



Volume 8, Issue 1

September 11, 2023

Welcome!



**Grande Prairie
Public School
Division**

PARKSIDE MONTESSORI

Montessori News

Welcome back to Parkside Montessori! It is wonderful to have the building buzzing again with the voices and excitement of our students. We are happy to be entering our eighth year as a school community. We are grateful for the ongoing support of our parents and community partners.

The children of Parkside are settling into their classroom and getting right into learning. For this first part of the school year, one of our primary focuses is on reviewing routines, procedures, and expectations. As a school community we continue to emphasize Social-Emotional Learning, using common language and holding common expectations. We want to equip our students with a toolkit full of strategies to help support their well-being. September 18th-21st will be our Colour Week, where we review the Blue, Red, Yellow & Green Zones, and will practice specific strategies for self-regulation. September 21st also marks the International Day of Peace, a very special day on the Montessori calendar as Montessorians from around the world join to celebrate this day and promote peace in the world.

As part of our Emergency Response Procedures, a letter was sent home to families the first week of school explaining our Student Release protocol. If you did not receive it, please let your child's teacher know and we will send one your way. We will also be sending letters specific to each type of drill we will be practicing throughout the school year.

Our School Council will be holding the

Annual General Meeting on Monday, September 25th at 6:00pm at the school. Please see the weekly parent email for additional information. We are looking forward to our continued partnership with this fantastic group of parents who play an integral role in providing feedback and assisting in planning for our school. The Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori will also host an Annual General Meeting on September 25th at 7:15pm at the school. You can connect directly with the Guild by emailing theguild.pm@gmail.com. The Fundraising Guild has worked very hard toward the building of our new playground and supports our students through their fundraising efforts.

To ensure you are up to date on our school events and activities, please take a moment to find us on social media through our Facebook and Instagram accounts (@pm.gppsd). Make sure you are also receiving our monthly newsletters by signing up through our school web page. Parkside families should also be receiving a weekly email from their child(ren)'s classroom teachers. If you have feedback for us on the style of communication you prefer as parents, please let us know. It is important to us that you feel informed about events, activities, and your child's progress at our school. We are looking forward to all that the 2023-2024 school year will hold and are happy to be on this journey with you!



-Miss Corrine & Miss Terra

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**Anyone who thinks
they're too small
to make a difference,
has never met a honey bee.**

-Unknown

On the Calendar...



Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SIM) residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in the spring of 2013. It grew out of Phyllis Webstad's account of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually. Orange Shirt Day is also an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.


We encourage everyone to wear their orange shirts to school on Friday, September 29th to show support of this important event.

School Council & Fundraising Guild

School Council of Parkside Montessori will be holding our Annual General Meeting on **Monday, September 25 @ 6PM, in-person at Parkside Montessori**. All parents of Parkside Montessori students are welcome. The agenda includes meeting the current Executive board; brief overview of School Council purpose; vacant positions available (vote); learn more about what the council does. 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 2022 AGM draft minutes.

SCHOOL COUNCIL OF PARKSIDE MONTESSORI

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Monday, September 25th, 2023
6PM at the school
All Parkside Montessori parents/guardians are welcome to attend.
Position to fill: School Council Secretary

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 Montessori



Contact the Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori directly to receive the agenda for the AGM, email: theguild.pm@gmail.com

The **Annual General Meeting** for the Fundraising Guild of Parkside Montessori is **Monday, September 25 at 7:15pm** in the school library (& Zoom, email for link)

Our board will be in need of new officers/directors. At this meeting we will outline the expectations & responsibilities of members. We are here to help, if you have time to volunteer, please consider joining us.

If you're interested in short-term volunteer opportunities or have any questions we invite you to e-mail us to inquire at theguild.pm@gmail.com

Parking at Parkside Montessori



Please note that there is no parking on the school side of 91a Avenue from the light standard next to the parking lot entrance all the way west to the far edge of the sidewalk leading to the building. This is our bus zone. Parents may park on the north side of the street, west end of 91a Avenue, or in the city lot at the back of the school. For the safety of our students, please do not park within 5 meters of the crosswalks.



Doors open at 8:15 and lock again at 8:33 each day. If your child arrives late to school, please have them enter through the main doors.

Welcome to our Hive!

PARKSIDE MONTESSORI STAFF

2023-2024



Miss Corrine, Principal

Miss Corrine spent time this summer with family and friends in Sylvan Lake and Osoyoos. She enjoyed time relaxing in Grande Prairie with friends and spending time out at the family farm.

