

Fireside Focus

Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors

The Week Ahead ~ August 26th to September 2nd, 2023

Upcoming Events at a Glance

Date	Time	Event
Thursday, Sept 1 st	-----	Day 1 for Students with Last Names: A to J (Grades 1 to 8)
Thursday, Sept 1 st	-----	Kindergarten students, see below for entry information
Friday, Sept 2 nd	-----	Day 1 for Students with Last Names: K to Z (Grades 1 to 8)
Friday, Sept 2 nd	-----	Kindergarten students, see below for entry information
Monday, Sept 5 th	-----	Labour Day - No School
Tuesday, Sept 6 th	-----	All Students in School (all grades)
Thursday, Sept 8 th	4:00 - 6:00 pm	Fireside School Open House (see below)
Tuesday, Sept 13 th	-----	Grade 7 and 8 Options Begin

Welcome Back!!

We are so excited to welcome students back to Fireside School for another exciting school year, full of learning, curiosity, growth, and fun experiences. We're hoping everyone's summer has been an enjoyable one. We certainly had the weather for it! We are looking forward to greeting your children on their first day (even if they might be a bit reluctant for their summer to come to an end). Please note above which day your child should first arrive based on the first letter of their last name. If you are a kindergarten family, your teacher will contact you via email next week with your day 1 information. Please see below for additional details.

As in previous years, we will be sending out a weekly edition of *Fireside Focus* every Friday. Each week, we hope you will take some time to read about the exciting and inspiring things happening in our school, along with important information for families. We are looking forward to a great school year and are committed to providing rich learning experiences in a caring, inclusive, and supportive environment. We look forward to seeing your kids next week.

Dave Banderk, Principal
dbanderk@rockyview.ab.ca

Jason Ness, Assistant Principal (K-4)
jness@rockyview.ab.ca

Tara Sly, Assistant Principal (5-8)
tsly@rockyview.ab.ca

Teachers and Classes

Parents/Families will be able to see who their child's homeroom teacher is by accessing PowerSchool after 4 p.m on Monday, August 29. If you are experiencing difficulties accessing PowerSchool, please contact the Fireside School office at 403-932-4868. Your child's homeroom teacher will be sending out a welcome email and class-specific details early next week. If your email address has changed, please ensure you have updated your demographic confirmation form in School Engage, or please call the office for assistance.

Learning Teams

Learning Teams support students and families alongside classroom teachers toward the growth and development of children. While the classroom teacher is your primary point of contact for discussing your child's learning, each grade grouping is also supported by an Assistant Principal (student conduct & administrative concerns), a Learning Support Teacher (academic and behavioral supports), and a Child Development Advisor (social/emotional development). Please feel free to reach out to these individuals if you have specific concerns or questions.

- **Kindergarten:** Assistant Principal Jason Ness, Learning Support Teacher Leslie Hall; a new Child Development Advisor is being hired, and we will share that in our next *Fireside Focus*
- **Grade 1 to Grade 4:** Assistant Principal Jason Ness, Learning Support Teacher Kirsty Reade; a new Child Development Advisor is being hired, and we will share that in our next *Fireside Focus*
- **Grade 5 to Grade 8:** Assistant Principal Tara Sly, Learning Support Teacher Sinead Holzer, Child Development Advisor Kelsea Wright

Schedule for Staggered Entry (Grades 1 to 8)

Fireside will once again be doing a staggered entry for students in Grades 1 to 8. Staggered entry allows a more personalized experience as we start the new year. Here is the schedule for the Staggered Entry:

Thursday, September 1st: Students with the last name beginning with **A to J only**

Friday, September 2nd: Students with the last name beginning with **K to Z only**

Tuesday, September 6th: All students at school for the remainder of the year

First Day (Grades 1 to 8)

On your assigned **staggered entry date**, please arrive at the school for 8:00 am. Students will go directly to the back fields (see map on the second last page of this newsletter), where they will find teachers holding signs with their names and grades on them. Bus students will be met at the bus drop off and directed to the back fields. There will be staff on the field to help direct students.

Kindergarten Staggered Entry Procedure

Your student's homeroom teacher will be contacting you through email regarding a 20-to-30-minute block of time on either **Thursday, September 1st** or **Friday, September 2nd** for a parent and their child to come visit the school and their classroom. This "soft start" will allow our newest and youngest students to get a sneak peek of their classroom and meet their teachers. Parents and students can enter through the front doors at their allotted time and will be met by their kindergarten teacher.

Fireside School Open House – Thursday, September 8

We are pleased to invite our Fireside School families to a Welcome Back Open House and Barbeque on Thursday, September 8. Between 4:00 pm and 5:00 pm, we welcome you to drop in to meet your student's teacher and tour our school. Around 5:00 pm, we invite everyone to come to the back area outside of the school for BBQ. We look forward to seeing you there!

