

December News



**Grande Prairie
Public School
Division**

PARKSIDE MONTESSORI

Montessori News

The snow has held off and the children of Parkside have been enjoying playing on our new playground and exploring the piles of leaves that typically are covered in snow at this point in the year. As the temperatures begin to cool off and snow falls, it is important that students are dressed for the weather. When the temperature hits -25 or below including the windchill, we are inside for recess. During inside recess, students engage in activities that are safe to do indoors (i.e., gym time, boardgames, stacking cups, etc.). It is hard to believe that the Christmas holidays are right around the corner!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our first Celebrations of Learning for the 2023-2024 school year! It is important to our school community that you receive up to date communication regarding your child's progress. If you have feedback for our team on how we can improve the experience, please let us know. If you were unable to attend, and would like to meet with your child's teacher, please contact them to arrange an alternate time. We are very grateful and feel fortunate to have a parent community who takes such great care of our staff and are thankful for the supper that was provided for our staff by parents from our school community!

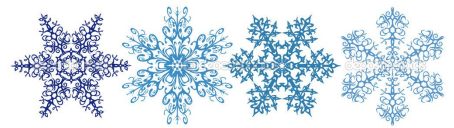
In November we recognized Remembrance Day and were able to acknowledge many Parkside Montessori family members on our annual Wall of Honour. Also, in November our ELMO 456 students engaged in a "Coffee Shop" project where they researched, budgeted, planned, and hosted their own Coffee Shops during Celebration of Learning. We unveiled our first "Pax Kid of the Day" buttons, enjoyed our favorite sports teams on Jersey Day, celebrated Term One with a movie afternoon and recognized our students for participating in our annual fall Readathon. November brought our second M.A.L.T. of the school year which is a student favorite activity at Parkside.

We are looking forward to some new and traditional community building events at Parkside during the month of December. Our Family Holiday Event, a Winter Fair, will be on December 14th from 5:45-7:45 at the school. We are excited to engage in a variety of Christmas and Winter themed activities with our families. This event will be open house style so families can come for as little, or much time as is desired. As is Parkside tradition, we learn about and recognize several different winter celebrations. In December we will have our Hold and Secure drills, School Spirit Day, Red and Green Day, Brunch for Lunch, and PJ Day!

This week you will be receiving an Assurance Newsletter that identifies some of the ways that Parkside Montessori meets indicators on the annual Alberta Education Assurance survey that will come out this spring. For December our focus is on student engagement. It is important to us that we share the learning that is happening in our school with our parent community. One of the pieces of communication we have added this year is the "Montessori Material of the Week" to build understanding of the unique materials that students use to engage in learning during all parts of their school day at Parkside. If you have ideas of additional ways we could share student learning with parents, we would love to hear your feedback.

On behalf of the staff and students of Parkside Montessori, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year. We hope that you have time to enjoy the company of family and friends and stay safe and healthy.

-Miss Corrine & Miss Terra



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There are two ways of spreading light; to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.

-Edith Wharton

On the Calendar...



DECEMBER 2023

- December 1- No School for Students & Staff
- December 4- Hold & Secure Drill; School Council @ 6pm; Fundraising Guild @ 7:15pm
- December 5- Hold & Secure Drill
- December 8- Hot Lunch (Mucho Burrito pre-order)
- December 11- Hold & Secure Drill
- December 13- School Spirit Day
- December 14- Winter Fair (Family Holiday Event), 5:45-7:45pm
- December 15- No School for Students (Professional Learning Day)
- December 20- Red & Green Day; Brunch for Lunch
- December 22- PJ Day; Hot Lunch (Friendship Donuts pre-order)



Join us Thursday, December 14th, for our Winter Fair, a holiday family event!

The staff of Parkside Montessori is looking forward to hosting our families for this fun holiday evening at the school. There will be crafts, activities, Santa photos, and more for everyone to enjoy. Please enter the building by your child's regular entrance. We hope to see you there!