Miss Corrine is passionate about supporting staff and students to believe in themselves and what they can accomplish as members of our school community.

Miss Corrine is looking forward this year to building connections with our Parkside families, watching children make new discoveries in their learning, seeing everyone enjoy the new playground, and most of all, continuing to build a safe, caring, welcoming, and safe learning environment!



Miss Terra, Vice Principal & Learning Support

Miss Terra had a restful and relaxing summer spent with family and friends. She went to Heritage Park, the Calgary Zoo, the Royal Tyrell Museum in Drumheller, and the World Famous Gopher Museum in Torrington! She read MANY books for fun and watched the birds, ducks, and swans from her deck.

Miss Terra loves to encourage others in following their curiosities. She is always up for an adventure and chance to learn something new. She also loves to make music and is excited to get back to playing with the GP Symphony Orchestra this year.

Miss Terra loves being a part of the Parkside Montessori community. She strives to support students, staff and families in being the best they can be. She constantly marvels at how special it is to be a part of this diverse community and is looking forward to a wonderful school year together!



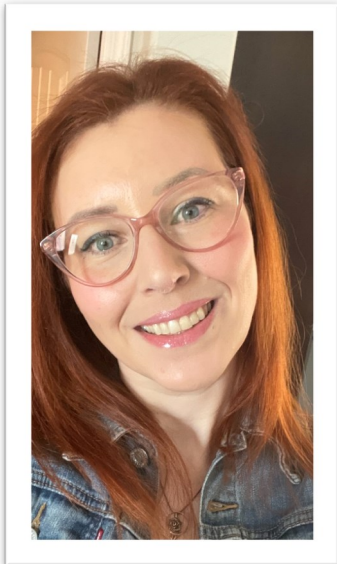
Miss Nancy, Administrative Assistant (left)

Miss Nancy spent her time at home in Grande Prairie with her husband Sean, her children Xavier and Faith, and her Goldendoodle, Rosie.



Mr. Monty, Phys. Ed. Teacher (right)

Mr. Monty had a great summer full of camping, floating on the lake, and quality time with his family. He loves going on photography walks, listening to music, and playing games in his backyard. Mr. Monty loves being a part of the Parkside family and talks endlessly about his days at school with his family.



Miss Toni, Library Technician (left)

Miss Toni went to Disneyland this summer!

Some of her favourite things include reading, crocheting, and hanging out with her family and puppy. Miss Toni is looking forward to our annual Book Fairs!

**Miss Kimberly,
Literacy & Numeracy Intervention
Educational Assistant (right)**

Miss Kimberly enjoyed her summer with family and friends. She spent most of her time outdoors hiking, mountain biking, and paddle boarding. Miss Kimberly is excited to be back at Parkside Montessori and looks forward to seeing the children's smiling faces as they return to school.



**Mr. FM,
Head Caretaker**

Mr. FM is the Head Caretaker of Parkside Montessori. This summer he and his family went to Vancouver where they visited the aquarium, Stanley Park, Van Dussen Botanical Garden, Granville Island and Ambleside Park. Mr. FM loves being our friendly and approachable caretaker!





Miss Amber, Casa dei Bambini Teacher (left)

This is Miss Amber's first year at Parkside Montessori and she is very excited to join the team. She is looking forward to getting to know the students, families, and staff of Parkside.

Miss Amber's favourite colour is purple. She loves travelling and reading. Chocolate is her favourite treat.

She is so thankful to be at Parkside, learning together in this, her first year of teaching!

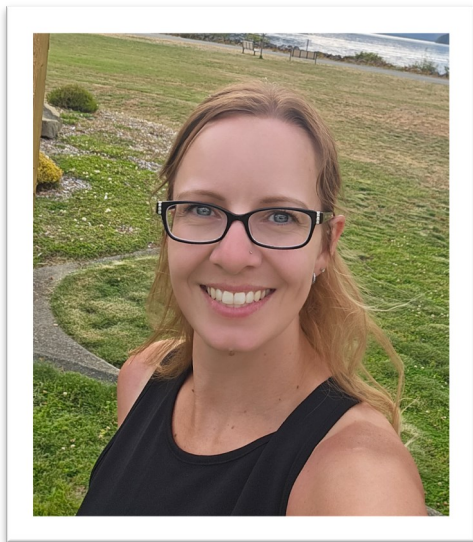


Miss Laura N., Casa dei Bambini Teacher (right)

Miss Laura spent lots of time this summer visiting family in Newfoundland. She also explored some amazing areas such as Tumbler Ridge, Pipestone and Kleskun Hills.

