

# **FIRESIDE FOCUS**



## Fireside Focus – December 22

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

Upcoming Dates

From the Admin Desk

New: Reading over the Winter Break

New: School Bus Safety Reminders for the New Year

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### *Upcoming Dates*

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- Monday, Jan 8 – First day of classes after Winter Break
- Friday, Jan 12 – AHS Immunizations (only for those with consent, Gr 1 & missed immunizations)
- Friday, Jan 12 – Junior A Girls & Boys Basketball Tournament #2
- Friday, Jan 19 – Junior A Girls & Boys Basketball Tournament #3
- Thursday, Jan 25 – Junior A Girls & Boys Divisional Tournament

- Friday, Jan 26 – 3rd Annual Read-a-Thon Begins (watch for information in the new year)
- Saturday, Jan 27 – Family Literacy Day
- Wednesday, Feb 7 – [Fun Lunch](#) (Mucho Burrito)
- Thursday, Feb 8 – Grade 2 Iqaluit Day (details will follow in the new year)
- Monday, Feb 12 – Last Day 3rd Annual Read-a-Thon

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*From the Admin Desk*

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Hello Fireside Families & Friends,

At our Winter Concert on Tuesday, K-2 + 2/3 students brought the house down with their performances in *Flakes*, with cute songs, a moving "snowplow" (built by Mr. P, of course!), a paper-snowball fight, stomp-link songs, some dancing, and lots of fun. Thank you to Ms. Copithorne, Mr. Chung, and Mr. Petterson for helping students get ready for this amazing concert. Gingerbread houses were also on display, where concert-goers could vote on Best Winter Wonderland (Mrs. Soroka and Mrs. Doll), Most Original Build (Mrs. Whyte & Mrs. Pyle), and Best Decorated (Mr. Russell). Winning houses can be seen below.