School Council & Fundraising Guild

Parkside Montessori School Council meets the first Monday of each month in-person at Parkside Montessori. Next meeting is Monday, December 4, 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! [HERE](#) is the link to our Christmas 50/50 online raffle. 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, December 4, 2023 @ 7:15pm.**



DECEMBER 2023
FUNDRAISING CALENDAR

| | |
|-------------|--|
| DECEMBER 1 | 50/50 TICKET SALES BEGIN (RAFFLEBOX ONLINE) |
| DECEMBER 4 | FUNDRAISING GUILD REGULAR MEETING 7:15PM SCHOOL LIBRARY |
| DECEMBER 8 | MUCHO BURRITO HOT LUNCH (ONLINE PRE-ORDER) |
| DECEMBER 14 | 50/50 DEADLINE 11:59:59PM |
| DECEMBER 15 | 50/50 WINNER ANNOUNCED |
| DECEMBER 22 | DONUT DAY! (FRIENDSHIP DONUTS ONLINE PRE-ORDER) |



We are grateful to all of those who have supported The Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori in our efforts in supporting the students of Parkside!

Theguild.pm@gmail.com

Casa dei Bambini, Preschool & Kindergarten

Happy December!! It is sure to be a busy and joy-filled month as we prepare to welcome winter and to celebrate the season.

November was a wonderful month of learning and confidence building for our students as they worked hard to prepare for Celebrations of Learning. In this process, Casa students spent time reflecting as a group and individually to pinpoint proud moments and in goal setting. It was so exciting to see these preparations pay off as our students expertly hosted their families for their Celebrations of Learning. It was wonderful to see them grow in this way!

We also spent lots of time this past month focusing on the crucial area of Practical Life called Care of Self. These kinds of exercises encourage young children to become independent in taking care of themselves through engaging in activities such as how to wash one's hands, how to dress and manipulate elements of clothing such as buttons and zippers, how to prepare a snack, how to blow one's nose, how to brush one's teeth, and so on. The children take great joy in learning about and working on these sorts of tasks and through their learning come to feel that taking care of oneself is a positive thing. This is an important and a lifelong lesson. We will continue to encourage our students towards independence in this way throughout the year.

Starting in December, we will be undertaking a very special and top-secret kindness curriculum! We will be challenging our students to think about being kind in whole new ways and working to infuse kindness into all we do. Our work in November surrounding how animals prepare for winter helped us to grow as great wonderers. We will continue asking big questions and to take this notion of being an explorer to heart as we focus our gaze on how we can cultivate kindness in many ways. Be on the lookout for some kindness challenges that find their way home to your families and into our greater community in the month(s) ahead as well.

We're so looking forward to preparing and facilitating lots of fun and festive learning experiences for our Casa students throughout this magical month!

Hoping you and your family have a lovely December,

-Miss Amber and Miss Laura



Lower Elementary, Gr. 1, 2, 3



Happy December, Parkside Families!!

November was a busy month for all of us at Parkside Montessori! We started the month with a beautiful Remembrance Day Assembly prepared by Miss Jen and Mr. Josh's class. Our school choir did a great job performing "In Flanders Fields" as well. We have been super lucky with the beautiful fall weather and spending tons of extra time outside in the sunshine while we can. We also had another amazing MALT day in November as well as a special movie & popcorn afternoon for all the students. November also was the time when our students showed and shared with us all the beautiful things they are learning. They spent a lot of time planning and preparing what they would share with their families for Celebration of Learning. Well done, everyone! Thank you parents for coming and engaging with your child's learning.

As we enter a new term, we have begun some new learning opportunities and curiosities. In Social studies, we have started to investigate and discuss the Acadian community of Meteghan, Nova Scotia. Students have really been enjoying exploring Canada on Google Earth and comparing Nova Scotia to Alberta. In Math, we are continuing to reinforce our understanding of place value as well as exploring 3D and 2D shapes in Geometry, as well as reading and recording data on graphs in Statistics. In Science, we have begun our investigation on the understanding of the physical world looking through lens of matter and energy. This unit will have many light and sound experiments.

As we enter December with some colder temperatures, please make sure your children are dressed appropriately for the weather and come in layers as we will still be spending lots of time outside. Have a wonderful December.

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

Upper Elementary, Gr. 4, 5, 6

Hello from Upper ELMO!

November was done in a flash and ended with so much excitement at our first Celebration of Learning of the year. We all really enjoyed getting to spend more time with our Upper ELMO families at Celebration of Learning and we know that your children were very proud to show off their hard work. A huge part of those nights was the success of the 456 "PAX in a Cup" coffee shop! A huge thank you out to all the families who helped with our coffee shop; whether it was the baking day or the sales evenings, we could not have done it without your support! It was an amazing opportunity to incorporate the Math curriculum (Fractions, Decimals and Ratios), the Language curriculum (writing, communication, collaboration and reading); as well as a peek into the Financial Literacy Wellness curriculum (pricing, sales, costs, and donations). Getting to make use of our beautiful Practical Life room to bake and display our goods was just the cherry on top!

