

FIRESIDE FOCUS

OPEN MINDS ■ OPEN HEARTS ■ OPEN DOORS

The Week Ahead ~ October 21 to October 28, 2022

Date	Time	Event
Tuesday, Oct 25		Picture Retakes (see below)
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 7:00 pm *Grades 5-8 are 7:00 to 8:30 pm (UPDATED)	Hallowe'en Family Dance hosted by <i>Friends of Fireside</i> (see below)
Tuesday, Oct 11 through Monday, Oct 31		"It's Socktober!" Event (see below)
Monday, Oct 31		Hallowe'en
Tuesday, Nov 1		Boys Volleyball Divisionals @ Rally Pointe
Thursday, Nov 3		Girls Volleyball Divisionals @ Rally Pointe
Friday, Nov 4		Grade 6 Volleyball Tournament (location TBA)
Monday, Nov 7	after school	Junior B Volleyball Begins (Gr 7/8)
Monday, Nov. 14		Professional Learning Day (No School)
Wednesday, Nov. 16		Grade 6 Immunizations
Wednesday, Nov, 16 & Thursday, Nov. 17	4:00 to 7:00 pm each day	3-Way Conferences & Tote-a-Coat (see below)



Greetings Fireside families & friends!

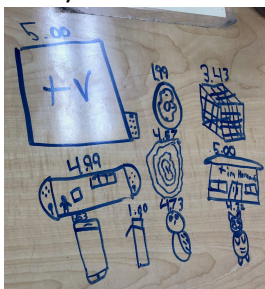
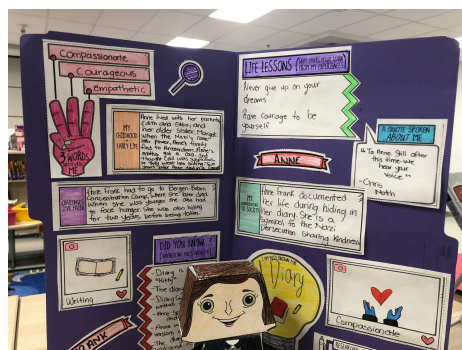
What a week! It was our first full one in some time. We quickly went from record temperatures to snow forecasts.



On Monday, Grade 5 students went on a field trip to Nose Hill's Siksikaitstapi Sun Wheel. It was a fantastic day as students engaged in a meaningful, memorable learning experience that highlighted the impact that outdoor learning experiences can have on students.

Grade 8's finalized profile biographies after researching past and present people of significance. Their projects will be showcased in the Learning Commons on Monday for *Canadian School Libraries Day*. Grade 7's are finishing up decimals in math. Grade 6's

worked with one of our divisional literacy specialists, building their reading skills. Grade 4's brought in pumpkins (kindly donated by *Friends of Fireside*) for our annual pumpkin carving contests. They will be raffled off at the Hallowe'en Family Dance next Friday. Grade 3's displayed their work on geodes and learned basic budgeting in a classroom microeconomy. Grade 2 students worked on their jack-o-lanterns and had a visit from "The Bat Lady" who brought in displays of bat anatomy. Grade 1's used foot-shaped cutouts "step count" up to 100. Literacy groups in grades 1-3 got up and running. And Kindergarten students listened to *Go Shapes Go!* by Denise Fleming and then created pictures from shapes they cut.



To top off the week, our Junior A and B Volleyball teams participated in their second tournaments of the year: Go HAWKS!!! A big thank you to our coaches, Ms. Simpson, Mrs. Espersen, Mrs. Hamilton, and Mrs. Dancy. It was so nice to have fans and cheering back in the school!

Wishing everyone a lovely, cozy weekend and we hope to see everyone at the Hallowe'en Family Dance



In this week's edition:

NEW: Farewell Mrs. Magee; Welcome Back Mr. Banderk

NEW: Picture Retake Reminder

UPDATED: Hallowe'en Dance

NEW: Please Review and Sign SSPs

NEW: Stranger Safety

REMINDER: Hallowe'en Dance

REMINDER: Reporting Absences

REMINDER: "It's Socktober!" Event

REMINDER: Lost & Found

REMINDER: Allergy Awareness

[NEW: Farewell Mrs. Magee; Welcome Back Mr. Banderk](#)

After a 5-week hiatus with his family, Mr. Banderk will be returning to his Principal's chair. We're excited to see him return. We're also very grateful to Mary Magee for stepping in and looking after the school in his absence. Mrs. Magee's experience, compassion, and love for working with children was truly appreciated. We were very lucky to have her, and wish her all the best as she resumes a well-earned retirement.

[NEW: Picture Retakes](#)

Picture retakes will be done on Tuesday. Students who were absent on picture day will be called down to have their photos done. Families who want retakes done **must have their child bring their picture package** with them in order to have retakes.

[UPDATED: It's finally time: Hallowe'en Family Dance](#)
[Friday, Oct. 28](#)

We hope you will join us for *Friends of Fireside's* Hallowe'en Family Dance. It is sure to be a spooktacular evening!

We have sold almost 75% of the tickets already; and, yes, you can still buy them online until Monday night. You can pre-purchase your tickets [HERE](#).

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.

- This is a scent-free and nut-free event; thus, please do not bring any products with nuts and please refrain from wearing perfume, cologne, or scented products or oils (especially orange and coconut). Thank you for your consideration and respect of these health concerns: we want to keep everyone safe!
- Concession is available and will be cash-only (popcorn, juice boxes, etc.). Water is free.
- Coat check is available by donation.
- 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

Interested in volunteering? We are still looking for parents who can help with setup, cleanup, line control, tuck shop, and floaters. Please contact us at president@friendsoffireside.ca if you are available to help.

Song requests? At the front of the school, students will find lists for K-4 and 5-8 to put song requests; the signs will remain up till Tuesday morning.

We can't wait to see you all at the dance!

NEW: Please Review and Sign SSPs

Parents with students who have Student Success Plans (SSPs, formerly referred to as IPPs) are asked to review and sign these documents at their earliest convenience. For additional information regarding this document, please contact your child's teacher or the Learning Support Teacher who supports your child's grade level. Kindergarten: Leslie Hall (lhall@rockyview.ab.ca), Grades 1-4: Erin Carriere (ecarriere@rockyview.ab.ca), Grades 5-8: Sinéad Holzer (sholzer@rockyview.ab.ca).

NEW: Stranger Safety

We have received some reports of adults approaching students in some RVS communities and attempting to engage in dialogue. When these concerns are brought to our school's attention, we inform RCMP, the division and make families aware. With the safety of our students as our top priority, as a precaution, we ask you to talk to your children about being aware of strangers and what to do if they are approached. Thank you for your support as we work together to keep our students safe.

REMINDER: 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 16th & 17th.



Starting November 1st, 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.

REMINDER: Lost & Found

Please encourage your kids to head down and do a check or come in yourself at your convenience. One of our volunteers and School Council members (thanks Krystle!) has been graciously organizing and sorting the items. Items will be donated or discarded when the racks can no longer hold any more items.

REMINDER: 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.

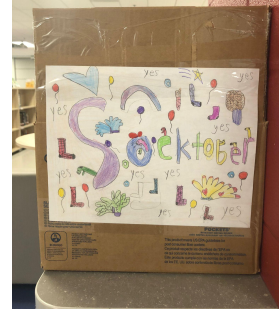
If you report your child's absence in advance using the SafeArrival toll-free number, website or mobile app, you will NOT receive these notifications.

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.

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 all *Socktober* together!



REMINDER: Allergy Awareness

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 for these health concerns: we want to keep everyone safe at Fireside!