

FIRESIDE FOCUS

OPEN MINDS ■ OPEN HEARTS ■ OPEN DOORS

The Week Ahead ~ September 30 to October 7, 2022

Upcoming Events at a Glance

Date	Time	Event
Wednesday, Oct 5	6:30 pm to 7:30 pm	School Council AGM (in person and Zoom – https://rockyview.zoom.us/j/95617461383; Passcode: 891360) NOW WITH DONUTS!
Wednesday, Oct 5	7:30 to 8:30 pm	<i>Friends of Fireside</i> Meeting (to follow School Council)
Friday, Oct 7		Professional Learning Day – No School
Monday, Oct 10		Thanksgiving Day – No School
Friday, Oct 14	3:00 to 3:50 & 6:00 to 6:50 pm	Junior A Boys Volleyball Tournament at Fireside School
Friday, Oct 14	6:00 to 7:50 pm	Junior A Girls Volleyball Tournament at Banded Peak School
Friday, Oct 21	3:00 to 3:50 & 7:00 to 7:50 pm	Junior A Girls Volleyball Tournaments at Fireside School
Friday, Oct 21	4:00 to 5:50 pm	Junior A Boys Volleyball Tournaments at Rancheview School
Friday, Oct 28	4:00 to 5:50 pm	Junior A Boys Volleyball Tournament at Banded Peak School
Friday, Oct 28	3:00 to 4:50 pm	Junior A Girls Volleyball Tournament at Rancheview School
Friday, Oct 28	*K-grade 4 are 5:30 to 6:30 pm *grades 5-8 are 7:00 to 8:00 pm	Hallowe'en Family Dance hosted by <i>Friends of Fireside</i> (see below)
May and June 2023		Grade 6 Provincial Achievement Tests – schedule will be shared once it is finalized; see below

Greetings Fireside families & friends! This was a short week, but it was long on community connections and commitments.

Over the course of the week, Grade 4 students shared their “Reading Histories” in class. What a great way to share our Book Love at Fireside and to also share what experiences we’ve had with books within our community of readers. On Tuesday, Grade 6 students went on a field trip to Cochrane Ranche: their first field trip of the year! They explored nature, making connections with their studies in Science and Physical Education & Wellness. On Thursday afternoon, our Band students were able to connect with clinicians Trudy Fossey and Joanne Sampson. Ms. Fossey is a trumpet/brass expert, and Ms. Sampson is an experienced conductor and woodwinds specialist. This experience was a great opportunity for our instrumental students to learn from experts, who taught them how to set up their instruments, understand instrument maintenance, the importance of practice routines, and much more.



Over the course of the day on Thursday, the entire school engaged in the *Gathering Ceremony* in honour of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, previously known as Orange Shirt Day – see below for some of the photos of the classroom commitment posters and individual feathers students shared. Following their time at the *Gathering Ceremony*, grade eight students and students in the grade 3/4 combined class wrote their own land acknowledgements, which will be shared with our school in the coming weeks.

I would like to acknowledge the land that we live on. I am grateful for the flowing waters, the growing grass and the rocky mountains. Thank you for sharing your land with us.

The land we have today wouldn't be what we have right now if it weren't for the indigenous people, past and present.
I'm grateful for the freedom and abilities we have as a town

I would like to acknowledge the land that we live on and I'm grateful that I can feel safe and enjoy nature that wouldn't be without the first people.

Wishing you and your family a lovely weekend!

In this week's edition:

NEW: Gathering Ceremony for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

NEW: Friends of Fireside Updates and Meetings

NEW: Grade 6 Provincial Achievement Tests

NEW: Artistic Expressions this Week

UPDATED: School Council Annual General Meeting @ 6:30 pm Oct 5th, Friends of Fireside to follow

UPDATED: Allergy Awareness, including for Events

UPDATED: Emergency Preparedness (HourZero)

UPDATED: School Start Time

REMINDER: 22/23 Athletics Schedule, Coaches Needed

REMINDER: Please Complete Annual Forms

REMINDER: School Fees

NEW: Gathering Ceremony in recognition of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

At the start of the week, students began exploring the questions, “What is our classroom learning story?” and “How does my classroom and learning community make me feel safe and ready to learn?” Each class designed a poster to represent who they are as a classroom community and team within Fireside School. Then, each student created a design for their individual feathers, representing their impressions of how Fireside is a safe place to learn, grow, and be.

