

FIRESIDE FOCUS



Fireside Focus – February 7

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Upcoming Dates

- [School Website Calendar](#)

- Wednesday, Feb 5 to Friday, Feb 14 - Fireside's 4th Annual Read-A-Thon (details coming from teachers)
- 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,

Often we walk the halls of our school and feel amazed that 920+ students are in the building. ALTHOUGH...when the weather turns cold and indoor recesses occur, it doesn't take long to see how many humans we have in the building. With that being said, we are amazed at how great our students do, ensuring to still take care in the halls as they are playing games, being respectful of the classroom materials as they play their hearts out, and how well students listen to the adults when it is time to transition back to more focused tasks, such as eating or learning. Thursday at lunch the weather turned and the kids were so excited to get back outside and enjoy the snow, and our teachers were so happy that we could all get some fresh air!

We hosted our first Kindergarten event for new students coming to Fireside in September 2025, on Wednesday. It was a great initial turn out where families could tour the school and get the first sense of our Fireside community. It is so fun watching the anticipation, fear, and curiosity in the faces of our new families.

We have received great feedback with the photo journeys we have been taking you on as of late, so this week it will continue. Our read-a-thon took off with a whole school reading chain on Monday. There are so many opportunities set up for the next two weeks that continue to foster the love of reading in our building, such as "Camp-read-a-lot". On Friday we held our first ever book swap, focused on the Grade 5-8 students. Our Junior 'A' basketball teams were off to the division finals. Both teams played their hearts out, showed their sportsmanship, and their love of the game. The girls even came home sporting a silver medal! We are proud of both teams and cannot thank the coaches enough for their time and dedication. Today, the teams got to play against our teachers and we all had a blast celebrating their season. Grade 4s had a cool opportunity to learn more about the night's sky with an in-school field trip to an astrodome. It

was a really fun way to bring the curriculum alive and teach the students about the plants, stars, constellations, and more!





1 - Students versus Teachers Basketball Game

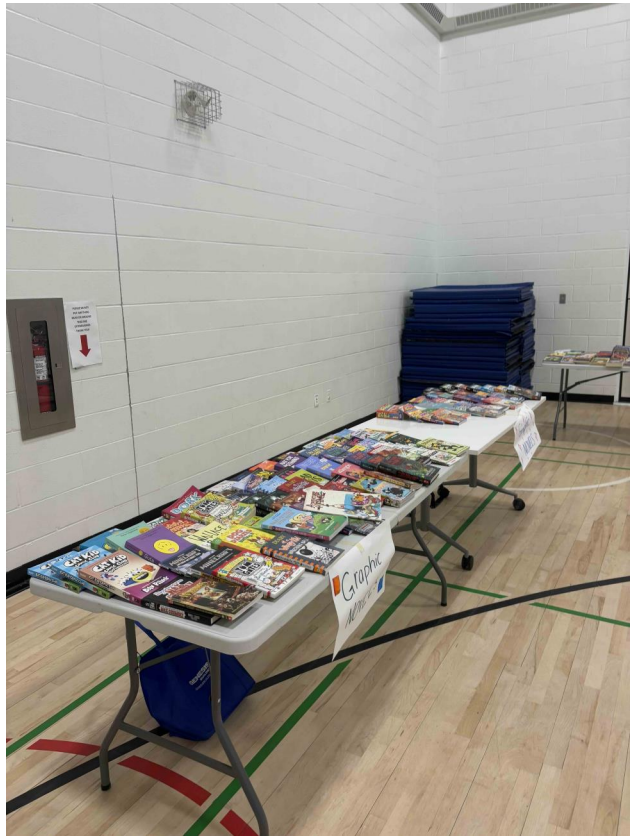




2 - Indoor Recess and Alternate Gym Days



3 - Book Swap



Finally, we want to ensure that we share with you the focus for February on the Positive Behaviour Matrix...Kindness! We talk about being kind, and explore ways to show kindness, daily. This month though, while continuing to encourage our students to be kind like we have been doing since September, we will be acknowledging their acts of kindness with SOAR tickets. At home, we encourage you to also continue to talk about kindness and continue to intentionally acknowledge your children when you see acts of kindness. Watching the kids faces light up when others notice their actions is really fun to see!

