

# **FIRESIDE FOCUS**



## Fireside Focus – December 8

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

Upcoming Dates

From the Admin Desk

New: Thank You Volleyball Coaches!

New: Kiss & Go Etiquette

Updated: Winter Spirit Day and Activities

Updated: Fireside School Clubs

Updated: K-2 Winter Concert, Tuesday, December 19

Reminder: Parent and Children Events from MHC B Stepping Stones to Mental Health

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*Upcoming Dates*

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- Monday, Dec 11 through Friday, Dec 15 – Bring Your Own Mug Day (see below for your child's day)
- Friday, Dec 15 – Junior A Girls & Boys Basketball Tournament #1
- Tuesday, Dec 19 – Winter Concert: *Flakes* (Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2, 2/3 Class -- see below)
- Friday, Dec 22 – Winter Spirit Day #2 – PJ Day
- Friday, Dec 22 – Last day of classes before Winter Break
- Monday, Jan 8 – First day of classes after Winter Break
- 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

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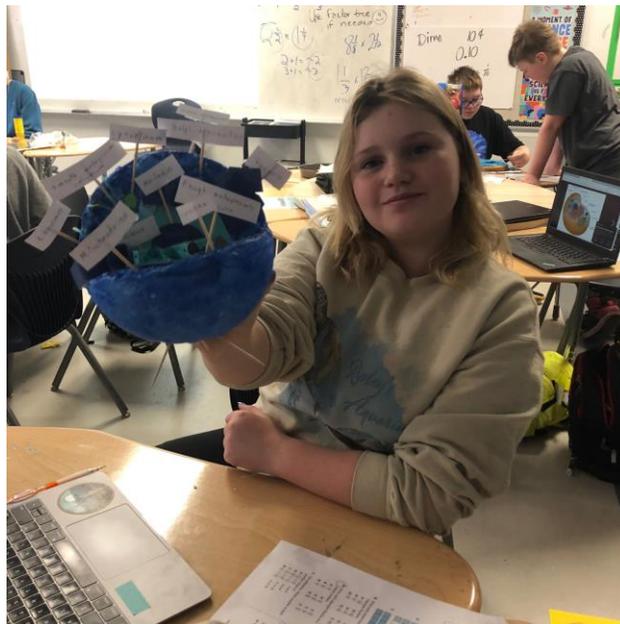
*From the Admin Desk*

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Hello Fireside Families & Friends,

This week was as varied as the weather here at Fireside! Grade 2s focused into their learning using a reindeer theme, including "reindeer games" in Language Arts and Math. Grade 8 students used a variety of creative materials to demonstrate their understandings of cells, building them and showcasing them in class. And Grade 7 and 8 students started their Term 2 options, including Drama, French, and Outdoor Leadership. Band students had the opportunity to learn from a specialist clinician during their option class.

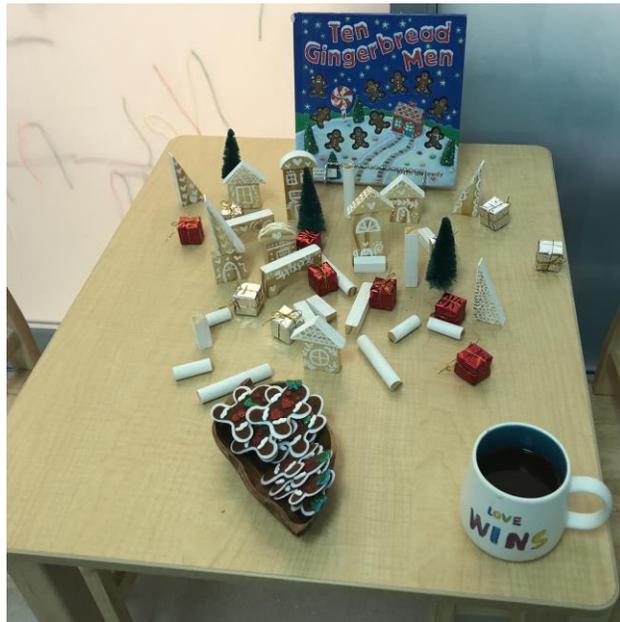




On Wednesday, we welcomed parents into the building for School Council and the Friends of Fireside meetings. At School Council, RVS Board Chair Fiona Gilbert shared highlights from November 30's Board Meeting, which included talking about the enrolment growth funding coming to school boards from Alberta Education that was announced on November 28. School Council Chair Krystle Anderson shared highlights about Fireside School's first Games Night a few weeks ago, and there were discussions about other events that families might enjoy in 2024. Since Purdy's Chocolates orders were delivered earlier in the day, there were also sweet things to talk about at the Friends of Fireside meeting, including the success of fundraising already this year.

