

# ***FIRESIDE FOCUS***



## Fireside Focus – May 3

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### ***Upcoming Dates***

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- Monday, May 6 – School Bus Driver Appreciation Day
- Wednesday, May 8 – Hats On! for Mental Health Day (see below)
- Wednesday, May 8 – School Council (6:30 to 7:30 pm) & Friends of Fireside (7:30 to 8:30 pm) Meetings

- Thursday, May 16 – Pajama Day! (see below)
- Friday, May 17 – Professional Learning day (no classes)
- Monday, May 20 – Victoria Day (no classes)
- Wednesday, May 29 – Family Colours Day: Wear your Fireside Family's colour! (see below)

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*From the Admin Desk*

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Hello Fireside Families & Friends,

Although it was a short week in number of school days, it was still a very full week! Track & Field practices were running each day, as students are getting ready for hurdles, sprints, running events, discus, shot put, long jump, and high jump. These areas of athleticism are also a growing focus in Gym classes right now. Today, a few Grade 8 students were helping Grade 1s learn about some of the events, including shot put, where the Grade 1s used a beanbag to mimic the event.

We were so happy to welcome students and families into the school on Wednesday and Thursday for our Celebration of Learning Conferences. Students proudly shared their learning with parents and caregivers, the Scholastic Book Fair was a huge hit, and the band showcased its learning process for new songs so everyone got a chance to "attend" a mock band class of sorts with Mr. P to see how it goes.



1 - Celebration of Learning Conferences







*2 - Grade 8s project work this week!*

We have lots of field trips coming up for each grade in the next several weeks and into the end of the school year. Some reminders about checking School Cash for upcoming field trips for your kids. If there are any questions about upcoming field trips, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's Homeroom Teacher or to the school. On the days when students will be outside for activities, please be sure they put sunscreen on prior to leaving home, have water and snacks/lunch, and have appropriate clothing and gear for whatever weather might be in store.





We are already well into the registration process for the next school year (2024-25). If for any reason you are leaving Fireside to attend another school, can you please help us to know that? Please email our school ([fireside@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:fireside@rockyview.ab.ca)) or give us a call. We are also happy to help you to know the transfer process if you're going to another RVS school.

Also a reminder that our May School Council and Friends of Fireside meetings will occur next Wednesday, May 8; School Council will start at 6:30 pm, with the Friends of Fireside meeting to follow at 7:30 pm. All are welcome, so please come to join us if you're able to do so.

Wishing everyone an excellent weekend!

Dave Banderk (Principal; [dbanderk@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:dbanderk@rockyview.ab.ca))

Tara Sly (Assistant Principal, Grades K-4; [tsly@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:tsly@rockyview.ab.ca))

Jason Ness (Assistant Principal, Grades 5-8; [jness@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:jness@rockyview.ab.ca))

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### *Hats ON for Mental Health Day: May 8*

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On Wednesday, May 8, all Albertans are invited to wear a hat to highlight the importance of mental health and well-being. This day was originally created in 2018 in Alberta, and each year it is celebrated on the first Wednesday in May during Canadian Mental Health Week. At Fireside School, we participate as a school to show our support for positive mental health and well-being for everyone.

As a school on Friday, May 10, students will engage in a variety of activity centres around positive mental well-being with their Fireside Family buddies. Stepping Stones for Mental Health (RVS) has assisted us with these activities, and our Child Development Advisors and Student Leadership groups have also been key in helping to organize information and activities that look at how to have and support positive mental health and how to promote its importance moving forward. Thank you to everyone who had a hand in creating this experience for students and staff!

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### *Upcoming Spirit Days: May 8, May 16, and May 29*

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We are excited to share with you our May Spirit Days:

**Wednesday, May 8 is Hat's On For Mental Health Day:** students and staff are invited to wear any type of hat (that is school and learning appropriate) to help raise awareness for the importance of positive mental health. At Fireside School, we participate in this day to show our support for positive mental health and well-being for everyone.

**Thursday, May 16 is PJ Day:** Whether you are spending your May long weekend sleeping in, camping, or playing games, we know you're excited to wear your PJ's all day long, so why not start early?

**Wednesday, May 29 is Family Colours Day:** send your Fireside Family off in style at our Last SOAR Assembly of the year by wearing your family colour from head to toe (or try for at least 2 different articles of clothing)! Here is the colour information for Fireside Family Colours: Meadow - Yellow, Valley - Orange, Forest - Green, River - Blue, Mountain - Purple.

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### *Reminder: Teacher Communication*

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We appreciate all the families who attended our recent Celebration of Learning Conferences this week. Communication between school and home about your child's growth and success is very important. If you were unable to attend and had questions for your child's teacher, please reach out with an email or phone call.

However, please bear in mind that under normal circumstances, teachers will respond to emails within 24 hours on school days (not after 6 p.m.) or by the end of the following workday if received on the weekend/holiday. Across all of RVS, we do not expect school staff/teachers to read or respond to emails after 6pm on school days or on weekends/holidays.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

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### *School Bus Safety Information*

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We have any field trips coming up in the next few weeks, so we thought we would re-share some important safety information about boarding and riding a school bus. Please take a few moments to review it at home, and we are also doing so at school in advance of field trips.

#### **Some important safety reminders for riding a school bus:**

- wait back from the edge of the sidewalk (e.g. on the grass) until the bus stops.
- always listen to the bus driver and instructions they are giving at any time.
- use handrails getting on and off the bus and secure items such as backpacks appropriately.
- sit down in the assigned seat as quickly as possible (for the school bus to school/home: riders must follow the assigned seating plan unless otherwise directed).
- stay seated (e.g. back to the back of the seat) and face forward during the ride.



- do not walk around or switch seats inside the bus while it's moving.
- keep the aisles clear.
- keep head, hands, and arms inside the bus (and not out the windows).
- wait until the bus comes to a full stop **before** standing up to exit. Exit row by row without pushing, please.
- talk quietly; do not shout or scream on the bus so the driver can concentrate.
- be courteous and kind to other people riding the bus.
- use appropriate language at all times for everyone on the bus.
- report any incidents or concerns to the driver or a staff member.

[The Alberta Government](#) provides additional information for Albertans on school bus safety, including information on going to the bus stop and pedestrian safety rules, waiting at the bus stop, and getting on the school bus for those who ride it to/from school.

[Rocky View Schools](#) also has a video about riding the school bus for students and families, including some important reminders for getting on and off safely as well.