

## The Weeks Ahead ~ February 17, 2023 to March 3, 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 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 3		<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 (see below)</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 & 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 in our Learning Commons</i></b>
Friday March 24		<b>Start of Term 3</b>

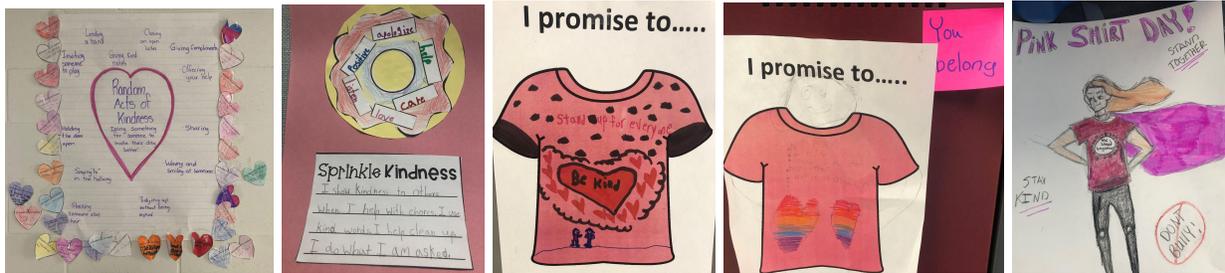
Greetings Fireside Families & Friends!



It was a week of kindness, hearts, learning, and fun at Fireside School. Monday saw Grade 7/8 Leadership students starting their “Happy Hearts Day” (aka Valentine’s Day) activities: putting Post-Its on lockers throughout the building with encouraging and caring phrases. Then, on Tuesday, they greeted staff and students with heart stickers to welcome them all on Valentine’s Day at school. Kindergarteners in Miss Alison’s class and Grade 4 students in Mrs. Colling’s class got together to make a heart tree after reading *How to Grow a Friend* by Sara Gillingham. They surrounded it with hearts with words that guide us to be good friends to others.



Following lessons about kind language and respect over the past few weeks, classes continued their discussions of what it means to be kind, how to include others, and how to meaningfully seek to build positive connections with others. CDA's Kelsea Soch and Corey MacDouell led the school in a variety of activities, culminating in Pink Shirt Day today. Students decorated pink shirts with anti-bullying messages and suggestions for how to be kind. In upper grades, students made Pink Shirt Day posters that captured their commitments to stop bullying.



We officially passed 100 days of our school year, which Grade 1s celebrated in classes. Grade 3's were busy with a variety of activities: crafting hearts with sentiments connected to Maya Angelou's statement, "People will forget what you did. But, people will never forget how you made them feel."



Friday saw many draw prize tickets given to students for excellent reading and interesting book discussions, as Weekly Tracker #3 sheets were handed in. Friday then ended with the staff vs. student basketball games. In both games, staff emerged victorious over the boys and girls teams. Community coaches Bruce Colwell (Junior A Boys) and Alison Clayton (Junior A Girls) also joined in the fun. What a great way to end the week!

Wishing you all a lovely Family Day Weekend and a restful, fun February Break Week.

Dave, Tara, & Jason  
Fireside School Administration Team

**In this week's edition:**

**NEW: Read-a-Thon 2023 Week #2 and #3**

**NEW: Read-a-Thon Finale Events: Reading Chain and Photo Spectacular Mural**

**NEW: CONNECT Parenting Virtual Program Opportunity**

**NEW: Junior A Basketball Season Wrap-up**

**NEW: Immunization for Kindergarten Students**

**NEW: Grade 8's Open Campus on Monday, February 27**

**NEW: Kinder + Grade 4 Heart Tree**

**NEW: Assurance Survey**

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

**UPDATED: “Be Body Positive” Program Opportunity (Grades 6-8)**

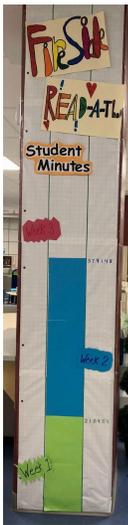
**REMINDER: Friends of Fireside MARCH MADNESS Calendar Fundraiser**

**REMINDER: Reading Comments in PowerSchool**

**REMINDER: Allergy Awareness and Reminders**

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**[NEW: Read-a-Thon 2023 ~ Week #2 and #3 + Updates](#)**



Week 2 saw students and staff add over 330,000 minutes to our Read-a-Thon total: amazing! We have reached 579, 148 minutes, more than halfway to our reading goal for our 2nd Annual Read-a-Thon! Excited students received the prizes they won for Week #2 from sponsors such as Shredz Shop, Rebel Comics, Found Books & Shops, River Heights Domino's, River Heights Subway, and other donors. Week 3 prizes include prizes from these sponsors, as well as a beautiful set of greeting cards from reet beet Designs and an art lesson for a student and a friend with Mrs. Tanya McIntyre, who is often a guest teacher at Fireside. We are grateful to all of our community partners for helping to make this year's Read-a-Thon extra special. Week 3 prizes will be drawn Monday, Feb. 27, once all minutes collected today have been finalized. Week 4 draw prizes will be ready for Tuesday, Feb. 28, and once Master Tracker Forms and Pledge Forms have been reviewed and final tallies are confirmed, students have opportunities to enter for the prizes in the Super Draw as a finale for Read-a-Thon. To receive an entry for the Super Draws, students can bring their book lists of reads for the month to a staff member to show them their favourite book or be the top reader in their class or read every day of Read-a-Thon (as shown on their Master Tracker).

In addition to our other generous sponsors, we've added two new community partners this week: Military Museums (Calgary) has donated a family pass (for 4 people) to be one of our draw prizes; additionally, local author J. Neven-Pugh has donated book sets of her own *Dragon* trilogy and other book sets for additional prizes. We also have a new sponsor for Celebration Assembly draw prizes: Spray Lake Sawmills Family Recreation Centre donated 4 Family Day Passes!