Kindergarten students worked on ornaments too, also exploring story stations involving creativity, literacy, and numeracy. Grade 1s began practising hockey skills and games in PE, while Grade 7s and 8s

focused on basketball as that season officially begins for Junior A Basketball Teams next week (see above for tournament dates).



Singing was heard in classrooms and the music rooms throughout the day, as our Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 2 students practice for their upcoming Winter Concert on Tuesday, December 19 (see below). And on Thursday, the start of Chanukah, Grade 1s viewed a video kindly made by teacher Allyson Billings to help them learn about Chanukah's traditions, including lighting the Menorah and playing Dreidel. Grade 1s then designed their own Dreidel to play the game.



Earlier today, Grade 4 hosted their Market, furthering their learning about product development, running a business, and class economies. Other classes and staff toured through the market to see what fun, unique items were available. See below to view a few of the businesses students created!

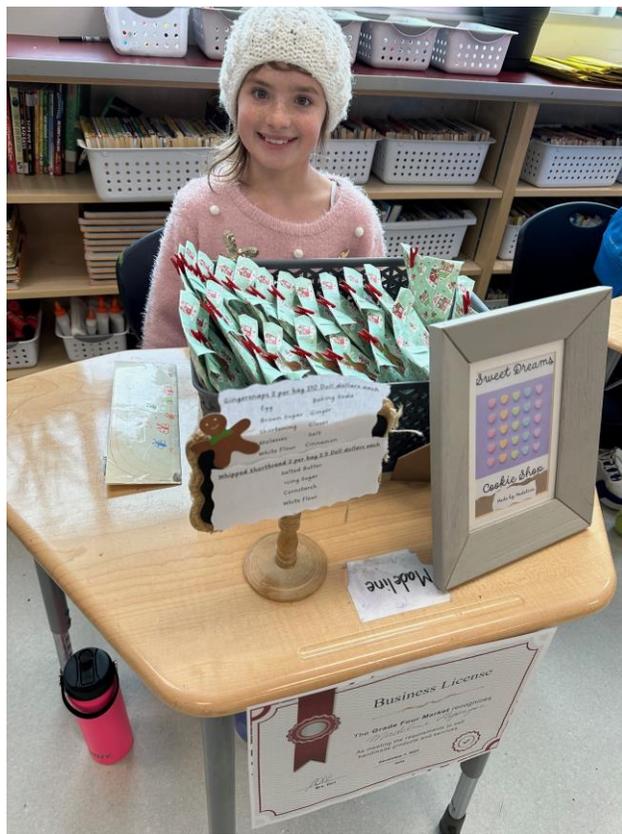
A reminder to please help your child prepare for whatever weather might come our way during the day. Next week's weather will range from the end of today's snow to the potential of double digit temperatures. Wearing proper outerwear and footwear each day is important. We'd also appreciate help reminding students about safe play in the snow. Making snowpeople, snowanimals, or snowforts is fun for everyone, although they may not remain standing forever. Snow is not meant for throwing at people at school, please. And hills and other grassy areas are especially slippery, so moving with care and awareness is important.

We hope everyone has a wonderful and cozy weekend.

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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### *Kiss-and-Go Etiquette*

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We would like to ask families to respect the following courtesies when using the Kiss-and-Go:

- Please do not use lane to park at any time during the day, even if you are remaining in or near your vehicle.
- Please ensure the lane remains accessible at all times during the day. Stopping in the entry curve prevents vehicles from entering the lane.
- Please avoid using the accessible (first) stopping point if you do not have an accessibility card.

We'd like to express our appreciation for those families who are observing these courtesies and would respectfully ask they be observed by all drivers using the lane.

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### *Thank You Volleyball Coaches*

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We'd like to thank all of the volunteers who helped run our extracurricular volleyball program for grades 6-8. Their time and dedication to the sport and our athletes was greatly appreciated.

Junior A Boys: Amanda Soroka & Alanna Simpson

Junior B Boys: Corey MacDouell, Sinéad Holzer & Judy Humphries

Grade 6 Boys: Amanda Soroka, Corinne Doll, Stephanie Colling, Jaimie Waugh & Melanie Hamilton

Junior A Girls: Melanie Hamilton & RJ Unguran

Junior B Girls: Lindsay Whyte

Grade 6 Girls: Amanda Soroka, Corinne Doll, Stephanie Colling, Jaimie Waugh & Melanie Hamilton

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*Updated: Winter Spirit Days and Spirit Activities*

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Today also saw great participation in our first Winter Spirit Day: Head-to-Toe. Students and staff dressed in everything from fancy holiday finery to tacky sweaters and mismatched tights and socks. Creative and festive headwear seemed to be the most popular! By participating, classes had the opportunity to raise points for their Fireside Families: every participant = 1 Family Point. But it is also super fun.

