

FIRESIDE FOCUS

OPEN MINDS ■ OPEN HEARTS ■ OPEN DOORS

The Week Ahead ~ November 11 to November 18, 2022

Date	Time	Event
Monday, Nov. 14		Professional Learning Day (No School)
Monday, Nov. 14		3-Way Conference Bookings in Conference Manager Closes (see below)
Wednesday, Nov. 16		Grade 6 Immunizations
Wednesday, Nov. 16 & Thursday, Nov. 17	4:00 to 7:00 pm each day	3-Way Conferences (see below) & Tote-a-Coat (see below)
Wednesday, Nov 23		Last day to place Fireside Gear orders with Kodiak Sports online for December delivery (see below)
Monday, Dec 5		Professional Learning Day (No School)
Wednesday, Dec. 7	6:30 to 8:00 pm	School Council Meeting
Wednesday, Dec. 7	8:00 to 9:00 pm	Friends of Fireside Meeting
Thursday, Dec. 15	6:00 to 7:00 pm	Winter Concert (details will be provided in upcoming <i>Focus</i> editions, closer to the date)
Friday, Dec 22		Last day of classes before Winter Break
Monday, Jan 9		Classes Resume

Greetings Fireside families & friends!

This short week saw our first cold snap of the year, which meant a few days of indoor recess before it finally warmed up on Thursday. There was plenty of “Gaga Ball,” hallway hockey, Chutes & Ladders, and Uno played over recesses this week. Our grade 2s started swimming lessons as part of their physical education & health programs. We heard from many parents about how valuable an offer these lessons are given the growing difficulty of accessing swimming lessons in Cochrane. We have received requests from families with children in other grades to offer



similar programming. We hear you and are working with Spray Lakes Sawmills Family Sports Centre to explore future opportunities for more of our students. Stay tuned.

Thursday also featured our Remembrance Day ceremonies that included student musical performances, poetry reading, and laying of wreaths. We were extremely proud of our kids for the respect and reverence they showed during these ceremonies, as well as the effort they put into their classwork as they learned of the significance of this day. Please see the write-ups below to learn more about the event and the work the students have been doing.

We're looking forward to seeing families next week at 3-Way Conferences. School administration is also available during these times to meet with families. Please feel free to book a meeting in [Conference Manager](#) or contact the school to make an appointment with any of us.

Wishing everyone an excellent long weekend.

Dave, Tara, & Jason
Fireside Administration Team

In this week's edition:

NEW: Socktober Success!

NEW: Tote-a-Coat November 16 & 17

NEW: Remembrance Day Assemblies

NEW: Remembrance Day Art and Activities

NEW: Adult ELL Class Registrations Open

UPDATED: 3-Way Conference Bookings November 16 & 17 from 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

UPDATED: School Council Update

UPDATED: Friends of Fireside Update

REMINDER: Filling out Annual Forms

REMINDER: Fireside Swag

[NEW: Socktober Success!](#)

Thank you to everyone who made a donation for this year's Socktober event. We were able to put together 230 care packages filled with socks, mittens, and personal care items for Big Hill Haven. These donations will make a huge difference for community members who are in need. A special shout out to the Grade 2 Team for organizing this event and managing the items that were donated. Great job, Hawks!



NEW: Tote-a-Coat on November 16 & 17

Our Grade Twos are hosting a **Tote-a-Coat Event** during 3-Way Conferences on November 16th & 17th, next week.

We will have all the items – a large selection of winter coats, snow pants, boots, hats, mitts – on display for families to browse through on Wednesday and Thursday from 4-6pm in our Learning Commons. Our Grade 4/5 leadership group will be hosting and will have some hot chocolate and treats for our visitors who stop by.



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. 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!

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.

