

# **FIRESIDE FOCUS**



## Fireside Focus – February 2

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### *Upcoming Dates*

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- Friday, Feb 2 – [HealthyHunger site](#) closes for Fun Lunch orders

- Friday, Feb 2 to Sunday, Feb 4 – First Read-a-Thon Minutes [submission online](#)
- Wednesday, Feb 7 – [Fun Lunch](#) (Mucho Burrito)
- Wednesday, Feb 7 -- Kindergarten Information Session for Parents & Caregivers (5:00 to 6:00 pm; see below)
- Wednesday, Feb 7 -- School Council and Friends of Fireside meetings (6:30 to 8:30 pm)
- Thursday, Feb 8 – Grade 2 Iqualuit Day
- Friday, Feb 9 to Sunday, Feb 11 – Second Read-a-Thon Minutes [submission online](#)
- Monday, Feb 12 – Last Day 3rd Annual Read-a-Thon
- Monday, Feb 12 to Wednesday, Feb 14 – Final Read-a-Thon Minutes [submission online](#)
- Tuesday, Feb 13 – Read-a-Thon Master Trackers and Pledge Forms due to Homeroom Teachers
- Saturday, March 16 – Babysitter Training Course 9:00 am - 2:00 pm (see below - Friends of Fireside)
- Saturday, March 16 – Home Alone Course 9:00 am - 12:00 pm (see below - Friends of Fireside)

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*From the Admin Desk*

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Hello Fireside Families & Friends,

It's hard to believe, but we just passed the midpoint of the school year! In some ways, we can't believe it got here so fast. In other ways, we're wondering why it's not already spring (we think we can thank the unseasonable weather for that).

It was a great week at Fireside, where Read-a-Thon hit full steam following the previous Friday's reading chain kickoff. Our students have been racking up the minutes, both in school and at home. Draw prize bins are filling up with tickets from readers who have been logging extra reading minutes at school. A big thanks to all of you, our Fireside Families, for your support of Read-a-Thon and with helping your kids to build their love of reading. Week 1 minutes can be entered into the [Online Tracker](#). Please get them in before Sunday (Feb 4) to ensure your kids make it into the Week 1 prize draws.



Our Positive Behaviour theme for January has been "perseverance." Students in all grades learned about the value of working their way through difficult obstacles and challenging themselves to improve, whether that's on a hard math problem, a piece they're learning in music, or their crossover dribble in basketball.

We'd like to take a moment to thank the many volunteers who have been in the school for the first half of the year. Make a mental note to watch for information about our Volunteer Appreciation event in the spring. Among the many invitees will be the squad of Grade 2 parents who were in this week, surrounded by mini marshmallows, gluing them onto model igloos. Iqaluit Day is approaching (Feb. 8), where our Grade 2 students showcase and experience aspects of Inuit culture. This is one of many opportunities students get to learn about Indigenous cultural practices and ways of knowing in Canada.



It looks like temperatures will start dipping a little next week with a touch of snow to come on the weekend. Please double check that your kids have their winter gear, and if it looks like there may be some articles missing, feel free to pop in after school to have a look through the lost and found racks.

Have a wonderful weekend everyone!

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))

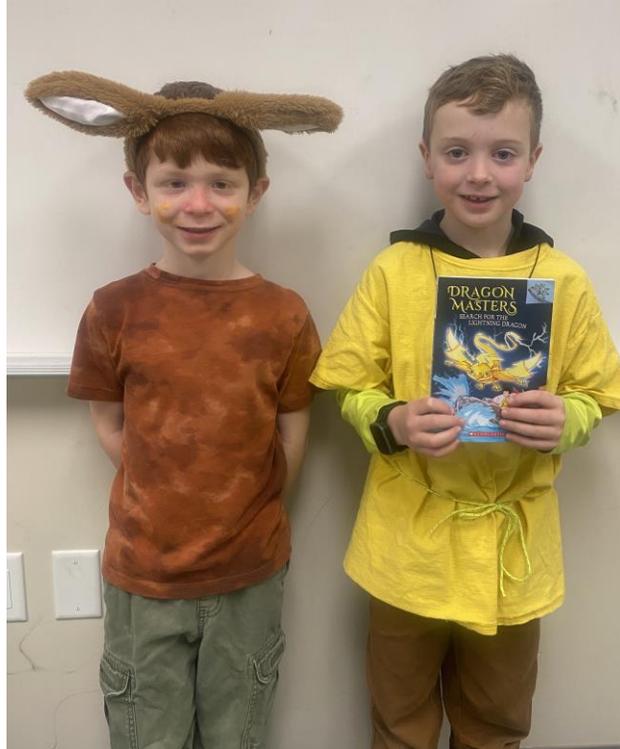
Jason Ness (Assistant Principal, Grades 5-8; [jness@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:jness@rockyview.ab.ca))