Our next spirit day will be on Friday, Dec 22: PJ Day. Students are invited to get cozy for Winter Break with PJ's & Slippers. Your child can even talk to their homeroom teacher about maybe bringing a stuffed animal friend along as well.

There are also other fun activities coming up in the next two weeks as we wind up the 2023 part of our school-year. Fireside Family Fridays and Kindness Chain are among the activities.

And, next week, from Monday, Dec 11 through Friday, Dec 15, it is Bring Your Own Mug Days. Each Fireside Family will have a day of the week to bring their own mug to enjoy a nice warm cup of hot chocolate. Students may bring their own mug or thermos for a free cup of hot chocolate on their Family's Day.

**Monday December 11 Forest Day**

**Tuesday December 12 Meadow Day**

**Wednesday December 13 Mountain Day**

**Thursday December 14 River Day**

**Friday December 15 Valley Day**

One of the other major activities is the Ginger-Build Competition (kindly supported by Friends of Fireside), which will take place on Monday Dec.18 and Tuesday, Dec.19. You'll have the opportunity to see many of the finished creations at the Winter Concert.

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*Updated: Fireside School Clubs*

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Fireside Clubs				
Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays
<p><b>BOOST Self-Esteem Club (Currently Full)</b> Grade 5 12:10-12:50 Room 1025 Ongoing. New session to start in January. Sign-up required Staff Contact: Charlene Abrahams</p> <p>BCC Cochrane supported. Students will work through activities, crafts, and games which focus on positive self-talk and self-care.</p> <p><b>SOAR</b> Grades 7&amp;8 12:10-12:50 Large Conference Room Ongoing Staff contact: Breanne Pyle</p> <p>Be a part of Fireside Families, school events and initiatives, and be a voice of change in our building. No sign-up required.</p> <p><b>Choir</b> Grade 2 12:10-12:30 Band Room Nov 22-Dec 20. Next session to start in the new year. Staff contact: Alex Chung</p> <p>The goal of our choir is to prepare songs for concerts as well as have fun singing together! Grade 2 choir will run until winter break and after the break we will open it up to new grade levels.</p>	<p><b>Leadership Club</b> Grades 5-6 12:10-12:50 Room 1025 Ongoing Sign-up required Staff Contact: Charlene Abrahams</p> <p>Provides opportunities for event planning, school wide activities and peer connections.</p> <p><b>School-Wide Intramurals</b> Grade 8 10:30-10:45 Ongoing Staff Contact: Melanie Hamilton</p> <p>Provides opportunities for organized sports activities. The sports played will rotate, based on the Rocky View Schools athletic teams schedule.</p>	<p><b>Art Club (Currently Full)</b> Grades 6-8 12:10-12:50 Room 1025 Ongoing. New session to start in January. Sign-up required Staff contact: Charlene Abrahams</p> <p>BCC Cochrane supported. A variety of mediums will be explored. This club has multiple sessions.</p> <p><b>Dungeons &amp; Dragons Club (Full)</b> Grades 5-8 12:10-12:50 Aux gym Ongoing Sign-up required Staff contacts: Dennis Bettenson and Erik Lofthouse</p> <p>Students can learn and play Dungeons and Dragons. Students interested in learning how to run a table can speak to Mr. Bettenson or Mr. Lofthouse.</p> <p><b>Choir</b> Grade 2 12:10-12:30 Band Room Nov 22-Dec 20. Next session to start in the new year. Staff contact: Alex Chung</p> <p>The goal of our choir is to prepare songs for concerts as well as have fun singing together! Grade 2 choir will run until winter break and after the break we will open it up to new grade levels.</p>	<p><b>Acceptance Club</b> Grades 5-8 12:10-12:50 Room 1025 Ongoing Staff contacts: Kelsea Soch and Alanna Simpson</p> <p>A club that provides opportunities for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities, including allies to come together in a safe environment. It exists as a safe and welcoming place where people can express their genuine selves and be who they are. No sign-up required.</p> <p><b>School-Wide Intramurals</b> Grade 7 12:10-12:50 Ongoing Staff contact: Melanie Hamilton</p> <p>Provides opportunities for organized sports activities. The sports played will rotate, based on the Rocky View Schools athletic teams schedule.</p>	<p><b>Chess Club (Full)</b> Grades 5-8 12:10-12:50 Room 1025 Ongoing Sign-up required Staff contact: Charlene Abrahams</p> <p>Learn to play chess and compete against your friends!</p> <p><b>School-Wide Intramurals</b> Grade 7 10:30-10:45 Grade 8 12:10-12:50 Ongoing Staff contact: Melanie Hamilton</p> <p>Provides opportunities for organized sports activities. The sports played will rotate, based on the Rocky View Schools athletic teams schedule.</p>

