

FIRESIDE FOCUS



Fireside Focus – January 31

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Upcoming Dates

- [School Website Calendar](#)
- 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 5 to Friday, Feb 14 - Fireside's 4th Annual Read-A-Thon (details coming from teachers)
- Thursday, Feb 6 - Immunizations for Students with Signed Consents
- Friday, Feb 14 - Valentine's Day
- Friday, Feb 14 - Lost and Found Items to be Donated to Cochrane Activettes
- Wednesday, Feb 12 - [Healthy Hunger](#) (Booster Juice)
- Monday, Feb 17 to Friday, Feb 21 - No Classes (Family Day, February Break, Teachers' Convention)

From the Admin Desk

Hello Fireside Friends and Families,

Thursday marked the half-way point in our school year. That's almost as hard to believe as the weather was this week. We're glad we got to enjoy it while it lasted because it looks like it's going to turn south right away. Double check that those winter clothes are available on Monday morning. Speaking of clothes, please find some time in the next week or two to check out our Lost and Found racks. Anything left in them will be donated before the winter break (Feb 15-23).

A highlight this week was our staff "Undercover Spirit Days." The staff had the students really scratching their heads over the unusual coincidences in staff attire and behaviour. It started with an attire "blackout" on Monday (we all wore black), Everything-But-A-Mug on Tuesday (staff using odd vessels for their coffee & water), Fireside Swag Day on Thursday, Tacky Tourist Day on Thursday, and "80s Family Photo" (jeans & white shirts) Day on Friday.

Grade 2 Iqaluit Day, Grade 6 Invent-an-Alien exhibitions, an Outdoor Ed field trip to Banded Peak, and a Grade 5 nature study at the "Big Pond" were some other highlights of the week.

The 4th Annual Fireside Read-A-Thon is right around the corner, starting next Wednesday. Detailed information from teachers will come home next week. There will be a few significant changes from years past. Our focus will be on reading rather than donations. We've had some great success with fundraising in past years, helping us to stock our shelves. This year, it will be

all about the reading. Secondly, tracking will only involve at-home minutes. School reading will still be a part of the spirit of Read-A-Thon, but our main hope is to cultivate a love for reading outside the classroom as well. There will still be a great selection of prizes this year for top readers and classes!

Our Junior A Basketball teams are off to Seven Chiefs Sports Complex for Divisional Championships. Both teams are hopeful they'll bring home some "hardware" this year so we'll wish them all the best in their efforts.



1 - Grade 2 Iqaluit Day

Wishing you all an excellent weekend. Stay warm out there!

Dave Banderk (Principal)

Kirsty Reade (Assistant Principal, K-4)

Jason Ness (Assistant Principal, 5-8)







2 - Mrs.Colling's class is bringing home recorders!





3 - Undercover Spirit Week









4 - Outdoor Ed Trip to Banded Peak School









5 - Gymnastics!



6 - Goblin Make-Up in Drama Class



7 - Alien Invention Exhibition

Real-Time Bus Tracking (New App)

RVS is excited to be transitioning to a new tool, WheresTheBus, to provide parents/guardians and schools with timely arrival and location information for our fleet of contracted buses. WheresTheBus is free, secure and easy to use. This tool uses GPS and tablets installed on school buses to track and report the real-time location of the bus and estimated arrival times, allowing you to check where the bus is and see when the bus arrives at your child's stop and at school. It is free and you may opt-out of the program at any time.

Please note, due to bus shortages and route substitutions, there may be occasions where tracking on your bus is not up-to-date. RVS is working with our contractors to ensure the accuracy of our WheresTheBus data.

WheresTheBus will replace the current Bus Status App, which will no longer be available effective March 6, 2025.

To create your account, you will need your student's PowerSchool number, which can be found on PowerSchool or by contacting your school. More information about WheresTheBus including how to create your account, use the app and frequently asked questions is available on the [RVS website](#).

For assistance with WheresTheBus, please submit a ticket through the [RVS Transportation Portal](#).

Reminder: Kindergarten Registration is Coming

Kindergarten registration for the 2025/26 school year will open for all schools in Rocky View Schools (RVS) on **February 3, 2025**.

Alberta's standardized age of Kindergarten entry requires students to turn five years old by Dec. 31 of the school year they begin Kindergarten. This means children born between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2020, can register for Kindergarten for the 2025/26 school year.

In RVS, Kindergarten is offered as a half-day program in most elementary schools. Select schools have a full-day Kindergarten program on alternating days. Later in the spring, children will be placed in morning or afternoon programs based on circumstances outlined by parents and available space. Although registration will continue throughout the year, registering early helps families and schools plan for a successful transition and provides RVS necessary information to have teachers and resources in place.

All new registrations for Kindergarten must be completed through SchoolEngage, RVS' online registration system. During operational hours, our school will have computer access, and can assist families, who otherwise do not have access to a computer.

Families can visit our RVS dedicated Kindergarten registration [webpage](#) for more information about Kindergarten registration too!

Reminder: Kindergarten Information Night for Caregivers

Do you have a child who is starting Kindergarten in September? Would like to know more about our school and our program? Then please join us Wednesday, February 5th from 5:00pm-6:00pm. We will have a variety of individuals available to answer any questions you may have about the Kindergarten program at Fireside School, and Rocky View School Division as a whole.

FIRESIDE SCHOOL
OPEN MINDS • OPEN HEARTS • OPEN DOORS

Kindergarten Information Session for Parents and Caregivers

Topics Include:

- Why is Kindergarten important?
- Program offerings at Fireside
- Transportation
- Learning Supports

Wednesday February 5th 5-6 pm
(30min presentation and tour followed by Q&A session)

Fireside School
12 Fireside Parkway
Cochrane, AB T4C2L8

Reminder: Read-a-Thon Book Swap Donations



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) or Erik Lofthouse (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!

Reminder: Volunteer Opportunities

- **February 7th:** We are seeking volunteers to help with our Grade 5-8 book swap. 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), 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

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