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*Read-a-Thon is ON! -- Week #1*

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Week #1 of Read-a-Thon is now behind us and it has been a flurry of pages here at school. Many students have already closed in on their reading goal and have set new ones for the week to come. And many students and staff came dressed as their favourite book character today for Dress as Your Favourite Character Day! (Many also brought their favourite book to be able to share that Book Love with their classmates!)

Guest Readers from Rocky View Schools joined us this week in many classrooms: Ryan Reed (Area Director), Sharon Cronin (Director of Instructional Leadership), Murray Besenski (Associate Superintendent), and Greg Luterbach (Superintendent). Our School Resource Officer, Constable Moore, also joined us. We are very grateful for their time and that they are helping us build toward our reading goals. 500,000 minutes doesn't seem that far off after only Week #1!

So, it is now time to enter the Week #1 Reading Minutes! Please help your child put their reading minutes for Week #1 into the Fireside School Read-a-Thon [Google Form online](#). Week 1 minutes include both At School and At Home/On Own minutes between Jan 26 through Feb 2. You can [submit minutes](#) for these dates between Friday, Feb. 2 and Sunday, Feb 4. Instructions for how to enter information is at the top of the [Read-a-Thon 2024 Google Form](#) to help you along. The first page has a drop down menu to enter Name, Grade, Teacher's Name, and then it will take you to the space for minutes entry. If you have any questions about entering minutes, please get in touch with us at [fireside@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:fireside@rockyview.ab.ca)