Student Drop Off and Pick Up

Parents who come to either pick up or drop off their children are asked to follow all traffic regulations. The best place to drop off students is on the west side of the school in the “Kiss and Go” or along Fireside Parkway. For safety reasons, please do not park, drop off, or pick up students in the Fireside School Staff parking lot, with the exception of parents who have arranged to drop off students with mobility issues using the wheelchair-accessible spaces.

Please note that we now have an additional bus transporting students to and from our school. Our bus lanes will not be able to accommodate all the buses. As such, the roadway adjacent to the staff parking lot will house a bus, which will typically result in the entrance to the parking lot being blocked for loading and unloading of students.

Staffing Updates

We’re excited to welcome a number of new staff to the Fireside Family this year, along with mentioning one name update:

- Selena Baker – Front Office Secretary
- Kelsey Wright - Child Development Advisor (Grades 5 to 8)
- Kirsty Reade – Learning Support (Grades 1-4)
- Darlene Neufeld – Learning Assistant
- Janet Cheverie – Grade 1 Teacher
- Melissa Nakesch – Grade 1 Teacher
- Ryan Russell – Grade 2 Teacher
- Amanda Soroka – Grade 3/4 Teacher
- Chantel Springer – Grade 5 Teacher
- Kaitlin Duong – Grade 6 Teacher
- Sara Martin – Grade 6 Teacher
- Leah Hanson – Grade 7 Teacher
- Kaity Schaab – Grade 8 Teacher (formerly Kaity Weintz)

Appointments

There may be times when you need to pick your child up from school during instructional times. A parent, guardian, or authorized person (which must be noted in PowerSchool) must come into the building to sign child(ren) out; please note that this process may take a few minutes. It is appreciated that you inform the homeroom teacher and the office (fireside@rockyview.ab.ca) of the appointment in advance. Please note that children may sign themselves *in* at the front office without an adult present.

Item Drop Off

Forgotten lunches? Shoes? Homework? Items for children can be dropped off at the office. Please label it with the student’s name and class.

2021/2022 Fireside School Bell Times

<u>Grades 1 to 8</u>		<u>Kindergarten</u>	
7:50 to 8:05	Student Arrival and Entry	<u>AM Classes</u>	
8:05 to 10:15	Instructional Time	7:50 to 8:05	Student Arrival and Entry
10:15 to 10:45	Recess/ Literacy Time	8:05 to 10:47	Instructional Time
10:45 to 12:10	Instructional Time	10:47	Student Dismissal
12:10 to 12:50	Lunch/Recess	<u>PM Classes</u>	
12:50 to 2:20	Instructional Time	11:35	Student Arrival and Entry
2:20	Student Dismissal	11:35 to 2:17	Instructional Time
2:30	Bus Departure	2:17	Student Dismissal
		2:30	Bus Departure

Parent Volunteers

During the school year, there will be opportunities where volunteers will be needed. Prior to being able to volunteer at our school, there is paperwork that a volunteer must complete and submit prior to their first visit. A police check is required; please see the end of this document for a copy of the Criminal Record/Vulnerable Sector Application (AF490-A), which you take to the RCMP. This document is valid for 5 years and is kept on file at the school. Please note there will be some additional forms to be completed on the first day of volunteering (Confidentiality/Non-Disclosure Form, Annual Declaration Form, Image Release Form). We look forward to welcoming you into Fireside School!

Lunch Breaks and Recess

Everyone can benefit from fresh air and unstructured play. Students head outside for *at least* 35 minutes each day. We strongly encourage families to take note of the weather forecast each day and ensure students have appropriate clothing for the time they'll be spending outside.

Students are designated to a supervised play area as a grade group for two recess periods each day. Students staying at school for lunch will eat in their classrooms. As was the case last year, students are permitted to go home for lunch with parent/guardian permission. If your child will be going home for lunch, please inform the homeroom teacher. Please note that for safety reasons, we require this to be a consistent choice. **Students who leave school for lunch must do so every day and may not choose when to stay and when to go.**

Fireside School is a closed campus. As such, students may not leave the premises unless we have confirmation that they are going home every day for lunch. Please note: lunch time has changed this year and is now from 11:35 am to 12:15 pm.

