

Fireside Focus

Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors

The Week Ahead ~ December 10 to December 17

Upcoming Events at a Glance

Date	Time	Event
Friday, December 10		Junior A Basketball Tournaments
Monday, December 13	7:00 pm	Friends of Fireside Meeting meet.google.com/yzb-pgbm-zvh
Monday, December 13		Red, Green, White & Blue Day: Wear your festive colours and accessories!
Wednesday, December 15		Tacky Sweater Day
Friday, December 17		Pajama Day
Friday, December 17		Last Day to Request Changes for Grade 7/8 Options in Term 2
Friday, December 17		Last day of school before Winter Break
Monday, January 3		First day back to school after Winter Break
Friday, January 7		Next Healthy Hunger Day
Friday, January 14		Junior A Basketball Tournament
Friday, January 21		Junior A Basketball Tournament

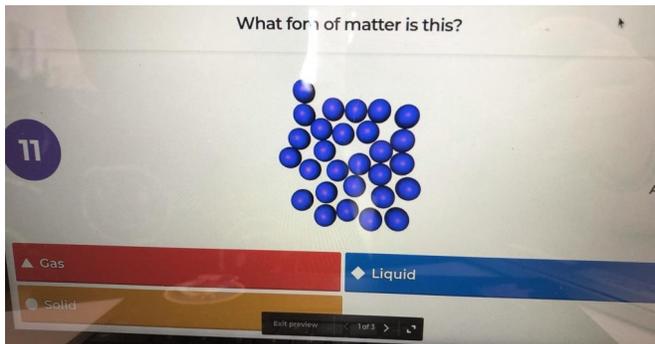
Hello, families and friends of Fireside! With winter break just one week away, the energy in the building is definitely humming.

Classes have been celebrating and learning about a variety of cultural traditions observed around this time of year, including Christmas (across different cultures), Hanukkah, Diwali, Kwanzaa and a number of New Year traditions.

Congratulations to Mrs. MacKay's grade 3/4 class: they collected the most items for the Food Drive this year. Thank you to all classes for their efforts in helping fill the Cochrane Activettes's requests.

Fireside has once again made an enormous impact on the lives of Cochranites for the coming holidays and well into the new year.

Grade 7 and 8 students began new options this week. In other grades during ELA, students have been viewing short films, writing letters to Santa from the point of view of a literary villain, completing film studies, and engaging in final discussions and reflections for their book club reads. For the Home Reading Challenge in Mrs. Lawrence's grade 5 class this month, the goal was 5,000 minutes: the class read for over 13,000 minutes last month -- Amazing! And in



grade 7 science, students were completing choice homework boards to show their learning as an assessment review; some students chose Kahoots to test their and their peers' knowledge. Do you know this answer?

Our Boys and Girls Basketball teams are playing in tournaments today: the Boys are on their way to Beiseker for their tournament, and the Girls are hosting here at Fireside, playing against Indus and Banded Peak. We look

forward to sharing the results with you next week. Go Hawks!!!

As this week comes to a close, we wish everyone a cozy and lovely weekend!

NEW: Community Volunteering to Return in the New Year

Fireside is thrilled to announce that parent and community volunteering will be making a comeback in the new year. Early next week a link to an online form will be sent out for prospective volunteers to indicate their availability and preferred activities. Volunteers will be required to have completed a vulnerable sector check and to show proof of double vaccination. We're looking forward to seeing adults back in our school and engaging in a variety of supportive activities. Please note this request does not replace those being made by individual teachers for support. Families are encouraged to continue responding to those requests with your very appreciated support.

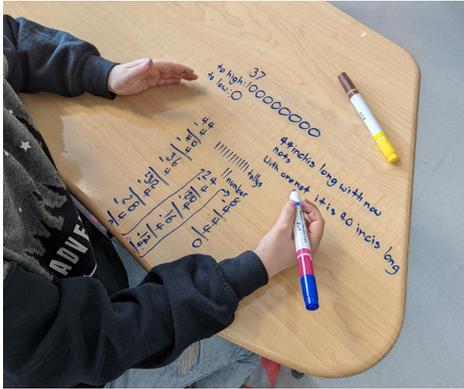
NEW: Winter Spirit Days Next Week

As a whole school, Fireside will be participating in Spirit Days on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday next week. It has been so much fun watching the class spirit activities and dress up days that have been happening, we thought we would have some fun Spirit Days all together as a whole learning community. Here is the info:

Monday: Red/Green/Blue/White Day - Dress or adorn yourselves in winter celebration colours

Wednesday: Tacky Sweater Day

Friday: Pajama Day



NEW: Grade 4 This Week

Classes in grade 4 this week have been decorating the halls with fun seasonal and holiday decorations. They have been working on using various division strategies during our Number Talks, and they started exploring with flashlights in our Light and Shadow unit. As with many of us here at Fireside, they have also found some time to enjoy some fun in the snow!



