

FIRESIDE FOCUS

OPEN MINDS ■ OPEN HEARTS ■ OPEN DOORS

The Weeks Ahead ~ January 27, 2022 to February 2, 2023

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| Friday, Jan 27 to Monday, Feb 27 | | 2023 Fireside School Read-a-Thon (see below) <i>Book Love: A Community of Readers</i> |
| Monday, Jan 30 | | School Day for students (please note this change in the Rocky View Schools calendar) |
| Wednesday, Feb 1 | 5:00 to 6:00 pm | Kindergarten Information Session for Parents (see below; poster at the end) |
| Wednesday, Feb 1 | 6: 30 to 7:30 pm | School Council Meeting (Meeting ID: 956 1746 1383 Passcode: 891360) |
| Wednesday, Feb 1 | 7:30 to 8:30 pm | Friends of Fireside Meeting (Meeting ID: 956 1746 1383 Passcode: 891360) |
| Friday, Feb 3 | | Weekly Tracker Log #1 due to Homeroom Teachers |
| Friday, Feb 10 | | Professional Learning Day (no school for students) |
| Monday, Feb 13 | | Weekly Tracker Log #2 due to Homeroom Teachers |
| Friday, Feb 17 | | Weekly Tracker Log #3 due to Homeroom Teachers |
| Monday, Feb 20 | | Family Day – No Classes |
| Tuesday, Feb 21 and Wednesday, Feb 22 | | No Classes |
| Thursday, Feb 23 and Friday, Feb 24 | | Teachers’ Convention – No Classes for Students |
| Tuesday, Feb 28 | | Weekly Tracker Log #4 due to Homeroom Teachers |
| Tuesday, Feb 28 to Friday, March 4 | | 2023 Fireside School Read-a-Thon Pledge Forms and Master Minutes Tracker page due to Homeroom Teachers |
| Thursday, March 2 | 6:30 to 8:30 pm | RVS Public Consultation – Powell Street School at Mitford School |

Greetings Fireside Families & Friends!

It was another fast and furious week at the school. Our monthly SOAR Awards were held on Friday, where a number of students were honored for their demonstrations of Spirit, Outstanding Character, Achievement, and Respect/Responsibility. At the assembly, we also kicked off this year's Read-A-Thon, where our kids will cultivate their love of books as a community of readers. Grade 8 students Jack Mirosh and Bella Tanzola (last year's total minutes winner) opened the Read-A-Thon with their presentation on this year's challenge. The event comes with an impressive number of community supported sponsorships this year, with great prizes offered for kids and classes that lead the way with their reading minutes. See below for more information.



Our basketball teams were both in action on Friday, with our girls playing at home and the boys on the road in Beiseker. As of our writing, the girls had split their games with Northcott Prairie and Rancheview, beating their crosstown rivals 31-21.



Lastly, RVS began public consultations this week regarding the use of the old Holy Spirit site (currently referred to as the Powell Street School). One of the proposals they are considering would affect a number of Fireside families. Please see below for additional information.

We'd like to wish everyone a great weekend. Stay warm!

Dave, Tara, & Jason
Fireside Administration Team

In this week's edition:

NEW: 2023 Fireside School Read-a-Thon – It's ON!

NEW: Powell Street School Utilization – Changes to Fireside Proposed

NEW: School Council Meeting - Wednesday, February 1

NEW: Friends of Fireside School Meeting - Wednesday, February 1

NEW: Footstock 2023

UPDATE: Kindergarten Information Session - Wednesday, February 1, 2023

NEW: 2023 Fireside School Read-a-Thon – It's ON!

Our 2nd Annual Read-a-Thon begins today, Friday, January 27, at Fireside School! Given that it is Family Literacy Day, it just makes sense for this to be our first day. We are very excited for this event!

Our theme this year is **Book Love: A Community of Readers**. Fireside School's reading goal is 900,000 minutes as a school! Our FUNdraising goal is \$10,000, with all funds going toward adding cool features to our Outdoor Learning Space environment. Our focus again this year is on building a love of reading and on connecting as a community over our love of reading.

As per the email sent to all families, students will be bringing home a letter and information package with them today. Further information will be sent early next week by email and updates will be provided on our progress in each week's *Fireside Focus* in the coming week.

One new aspect this year is the **Weekly Tracking Logs**. Students will receive their first one on Monday, January 30; it will include instructions for how to complete and submit it. **Weekly Tracking Log #1** is due to Homeroom Teachers next Friday, February 3.