She is excited to be getting back into the classroom teaching and learning with her wonderful students and colleagues.

Miss Laura wants you to know she cares about each and every one of our Parkside Montessori students!



Miss Laura M., Educational Assistant (left)

Miss Laura is happy to be back as an EA in Casa 1 this year. She has been a Montessori EA for 10 years. She is a mom of two girls that are 16 and 19. Her hobbies include photography and anything crafty.

This summer Miss Laura travelled to the West Coast of Vancouver Island.



Miss Mei Lei, Educational Assistant (Left)

This is Miss Mei Lei's first year as an educational assistant at Parkside Montessori. She spent time this summer working for a non-profit literacy organization that provided summer camps in Indigenous communities.

Miss Mei Lei is excited to cultivate young minds while learning alongside them. She is grateful to be a part of the wonderful Parkside community while pursuing her passion of psychology.





Miss Anita, Educational Assistant (left)

Miss Anita is one of the educational assistants in Casa 2.

This summer Miss Anita helped students build upon their literacy skills at Reading University. In addition to that, she and her children, spent some time in Saskatchewan and southern Alberta visiting with family.

Miss Anita loves to read, camp and spend time with family and friends. She drinks Earl Grey tea, and loves popcorn and Reese peanut butter cups.

This school year she is looking forward to building new, and rekindling older, relationships with students, and helping them grow.

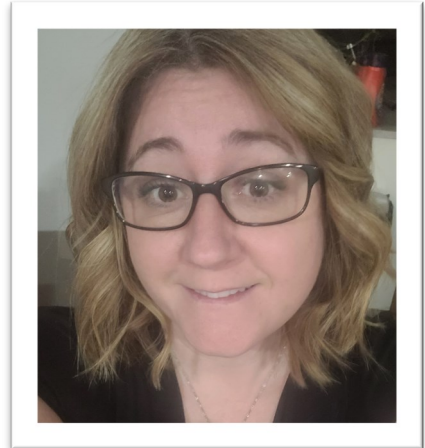
Miss Anita wants you to know that she cares and is always there for students.



Miss Lesley, Educational Assistant (right)

Miss Lesley is an educational assistant in our Casa 2 classroom.

Miss Lesley spent her summer with her family camping, having lots of family game and movie nights. Her mom was visiting all summer from Newfoundland. Together, they made many fun memories. Miss Lesley loves to read and do crafts. Her favourite colour is yellow. She always looks forward to seeing all of the returning students and getting to know all of the new students.



Did you know that *Casa dei Bambini* means Children's House in Italian? This is what Dr. Montessori called her first school.



Mr. Blaine, Educational Assistant (left)

Mr. Blaine spent the summer visiting family in Newfoundland and had mini adventures in and around Grande Prairie. He enjoys playing guitar, cooking, and movie nights with his family. He is super excited to be back at Parkside Montessori, re-establishing connections and building new relationships with students.



Miss Christina, Educational Assistant (right)

Miss Christina had a busy summer spent with her family and her two cats. She loves being in her garden and connecting with nature.

Miss Christina is excited to see the new smiling faces at Parkside Montessori.

She wants you to know that she will always try her best.





Miss Clara, Educational Assistant (right)

This is Miss Clara's first year as an Educational Assistant at Parkside Montessori. She works with our ELMO students in the mornings and our Casa 1 friends in the afternoon.

Miss Clara is bilingual, speaking fluent French and English. She loves art and is very creative. She is excited to be a part of our Parkside Team!



Miss Jen A., ELMO123 Teacher (left)



Miss Jen went to Vancouver Island this summer. She spent lots of time in the ocean, rivers, and trees. Miss Jen is looking forward to building strong connections with her students and their families. She is a mom and she loves each one of her students like one of her own.

Miss Jen's favourite colour is Navy blue. She also loves to be outside in nature.



Miss Melissa, ELMO123 Teacher (right)

Miss Melissa spent time with her family this summer. They went on a vacation to Edmonton, visiting the Muttart Conservatory, Telus World of Science, and the Valley Zoo.

Some of Miss Melissa's favourites include the colour black, drinking coffee, strawberry milkshakes, sports, going to the movies, shopping, travelling, and going on adventures.

