

# FIRESIDE FOCUS

OPEN MINDS ■ OPEN HEARTS ■ OPEN DOORS

**The Week Ahead ~ October 14 to October 21, 2022**

## Upcoming Events at a Glance

Date	Time	Event
Friday, Oct 21	3:00 to 3:50 & 7:00 to 7:50 pm	<b>Junior A Girls Volleyball Tournaments at Fireside School</b>
Friday, Oct 21	4:00 to 5:50 pm	<b>Junior A Boys Volleyball Tournaments at Rancheview School</b>
Tuesday, Oct 25		<b>Picture Retakes</b>
Friday, Oct 28	4:00 to 5:50 pm	<b>Junior A Boys Volleyball Tournament at Banded Peak School</b>
Friday, Oct 28	3:00 to 4:50 pm	<b>Junior A Girls Volleyball Tournament at Rancheview School</b>
Friday, Oct 28	*K-grade 4 are 5:30 to 7:00 pm *Grades 5-8 are 7:00 to 8:30 pm <b>(UPDATED)</b>	<b>Hallowe'en Family Dance hosted by <i>Friends of Fireside</i> (see below)</b>
Tuesday, Oct 11 through Monday, Oct. 31		<b>"It's Socktober!" Event (see below)</b>
Wednesday, Nov. 16		<b>Grade 6 Immunizations</b>
Wednesday, Nov. 16 & Thursday, Nov. 17	4:00 to 7:00 pm each day	<b>3-Way Conferences &amp; Tote-a-Coat (see below)</b>

Greetings Fireside families & friends!

We are settling into fall and already starting to feel some crisp morning weather. Please take a peek at the weather each day to ensure your children are dressed appropriately for the 35 minutes (at least) that they'll be outside each day.

The newsletter is pretty full this week, so we'll keep our greeting message brief. A couple highlights this week included our first volleyball tournament of the year and an exciting "parking lot" field trip where students across a number of grades got to experience some horticulture when the Solar Roller mobile greenhouse made its nearly week-long stop at Fireside. Wishing everyone a great weekend!



**In this week's edition:**

**NEW: SafeArrival Reporting**

**NEW: SOAR Team**

**NEW: Cobs Bread - The Quarry**

**NEW: Monthly Meetups – Ukrainian Families**

**NEW: Interested in Volunteering?**

**NEW: Tote-A-Coat**

**NEW: Lost & Found is Already Bursting at the Seams**

**UPDATED: Hallowe'en Dance**

**REMINDER: "It's Socktober!" Event**

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### **NEW: Cobs Bread – The Quarry is helping Fireside School**

Cobs Bread – The Quarry partners with Cochrane schools, donating 5% of customer purchases when they name one of our schools at the time of purchase.

Prior to paying, mention that you'd like to have a 5% school donation go to Fireside school before paying, and Cobs Bread staff will do the rest. At the end of the school year, Cobs will donate these funds to the school to enhance learning resources in our school.

### **NEW: SOAR Team**

Grade 7 and 8 students are volunteering to help our younger students with social skills and safe play. The SOAR Team meets weekly to produce instructional videos, plan projects, and schedule organized recess games for our youngest students, helping them to navigate some of the social and emotional challenges that come with being little. If you have a grade 7 or 8 student who you feel would benefit from or enjoy this leadership opportunity, please encourage them to see Mr. Ness to participate.

### **NEW: Monthly Meetups with Ukrainian Families**

New families at Fireside who have recently arrived from Ukraine are invited to join us for some conversation and connection on the first Tuesdays of the month at 10 am here at the school. We will provide some hot beverages and snacks, as well as a space to connect with one another. Contact Charlene Abrahams [cabrahams@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:cabrahams@rockyview.ab.ca) if you would like to find out more about the meetups.

Ми запрошуємо нових сімей Fireside, які нещодавно прибули з України, приєднатися до нас для дружнього спілкування в перший вівторок місяця о 10 годині ранку. Будуть гарячі напої і закуски, а також простір для спілкування. Зв'яжіться з Шарлін Абрахамс [cabrahams@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:cabrahams@rockyview.ab.ca), якщо ви хочете дізнатися більше про цю зустріч.

### **Interested in Volunteering?**

There are several ways that interested volunteers would be of significant help in our school. Whether it's helping out in your child's class, supervising on field trips, coaching, running a lunch hour club, sorting

our overfilled lost & found racks, or a number of other things, we'd love to have your support. If you're most interested in supporting your child's classroom, please contact their teacher. To help us in any other area, please contact our Community Outreach Coordinator, Charlene Abrahams [cabrahams@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:cabrahams@rockyview.ab.ca).

We have a particular need right now of volunteers to support our Healthy Lunch Program from 11am to 1pm each day. If there is a particular day (or days) you might be available and would like to be part of our lunch prep crew, please contact Charlene [cabrahams@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:cabrahams@rockyview.ab.ca). No experience necessary.

