



Parkside Montessori Principal's Newsletter for November 2019



Dear Parkside Montessori Families,

Welcome to November and the month of giving thanks! At Parkside, the big event of the month is a week and a half of minimum days for Parent/Teacher Conferences on November 18th - November 26th. Immediately following the minimum days is our three day Thanksgiving Break, November 27th-29th.

As I reflect on my short time here at Parkside, I am grateful for our strong family community and the “above and beyond” dedication of all staff on Team Parkside. I believe in the power of a unified adult community, and I know that nothing unites us more than a shared vision and a commitment to nurturing the health of our adult community.

I encourage all of us to go out of our way this month to share gratitude and thanks for all things big and small that we see families and staff doing to support our students. We will carry this unifying theme through the remainder of this year as we grapple with important questions about the significant work ahead for Parkside to build out our middle school, while continuing to strengthen our Pre-K to 5th grade program.

Read on for important events happening in November and a few reminders to help make our school an even better place for all students, staff and families!

Parkside's November Calendar at a Glance

Coffee Chat with the Principal is on Wednesday (11/6) from 8:30-9:30a in the LGI. Come hear some updates from me and share your questions, thoughts and feedback on how we can continue striving to make Parkside the best school it can be.

No School for Veterans Day on Monday 11/11.

Student Drama Performance on Thursday 11/14 from 3:30p until ~4:15p in the LGI. The students that have participated in Parkside's theater enrichment will perform *The Secret Life of Pets 2*.

Parkside Montessori Presentation at the School Board Meeting on Thursday 11/14, Board meeting begins at 6:30p and Parkside's presentation timing will be per the Agenda that will be posted [HERE](#) by 11/12. Parkside leadership will be presenting to the School Board about our School Site Plan and/or plans for expanding to middle school.

Minimum Days for Parent/Teacher Conferences starts on Monday 11/18 through Tuesday 11/26. Your teacher should have shared their sign-ups for these conferences. If you have any questions, please see your teacher. Please plan accordingly for these seven straight minimum days, dismissal will follow our normal Wednesday minimum day dismissal schedule.

Parkside Family Art Night Fundraiser at Young Art at the Hillsdale Mall is on Friday, 11/15 from 5:30-7p. Parents and children will each have the chance to make a piece of art to take home during this family art class. More information on reserving a spot, payment of participant fee of \$15/person and class details will be included on a flyer coming home this Thursday. A portion of proceeds will go to our PTA to support Parkside students.

4th Grade Parent Meeting on Tuesday, 11/19 from 6:30-8:00p in room 16. This will be the kick-off meeting to discuss the opportunity for 4th grade families to become the first cohort of Parkside middle school students starting in the 2021-2022 school year. 4th grade parents, please save the date and look for a flyer coming home this Thursday.

School Site Council on Wednesday 11/20 from 4:30-5:30p in room 16. The Site Council is a group of parents, teachers and staff that work on developing Parkside's school site plan and allocating our district provided funds. These meetings are open to all families, staff and community members. This year the SSC will review our school safety plan, work on our parent handbook and review student performance data to help improve our school site plan. If you are interested in volunteering to work on Parkside's Safety Plan, please reach out to SSC Chair Shannon A.F at: Sladams77@gmail.com.

Parkside Fundraiser at Chipotle Restaurant on Wednesday 11/20 from 4-8pm - Flyer [HERE](#). Please note this is the Bay Meadows location. A portion of proceeds will go to our PTA to support Parkside students.

Thanksgiving Crafting Extravaganza with TK-1st graders on Tuesday 11/26. More details on volunteer needs and activities to come from the TK/K and K/1 teachers.

Stone Soup Celebration with 2nd-5th graders on Tuesday 11/26 from ~10:30a-12:15p. More details on volunteer opportunities on both Monday, 11/25 in classes and Tuesday, 11/26 to set up in the LGI to come from the 2nd-5th grade teachers.

No School for Thanksgiving Holiday on Wednesday 11/27-Friday 11/29.

* For the latest and greatest on all things Parkside events, bookmark the [Parkside PTA Calendar](#).

Reminders

Please enjoy your Halloween Candy at home. Please note that Parkside is a no candy school.