We hope you have a great weekend, and remember, one more week together before we will enjoy a week off for Family Day and Convention.

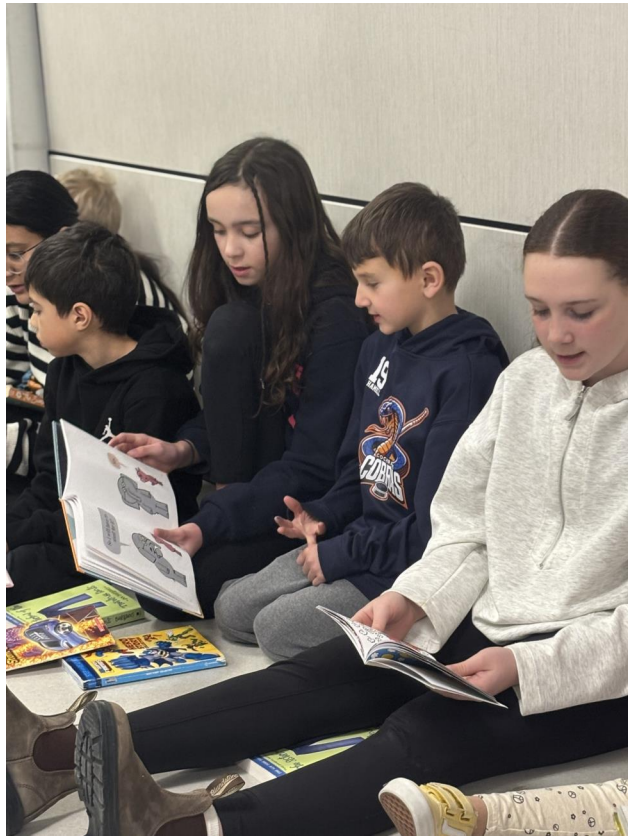
Dave Banderk (Principal)

Kirsty Reade (Assistant Principal, K-4)

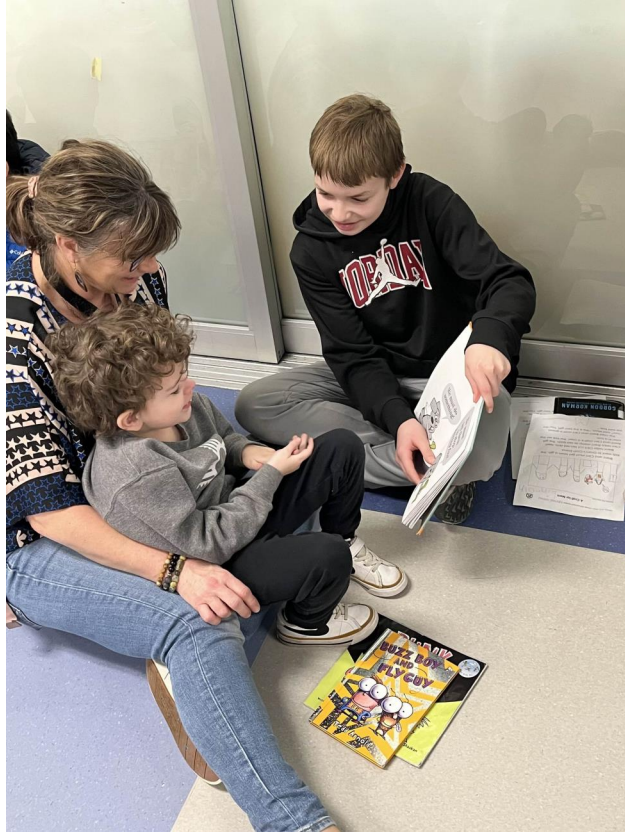
Jason Ness (Assistant Principal, 5-8)



4 - Read-a-thon Kick Off - Reading Chain









5 - Reading buddies hanging out in Camp-Read-a-Lot!







