

FIRESIDE FOCUS

OPEN MINDS ■ OPEN HEARTS ■ OPEN DOORS

The Weeks Ahead ~ March 10, 2023 to March 16, 2023

Friday, March 10	Boys @ Fireside Girls @ Westbrook	Junior B Basketball Team Tournaments (see below)
Wednesday, March 15		Grade 8 Presentation from Bow Valley High School
Thursday, March 16		Fireside St. Patrick's Day – Wear Green and Gold Day
Friday, March 17		Professional Learning Day (no school)
Monday, March 20		Professional Learning Day (no school)
Tuesday, March 21	4:30 to 6:30 pm (at Bow Valley High School)	Bow Valley High Open House for current Grade 8s and their families (see below)
Wednesday, March 22	TBD	Read-a-Thon Celebration Assemblies
Wednesday, March 22 & Thursday, March 23	4:00 to 7:00 pm both days	3-Way Conferences (see below including how to book conferences in Conference Manager)
Wednesday, March 22 & Thursday, March 23	4:00 to 7:00 pm both days (and online)	<i>Scholastic Book Fair</i> in the Learning Commons (online ordering will also be available)
Thursday, March 23		End of Term 2 and Term 2 Deadline for Grade 7/8 classes
Friday March 24		Start of Term 3
Friday, March 24	Girls @ Fireside Boys @ Westbrook	Junior B Basketball Tournament (see below)
Friday, March 31	TBD	Grade 6 Basketball Tournament
Wednesday, April 5	6:30 to 8:30 pm	School Council presents Social Networking Safety Presentation Parent Session (see next week's <i>Focus</i> for more info)
Tuesday, April 4		Spring Concert (see below)
Friday, April 7 through Sunday, April 16		Spring Break (no classes)
Monday, April 17		First day of Classes after Spring Break

Greetings Fireside Families & Friends!

The cold brought us a few indoor recess days this week, but we still had plenty of chances to get outside and enjoy the crisp March air. Our 8s tried their hand at ringette on the neighbourhood rink, some of the 4s coded robots, leadership students attended the RVS Middle School Leadership Conference in Airdrie, and Week 4 Read-a-Thon draw prizes were handed out.



Starting next week, recesses will look a little different for the kids. For the last few years, students have been kept separate from other grades

while out on the fields. This started largely due to Covid restrictions, and with those no longer an issue, we've had some requests from both students and parents to consider allowing the students to intermingle at recess. We'll begin doing that again on Monday, with the playground as the one area still scheduled by class.



As Term 2 comes to a close in the next two weeks, the deadline for submission of Term 2 work for students in grades 7 and 8 draws near. Teachers will have communicated the deadlines for their courses to students.

As we write, our Junior B Basketball Teams are playing in their respective tournaments. Their next tournaments are Friday, March 24 (see below), and there is also a tournament for Grade 6 Basketball coming up.

We wish everyone a lovely and safe weekend!

Dave, Tara, & Jason
Fireside School Administration Team



In this week's edition:

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NEW: Submitting Pledged Funds for Read-a-Thon

Now that students have collected pledges from their families, friends, and neighbours, it is time to submit those funds to Fireside School. Pledged funds are submitted through School Cash Online; no cash payments please.

Students have turned in their pledge forms, and the total pledged amount has now been entered in the student's School Cash Online account. Funds that have already been received by the school via donations have been deducted from the amount owed.

Please log into your School Cash Online accounts to honour your pledge. Payment is due by March 17, 2023. Thank you.

NEW: Fireside Spring Concert

Fireside School is thrilled to invite parents and guardians to our second concert of the year: Pop & Magic – a colourful evening of memorable, popular tunes and Broadway inspired performances. Join us on April 4th at 6:30pm (doors open at 6:00pm) for a dazzling display of performances by our grade 3s, 4s and 5s. The curtain rises in just four short weeks! Please see the poster below for more information.

NEW: Bow Valley High School Open Hour for Grade 8 Students and Families

On March 21, Bow Valley will host its Open House for incoming Grade 8 students and families. The Open House will start in the Bow Valley High School Gym at 4:30 pm, where administration and Learning Team staff will give an overview of registration procedures, courses, and other aspects of transitioning to high school next year. An opportunity to tour the school will follow, where you will also be able to see what options are available to grade 9 students in the 2023-2024 school year, as well as learn about extra-curricular opportunities. The Open House will conclude at 6:00 pm.

