

# ***FIRESIDE FOCUS***



## **Fireside Focus – March 17th**

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

Upcoming Dates

From the Admin Desk

NEW: Alberta Assurance Survey Extended

NEW: Paul Davis Presentation for Parents - April 5

NEW: 3-Way Conferences

NEW: Read-a-Thon Celebration Assemblies

NEW: Yummy Chocolate Just in Time for Easter! (Friends of Fireside)

UPDATED: Submitting Pledged Funds for Read-a-Thon

UPDATED: Bow Valley High School Open House for Grade 8 Students and Families – March 21

UPDATED: Allergy Awareness and Reminders

REMINDER: Scholastic Book Fair March 22 & 23

REMINDER: Fireside Spring Concert

REMINDER: CONNECT Parenting Virtual Program Opportunity



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### *Upcoming Dates*

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- **Monday, March 20th:** Professional Learning Day (no school)
- **Monday, March 20th:** Conference Manager<sup>1</sup> closes for 3-Way Conference Bookings
- **Tuesday, March 21st:** Bow Valley High Open House for Grade 8 families (4:30 - 6:30 @ BVHS)
- **Wednesday, March 22nd:** Read-A-Thon Assemblies
- **Wednesday, March 22nd & Thursday, March 23rd:** 3-Way Conferences (4:00 - 7:00)
- **Wednesday, March 22nd & Thursday, March 23rd:** Scholastic Book Fair (4:00 - 7:00)
- **Friday, March 24th:** Start of Term 3 (Grade 7 & 8 Options)
- **Friday, March 24th:** Junior B Boys basketball tournament (girls @ Fireside, boys @ Westbrook)
- **Friday, March 24th:** Deadline to complete Alberta Education Assurance Survey <sup>2</sup>(see below)
- **Wednesday, March 29th:** Healthy Hunger (Booster Juice)
- **Friday, March 31st:** Grade 6 Basketball Tournaments
- **Tuesday, April 4th:** Spring Concert (see below)
- **Wednesday, April 5th:** School Council presents: Social Networking Safety presentation for parents (6:30 - 8:00 @ Holy Spirit School)

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<sup>1</sup><https://fireside.schoolsoft.com/login.jsf>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-education-assurance-survey.aspx#jumplinks-1>

- **Friday, April 7th - Sunday, April 16th:** Spring Break (no classes)
- **Thursday, April 27th:** RVS Board Meeting - Powell Street School utilization decision (10:00 am - 12:00 pm, available on Zoom<sup>3</sup>)



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### *From the Admin Desk*

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Greetings Families and Friends of Fireside,

We heard your feedback and are happy to deliver the first edition of Fireside Focus on the web. With RVS's moving our school-wide messages from email to the School Messenger software, we recognized that our pdf version was difficult to read, particularly on mobile devices. Our hope is that this will alleviate some of those issues.

We also want to mention that PowerSchool's user interface on the app is far less functional than on the website<sup>4</sup>'s desktop interface. Many functions and pieces of information that teachers are putting into their grade books is not accessible through the mobile app. We'd like to encourage parents to look through PowerSchool on your desktop computers to get a more detailed view of your student's progress, particularly with three-way conferences right around the corner. Conference Manager will close for bookings on Monday at noon.

Last week brought some lovely weather back to recess, as well as the opportunity for students to mingle across the grades for the first time since before Covid restrictions were implemented. The new recess format excited many of our students who had the chance to play in areas (such as the hill along the fence) that have been off-limits until now.

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<sup>3</sup><https://rockyview.zoom.us/my/rvsboard>

<sup>4</sup><https://ps.rockyview.ab.ca/public/home.html>

Lastly, we're looking forward to the upcoming Read-A-Thon celebration assemblies next week. Classes and students who led the way in reading minutes will be celebrated and awarded prizes for their amazing efforts. The theme of the this year's event was "Building a Community of Readers," and we saw tremendous success as we watched classes intermingle and read together throughout the month. We are so thrilled to have exceeded our target of breaking the **1 MILLION!!** minutes read mark as a school. We're also looking forward to recognizing the incredible spirit, outstanding character, achievement, and responsibility of our students with this month's SOAR awards at the assemblies. We've got an amazing group of kids here and a lot to celebrate.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Dave, Tara and Jason

Fireside Administration Team

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### *Alberta Assurance Survey Extended*

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The deadline for completing Alberta Education Assurance Surveys<sup>5</sup> has been extended to Friday, March 24th. Your input is important, so if you have not yet had time to complete your survey, we hope you will do so. The results for this survey helps to inform the school and jurisdiction in planning for student success moving forward. We value your voice and feedback.

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### *Paul Davis Presentation for Parents on Social Media and Internet Safety*

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In a joint collaboration arranged with Holy Spirit School, Paul Davis will be presenting to parents from both schools about Social Media and Online Safety. Paul is an internationally recognized expert on internet safety, cyberbullying, and children's use of social media. For Fireside School parents, this presentation will take place in lieu of our regular School Council meeting. The event will be held at Holy Spirit School on April 5, 2023 and starts at 6:30 pm.