6 - Astrodome

Traffic Flow for Drop offs and Pick Ups



Anyone that has had the opportunity to drop their students off at school in the morning, or pick ups in the afternoon, knows the high levels of congestion that we experience, especially out in front of the school, and by the staff parking lot. We have a few asks to help ensure the safety of our students:

- Please use the kiss and drop lane. Lately many cars are stopping in front of the school to drop off, and the kiss and drop lane has availability. To keep the flow of traffic moving in front of the school, we ask that the kiss and drop lane is used appropriately and that people take a few extra minutes to pull in, have their students jump out and then continue out of the loop.
- As soon as cars are stopped out in front of the building, other cars try to go around the parked cars and no traffic can move from the other direction, causing massive backlogs, cars swerving and causing close calls for our students.
- Please do not pull into the bus lane for any drop offs during designated times. We had another bus added to our school and this area is too busy for cars stopping trying to make a "quick drop" before the buses pull in.
- The staff parking lot is not intended for student pick up and drop offs. There have been many close calls with the extra traffic trying to come and in and out of the parking, along with buses coming into the bus lanes to drop off students. We ask parents to try to avoid using the staff parking lot for pick up and drop offs, but if you do use it, do so with extreme caution. Slow down, keep a close eye for students crossing, and when attempting to enter or exit, ensure that buses and pedestrians are getting the right away.

- Finally, if you are parking, ensure you are leaving appropriate spacing at crosswalks. This allows families to have clear space to look both ways prior to proceeding across the road.

We truly appreciate everyone using patience and care during the busiest times of day. We know how frustrating it can be to be stuck in traffic, feeling like you are going to be late, but it is essential that safety comes first!

Student and Parent Handbook

We are happy to let you know that our [Student and Parent Handbook](#) has been on our website for a couple weeks. This handbook is meant to help families find answers for common wonders, know universal practices, and to know how to seek support for academic, social and/or emotional needs while attending Fireside School. Please take a look, and as always, reach out if you have any questions regarding the information within.

Lost and Found

Please take time to come and look at the lost and found next week. All items will be donated on Friday. We will set the tables up outside the gymnasium again, so all classes will get multiple times to look as they go in and out for gym class.

Read-a-Thon

Read A Thon is well under way! Here are some key dates for next week!

- Tuesday February 11th students are invited to dress like their favorite book character or author
- Wednesday February 12th we have author Lisa Bowes coming in to do presentations to grades K-4
- Thursday February 13th we have guest readers from the Fireside and RVS Community coming to our school
- Friday February 14th is Flashlight Friday! Wear your PJS, bring a flashlight and read in the dark!

Thanks for all of your support to help make Read A Thon successful!

Reminder: Real-Time Bus Tracking (New App)



WheresTheBus 4+

WheresTheBus Rider App

[WheresTheBus](#)

#164 in Education

★★★★★ 4.7 • 81 Ratings

Free

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 Open

Kindergarten registration for the 2025/26 school year is open for all schools in Rocky View Schools (RVS).

Children born between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2020, can register for Kindergarten for the 2025/26 school year.

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.

If you have any questions regarding Kindergarten at Fireside, please call the school and we will be sure to get you connected to our team!

UPDATED: Volunteer Opportunities

- **Healthy Hunger:** if you are able to help on Wednesday, organizing and handing out our Health Hunger fun lunch, your support would be greatly appreciated. Please contact our front office staff to let us know you can help, or email Courtney Sheppard at csheppard@rockyview.ab.ca
- Are you interested in volunteering in your child's classroom? We would love to have you! Please reach out to your individual teacher(s) and let them know of your interest, and our teacher's will get back to you with opportunities they have in the classroom!
- If you are interested in volunteering in the school, but would prefer not to be tied to a class that your student is in, or would prefer to not be in a classroom, we are extremely happy to connect with you and find an opportunity that would work best. Please contact Kirsty Reade (K-4 Assistant Principal) - kreade@rockyview.ab.ca - and she will be happy to find a good fit opportunity for you!

Contact Us!

Fireside School

403.932.4868

fireside@rockyview.ab.ca

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