Bow Valley High School is located at 2000 River Heights Drive. The phone number is 403-932-9005 if you have any questions about high school you would like to ask prior to the event. Principal Shane Dempster and the Bow Valley team look forward to connecting with new students and their families at this event.

NEW: Scholastic Book Fair March 22 & 23

Mark your calendars! The fun and excitement of a **Scholastic Book Fair** is coming to our school!

So save the date! Our **Scholastic Book Fair** will take place on **March 22nd and 23rd**. The Learning Commons will be open from 4-7pm each day so come on down and check out what's on offer.

And for parents, friends and family that can't join us in the school, be sure to join us online with our **Virtual Book Fair Extension**! Our online shop will be open on the first day of our Fair and will stay open until 11:59pm on the 23rd. You can view a selection of the books you'll find here:

<https://virtualbookfairs.scholastic.ca/pages/5197742>

NEW: 3-Way Conferences March 22 & 23 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':

<https://fireside.schoolsoft.com/login.jsf>

If you have never used Conference Manager before, please register now. You do not have to wait until the site is open for bookings. 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. Important: the email address you provide in this profile will be used to send you the booking confirmation.

Conference Manager will open for bookings on **March 13th** at 8:00 AM and will close on **March 20th at noon**. 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.

NEW: Read-a-Thon 2023 Updates + Celebrations Assemblies

Read-a-Thon Celebration Assemblies will be held at Fireside School on Wednesday, March 22. One will be held for students in even-numbered grades and the other for students in odd-numbered grades. If your student(s) have won a draw prize or are receiving a top reading award, we will be in contact with you early next week to let you know the time of the assembly where their prize/award will be presented so you can attend if you are able to join us. Sponsors, Guest Readers, and other special guests will also be invited.

To date we have raised just over \$12,000 in pledges; thus, we've exceeded our goal for this year's Read-a-Thon. We will have a full update for you in next week's *Focus* and please see the information about submitted pledged funds for further information on that piece.

At the Celebration Assemblies, top readers in each grade will be recognized (\$40 Indigo Gift Card, sponsored by *Friends of Fireside*). There will be trophies presented to the classes with the most minutes read (one in each K-4 and 5-8) and the most funds raised; these classes will also win a PJ and Movie Party in the gym, with popcorn kindly provided by the Cochrane Movie House, and will receive coupons from our newest sponsor addition McDonalds. Student Readers also have the opportunity to win draw prizes provided by our community sponsors, including passes for the Cochrane Movie House; and a variety of different gift cards from MacKay's Ice Cream, Tim Hortons, Found Books & Shop, and McDonalds if they reached various benchmarks of minutes by the end of Read-a-Thon (over 500 minutes through over 5000 minutes). Also, students who read every day of Read-a-Thon (**as shown on the Master Tracker**) will

be entered into a draw for one of four day passes for Calaway Park or one of four family passes to Spray Lake Sawmills Family Recreation Centre. Additionally, the Top 3 Readers in K-4 and 5-8, as well as the top 3 Staff Readers will receive prizes, kindly sponsored by Found Books & Shop. Please watch for updates on our Read-a-Thon Celebration Assemblies in next week's *Focus*.

Super Draw Prizes are currently out for students to enter. Those who achieved important benchmarks during Read-a-Thon will receive ballots, including students who are the top readers in their classes, who have shared their favourite title on their book list with a staff member, and those who read every day of Read-a-Thon (**as shown on their Master Tracker**). Draw entries close Tuesday, March 14, at morning recess. Donations for our Super Draws have been kindly provided by community partners such as Holliday Collective, Shredz Shop, Rebel Comics, Found Books & Shops, River Heights Domino's, River Heights Subway, local author J. Neven-Pugh, the Military Museums (Calgary), and others. We are grateful for their donations to our Read-a-Thon. We also gained a new sponsor this week: Fireside McDonalds will be sponsoring some of the draw prizes for our Celebration Assemblies and giving coupons to the students in the classes for Most Minutes Read (K-4 and 5-8 respectively) and the Top Fundraising Class.

