

# FIRESIDE FOCUS

OPEN MINDS ■ OPEN HEARTS ■ OPEN DOORS

## The Weeks Ahead ~ February 10, 2023 to February 17, 2023

Friday, Jan 27 to Monday, Feb 27		<b>2023 Fireside School Read-a-Thon (see below)</b> <i>Book Love: A Community of Readers</i>
Monday, Feb 13		<b>Weekly Tracker Log #2 due to Homeroom Teachers</b>
Tuesday, Feb 14		<b>Happy Hearts Day! Valentine's Day</b>
Friday, Feb 17		<b>Pink Shirt Day</b>
Friday, Feb 17		<b>Weekly Tracker Log #3 due to Homeroom Teachers</b>
Monday, Feb 20 to Friday, Feb 24		<b>No Classes</b>
Tuesday, Feb 28		<b>Weekly Tracker Log #4 due to Homeroom Teachers</b>
Tuesday, Feb 28 to Friday, March 4		<b>2023 Fireside School Read-a-Thon Pledge Forms and Master Minutes Tracker page due to Homeroom Teachers</b>
Wednesday, March 1	<b>6:30 to 7:30 pm</b>	<b>Fireside School Council Meeting (in-person &amp; Zoom)</b> <b>(Meeting ID: 956 1746 1383    Passcode: 891360)</b>
Wednesday, March 1	<b>7:30 to 8:30 pm</b>	<b>Friends of Fireside Meeting (in-person &amp; Zoom)</b> <b>(Meeting ID: 956 1746 1383    Passcode: 891360)</b>
Thursday, March 2	<b>6:30 to 8:30 pm</b>	<b>RVS Public Consultation – Powell Street School at Mitford School</b>
Tuesday, March 21	<b>4:30 to 6:30</b>	<b>Bow Valley High Open House for current Grade 8s</b>
Wednesday March 22 and Thursday March 23	<b>4:00 to 7:00 pm both days</b>	<b>3-Way Conferences (more information to come in later editions of <i>Focus</i>)</b> <b><i>*Scholastic Book Fair will also occur these evenings</i></b>
Friday March 24		<b>Start of Term 3</b>

Greetings Fireside Families & Friends!

Hands-on, project-based learning was alive this week at Fireside. Grade 4s kicked off their Simple Machines unit with “The Marble Challenge” – a timed engineering project that invites them to solve the problem, “how slowly can you





guide a marble to the floor?" Grade 2s enjoyed Iqaluit Day, where they learned about Inuit culture and made ice Inuksuit, marshmallow igloos, and other pieces of artwork. Thanks to all the parents who supported the day by volunteering their time. Finally, grade 6s showcased their Mythological Creature sculptures, pulling together their understanding of narrative mythology and animal physiology.

We have one more week of school before our February Break. Teachers will be in the city on Thursday and Friday of that week, taking up professional learning at the Palliser District Teachers' Convention. Shortly after our return we'll be holding our March School Council meeting. At this time we'll be taking feedback on the school's performance this year and direction for the coming school year, as we prepare our Winter Playbook (the school's bi-annual reporting document).



RVS is still accepting feedback on the use of the Powell Street School next year. At this time, there has been a relatively small number of submissions from Fireside families. Your voice matters, and should you wish to add it to the conversation, you can do so at [www.rvsengage.com](http://www.rvsengage.com).

We'd like to offer a huge congratulations to our Junior A Basketball teams on their showing at Divisionals this week: both teams played their hearts out. Our boys placed fourth in RVS and our girls won the silver medal right here at home! Way to go, Hawks!

Finally, *Cochrane Now* and the *Cochrane Eagle* ran an article about our Read-a-Thon this week; it can be found at this [link](#) or on page 7 in the [e-edition](#) (where you'll notice we're on the top of the front page too). Please see below for an update on Week #1 and Week #2 of Read-a-Thon. Book Love is alive and well here at Fireside School!