Allergy Awareness

Some members of our school community have identified having severe allergic reactions to the following scents and/or compounds:

- Fragrance (perfume, cologne, scented creams, body sprays, essential oils, etc.)
- Citrus (e.g. orange, lemon, lime, citrus scented sanitizer, etc.)
- Vanilla (e.g. body lotion, cream, perfume, sprays, sanitizer, etc.)
- Coconut (e.g. body lotion, cream, perfume, sanitizer, etc.)
- Floral Scents (e.g. body lotion, cream, perfume, sanitizer, etc.)
- Nuts (please note that we are a nut-aware school)

When you come to Fireside School, please refrain from wearing perfume, cologne, body sprays, scented products, and essential oils or eating items such as nuts. Please do not bring perfumes, colognes, or scented products (as per the above list) into our school. Thank you for your attention to and respect for this health concern and for helping us to keep everyone safe from allergic reactions this school year.

Therapy Dogs

Listening/Caring Tails is a Rocky View Schools approved program designed to help children increase their comfort and confidence by reading out loud (Listening Tails) to therapy dogs. The therapeutic help provided by our dogs is tailor-made to fit each situation, with the common theme that dogs provide a level of comfort that only they can (Caring Tails).

At all times, dogs in this program are on-leash and supervised. The success of the program stems from the fact that dogs love the attention they receive from children being with them and are non-judgemental listeners (Listening Tails). They also have a calming, relaxing effect on those who are having a problem self-regulating (Caring Tails).

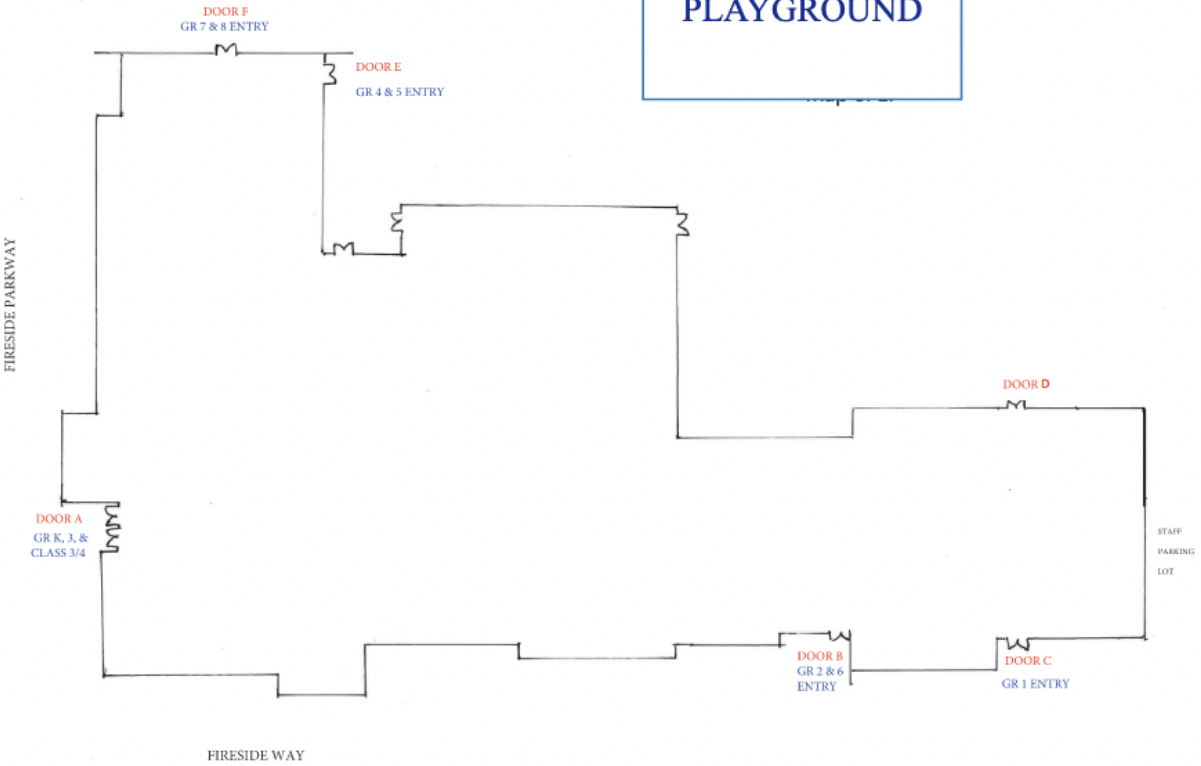
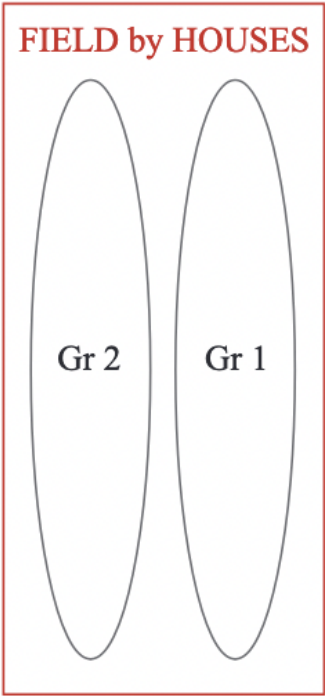
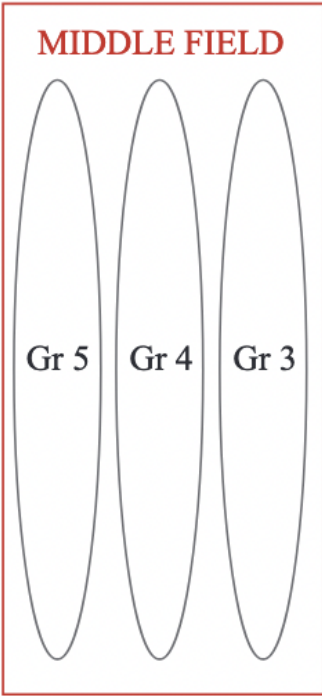
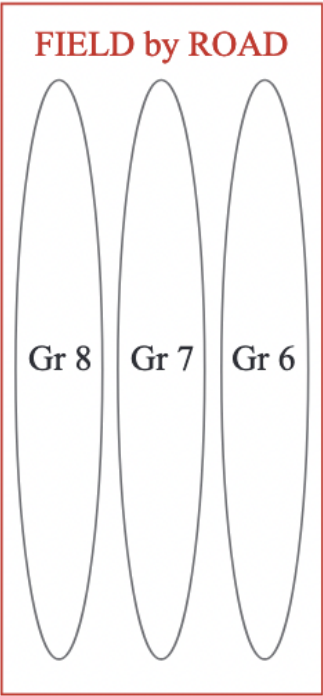
Fireside School presently has three dogs involved in the Listening/Caring Tails programs. The participating dogs are Daisy, who will be based in Ms. Stark's grade 3 classroom, as well as Chewy and Solo, who will be based in Mr. Perratt's Kindergarten class. The dogs participating in this program have been trained, temperament-assessed, and health checked in order to join this program.