Please leave all toys and sports equipment at home. At Parkside we strive to provide our students with all of the learning materials and sports equipment that they need. We ask that you please ensure students leave all toys and ball/sports equipment at home.

Please drive safely at all times, and especially on or around campus. Illegal u-turns and driving down the wrong side of the street are dangerous and a poor example for our students. Thank you for prioritizing student safety by driving carefully at all times.

Please park responsibly around campus. Be considerate of fellow parents and of our neighbors by not double parking and not parking in drive-ways. When possible, please park your car to maximize the number of cars that can park in front of or behind you. Thank you for your consideration.

Student bathrooms are for students only. Please note the LGI bathrooms are students only. Some parents are entering these bathrooms before school, and this is a safety concern for our students. If you need to use the restroom or have a little one that needs your help - please use the bathroom inside the school across from room 16 or inside the office. Thank you for helping keeping all of our students safe!

Is your student late or out sick? Please bring in a note from your doctor or dentist. All schools track excused and unexcused absences and tardies. When you come in late or if your child misses school and you have a doctor's note - please bring a copy for Gladys in our front office. Gladys can also make copies of your original if you need to keep it.

We are still looking for a crossing guard! If you are interested in this PAID position or know anyone that is - please apply here: [Crossing Guard Application](#)

Going nut-free if you can - Because our 1st-5th graders eat lunch together, I am asking all families to try to go nut free if possible. It is not yet a school policy, but it does help improve the safety of all students. Families with allergies, please look for an invitation from me to discuss our student allergies and explore suggestions to help ensure the safety of all students.

Staff Appreciation is Every day! November provides us a great excuse to express our gratitude. Your uplifting words and acts of kindness can help lift staff spirits and let them know their good work is being noticed. :)

Updates

Parkside is planning to expand to middle school. As of October 24th, our Superintendent presented our school board with a plan to expand Parkside to become a Pre-K to 8th grade program. The plan is that our current 4th graders will have the opportunity to stay on for 6th grade and through middle school. Our timeline to launch a middle school is tight, but doable. I will be working with parent Rebecca M. to help organize and launch a middle school design team to help us explore our expansion options. My next steps include meeting with district staff related to the logistics of the expansion, meeting with 4th grade families to better understand their hopes for the middle school offerings, and hosting broader whole-school engagements. Look for invites coming soon for grade specific and all-school meetings related to Parkside's expansion to middle school.

Enrollment season is right around the corner! If you have an incoming TK or Kinder student, you can visit the district website [HERE](#) to review enrollment information. Informational meetings on TK/Kinder enrollment will be hosted by the district on Tuesday, Dec 3rd. New student priority registration & transfer lottery opens at 12:00p on Monday, January 13th. This registration window closes on Friday, January 31st at 4:00pm. Know of a family that is interested in attending Parkside Montessori? Please share this [informational flyer about our prospective parent meetings](#).

PE Newsletter new for this month! Ever wonder what is happening in PE? Please ask your child and now you can also find a written newsletter posted by Mr. Morrison by the equipment shed located in our main yard.

We need volunteer help at lunch! Parkside is looking for parent activity leaders to join our team at lunch to provide our 1st-5th grade students with engaging and fun activities. You can referee a basketball game, lead a hula-hoop clinic, or do arts and crafts with our students. We have supervisors, so your role is more focused on doing fun activities with the students. One of our parents Natalie P. is helping coordinate lunch time parent activity leaders. If you are interested, please email her at: npetrini26@gmail.com.

4th graders are free at National Parks. The "Every Kid Outdoor" program provides free entry to National Parks for 4th graders. Passes, which must be downloaded and printed prior to arrival at parks, are available at the website. <https://everykidoutdoors.gov/index.htm>

We want your feedback on how things are going! The staff and I are eager to partner with you to make Parkside the best Montessori school in the Bay Area! We always want to hear your feedback on what is working and what can improve. Please contact your teacher directly with questions about your classroom and feel free to call the school or email me with your technical questions, schoolwide concerns or feedback for improvement (ntahai@smfc.k12.ca.us).

Thank you for supporting Parkside!

In Partnership,

Nima Tahai

Parkside Montessori Principal