Wishing you an excellent weekend!  
Dave, Tara, & Jason  
Fireside School Administration Team

#### **In this week's edition:**

**NEW: Pink Shirt Day**

**NEW: Updated staff emails: Kelsea Soch & Kaity Schaab**

**NEW: Friends of Fireside MARCH MADNESS Calendar Fundraiser**

**NEW: Read-a-Thon 2023 Week #1 and #2 + Updates**

**NEW: Reading Comments in PowerSchool**

**NEW: Monday Addition to Grade 8 Open Campus**

**NEW: Kindergarten Registration Continuing**

**NEW: Grade 2 Iqaluit Day**

**NEW: Allergy Awareness and Reminders**

**UPDATED: Powell Street School Utilization – Changes to Fireside Proposed**

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### **NEW: Pink Shirt Day**

The official **Pink Shirt Day**, a day meant to bring awareness and support for anti-bullying, is on Tuesday, February 22nd in Alberta every year. However, with our students out on February Break, Fireside School will be observing the day on Friday, February 17th. The grade 5-6 leadership students have created posters and positive messages that are currently displayed on the front bulletin board by the office. In the days leading up to our **Pink Shirt Day**, students will be doing creative activities to decorate our school for Friday, February 17th. [BGCC Cochrane](#) is selling pink shirts this year and is currently taking orders. We look forward to seeing everyone in **pink** on the Friday before break!

### **NEW: "Be Body Positive" Program Opportunity (Grades 6-8)**

In coordination with Rocky View Schools' Stepping Stones for Mental Health, we are looking to engage a "Be Body Positive" Group opportunity for students in grades 6-8. This program will run one lunchtime a week starting on February 28. It is an 8-week program for students with topics and activities exploring body positivity and ideas surrounding beauty, health, and self-confidence without comparison or judgment. An informational email about this program will be coming out to parents of students in grades 6-8 early next week. If you would like your student to participate, please contact Kelsea Soch at [ksoch@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:ksoch@rockyview.ab.ca). There will be a consent form to fill for those who are participating.

### **NEW: Updated staff emails: Kelsea Soch & Kaity Schaab**

Due to name changes, two of our staff members have new email addresses. Grade 7/8 teacher, Kaity Schaab (née Weintz) can be reached at [kschaab@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:kschaab@rockyview.ab.ca) and CDA, Kelsea Soch (née Wright) can be reached at [ksoch@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:ksoch@rockyview.ab.ca). Their old email addresses will no longer function.

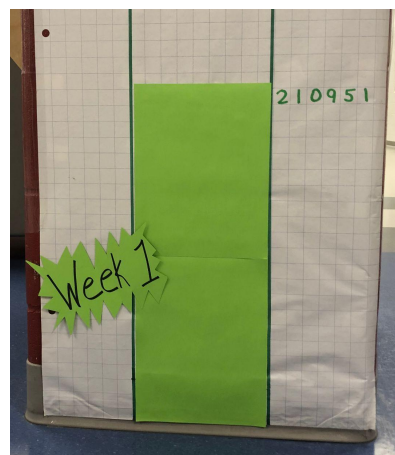
### **NEW: Friends of Fireside MARCH MADNESS Calendar Fundraiser**

Get ready to go mad for March Madness! This fun-filled fundraiser is all about making our new outdoor learning dreams a reality. With over \$4,200 worth of prizes up for grabs, it's a win-win situation. Get your tickets now and show your support for the next generation of outdoor learners. Let's make this spring one to remember - and raise some serious cash while we're at it! Get your tickets now at <https://friendsoffireside.ca/march-madness-2023>! We will draw a winner each day of March on Monday-Friday and have a grand prize on the 31st.

### **NEW: Read-a-Thon 2023 ~ Week ##1 and #2 + Updates**

Week #1 of Read-a-Thon saw us reading over 220,000 minutes as a school! Mr. Russell's Grade 2 class is in the lead, with Mrs. O'Neal's Grade 2s and Mrs. Collings Grade 4s close behind. Any forms submitted after Friday, Feb. 3 will be counted into the next round of minutes.

Reading and sharing of book love continued into Week #2. Trackers were updated and draw prizes for Week #1 were drawn on Wednesday. Entries for Week 2s Draw Prize entries (Monday, Feb. 6 to Sunday, Feb. 13) are already coming in, with students selecting the prize they hope to win from the 17 choices. Many of this week's



draw prizes were generously donated by Shredz Shops (Spider-Man socks), Rebel Comics (graphic novel), River Heights Subway (\$10 gift card), River Heights Domino's (\$10 gift card; Manager Priya Priya), and Found Books & Shop (Valentine's Book Basket).

We had Guest Readers in the school again this week: Mary Magee, Director of Schools (West) Sandy McDuffe, and our School Resource Officers. Next week, we will welcome these Guest Readers back for one more week of reading before February Break; Superintendent of Schools Greg Luterbach will also be joining us as a guest reader next week. Guest Readers will also include grade 7/8 Leadership students and Bella and Jack, the Super Reader Leaders for this year's event.