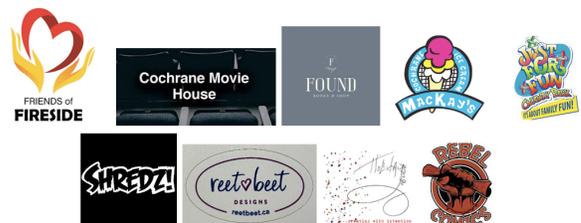
Here are the weekly timeframes this year for minute collections and submissions:

- Week 1: Jan 27-Feb 3
- Week 2: Feb 4 to Feb 12
- Week 3: Feb 13 to Feb 16
- Week 4: Feb 17 to Feb 27



There will also be Weekly Draw Prize opportunities for students and staff during this year's Read-a-Thon. Each week will have new prize draws and students/staff will get entry ballots as they reach a variety of reading benchmarks and goals over the course of the week, including giving book recommendations and having conversations about the books they're reading with others in the school to build our Community of Readers and Love of Reading. Next week's email will contain a list of prizes, kindly sponsored by Community Partners, and that week's goals and benchmarks for students and staff. Following weeks will be communicated at school and in *Fireside Focus* moving forward.

Friends of Fireside School Society is a key sponsor again this year; they are sponsoring all of the awards for the Top Readers in each grade, as well as additional draw prizes to be presented at our Celebration Assembly sometime in March. Cochrane Movie House is also kindly sponsoring some of our final draw prizes again this year. In addition, Found Books & Shop, MacKay's Ice Cream, Calaway Park, Shredz Shop, reet beet Designs, Holliday Collective, and Rebel Comics have added their support to our event this year. And other community partners are



still joining us as we celebrate our love of reading at Fireside School. We are very grateful for their generous support of our school, our students, and our programs at Fireside School.

So, read, read, read as we take on our 2023 Read-a-Thon together: it's ON for Read-a-Thon!

NEW: Powell Street School Utilization – Changes to Fireside Proposed

On Thursday evening, Rocky View Schools hosted the first of two public consultation engagements soliciting Cochrane residents for feedback on use of the Powell Street School (formerly Holy Spirit School).

At the meeting, RVS proposed 3 potential scenarios for utilization of the school:

- A) Move Cochrane Christian Academy (either its K-4 students only or the entire K-8 school), currently housed in Mitford School, to the Powell Street School. French Immersion students leaving grade 4 at Glenbow School would then attend an FI program at Mitford instead of going to Manachaban.
- B) Move all K-4 French Immersion students to the Powell Street School. Elizabeth Barrett and Glenbow School would then also house grade 5 students. Mitford and Manachaban would become mostly Grade 6 to 8 schools (Manachaban would retain Grade 5 FI).
- C) Move K-5 students in the neighborhoods east of highway 22 and south of the Bow River (Riviera, Rivercrest, River Heights, Precedence, The Willows, and Riversong) to the Powell Street School. Those students would return to Fireside for grades 6 to 8.

Scenario C would see approximately 300 students redirected from Fireside to the Powell Street School this September.

Rocky View is providing several avenues of engagement for stakeholders to offer input and to express their views on these proposals. They have opened a new website at rvsengage.com with detailed information and directions for sending feedback. On March 2nd, there will be a second public consultation at Mitford School from 6:30 to 8:30. On March 23rd, stakeholders may make presentations to the board in advance of their decision on April 27th (tentatively). More information on these opportunities can be found on the rvsengage.com website. As well, Ward 6 (Cochrane) Board Trustee, Fiona Gilbert and the RVS Director of Communications, Tara de Weerd will attend our next School Council meeting on Wednesday.

NEW: School Council Meeting – Wednesday, February 1

Our next Fireside School Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 1st. It will be a hybrid-style meeting again this month: you can join us at the school in-person or on Zoom (Meeting ID: 956 1746 1383; Passcode: 891360). Everyone is welcome. We will be discussing current issues important to Fireside School and Fiona Gilbert (Trustee Ward 6 Cochrane) will give an update from the Rocky View Schools Board of Trustees. This will be a good opportunity to ask questions about the proposed scenarios for utilization of the Powell Street School. We hope you will join us.

NEW: Friends of Fireside Meeting – Wednesday, February 1



Attention all Friends of Fireside supporters! We are currently seeking a new Secretary to join our fundraising organization. If you or someone you know is organized, detail-oriented, and passionate about making a difference, this is the perfect opportunity for you!

Our next monthly meeting is Wednesday at 8 pm at the Fireside School (you can also join us on Zoom Meeting ID: 956 1746 1383; Passcode: 891360). We would love to see you there. Please reach out to us for more information and to apply. Let's make a difference together!

Friends of Fireside is currently working on how to provide the Home Alone courses for students again this year. A date in May is being reviewed, and information will be made available to parents and families as soon as it is set.

[NEW: Footstock 2023](#)

Footstock 2023 is set for Sunday, June 4th. The kids' triathlon is back for kids 15 and under. In addition, there are 5k, 10k, 18k races and the Footstock Relay. Register a team of three to participate as a family or group of friends, or enter the Footstock Community Relay/Corporate Challenge and try to bring the Footstock trophy to your organization. See more at footstock.ca.

[UPDATE: Kindergarten Information Session – Wednesday, February 1](#)

On Wednesday, February 1 (next Wednesday), Fireside School will be offering a Kindergarten information session for families. It will run from 5:00 - 6:00 pm at the school. The session will cover a variety of topics that will give attendees a picture of what Kindergarten at Fireside is like. The session will include a short tour and a Q&A session. No registration is required.

[Contact Us!](#)

Fireside School

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