

# **FIRESIDE FOCUS**



## Fireside Focus – January 17

### **In this edition...**

Upcoming Dates

From the Admin Desk

Raffle Prize Donations Needed! (Friends of Fireside)

Reminder: Read-a-thon Book Swap Donations

Reminder: Volunteer Opportunities

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### *Upcoming Dates*

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- [School Website Calendar](#)
- Monday, Jan 20 - Grade 5 - Pedersen & Fuller - Hangar Flight Museum Field Trip
- Tuesday, Jan 21 - Grade 5 - McCormick & Lawrence - Hangar Flight Museum Field Trip
- Friday, Jan 24 - Junior 'A' Basketball Tournament (Boys @ Windsong, Girls @ Bearspaw)

- Monday, Feb 3 - [Kindergarten Registration](#) for 2025-26 School Year Opens
- Wednesday, Feb 5 - Kindergarten Information Session (parents only) 5:00 - 5:30 pm + Q&A
- Wednesday, Feb 5 - School Council (6:30 pm) and Friends of Fireside (7:30 pm) Meetings
- Wednesday, Feb 12 - [Healthy Hunger](#) (Booster Juice)
- Monday, Feb 17 to Friday, Feb 21 - No Classes (Family Day, February Break, Teachers' Convention)

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*From the Admin Desk*

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Hello Fireside Friends and Families,

What a lovely week we've had in terms of weather! Recesses, broom ball games on the outdoor rink in gym, outdoor explorations in science and health, and community walks to "The Forest" have all been very pleasant thanks to the milder temperatures. We're also just beginning to notice the morning twilight coming a touch earlier each day as students filter into the school at first bell. Even so, the moonlight was still bright on the horizon with Mrs. Hamilton's morning gym class on Wednesday, as they enjoyed some play on the outdoor rink.



On a more serious note, we've had some challenges in the staff parking lot during pick up & drop off times recently. First, there is a small school bus that uses this lot to pick up and drop off students. Our school is the first stop on that bus's route in the afternoon, and it has been held up by cars in the parking lot several times. We ask that priority is given to the this bus at all times. Additionally, there have been a few reported near misses of students almost being hit by

cars that are either in, or in front of, the parking lot. This has been particularly a bigger issue when it's dark in the mornings and pedestrians are harder to see.

While we recognize the lot can act as a convenient point for drop off and pick up, that is not its intended use, and safety becomes a concern when there is too much traffic in and out of the lot. We would like to remind families to please use other locations along the streets and the Kiss-and-Go lane for pick up and drop off. Please use marked crosswalks to navigate from one side of the street to the other, and do not walk between buses, even if they are parked and loading students.

Admin will be checking the parking lot more frequently to ensure that the bus is able to enter and exit on time, as well as ensuring students and families are able to navigate their way to school safely in and around this area. We very much appreciate your cooperation and care with this matter.



Lastly, we'd like to mention that Kindergarten registration for the 2025-26 school year is just around the corner, on February 3rd, 2025. If you have children (or know any friends/family with children) who will be 5 years old before December 31st, 2025, please note that they are eligible to register for Kindergarten in September! We will be hosting an information session about our Kinder program on Wednesday, February 5th at 5:00pm. All parents/caregivers with potential Kinder students next year are invited to attend.

Have a great weekend!

Dave Banderk (Principal)

Kirsty Reade (Assistant Principal, K-4)

Jason Ness (Assistant Principal, 5-8)

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*Raffle Prize Donations Needed! (Friends of Fireside)*

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The Friends of Fireside are gearing up for the 5th annual March Madness Prize Calendar fundraiser to support Fireside School! The funds raised will go toward new classroom resources and improvements in outdoor space.

In previous years the funds have gone to support a rock climbing wall, cameras for photography classes, equipment for recreational leadership classes, lights and speakers to support the school concerts, help with the outdoor learning centre and so much more.

If you own a local business (or know someone who does), we'd love your support with a prize or gift certificate for the raffle. Your donation (minimum \$20 value) will help us reach our goals and give your business visibility in our promotional materials and social media on our Friends of Fireside platform.

Please contact us at [president@friendsoffireside.ca](mailto:president@friendsoffireside.ca) if you're interested in donating one or more prizes for raffle. All prizes are needed by January 31st.

Thanks for helping make a difference in our school community!

Cheers,

Friends of Fireside

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*Reminder: Read-a-Thon Book Swap Donations*

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As part of our annual read-a-thon and celebration of all things reading, Fireside school will be having our first ever book swap for our Grade 5-8 students. These students will have the opportunity to get a free, "gently used" book. From **January 13th** to **February 5th**, students are

encouraged to bring in “gently used” chapter books, graphic novels/manga, and non-fiction books that are appropriate for students in grades 5-8. Donations can all be dropped off at the Learning Commons. All books donated will be reviewed by Fireside staff

**Book Criteria - Please read carefully prior to donating, as we cannot accept books that do not fit criteria:**

1. Books must be paperback or hardback and appropriate for grades 5-8
2. Books must be in gently used condition (cover on, no rips, tears, missing pages, water damage, etc.
3. Please use black marker to cross names out

**We will NOT be able to accept the following:**

- story books for younger children
- novels for high school students/adults
- Books with coloring or writing
- Coloring books, activity books, and sticker books
- Books from Fast Food restaurants (ex. Happy Meal Books)

Please note that the selection of books available will be based on what books are donated. If you have any questions, please contact Leslie Hall ([lahall@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:lahall@rockyview.ab.ca)) or Erik Lofthouse ([elofthouse@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:elofthouse@rockyview.ab.ca)).

There is a special kind of joy in opening a book for the first time and uncovering the story within, and we hope this book swap will give our older students an opportunity to experience that feeling once again!

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*Reminder: Volunteer Opportunities*

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- Our read-a-thon committee is looking for some volunteers to help with the Grade 5-8 book swap that will be happening February 7th. Volunteers would be helping with cleaning and organizing the books after each class comes through, helping kids look for books, and assisting with the clean-up at the end of the day. If you are able to spare an hour to help out, please use the sign up:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4FAFAF29A5FDC43-54311966-fireside>
- We are always excited to have parent volunteers in to read with our students. If you are interested in finding a time once a week, once a month, or anything in between, please contact Leslie Hall ([lahall@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:lahall@rockyview.ab.ca)), or your classroom teacher, and together we will ensure to have you connected with our students through literature!

### **Contact Us!**

Fireside School

403.932.4868

[fireside@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:fireside@rockyview.ab.ca)

<http://fireside.rockyview.ab.ca>