Please note that all volunteers must have an up-to-date police check on file at the school in order to volunteer.

### **NEW: Tote-a-Coat**

Has your child outgrown their winter gear from last year? Are their boots too tight? Are their mitts too small? With the cooler weather fast approaching, we want to ensure that every Fireside Family is ready with warm winter woolies! Our Grade Twos will be hosting a **Tote-a-Coat Event** during 3-Way Conferences on November 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>.

Starting November 1<sup>st</sup>, our Grade Twos will be asking for donations of gently used winter coats, snow pants, hats, boots, mittens and scarves in all sizes. Collection boxes will be placed throughout the school. All items will be cleaned and put on display during our evening conferences. All families are welcome to browse the used items and find suitable outerwear for growing kiddos. Have size 5's but need size 6's? Feel free to swap. Just need size 6's? No problem! Help yourself.



There will be hot beverages to be enjoyed while browsing! Following our event, some of the remaining clothing will be used to create a small school 'winter woolies closet' for those days when something warm is needed but not on hand, and the rest will be donated to a local community charity.

If you have any items to donate before the launch on November 1, please leave them at the front office, and we will add them to the collection.

### **NEW: Lost & Found is Already Bursting at the Seams**

The title says it all. Please encourage your kids to head down and do a check or come in yourself at your convenience. Items will be donated or discarded when the racks can no longer hold any more items.

### **NEW: SafeArrival Absence Reporting**

To enhance our existing absence-checking procedure, we have introduced a more efficient student absence reporting system called SafeArrival. This new system will reduce the time it takes to verify student attendance, make it easy for you to report your child's absence, and be easy for staff to respond to unexplained student absences.

With SafeArrival, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these 3 convenient methods:

1. Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>). The first time you use the app, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.
2. Use the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>. The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.
3. Call the toll-free number 1-833-244-5565 to report an absence using the automated phone system.

These options are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time.

In addition, we will use the SchoolMessenger Communicate automated notification system to contact parents whose child is absent when the absence was not reported in advance. The automated notification system will attempt to contact parents at multiple contact points until a reason is submitted for the absence. If our system is unable to reach the designated contacts, office staff will follow up.

If you report your child's absence in advance using the SafeArrival toll-free number, website or mobile app, you will NOT receive these notifications.

Please report absences in advance using SafeArrival instead of sending notes or calling/emailing the school.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we implement this new system.

#### [UPDATED: Hallowe'en Dance, Friday, Oct. 28](#)



Who else is beyond excited for our Halloween Family Dance? We sure are!

A few important reminders:

- Everyone who enters will require a ticket (\$4/per person) Both a child and accompanying adult will need individual tickets. You can buy all tickets under the name of 1 teacher per student. The information is only used to distribute the tickets before the dance.
- Parent supervision is required. Students who are not with a parent/guardian cannot be admitted. A child may be supervised by an adult who is not their parent; however, we require an email be sent by the child's own parent/guardian indicating whose supervision their child will be under. These can be sent to [fireside@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:fireside@rockyview.ab.ca).
- Coat check is available by donation.
- Concession is available and will be cash-only (popcorn, juice boxes, etc.). Water is free.
- This is a scent-free and nut-free event.
- Siblings who are not attending Fireside School yet/anymore? They are definitely welcome!

Hallowe'en costumes are strongly encouraged, but there are a few rules:

- No blood & gore
- No weapons
- No inflatables

Tickets are going fast! Pre purchase your tickets here:

<https://checkout.square.site/buy/23JKS3DDEQGABQHUPGDW2KCS>

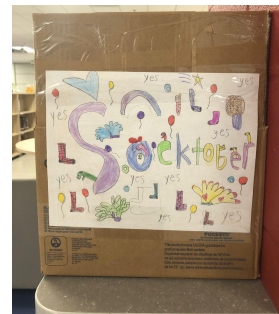
Got leftover Halloween decor you never use? We need decoration donations! If located in Cochrane, we can pick it up! Thanks in advance for your help!

Interested in volunteering? We are looking for parents who can help with setup, cleanup, line control, tuck shop, and floaters. Please contact us at [president@friendsoffireside.ca](mailto:president@friendsoffireside.ca).

Can't wait to see you all at the dance!

#### **REMINDER: "It's Socktober!" Event**

The Grade 2 classes have launched their "It's Socktober!" Event and they need the help of students and families!. This project will see Fireside School students collecting socks, hair elastics, disposable razors, combs, and mini-gloves to bring and put in the boxes located in the Learning Commons and Main Office. All items will be given to the Big Hill Haven Shelter. This event will run from Tuesday, October 11 through Monday, October 31. Let's *Socktober* together!



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#### **REMINDER: 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!**