UPDATED: Photos for Read-a-Thon "Community of Readers" Photo Mural

We've collected many photos of students and staff reading to be put up in the Learning Commons for our Fireside School Read-a-Thon Mural. But, we wanted to give one last opportunity for students to bring in pictures for this mural, so if you have not yet had a chance to bring one in, please do so by Tuesday morning (March 14). The photos will be put up for display in our Learning Commons on a main wall to represent how we came together as a "Community of Readers" during Read-a-Thon. We ask that students please put their name and Homeroom Class on the back if they would like the photo returned. Some students have brought in a paper printed copy of a photo; that works too!



NEW: Correction to Dates Next Week

In last week's *Focus*, we failed to note next week's Professional Learning Days. There will be no school on Friday, March 17th or Monday, March 20th. Our green and gold St. Patrick's Day theme day is on Thursday March 16th.

REMINDER: Friends of Fireside - Purdy's Fundraiser

Looking for a sweet and delicious way to celebrate Spring Break or Easter? Look no further than Purdy's chocolate! Our delectable treats are the perfect addition to any Easter basket, and with a wide variety of flavors and styles to choose from, there's something for everyone. To order some sweet chocolate and support the Fireside School, order now at <https://form.jotform.com/230237996413258>

REMINDER: Junior B Basketball Games and Schedules

Our Junior B Basketball Teams played in their first tournament today. There are two Boys teams and one Girls teams. Below you'll find the schedules for their upcoming tournaments on Friday, March 10, and Friday, March 24. Go Hawks!!!

Junior B Boys' Team Schedule:

March 10th	Boys
Host:	Fireside
3:00pm	Fireside #2 vs Westbrook #1
3:45pm	Fireside #2 vs Springbank #2
4:30pm	Westbrook #1 vs Springbank #2
5:15pm	Springbank #1 vs Westbrook #2
6:00pm	Fireside #1 vs Westbrook #2
6:45pm	Springbank #1 vs Fireside #1

March 24th	Boys
Host:	Westbrook
3:00pm	Fireside #1 vs Manachaban #2
3:45pm	Manachaban #2 vs Mitford
4:30pm	Fireside #1 vs Mitford
5:15pm	Westbrook #2 vs Fireside #2
6:00pm	Manachaban #1 vs Fireside #2
6:45pm	Westbrook #2 vs Manachaban #1

Junior B Girls' Team Schedule:

March 10th	Girls
Host:	Westbrook
3:00pm	Manachaban vs Westbrook
3:45pm	Fireside vs Manachaban
4:30pm	Banded Peak vs Fireside
5:15pm	Westbrook vs Banded Peak

March 24th	Girls
Host:	Fireside
3:00pm	Mitford vs Fireside
3:45pm	Mitford vs Westbrook
4:30pm	Westbrook vs Springbank
5:15pm	Fireside vs Springbank

REMINDER: CONNECT Parenting Virtual Program Opportunity

The dates for the CONNECT Parenting Virtual Program hosted by RVS Family School Liaisons (FSL) have changed to Thursday evenings from March 16th-May 25th (no class on April 13), for 1.5 hours each week in Zoom. This program is a FREE 9-Week program to support parents of pre-teens and teens. Some of the key questions it explores include: Do you ever feel that your teen doesn't listen to you? Do you sometimes even feel pushed away? Do parents matter?

Co-developed over the last 10 years by the Maples Adolescent Treatment Centre and Simon Fraser University, 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.

For more information or to join this group, please contact Helen St. Pierre 587. 223.0374/ hstpierre@rockyview.ab.ca or Kelsey Brown 825. 733. 6490/ kbrown@rockyview.ab.ca. Further information can be found on the poster at the end of this week's *Focus*.

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

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

FIRESIDE SCHOOL PRESENTS

POP & Magic

UNDER THE SEA
HAKUNA MATATA
NEVER SMILE AT A CROCODILE
TRY EVERYTHING
I'M ON TOP OF THE WORLD
THE BARE NECESSITIES
MEMORIES
NEVER HAD A FRIEND LIKE ME
SURFACE PRESSURE
COUNT ON ME
PAINT IT BLACK

Tuesday - April 4th

GRADES 3-5

6:00 PM - DOORS OPEN

6:30 PM - SHOWTIME