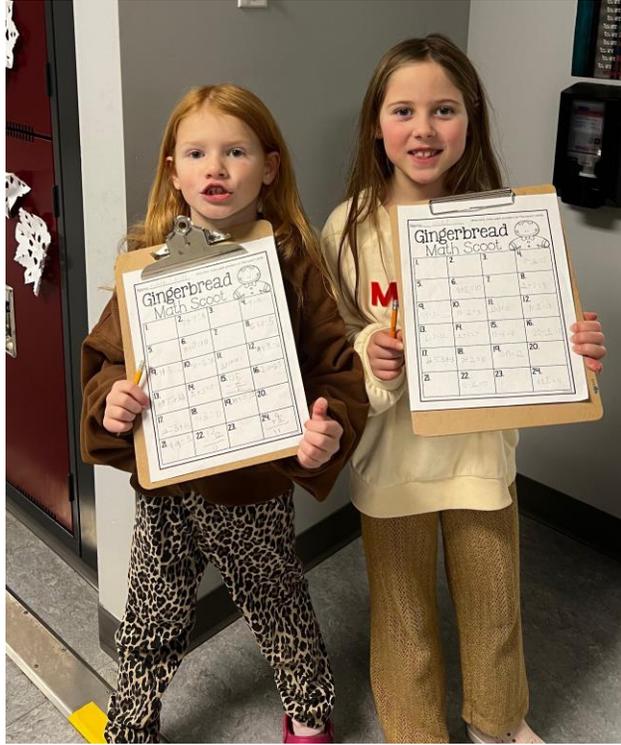


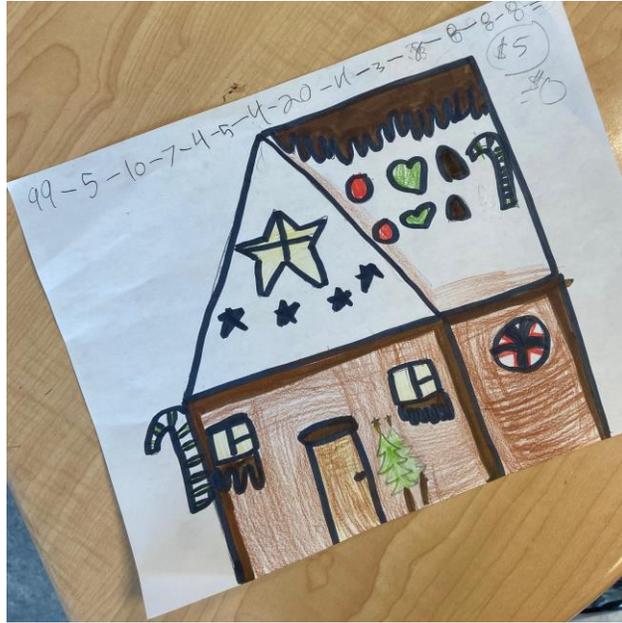
We'd like to bid a sad farewell to Grade 6 teacher Mr. Grayson Adams, who is moving on to another teaching opportunity. He will be dearly missed by students and staff. All the best, Mr. Adams!

We'd also like to send best wishes to Child Development Advisor, Mrs. Charlene Abrahams who is also leaving Fireside to pursue an exciting new opportunity. We wish her all the very best and thank her for supporting students and families at Fireside these past years.









On Wednesday, Grade 1s went to Hawthorne Manor to spread some holiday cheer by delivering cards and ornaments; Mrs. Schaab's 2/3 Class had a \$99 "budget" to build gingerbread houses and came up with some very unique ideas and designs. And, throughout the week, students were doing other winter-related activities in their learning, including Gingerbread Math Scoot, broom ball, Andy Warhol inspired snowman art, Kinders and 8s making gingerbread together, figuring out our elf names, and ornament designing.

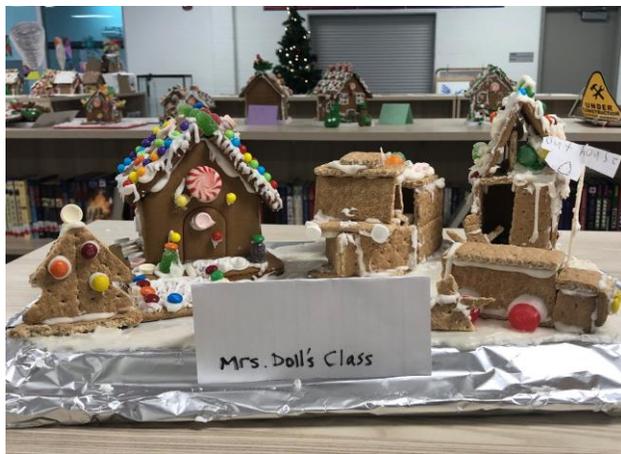
On PJ Spirit Day today, Grade 1 and Grade 7 Buddies built blanket forts as they shared books. Grade 5s enjoyed a special pre-screening of *Migration* at the Cochrane Movie House, and Grade 4s spent some time in the winter sun taking a moment of "zen" before the break, playing outside in our unseasonably warm weather.