On Thursday morning, classes came down by grade group to the *Gathering Ceremony*, led by Child Development Advisor Charlene Abrahams. Each class had representatives explain the poster design and then share it into our *Gathering* circles. Each student then placed their individual feathers with the posters before standing for a moment of silent reflection about the importance of being in a caring, respectful, and safe school. In the centre, Mr. Shaun’s Kindergarten classes placed their pictures of time spent in nature, learning about the importance of honouring the land, while Miss Alison’s Kindergarten classes shared their collective art piece created with inspiration from the Grandfather Teaching of Humility, which was paired with the book *You Hold Me Up*. The classroom posters and other offerings will continue to be displayed in each classroom space for the remainder of the year.



After all classes, Kindergartens through Grade 8, had their moment of ceremony, a visual collective of our school community's commitment to be respectful of self, others, land, and community; to be responsible for our words and care; and to be safe within our school was laid out all together to form one beautiful mosaic design.

Thank you to Mrs. Abrahams, the grade 5 Leadership students, and all of those who made the events of the last two weeks possible.



NEW: Friends of Fireside Updates and Meetings

After our first successful Hallowe'en dance back in 2019, we can proudly announce that after a 2-year pause, we are hosting our 2nd Halloween Family Dance!

Join us on Friday October 28 at Fireside School dressed in your favorite Hallowe'en costume – family-friendly, of course! Please see the poster at the end of this week's *Focus* for more information. Tickets are now available online and will be delivered to the school; for more information and to buy tickets check:

<https://friendsoffireside.ca/halloween-family-dance-2022/>

We are also looking for a few volunteers who can help us decorate and supervise activities during the event.

Interested? Please email president@friendsoffireside.ca

On October 5th, we will be having our first meeting. We hope you will come out to join us (in person or online) at 7:30 pm, after School Council. Please check our [website](#) for more information.

NEW: Grade 6 Provincial Achievement Tests

In May and June of the 2022-23 school year, Fireside School's grade 6 students will write Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) in their core courses. PATs are written by students in grade 6 and grade 9, and they are used to determine if students are learning and understanding course content and achieving course outcomes.

[The Grade 6 Parent Guide, 2022-23](#) is put out by Alberta Education to help parents and families prepare for and understand Provincial Achievement Tests, including how they are used for assessment purposes by the province; schools also look at those results to improve learning. Throughout the year, students will be looking at strategies and skills for doing their best when demonstrating their learning and

understanding on assessments, including the PATs, which are one part of the evaluation picture for each student. Please note that, this year, the PATs will make up 5% of each grader 6 student's final grade.

NEW: Artistic Expression this Week



UPDATED: School Council Annual General Meeting @ 6:30 pm October 5 and Friends of Fireside to follow

This Wednesday, October 6, our School Council's Annual General Meeting will be held in person and in Zoom, starting at 6:30 p.m. The Zoom link information is: <https://rockyview.zoom.us/j/95617461383> OR Meeting ID: 956 1746 1383 and the Passcode: 891360. For those who attend in person, there will be donuts.

The meeting will include an update from Rocky View Schools' Board Chair and Trustee Ward 6 Fiona Gilbert, as well as an update from Fireside School's administration. There will also be updates shared by the current Treasurer and by *Friends of Fireside* (whose meeting will directly follow the School Council meeting). The end of the meeting will be the elections for all executive positions, which are open and available to be filled, as well as a look at the year ahead. This year's executive positions include: School Council Chair and Vice-Chair (or 2 Co-Chairs), Secretary, and at least 2 Members-at-Large.

A robust parent presence at Council is very valuable, and we hope you will join us for this meeting. School Councils are forums where parents can have a direct role in shaping some of the direction and priorities for a school, having a positive impact on school culture, direction, and the future.

Please remember that Fireside School is a scent-aware school; therefore, please refrain from wearing perfume, cologne, essential oils, or scented products if you are attending in person. Thank you kindly for your consideration and respect of this health concern.

UPDATED: Allergy Awareness, including for Events

Some students and staff at Fireside School have nut or fragrance allergies. Therefore, Fireside is a nut-aware and scent-aware school. Please do not send items with nuts to school with students during the school day or to school events, such as tournaments. We also ask that students **not** wear perfume, cologne, essential oils, or other strongly scented products or sprays to school, including to school events such as tournaments, concerts, dances, et cetera. This request includes essential oils with strong scents. Additionally, students should **not** bring perfume, cologne, or body spray products (e.g. Axe, Coconut, Orange) to school with them, including essential oils (e.g. coconut, orange, patchouli, etc.). We ask the

same for parents, families, volunteers, or visitors who are entering the school at any time, whether it be to drop something off or to attend meetings, conferences, presentations, or tournaments, please.

