



Parkside Montessori Principal's Newsletter for October 2019



Dear Parkside Montessori Families,

It is October and in case you haven't noticed, the fun doesn't stop here at Parkside Montessori! The start of school marked lots of transitions for our school community, and our veteran families and staff have stepped up to bring everyone else up to speed! As new faces are getting settled in, we have found a great rhythm and we are wrapping up our first eight weeks on a fantastic note. It is perfect timing that this week we celebrate our community with Spirit Week before we head off for a two week break. Read on for important events happening in October and a few reminders to help make our school an even better place for all students, staff and families!

Our October Calendar at a Glance

This entire week is Parkside Spirit Week! Monday was Sports day, Tuesday is Rainbow day, Wednesday is Crazy Socks day, Thursday is Pajama day and Friday is Parkside Spirit day!

Mindfulness Parent Education is on Tuesday (10/1) from 6:30-8:00p in the LGI. Come learn with and from Erin McCoy as she helps provide an overview of mindfulness and a few fun ways you can engage with the practice at home. Light dinner and child care for school aged children will be provided.

Coffee Chat with the Principal is on Wednesday (10/2) from 8:20-9:30a 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.

Fall Break is for two weeks from Monday 10/7 through Friday 10/18. We hope all families have a good break, keeping our students mentally engaged and physically fit - while sprinkling in lots of fun. For our 1st-5th grade families, please stay tuned for more information on how your child can use part of their break to prepare for Parkside's Historical Halloween!

School Site Council will meet on Wednesday 10/23 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.

5th Grade Parent Info Night has been MOVED to Wednesday 10/23 from 6-7:30p in room 16. Come to talk about middle school options, discuss the leadership opportunities you'd like for your 5th graders and discuss the possibility of a 5th grade overnight trip this year!

Superintendent update to the school board on the future of the Montessori program will happen at the School Board Meeting on Thursday 10/24, specific time TBD. School Board Meetings begin at 6:30p at the District Office (1170 Chess Drive, Foster City). Agendas for the School Board meeting can be found [HERE](#) 72 hours prior to the meeting.

- **Big thanks** to everyone that attended our meeting with Superintendent Rosas in September. She has asked me to pass along this [letter about the next steps and meeting on 10/24](#).

Green Team will be meeting at Parkside for a school clean up on Saturday 10/26 from 9a-12p. All families are welcome to join this volunteer opportunity.

PTA Meeting is on Tuesday 10/29 from 6:30-8:00p in the LGI. Light dinner and child care for school aged children will be provided.

Make-up Picture Day is on Wednesday 10/30. I reached out to AP visions to confirm that make up day is for students who were absent for the first picture day and for students who would like to retake their photo. Should you be interested in a retake please contact APVisions Photography by Tues, Oct. 29th to get on the retake list. Have any other questions or concerns? Please contact APVisions directly. APVisions Photography, (925) 551-8037 www.apvisions.com

Parkside's Halloween Parade is on Thursday 10/31 at 8:30a. TK/K students are invited to dress in their Halloween costumes and 1st-5th graders will be celebrating historical Halloween by dressing up as a HISTORICAL PERSON. A historical person is a person living or dead, who made a difference or is making a difference in our world. So if your child wanted to be Steve Jobs, your child could dress up in a black turtleneck and jeans. Look for specific information coming home from your teachers regarding Halloween.

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

Reminders

Electronic Watches have become a recent distraction in our classrooms at school. Some of these watches have games on them and our little ones are having trouble staying focused or missing important interaction time on the yard. Please keep electronic watches at home and if they need to be at school, please make sure your child keeps the watch in their backpack.

Our lunch supervisors have noticed an uptick in students bringing candy and sharing food at school. Please note that Parkside is a no candy school, and that we have a food safety policy against students sharing their lunches. Please talk with your child about making sure candy stays home and that they do not share their lunches.

Student bathrooms are for students only. For the safety of our students, adults cannot enter a student bathroom, even if it is with their child. This is happening mostly in the mornings before school in the bathrooms connected to the LGI. ***Please note, if you need to enter the bathroom with your child, you are welcome to use the office bathroom or the bathroom across from room 16.*** I know that this is a change in our current practice, but for the safety of all children (and adults) we cannot have adults entering the student bathrooms.

Finger printing is necessary for all classroom volunteers that will be alone with children or joining a class on a field trip. For most class volunteers, your time is spent in the room with the teacher present and finger printing is not yet necessary for this level of support. If you do watch children outside of the classroom (in the courtyard or at a table outside) then you should be fingerprinted. When in doubt, feel free to email me to ask.

Responsible social media is a topic I am just beginning to explore in our district. If you take a picture of your child's classmates on a field trip or social event at Parkside, please make sure to ask the child's parent for their permission before posting on social media. When in doubt, crop them out :)

Communication about Parkside will come to you in a variety of ways. I will send out principal newsletters like this in email, you will receive your Thursday folders, occasionally you will receive stand-alone letters or materials sent home and you should be receiving the weekly PTA newsletters if you registered online (email president@parksiddepta.com to be added if you are not receiving the PTA newsletters).

Classroom newsletters will be coming home this week! Per feedback from families, this year every Parkside classroom has committed to do a monthly newsletter. Please let your teacher know what you are finding helpful in their newsletter and if there is any other information you'd like to see included!

Teacher Appreciation is Every day! Parkside is lucky to have an amazing staff of dedicated and hard-working professionals. I invite you to go out of your way to appreciate your teacher and go the extra mile to extend compassion and support to all staff.

Updates

We would love more adults on our yard at lunch! Our lunch supervisors would love to team up with volunteer parents to bring some extra joy (and supervision) to our yard at lunch time on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 12:20-1:10p. Love four square? Come play with the kids and help them with sportsmanship! Love basketball? Grab a whistle and referee the 4th vs. 5th graders game? Want to set up a bubble station like we had a Walk-A-Jog? The kids would love more activities and it is a guaranteed good time. Call the school if you are interested and Mrs. Uale can help get you trained up to join us! This is a volunteer position and counts towards your annual volunteer commitment.

Your child's state test scores for last year's 3rd, 4th and 5th graders are not available to you online. Please [read this letter](#) that will walk you through accessing your child's SBAC scores. SBAC stands for the [Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium](#) and is the common core aligned state assessment. Please note that this is the first year that the state has transitioned to reporting these results online and school sites are learning along with parents how to best disseminate this information.

We had our first safety drill of the year today (10/1) and it went very well! Students practiced a classroom earthquake drill and evacuation fire drill. I was pleased with how quickly the school exited the building and how aware, focused and patient students were during the process.

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](#)

We are currently looking for a 2 hour teacher aide position! Our PTA helps fund these para-educator positions to help at least 1 hour a day in every classroom. If you are interested in this PAID position or know anyone that is - please apply here: [2hr/day Para Educator Application](#)

We are not nut free, but close - 10 of the classrooms at Parkside are already nut free due to students in those rooms with severe nut allergies. I will continue to do research on this topic and share updates. Because our 1st-5th graders all eat lunch together at the same time, I am asking all families to try to go nut free if possible. It is not yet a school policy, but we are trending in that direction. I will provide formal opportunities for staff and parent feedback on this topic before we make any formal policy

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). I believe in a strong partnership between staff and families.

Thank you for supporting Parkside!

In Partnership,
Nima Tahai

Parkside Montessori Principal