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*Updated: Parent & Children Events - MHC B Stepping Stones to Mental Health*

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**Stories with Santa on December 16, 2023 from 1:00 – 3:00pm**

**Location:** Cochrane Public Library -- Come to the library for crafts, stories, and more! **No registration needed.**

**Supporting Children and Youth through Grief & Loss on January 18, 2023 at from 10:00am-12:00pm**

**Location:** Virtual

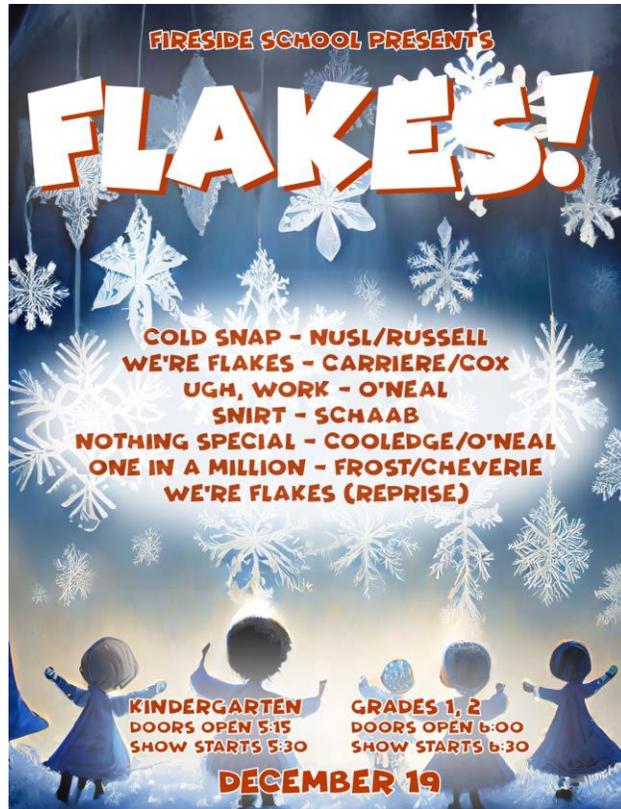
To watch a child, grieve and not know what to do is a profoundly difficult experience for parents, teachers, and caregivers. There are many life experiences that can produce feelings of grief in a child, from the death of a relative or a divorce in the family to more everyday experiences such as moving to a new neighbourhood or losing a prized possession. The pandemic has added even more reasons, with children grieving the loss of normalcy and a sense of safety. This session is to help adults counter the false idea of "not feeling bad" and to empower children with positive, effective methods of dealing with loss. We will look at guidelines for helping children develop a lifelong, healthy response to loss and how you can support them through these tough times.

**Register:** [https://albertahealthservices.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_w4572Xe3SwyL\\_2xKw\\_BmJA#/registration](https://albertahealthservices.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_w4572Xe3SwyL_2xKw_BmJA#/registration)

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*Reminder: K-2 Winter Concert, Tuesday, Dec 19*

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Hello friends, lend us your ear / In Fireside School, where winter draws near.

Our young musicians, in December they play / Conjure a blizzard in the most charming way.

Fireside School's Kindergartens, Grade 1s, Grade 2s, and 2/3 Class will put on truly sparkling performances at our annual Winter Concert on Tuesday, December 19.

Below is information about seating times and show times for the Kindergarten Performance and the Grade 1, 2, and 2/3 Performances. There is also important information for students who are performing.

**Kindergarten Performances:** doors open at 5:15 pm, showtime 5:30 pm

**Grade 1, 2, and 2/3 Performances:** doors open at 6:00 pm; showtime 6:30 pm

**If your child is performing in this year's Winter Concert, please arrive at Fireside School's main entrance on December 19th at the following times:**

**Kindergarten Arrival/Drop-Off: 5:15 pm**

**Grade 1, 2, 3, and 2/3 Arrival/Drop-Off: 6:00 pm**

Students will walk directly to their classrooms, while audience members will go to the gymnasium to find seating (strollers/accessible seating at the front right-hand side).

This year, there will also be a livestream link will be sent out the week of the concert because, for goodness' sake, we're a blizzard of flakes!

**Contact Us!**

Fireside School

403.932.4868

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

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