As we go into February Break, students are excited and encouraged to read every day, tracking their minutes on their Master Trackers and getting ready to submit Week 4 minutes when school resumes. The final weekly tallies will come in the morning of February 28. Master Tracker and Pledge Forms can be returned to Homeroom Teachers starting Tuesday, February 28; for students to be entered into the draw prizes (see below) these pages need to be completed and returned by Friday, March 3.

**[NEW: Read-a-Thon Finale Events: Reading Chain and Photo Spectacular Mural](#)**

On February 28, all students and staff will be participating in a Reading Chain activity. What is a Reading Chain you ask? Well, it is where students buddy up between upper and younger grades and sit to read in the hallways and spaces throughout the school in a “chain” of readers. Given that our theme this year was Community of Readers, this seems like the perfect fit for our finale event.



We also have a photo spectacular request for Read-a-Thon finale: we're asking all students and staff to take a picture that represents their reading over Read-a-Thon. This can be a picture of them reading, the stack of books they read, them reading their fave book, their favourite reading spot, a creative montage of books, or something else reading-book related to show their experience of Read-a-Thon. It could also be an artistic rendering showing their view of reading or a drawing with a favourite quote from a book they've read.

If students and staff could please print their best reading photo and bring it to school for Monday, March 6, that would be appreciated. Then, we will be putting them up in the Learning Commons in a "Community of Readers Mural" for display of our commitment to book love and reading at Fireside School. This idea was inspired by Mr. Periard's photo of his kitten looking at books in his bookshelf and book pictures students showed to Ms. Sly to engage in book discussions and book recommends. We can't wait to show you a picture of the final photo mural project!



### [NEW: CONNECT Parenting Virtual Program Opportunity](#)

Family School Liasons (FSL) are a key part of the Learning Team for all Rocky View Schools schools. Some of the FSL team are starting a virtual CONNECT parenting session, which is a FREE 9 -week program to support parents of pre-teens and teens. The program runs from March 2 through May 2, for 1.5 hours per week. The program focuses on core components of secure attachment to promote children's social, emotional, and behavioural adjustment. CONNECT helps caregivers understand basic attachment concepts that can be applied across a broad range of situations and relational concepts. Each session provides parents with an attachment perspective on parent-child relationships and adolescent development. How to access family supports and additional resources will also be a focus within the sessions. Contact and registration information is included on the poster at the end of this week's *Focus*.

### [NEW: Junior A Girls' Basketball Season Wrap-up](#)

Teamwork, leadership, determination, and growth are the words I use to describe the 2022/2023 Junior A Girls' Basketball season. As a team, we practiced hard, played hard, and leaned on each other when we needed it the most. Twelve girls who were unfamiliar to each other came together to fight the same battle on the court, leaving with a silver medal in hand and a team they now call "a family".



The team would like to give big thank-yous to: our P.E. Specialist, Melaine Hamilton, for the helping hand, hard work, and preparation that went into all of our practices and tournaments. Thank you to Ellie, Tarah, and Amira for helping out with the set-up and scorekeeping at all of our home games. Shout out to our wonderful janitorial staff who cleaned up during and after our tournaments. Special thank you to Rhett and Mrs. Goss, who organized and took care of all our jerseys ensuring they were clean and ready to go for game day. A VERY special thank you to our coach, Alison Clayton, for her expertise, leadership, and commitment to our girls. We could not have done it without you! Finally, thank you, Brooklyn, Mariel, Elsa, Fiona, Isla, Caitlyn, Bella, Riyan, Maeve, Nikki, Alina and Lana for an amazing basketball season. Ms. Duong said: "I am beyond proud of how you all carried yourselves on and off the court. Thank you for representing Fireside School and your coaches so well."

### **[NEW: Immunization for Kindergarten Students](#)**

As you plan for your child attending kindergarten, it is an ideal time to review your child's immunization history. It is important to keep your child's immunizations up to date to prevent disease and to help keep your child healthy.

Children are due for these routine vaccines at 4 years of age:

- Diphtheria/ Pertussis/ Tetanus/ Polio
- Measles / Mumps / Rubella / Chickenpox

Please see the poster from Alberta Health Services at the end of *Focus* for information.

### **[NEW: Grade 8's Open Campus on Monday, February 27](#)**

Those Grade 8s who already have permission to leave campus on Wednesday will also be able to leave campus on Mondays after we come back from the break. We have been communicating regularly with Fireside vendors and have heard positive reviews of our students in the community.

### **[NEW: Assurance Survey](#)**

The Alberta Education Assurance survey should be arriving in family's mailboxes who have students in grades 4, 7, and 10. The deadline for completing the survey is March 17th. Grade 4 and 7 students and staff will be surveyed in school. Thank you for providing important data to help shape our school planning and decision making.

### **[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](https://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](https://rvsengage.com) website.

#### **UPDATED: “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. Parents and guardians of students in grades 6-8 should have received an email this week with more information, including how to contact CDA Kelsea Soch regarding their children participating in this group.

This program will run one lunchtime a week starting on February 28 and every Tuesday to follow for 8-weeks. Topics and activities explore body positivity and ideas surrounding beauty, health, and self-confidence without comparison or judgment. 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. The forms need to be back to Mrs. Soch prior to Tuesday lunchtime, please.

#### **REMINDER: 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.

#### **REMINDER: 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.

#### **REMINDER: Allergy Awareness and Reminders**

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.

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)

### **[Contact Us!](#)**

Fireside School

403.932.4868

[fireside@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:fireside@rockyview.ab.ca)

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