She is looking forward to continuing to learn and build relationships this year.



Miss Jennifer, ELMO123 Teacher (left)



Miss Jennifer had a great summer traveling and hanging out with her puppy. Pink is her favourite colour. She loves travelling and is always ready to plan her next trip.

Miss Jennifer wants you to know that teaching has been a passion of hers since she was a little girl.

She is looking forward to seeing how much her students have grown and is excited to see them achieve new milestones.





Miss Julianne, ELMO123 Teacher (left)

Miss Julianne had a very busy summer. She went to seven weddings!

She is looking forward to doing a lot more singing this year with her students.

Some of Miss Julianne's favourites include her dog, Lenny, everything green, hiking, pottery, volleyball, learning violin, and Mexican food.



Mr. Josh, ELMO123 Teacher (right)



This summer Mr. Josh visited family in Ontario and went to Disney World and Universal Studios in Florida with his wife and three children. Mr. Josh's favourite colour is purple. He also loves working out and to drink coffee.

Mr. Josh is grateful for the opportunity to be such a large part of his students' lives. He is looking forward to seeing all of his returning Gr. 2 & 3 students and getting to know his Gr. 1s.



Miss Lisa S., Educational Assistant



Miss Lisa spent time this summer camping, reading, visiting friends and being outside. She loves all children. She is immensely empathetic to all kinds of complicated and uncomplicated needs for children. Her hope is that all children know that she is there for them anything they need a hug, a walk and talk or any kind of support.

Miss Lisa is looking forward to helping kids learn a lot, making lots of new friends and working with the fantastic Parkside Team!



Miss Carly, Educational Assistant ELMO123 (right)



Miss Carly has a fantastic summer, spending a month on Vancouver Island. Her favourite colour is green. Her favourite foods are crackers and cheese. She plays in a ladies volleyball league and loves being busy with her children's extra-curricular activities.

She is looking forward to reconnecting with past students and making new connections with new students and families.

She wants you to know that there is no place she would rather be than Parkside Montessori.





Miss Lisa P., Educational Assistant

ELMO123 (left)

Miss Lisa spent time this summer with family and travelled to Hawaii. Her favourite colour is blue. She loves animals, travelling, being outdoors and yoga. She to eat dark chocolate and popcorn. Her favourite way to spent time is reading a good book.

Miss Lisa is looking forward to working with our amazing Parkside Montessori students.



Miss Angie, Educational Assistant (right)

Miss Angie had a great summer, enjoying the sunshine, camping, working and spending time with family.

Miss Angie's summer favourites were reading, relaxing, and re-charging!

Miss Angie is excited to be working with the ELMO teams this year to expanding both student and staff understanding and learning through Montessori presentations.



Miss Rebecca, Educational Assistant (left)

Miss Rebecca spent some time this summer on the East Coast of Canada in her hometown of Digby, Nova Scotia. She enjoyed soaking up quality time with family and friends. They spent many hours at the beach walking, playing in the sand, collecting sea glass, castle building, whale watching, and taking in the stunning sunsets. They went on many hikes exploring all the beautiful sights in Digby.

Miss Rebecca is excited to be working with the ELMO teams to support student learning.



Did you know that ELMO is short for Elementary Montessori?
We have five lower ELMO classes and three upper ELMO classes.





Miss Jackie, ELMO456 Teacher (left)

This is Miss Jackie's first year at Parkside Montessori. This summer she went camping, visited the Okanagan, and lots of trail running. She loves the colour green, flowers, being in nature, trail running, Starbucks and eating lots of treats.

Miss Jackie is looking forward to lots of learning both for her and her students this year. Kindness is very important to her.

Miss Stefanie, ELMO456 Teacher (right)

Miss Stefanie had a great summer that included a trip to New York City! She loves reading while her daughter plays at the park by her house. She also loves learning about new technology and shopping.

Miss Stefanie is looking forward to being in the same hallway as the other Upper ELMO students and teachers this year. She loves to make learning fun, new, and interesting for her students each year.



Miss Desiree, ELMO456 Teacher (left)

This summer Miss Desiree spent lots of time with her family. They travelled to Lesser Slave Lake, Drumheller and Prince George. A highlight of her summer was attending a Shakespeare festival.

Miss Desiree loves all things Disney, Lego, board games, and Halloween. She also loves to travel and enjoys talking about and planning trips. Ask her about where she's planning on going to next!



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