Students have been giving and receiving peer and teacher feedback as they continue their writing in Language. They are working on remembering to indent new paragraphs and that paragraphs should be around one main idea. Arranging details and description within that paragraph is also important. Getting a peer to read and give feedback for what would make it flow better has been a strategy to improve our writing this month and will be an effective strategy moving forward in our multi-age classrooms! The book fair also sparked some interest in a new variety of genres, authors, and discussions around books – it was great to see students recommending series to their friends!

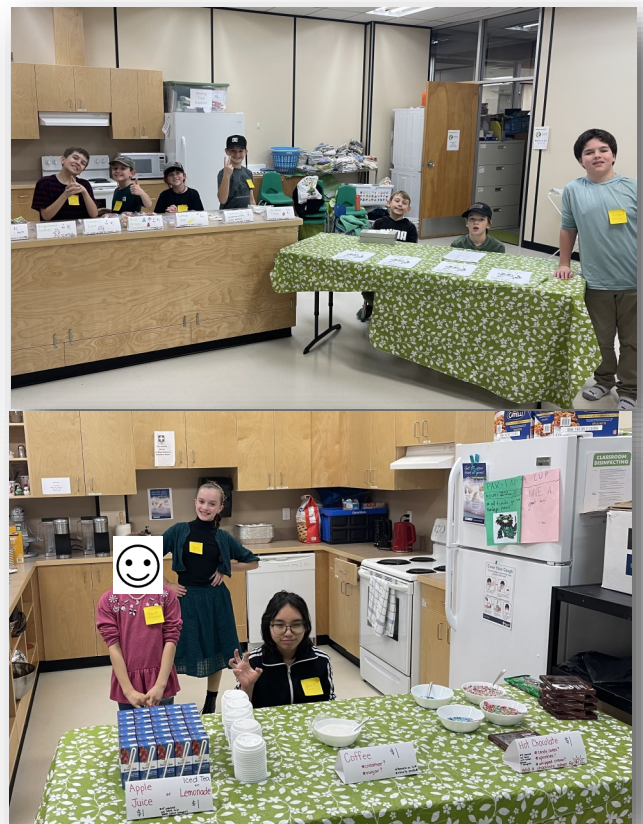
In Math we wrapped up our introductory work on basic operations as well as fractions and decimals. As mentioned, students enjoyed applying this learning to the real-world context of our coffee shop; baking, prepping and sales made this project expand their understanding of why those Mathematical concepts are important to learn about. They will also get another opportunity to

apply their math learning as we go on a 456 bowling trip in early December. We will be starting to learn and apply statistics to our bowling 'scores.' As the year progresses, we will focus on other units in math such as algebra, sequencing or geometry while looping back to the more complex number concepts that were introduced in this first term.

Grade 4 students have been continuing exploring Alberta and magnetism. Grade 5 students played a jeopardy-style review game to test their knowledge on the regions in Canada and will be learning about the importance of Indigenous storytelling next in Social Studies. For Science, Grade 5 students completed their Air vs. Water project and just started their new unit on Weather. Grade 6 students have been exploring democracy in Social and temperature and matter in Science.

Have a wonderful month!

-Miss Desiree, Miss Jackie, & Miss Stefanie



PARKSIDE SCHOOL

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**Parkside
Montessori**

SPECIAL EVENT!

Brunch for Lunch!

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20, 2023

On the menu: pancakes*, an assortment of toppings choices, fresh fruit, bacon &/or sausage*. *We do have options for students with dietary restrictions. Morning & afternoon Casa friends will eat in their classrooms (served at 10:30 am & 12:30 pm). All-day Casa friends and ELMO 1-6 students will be eating together in the gym. We will provide the food, plates, cutlery, & napkins. Students are asked to bring their own beverage (i.e., a labeled water bottle &/or a juice box). We will not be delivering milk on this day.



FALL READ-A-THON

With your help we exceeded our goal of raising \$10,000!!!

Thank you for your support!



#ParksideYear8  Parkside Montessori



Caregiver Education Team Newsletter

December 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

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