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### *3-Way Conferences*

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Fireside School's 3-Way Conferences will take place next Wednesday and Thursday. We are pleased to welcome parents and guardians into the school for face-to-face meetings. For those who prefer a virtual conference, Zoom is also available. You can indicate your choice when booking the meeting.

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<sup>5</sup><https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-education-assurance-survey.aspx#jumplinks-1>

**For anyone coming into the school, we request that you please ensure you do not have perfume, cologne, or scented products on, as these products are a health concern for those who have severe allergies in our school community. Thank you in advance for your attention to and respect for this health request.**

If you are still looking to book an appointment, please visit Conference Manager<sup>6</sup>. If you have never used the site before, you will need to register before booking. Bookings close at noon on Monday, March 20th.

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### *Read-a-Thon 2023 Celebrations Assemblies*

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Read-a-Thon Celebration Assemblies will be held on Wednesday, March 22. If your student(s) have are receiving a top reading award, we will be in contact with you to let you know the time of the assembly where their prize/award will be presented so you may attend if you are able to join us.

**We ask that anyone attending these events please not wear perfume, cologne, or scented products due to allergies in our school; thank you for your attention to and respect of this health concern.**

Our school definitely exceeded our reading and fundraising goals this year, with over 1,000,000 minutes read and more than \$12,000 raised in pledges. Way to go Hawks!!!

At the Celebration Assemblies, top readers in each grade will be recognized and trophies presented to the classes with the most minutes read and funds raised. These classes will also win a PJ and Movie Party in the gym! Please watch for updates on our Read-a-Thon Celebration Assemblies in next week's *Focus*.

We want to express huge thank yous to our community sponsors and partners: Friends of Fireside Society, Found Books & Shop, Cochrane Movie House, MacKay's Ice Cream, Calaway Park, Spray Lake Sawmills Family Recreation Centre, Tim Horton (Cochrane), Fireside McDonald's, Shredz Shop Cochrane, Rebel Comics, River Heights Subway, River Heights Domino's (Manager Priya Priya), reet beet Designs (owner Rita Andrews), Holliday Collective (owner Heather Holliday), Mrs. (Tanya) McIntyre, Mr. Petterson, Mrs. Cheverie, Military Museums (Calgary), author J. Neven Pugh, and the Sly Family. And a final thank you to our Guest Readers, including Superintendent Greg Luterbach; Area Director Sandy McDuffe; our School Resource Officers; Former Acting Principal Mary Magee; students Bella, Jack, Tarah, and Breanna; the Grade 7/8 Leadership Class; and Carleen Pocklington and Kolese Melton (who joined us by Zoom to read with their former students).

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### *Yummy Chocolate Just in Time for Easter! (Friends of Fireside)*

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<sup>6</sup><https://fireside.schoolsoft.com/login.jsf>



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 Fireside School, please complete an order form<sup>7</sup>. Orders must be submitted by March 19th.

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*Updated: Submitting Pledged Funds for Read-a-Thon*

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At the end of Read-a-Thon, students turned in their pledge forms. The total pledged amounts have now been entered in each student's School Cash Online account and are ready for payment. If you already submitted pledges, these have already been updated. Pledged funds are submitted through School Cash Online<sup>8</sup>.

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*Updated: Bow Valley High School Open House for Grade 8 Students and Families – March 21*

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On Wednesday, Bow Valley High School's Principal Shane Dempster, Guidance Counsellor Larissa West, and CDA Rebecca Carroll came to Fireside School to speak to our Grade 8 students about entering high school next year. On March 21, Bow Valley looks forward to welcoming them and their families at their annual Open House for incoming students.

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

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<sup>7</sup><https://form.jotform.com/230237996413258>

<sup>8</sup><https://www.schoolcashionline.com/>



be able to get information about options and extra-curricular that will be available for Grade 9 students for the 2023-2024 school year.

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*Updated: Allergy Awareness and Reminders*

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With so many events coming up in the next couple of weeks, we are sending this friendly reminder about some of the allergies we have in our school.

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

- Please do not wear perfume, cologne, or scented products when coming to Fireside School
- 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; therefore, please do not bring products with nuts into the school

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.

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*Reminder: Scholastic Book Fair March 22 & 23*

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

Although orders cannot be placed until the Book Fair dates, through this site you can explore Featured Books and watch Book Highlights to help you know which books you might be interested in taking home! What a great event to add to our celebration week of our very successful Read-a-Thon!

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*Reminder: Fireside Spring Concert*

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It's only two-and-a-half weeks away! 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. Please see the poster below for more information.

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*Reminder: CONNECT Parenting Virtual Program Opportunity*

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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](mailto:hstpierre@rockyview.ab.ca)<sup>9</sup> or Kelsey Brown 825.733.6490 [kbrown@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:kbrown@rockyview.ab.ca)<sup>10</sup>.

**Contact Us!**

Fireside School

403.932.4868

[fireside@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:fireside@rockyview.ab.ca)<sup>11</sup>

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

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