Assigned Doors & Day-1 Meeting Locations

On the first day of school (Thursday, Sept 1st for last names A-J; Friday, Sept 2nd for last names K-Z), all grades 1-8 students will meet their teachers on the back fields. The map on the next page shows where each grade's teachers will meet their students on the first day. Look for large signs with grade numbers and your teachers' last names.

For the remainder of the year, we will use designated entry and exit doors, assigned according to grade. Doors are labeled on the map below. When arriving prior to the second morning bell (8:05), students should enter the doors labeled on the map according to their grade. When students arrive late, however, they must come in through the front doors and sign-in so that we can ensure they are accounted for.

MAP OF ENTRY DOORS AND FIRST DAY MEETING SPACES





Criminal Record/Vulnerable Sector Check Application

For Volunteers of Rocky View Schools


AF490-A
10/2019

RCMP Personnel:

This individual wishes to volunteer with Rocky View Schools and will not receive remuneration:

Volunteer's Name (please print):	Current Date:
Address:	
Volunteer's Position (indicate grade level(s) working with):	
The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP), Chapter F-25, charges Rocky View Schools with protecting the privacy of individuals, most who are under the age of majority. In order to show due diligence in this regard, please conduct a Criminal Record Check and Vulnerable Sector Check on person named above.	

Request Authorized by School Administration

Name (please print): Dave Banderk	Position: Principal
School Name: Fireside School	
School Address: 12 Fireside Parkway	
Signature of School Administrator: 	

Volunteer Information:

Please take this form to your local police agency. The following list includes some of the locations in our jurisdiction. Office hours vary by community, so call ahead for more information.

Airdrie RCMP Detachment	2 Highland Park Way NE	403.945.7200
Beiseker RCMP Detachment	75 North Road	403.947.3420
Chestermere RCMP Detachment	156 East Chestermere Drive	403.204.8777
Cochrane RCMP Detachment	359 - 1 Street E.	403.851.8000
Strathmore RCMP Detachment	500 Westlake Road	403.934.3968

- You will be required to produce a valid Driver's license or a Passport with photo I.D. and another piece of government-issued I.D. such as Alberta Health Care card or birth certificate.
- State that this is a Volunteer Position. Please note some detachments may charge an administration fee for the request.
- Ensure both Criminal Record and Vulnerable Sector Checks are completed.
- The results of the Criminal Record and Vulnerable Sector Checks may take approximately four weeks to be processed by the police agency.
- Return the results of the Criminal Record and Vulnerable Sectors Checks to the school office.
- Rocky View Schools must be notified immediately, if the status of your Criminal Record and Vulnerable Sector Checks change at any time.

Reference:

- AP490 Volunteers, Visitors and Presenters Mandatory Record Checks