and strengthening our classroom family ties. Much of the first month of school is spent re-establishing classroom routines. The students have been working on normalizing within the Montessori environment and on building independence with their learning.

This month we have begun to explore The Five Great Lessons and discuss the big questions about our planet and the universe. The purpose is not so much to understand or memorize, but to touch the imagination and inspire enthusiasm for further exploration. In a theatrical, story-like manner, the First Great Lesson outlines how our universe began, including our galaxy, the sun, the planets, and the Earth. The students have had a lot of great questions about the stars, planets and outer space and we are following their curiosities as we move into October and into the Second Great Lesson.

As we move into October we will continue to build on our reading and writing skills. The students are working hard to further their ability to break words apart into separate sounds and to blend them back together. They are building their understanding of the sounds letters and groups of letters make and translating this into their own reading and writing. In Math, students will continue to build on their understanding of number and place value. They are also working hard on patterning and our Grade 2/3 students are diving into graphing. As Thanksgiving is quickly approaching, October is a great time to explore gratitude and thankfulness through a variety of activities. It's going to be another great month in lower ELMO classes!

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



Upper Elementary, Gr. 4, 5, 6

Happy Fall Parkside Families!

The upper elementary classes have been working very hard at normalizing into the routines established last month. It has been amazing to see more classroom collaboration, sharing of Montessori materials and peer support happening! We are all working on what it looks like and sounds like when working with others in a positive way.

In Language, we have decided to incorporate various forms of writing all year. This means that students will be able to develop their skills in poetry, letter-writing, narratives, and functional writing tasks from now until June! This will allow students to go through the writing process of plan, draft, revise, edit and publish many more times as they find types of writing that they enjoy! Students will also be able to get back into our school library this month as guided reading groups and individual novel studies are well underway!

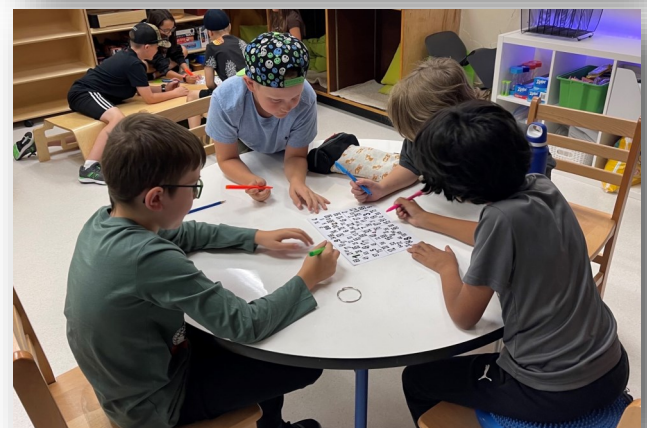
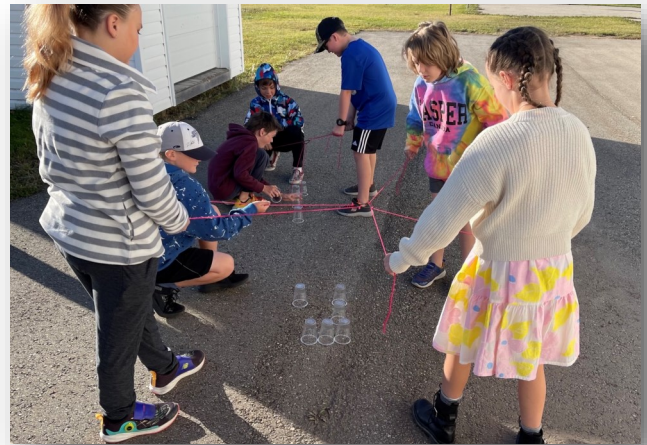
In Math, we have started the year with a review of place value and strategies for the four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. This work will continue all year as students move from using concrete Montessori materials to more abstract pencil and paper algorithms. Coming up in October we will expand student knowledge of number as they connect the decimal place value system to fractions and ratios, depending on their grade level.

For French, students are learning the basics. From numbers, colours, greetings and calendar - les élèves vont très bien! (The students are doing well!). In Art, the theme has been drawing and soon we will shift to painting using tempera, watercolour, and other mediums. Music has focused on beat and rhythm; students will soon explore notation as they prepare for instrument work later this year!

For Social and Science this year Miss Becky is teaching grade 4s, Miss Stefanie is teaching grade 5s, and Miss Desiree is teaching grade 6s. Grade 4s are exploring Alberta by becoming the mayor of a town. The students will do a report on the town of their choice and present it to the class. In Science they are discussing things that grow and the needs of plants. We will be doing two different growing experiments coming up as we explore if we can grow something from the seeds in things we eat

(i.e., seeds from tomatoes or an avocado pit). Miss Grade 5s are working on the regions of Canada and electricity & magnetism; leading to an electric car "tour" across Canada! Grade 6s are working on physical geography and scientific method. This year the grade six students will be participating in piloting the new grade six curriculum. This pilot is optional for schools which means that they can explore new topics while keeping old favourites. After reviewing the scientific method, students will be learning all about crime scene investigations and forensics.

-Miss Becky, Miss Desiree & Miss Stefanie



FALL READ-A-THON

It's time for our annual Parkside Montessori Read-a-Thon!

Beginning October 11th, your child will have the opportunity to participate in Parkside Montessori's Annual Fall Read-A-Thon. This is a 100% profit fundraiser with monies raised going to benefit all students with activities such as sporting events, school fun days, and special presentations (i.e., Telus World of Science Presentations, Trickster Theatre, author, artist, musician visits, artist in residence, etc.), Practical Life materials and activities, M.A.L.T. materials, specialized PE equipment for extensions, student choice Library books, field trips, etc.

Our whole-school goal is to raise \$10 000.00

Read-a-Thon Packages go home October 5th & 6th.

Reading Challenge runs October 11th-14th.

**All forms and money needs to be returned to the school office
by Thursday, October 20, 2022!**

Thank you for your continued support!



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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 September PL day (Sept. 16th) Teachers collaborated with their teams on mapping and planning their work with the new curriculum. Educational Assistants collaborated on organizing and preparing new materials and supports for students. The entire staff also spent time reviewing and preparing inquiry questions. These are based on personal questions and curiosities that relate to teaching and learning. Questions typically connect to our school priorities and outcomes and are worked on throughout the year. We look forward to sharing more about our October 21st and future professional learning days in newsletters to come!



Parking at Parkside

Parking at Parkside Montessori-

Please be advised that there is **NO PARKING** on the school side of 91a Avenue from the parking lot to the far edge of the sidewalk leading to the building. Parent may park on the far end of 91A or in the city lot at the back of the school.



Update on our Loading Zone...

The Loading Zone area is for quick pick-ups and drop offs.

We have many buses transferring students at our school. The buses are not able to pull in safely if there are vehicles parked in the loading zone.

Please do not park in the loading zone. Doing so prevents our buses from stopping safely and risks being ticketed by by-law.



Parkside Montessori
Corrine Shmyruk, Principal
Terra Shewchuk, Vice Principal



Caregiver Education Team Newsletter

October 2022



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.

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Visit our school page:

www.gpsd.ab.ca/school/parksidemontessori

[Click here](#) to link to the October 2022 CYF Caregiver Education Newsletter!