NEW: Remembrance Day Ceremonies

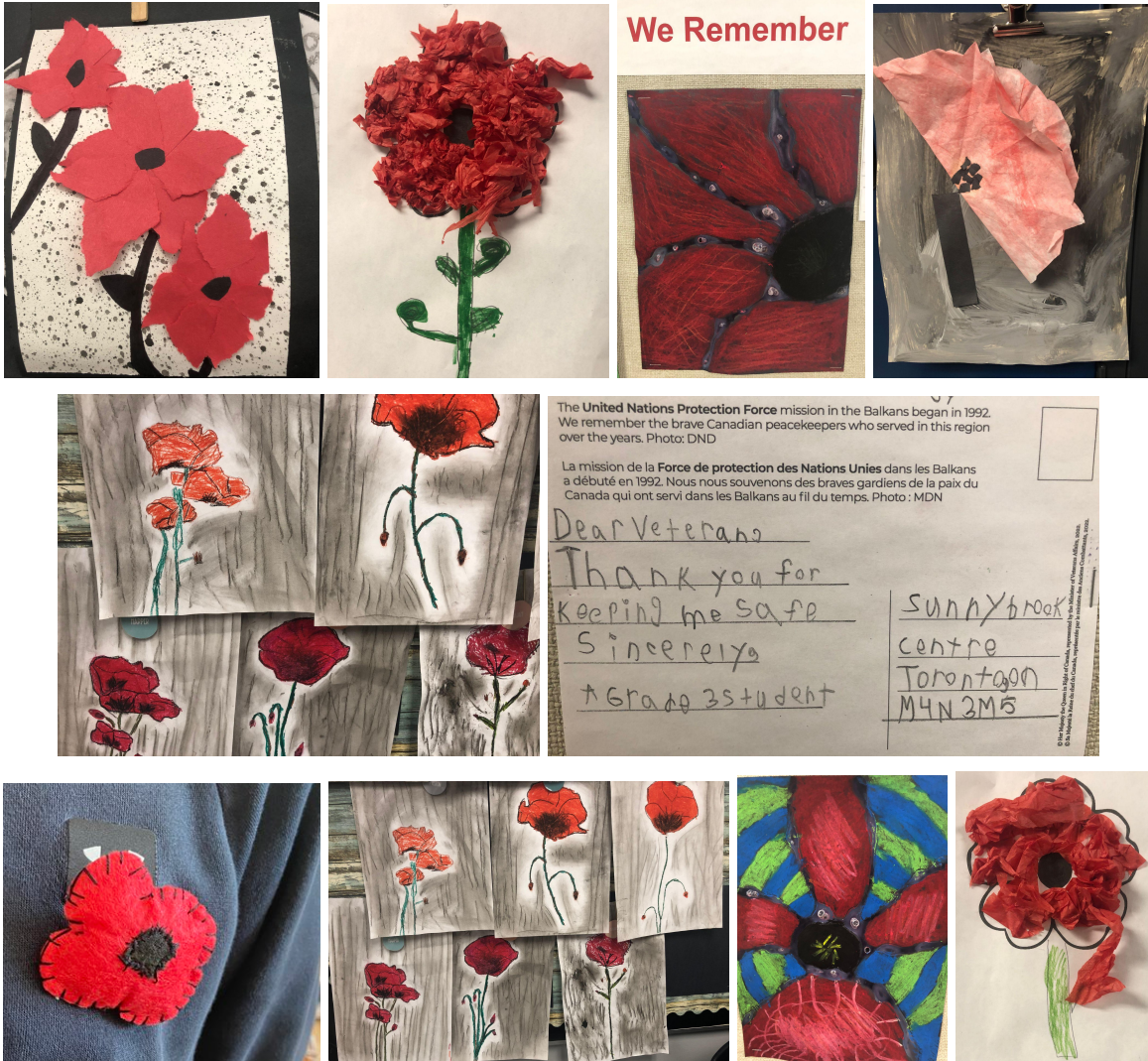
On Thursday, Fireside School held its Remembrance Day Ceremonies to recognize Remembrance Day and, also, National Indigenous Veterans Day (November 8). Our theme was "Our Hopes for Peace".