NEW: Kindergarten Identity Panels

Ms. Humphrys's class is proud to show off their identity panels, celebrating individuality and uniqueness. Their self-portraits provide a special glimpse into the unique individuals in that Kinder class. This amazing board reminds us all that each child has their own strengths, successes, and accomplishments. Additionally, it illustrates how they come together as a true classroom community. It is the hope that they will continue to grow, as they soar to new heights and succeed as a community and as individuals.



[Allergies ~ Fireside School is Scent-aware and Nut-aware](#)

Some students and staff at Fireside School have nut or fragrance allergies. Therefore, Fireside is a nut-aware and scent-aware school. Please do not send items with nuts to school with students. We also ask that students refrain from wearing perfume, cologne, or other strongly scented products or sprays to school. Additionally, students should not bring perfume, cologne, or body spray products (e.g. Axe) to school with them, please. The same is true for parents, families, volunteers, or visiting teams entering the school for meetings, conferences, presentations, or tournaments. Thank you for your attention to and respect of these health concerns: we want to keep everyone safe at Fireside!

[Friends of Fireside](#)

All orders for the snack bag fundraiser were sent home last Friday. Please let us know if you haven't received it. Thanks for all your support!

Casino Nights! We are still looking for evening shift volunteers for our March casino nights! Shifts are either 7:00pm to 3:30am or 11:00pm to 3:30am both Sunday March 20th and Monday March 21st.

Please sign up on our google form. <https://forms.gle/Zas1m2uGg2nspwka9>

A **BIG** thank you to everyone who has already signed up! We appreciate it so much!

Exciting news! FOFS now has a website! Keep tabs on what FOFS is up to directly on our site! You can also sign up for casino volunteering there as well - <https://friendsoffireside.ca/>

The next Friends of Fireside meeting will take place on Monday, December 13, at 7:00 p.m.; the first meeting of the new year will be on Monday, January 17, 2022. New attendees are welcome. You can join our meeting in GoogleMeet: <meet.google.com/yzb-pgbm-zvh>. Hope to see you there!

Thanks as always for all your support!

[Winter Break and Travel](#)

As Winter Break approaches and travel plans are being made, we wanted to ensure families are aware of current federal requirements for travel. For families considering travelling outside of Canada, please be aware that under Federal travel requirements, unvaccinated children under 12 (including those who have had their first of two vaccine doses) are not to return to school for 14 days once they return to Canada. Please see the full requirements outlined by the Government of Canada: https://www.rockyview.ab.ca/school_2021/travelling-and-return-to-school

[Fireside School Nutrition Program Update](#)

Fireside's School Nutrition Program has had some changes that we wish to bring to your attention. However, what is still the same is that food is available for students who've forgotten their lunch or snacks or for those who need school to supply a lunch (no questions asked).

For lunch: students are able to access a brown bag lunch during the lunch hour from the Servedy, which is located beside the gym, just off the Learning Commons. Ms. Michaud is there to help students get lunch at that time. Healthy snacks and fruit will still be available in the main office, the Roost, Learning Support classrooms, and CDA offices.

Lunch Bell Time Revision

Please note that we have made a minor adjustment to our lunch schedule. Lunch times for each grade now operate as follows:

11:35-11:55 – Lunch for grades 5-8 (grades 1-4 recess)

11:55-12:15 – Lunch for grades 1-4 (grades 5-8 recess)

Fireside School is a closed campus and, as such, students may not leave the premises unless we have confirmation that they are going home every day for lunch. If you have not done so already, confirmation can be completed by emailing the office or a student's homeroom teacher to indicate that permission to leave for lunch time each day is confirmed. When students are going home for lunch, they return to school at 12:15 p.m. for afternoon classes.