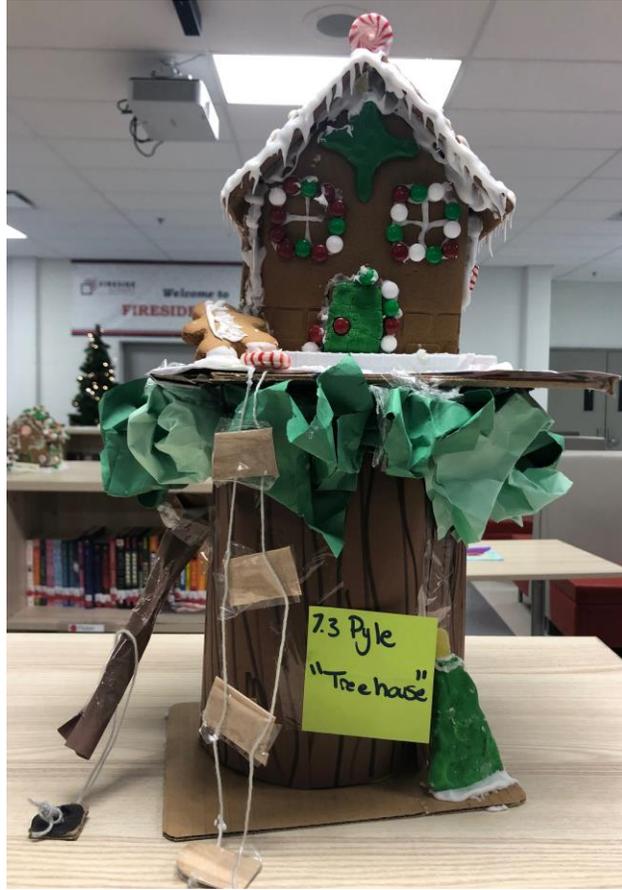
Wishing all of you a wonderful Winter Break, and we'll look forward to seeing your children back at Fireside on Monday, January 8.

Dave Banderk (Principal; [dbanderk@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:dbanderk@rockyview.ab.ca))

Tara Sly (Assistant Principal, Grades K-4; [tsly@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:tsly@rockyview.ab.ca))

Jason Ness (Assistant Principal, Grades 5-8; [jness@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:jness@rockyview.ab.ca))







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### *Reading Over the Winter Break*

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Many students signed out books from the Fireside Library to bring home to read over the break. There were many excited conversations with Mr. Lofthouse about what book might be best.

Ways to help your child keep reading and discussing what they're reading over the break include:

- writing and reading seasonal cards to family and friends;
- reading books about all of the holidays being celebrated this winter;
- setting aside some family reading time each day, whether it's reading own books or reading together;
- trying a reading challenge, where your child sets a reading goal for each day (this is also good practice to be ready for Read-a-Thon at the end of January);
- helping your child select a new book series to read and read it together;
- taking reading on the road with an audiobook if you're traveling during the break;
- asking your child questions such as
  - Why did you pick this book?

- Based on the cover, what do you think the book will be about?
  - Will you catch me up on the book? What's happened so far?
  - If you were a character, what would you have done differently and why?
  - What does the place/setting or character look like in your head while you're reading? Describe it to me.
  - Did you learn any new words or facts?
  - What was your favourite part of the book and why?
  - How was the problem in the book solved? Would you have changed the ending and why?
  - What was the most important lesson or fact you learned from reading the book?
- going through the picture book only looking at the pictures and having your child make up their own story;
  - or talking to your child about what they're reading by having them tell you about the story or book, having them put the events in order.

Watch for information about our 3rd Annual Read-a-Thon in the first *Focus* of 2024. It will start on Friday, January 26.

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### *School Bus Reminders for the New Year*

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If your child rides a school bus, please take a few moments to review the bus rules with them before January 8.

Safety while riding the school bus includes helping riders to remember to:

- always listen to the bus driver and instructions they are giving at any time.
- use handrails getting on and off the bus and secure items such as backpacks.
- sit down in the assigned seat as quickly as possible (riders must follow the seating plan).
- stay seated (e.g. back to the back of the seat) and face forward.
- not walk around or switch seats inside the bus while it's moving.
- keep the aisles clear.
- keep their head, hands, and arms inside the bus (not out the windows).
- wait until the bus comes to a full stop **before** they stand up to exit.
- talk quietly; do not shout or scream on the bus so the driver can concentrate.

- be courteous and kind to other people riding the bus.
- use appropriate language at all times.
- report any incidents or concerns to the driver.

[The Alberta Government](#) provides additional information for Albertans on school bus safety, including information on going to the bus stop and pedestrian safety rules, waiting at the bus stop, and getting on the school bus.

[Rocky View Schools](#) also has a video about riding the school bus for students and families.

**Contact Us!**

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