A video was shared from Veterans Canada to highlight Canada's Indigenous Veterans before the traditional poetry and readings. Following the reading of Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae's poem "In Flanders Field", grade 5 and grade 8 students shared "High Flight" by John Gillespie Magee Jr. and poems from Afghani and Syrian youths that were written for Unicef's *Youth Voices – Poetry for Peace* initiative; these young people used poetry to express their hopes for a more peaceful future. A video poem from a young Ukrainian girl, who expressed hope for there to be peace in her country, was also shared, as we reflected on our own hopes for peace for the people of Ukraine. Students in Cadets, Scouts, Girl Guides, or Sparks assisted with the presentation of our ceremonial wreaths. Finally, the Grade 3-6 Choir sang "Peace I Leave With You" at the closing of our assembly.



Thank you to Mr. Chung, Mr. Petterson, Mrs. Abrahams, and the students who put so much into what was shared with us at our ceremonies.

[NEW: Remembrance Day Art and Activities](#)



[NEW: Adult ELL Class Registrations Open](#)

Rocky View School Adult Learning is now offering online and in-person English Language Learning classes. If you or someone you know would benefit from improving their fluency in English, please see the posters at the end of this newsletter for additional information.

[UPDATED: 3-Way Conferences November 16 & 17 from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM](#)

Our 3-Way Conferences are part of Rocky View Schools' Communication of Student Learning. These 10-minute conferences include parents, teachers, and students and offer a chance to review the student's progress to date and to set goals for the next steps of their learning journey.

For the upcoming round of conferences, we are pleased to welcome parents and guardians into the school for face-to-face meetings. For those of you who prefer a virtual conference, that option is also

available. Parents/Guardians will indicate their choice of either Face-to-Face or Virtual Conferences at the time of their booking.

Fireside School uses the online booking program '[Conference Manager](#)'.

Conference Manager opened for bookings on November 7th at 8:00 AM; it will close on November 14th at 4:00 PM. Please call the school office (403-932-4868) if you have questions or are having difficulties logging in. When the conference booking site opens, please book an appointment date and time that works for you. When you are booking your appointment time, you will be prompted to provide a phone number where the teacher can reach you, should technical issues arise.

If you have never used Conference Manager before, please register first. Returning users should ensure they can log in to the system – a password reset is available if necessary. Please review your parent/guardian profile to ensure the information is correct, especially the email address, as the email address you provide in this profile will be used to send you the booking confirmation.

[UPDATED: School Council Update](#)

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 7, at 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcome! Watch for updates in future editions of *Fireside Focus*.

At the November meeting, Rocky View Schools' Board Chair and Trustee Ward 6 Fiona Gilbert provided updates regarding RVS, Cochrane schools, and Fireside. This update included the Board's [Advocacy Priorities](#) (click link): Space for Students, Funding for Students, and Support for Students. The infographics in the bottom right-hand sidebar review key information for Cochrane schools and future projections, and there is also information on how parents can be involved in advocating for their students and learning.

[UPDATED: Friends of Fireside](#)

Coming up is *Artrageous*: keep your eye out on the order form to get some cool holiday gifts with custom artwork created by the students.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, December 7, at 8:00, following the School Council meeting. Again, it will be a hybrid-style of in-person or zoom. Please watch for updates in future *Focus* editions.

[REMINDER: Filling out Annual Forms](#)

We are still missing a number of annual form completions. Families who have forms that are not submitted or are incomplete would have received an email earlier this week.

Annual Forms include forms for use of images (which allows us to share the great things your kids are doing in school here in *Fireside Focus* and allows students' photos to be in our *Yearbook*), walking-distance field trip authorizations, and others. Please log into <https://rockyview.schoolengage.ca/> to complete these forms if you have not done so already. Thank you.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the school office; we are happy to help.

REMINDER: Fireside Swag



Looking for a Christmas gift idea? How about a Fireside School hoodie, ball cap, or touque?

Check out this online store:

<https://fireside.rockyview.ab.ca/news/fireside-swag>

Orders placed prior to November 23 will be delivered to the school office before the Winter Break.



Contact Us!

Fireside School

403.932.4868

fireside@rockyview.ab.ca

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