Thank you for your attention to and respect of these health concerns: we want to keep everyone safe at Fireside!

UPDATED: Emergency Preparedness (HourZero)

At Fireside School, Emergency Preparedness is a very important part of safety. The "[Rocky View Schools Emergency Program: A Guide for Parents and Guardians](#)" (click link) outlines our protocols and procedures for safety, including Evacuation (Fire) Drills, other alerts, and important safety processes. Our next Evacuation Drill will be sometime in the month of October, with another to follow in November. This year, other drills will also be practiced throughout the year.

UPDATED: School Start Time

We'd like to offer a gentle reminder that our "soft entry" times are 7:50-8:05. Our hope is that students will be in their classrooms, ready to learn, by 8:05 am each day. Should a student arrive late, they will need to sign in at the office. Students who arrive late as a result of a bus delay can go directly to class without signing in. If a student is late for any reason, they will need to enter through the front door of the school and through the office, please.

REMINDER: 22/23 Athletics Schedule. Coaches Needed

Throughout the year, Grade 6, 7 & 8 students have many opportunities to participate in extracurricular sports. We love seeing the enthusiasm, energy, and dedication the kids put into their athletic endeavors. We're also extraordinarily grateful for parents and other members of our community who support these activities with their time as coaches. We would love to have some parent/community coaches lend their time and expertise in developing our young athletes. All sports will have a teacher sponsor or co-coach, so a full commitment to all practices and events may not be necessary.

Our athletic schedule is below, along with the time commitments involved with the sport. To express your interest in coaching a sport, please contact Athletic Director Melanie Hamilton mhamilton@rockyview.ab.ca.

Practices generally run right after school from 2:30-4.

September/October: Junior A Volleyball (10 weeks, 2 practices/week, 3 Friday evening tournaments, one full school day divisional tournament)

October/November: Grade 6 Volleyball (3-4 weeks, 2 practices/week, 1 Friday tournament)

November: Junior B Volleyball (4-5 weeks, 2 practices/week, 3 Friday tournaments)

December/January/February: Junior A Basketball (10 weeks, 2 practices/week, 3 Friday evening tournaments, one full school day divisional tournament)

February/March: Junior B Basketball (4-5 weeks, 2 practices/week, 3 Friday tournaments)

March: Grade 6 Basketball (3-4 weeks, 2 practices a week, 1 Friday tournament)

March/April: Grade 7 and 8 Badminton (5-6 weeks, 2 practices/week, 1 daytime tournament)

April/May: Grade 7 and 8 Track and Field (lunchtime and after school practices for 3-4 weeks)

May/June: Grade 6 Soccer (3 weeks, 2 practices/ week, 1 tournament)

Reminder: Please Complete Annual Forms

We are still missing a number of annual form completions. These include forms for use of images (which allows us to share the great things your kids are doing in school here in *Fireside Focus*), walking-distance field trip authorizations, and others. Please log into <https://rockyview.schoolengage.ca/> and complete these if you have not done so already.

Reminder: School Fees

In order to enhance student safety and school efficiencies, Rocky View Schools have become cashless. All student fees will be posted to *SchoolCash Online* and parents/guardians will receive an email when a new fee is available for payment.

If you do not already have a SchoolCash Online account, please get registered today:
<https://rockyview.schoolcashonline.com>

Parents/guardians only need one account and can add all students in Rocky View Schools.

Fireside School Fees have been charged for the following Sports Teams and Optional Courses:

Jr A Boys & Girls Volleyball (\$75)

***Optional Course Fees (OCF) for Grade 7/8 Term 1: Art - \$10, Shop - \$15, Fibre Arts - \$15,
Foods - \$15, Drama - \$15***

Please Note: Fees for Band 6, 7, and 8 are pending and will be charged once the band shirt details are determined. Fees for Field Trips will be posted and available for payment as trips arise. Teachers will provide notification of field trips to families.

Fee Waiver Applications

Please be aware that there are two separate Fee Waiver Application forms, both requiring proof of GST Rebate:

1. AF5105-A: Optional Course Fee Waiver Form (for Gr 7/8 OCFs) is available from the school office. Once completed, the form is submitted to the school Principal for approval.
2. AF5105-F: Transportation Fee Waiver Form is available through School Engage. This form is routed to the RVS Transportation Department.

If there are any questions please contact our school office.