Week #2 ends on Sunday night to begin Week #3 fresh on Monday morning. Please take some time to help your student(s) calculate their totals on their At Home/On Own minutes on Sunday night on the blue Weekly Tracker Log #2 page (or in agendas where requested) to communicate those minutes to Homeroom Teachers. Week #2 minutes are due first thing Monday, February 13. Further information about all things Read-a-Thon for students and families can be found at this [link](#).



#### **[NEW: Reading Comments in PowerSchool](#)**

Please look in PowerSchool for the January 31 Reading Comment. This comment is an update on your child's reading level for instructional reading and comprehension. It also includes information on your child's reading behaviours and areas of strength when reading, as well as next steps for continued growth. As always, if there are any questions, please reach out to your child's Homeroom Teacher.

#### **[NEW: Monday Addition to Grade 8 Open Campus](#)**

Grade 8 students who have been authorized to leave campus at lunch time may also do so on Mondays, starting on Monday Feb 27th (after the break). Our students have been representing themselves and Fireside School respectfully and responsibly, and we're happy to be able to give them more opportunity to do so.

#### **[NEW: Kindergarten Registration Continuing](#)**

Kindergarten registration for the 2023/24 school year opened on January 23, 2022 and is continuing throughout the rest of the school year.

In RVS, Kindergarten is offered as a half-day program in most schools. Select schools have a full-day Kindergarten program on alternating days. Later in the spring, children will be placed in morning or afternoon programs based on circumstances outlined by parents and available space. Although registration will continue throughout the year, registering early helps families and schools plan for a successful transition and provides RVS necessary information to have teachers and resources in place.

"Our Kindergarten programs build on what children have already learned at home and in the community, and starts them on the path towards early literacy and math skills," said Luterbach. "Students also



develop important social and problem-solving skills and begin developing positive attitudes and behaviours towards learning and school.

"Alberta's standardized age of Kindergarten entry requires students to turn five years old by Dec. 31 of the school year they begin Kindergarten. This means children born between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2018, can register for Kindergarten for the 2023/24 school year.

All new registrations for Kindergarten must be completed through SchoolEngage, RVS' online registration system. During operational hours, schools will allow access to a computer and assist families who otherwise do not have access to a computer.

### [Kindergarten Registration Page](#)



### [NEW: Grade 2 Iqaluit Day](#)

On Thursday, Grade Twos had an action-packed celebration of learning at school. Thank you to the generous parent volunteers who sent materials and shared their time with us, making this event a true success!

During the course of the day, students engaged in a number of hands-on activities as they created personal artifacts in relation to their Social Studies unit on communities in the Canadian North. They made arctic animals from clay, model igloos, Inuksuk artist trading cards, ice sculpture Inuksuit, and even participated in traditional Arctic Winter Games. Our ice Inuksuit can still be seen just outside of the grade 2 doors!



All the students really enjoyed Iqaluit Day. One grade two student summed it up the best: "This is the greatest day of my life!"

### [NEW: Allergy Awareness and Reminders](#)

Some members of our school community have identified having severe allergic reactions to the following scents and/or compounds:

- Fragrance (perfume, cologne, scented creams, body sprays, essential oils, etc.)
- Citrus (e.g. orange, lemon, lime, citrus scented sanitizer, etc.)
- Vanilla (e.g. body lotion, cream, perfume, sprays, sanitizer, etc.)
- Coconut (e.g. body lotion, cream, perfume, sanitizer, etc.)
- Floral Scents (e.g. body lotion, cream, perfume, sanitizer, etc.)
- Nuts (please note that we are a nut-aware school)



- We ask that anyone coming into Fireside School please refrain from wearing perfume, cologne, body sprays, scented products, and essential oils; please do not bring or send in items such as nuts.



- **Please do not bring perfumes, colognes, or scented products (as per the above list) into our school or spray them in the school: we are a scent-aware school.**
- **Please note that we are a Nut-Aware School**

Especially with some important field trips, tournaments, 3-Way Conferences, and other events coming up at the school in the next few months, we wanted to be sure to re-share this information with you as a friendly reminder. We thank you for your attention to and respect for these health concerns and for helping us to keep everyone safe from allergic reactions this school year.

#### **UPDATED: Powell Street School Utilization – Changes to Fireside Proposed**

At our School Council meeting on Wednesday, February 1, Trustee for Rocky View Schools (Ward 6 - Cochrane) Fiona Gilbert and Rocky View Schools' Director of Communications Tara de Weerd spoke further about the Powell Street School Utilization which was originally shared the previous Thursday evening, when 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](http://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](http://rvsengage.com) website.

#### **Contact Us!**

Fireside School

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