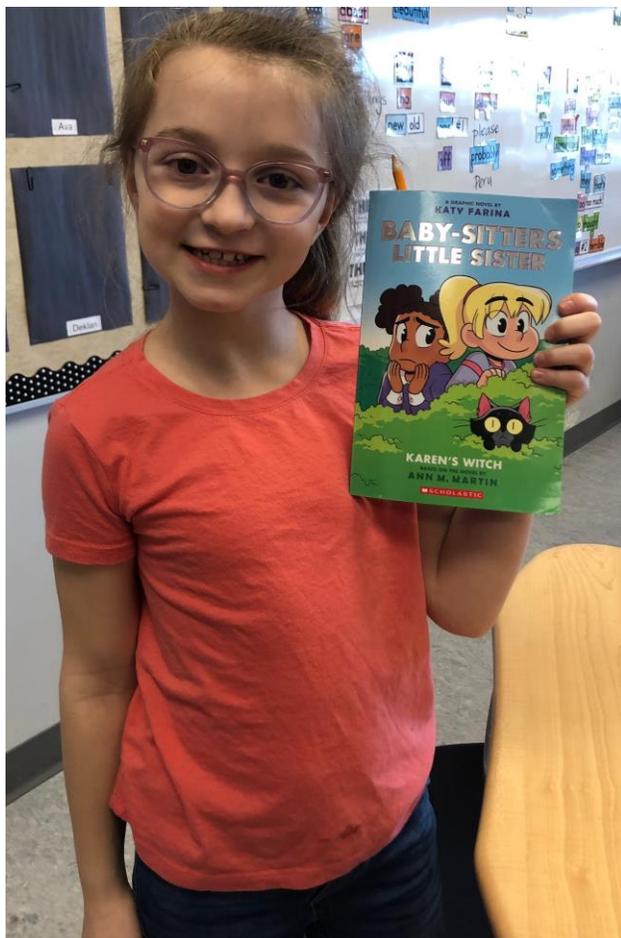
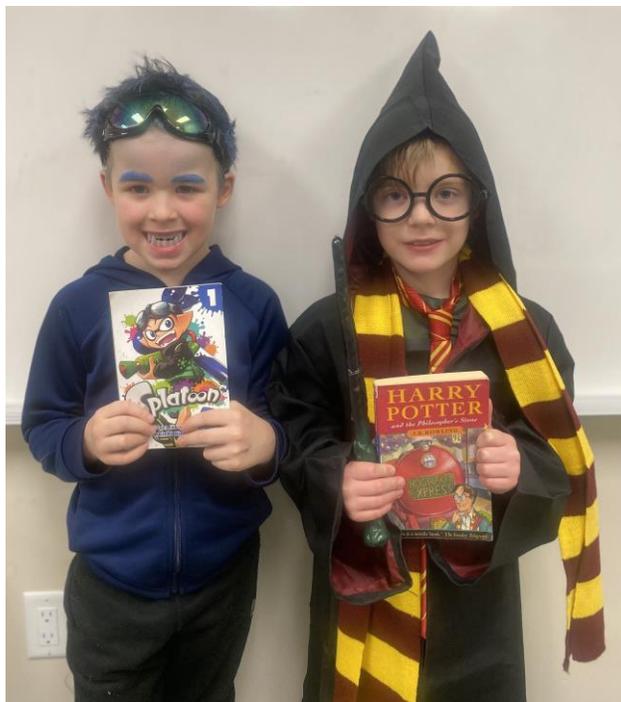
One thing you'll need to do first on the Master Tracker Form for your child: please total the At School minutes in the space provided; please total the At Home/On Own minutes in the space provided. These are the 2 numbers you'll need to enter in the [Read-a-Thon 2024 Google Form](#). Your child's Homeroom

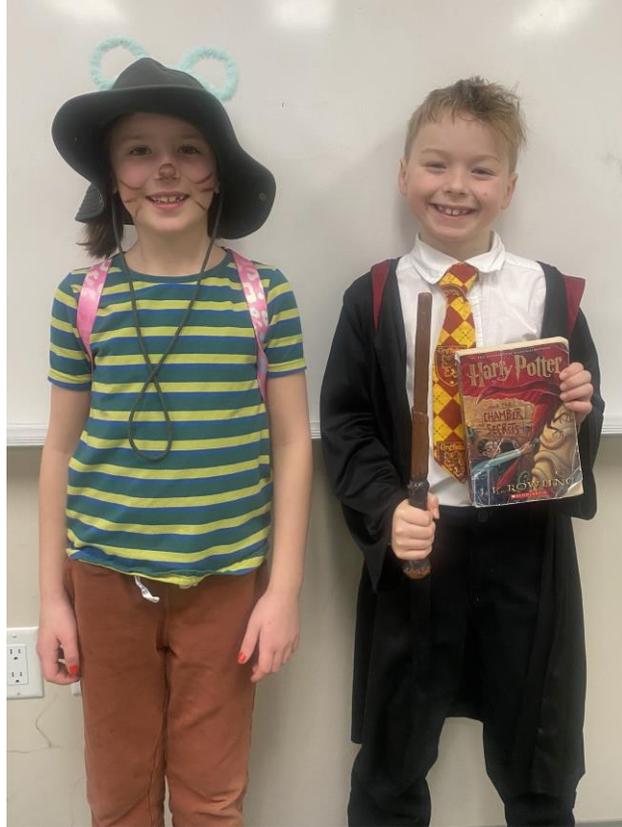
Teacher sent home this week At School Minutes for Week #1 for you to include on the Master Minutes Tracker.

We have one more week of Read-a-Thon at school before its conclusion on Monday, February 12. As they reach reading goals, share their reading with others, and read read read for Week 2 next week, students will again have the opportunity to receive draw ballots from staff members; those ballots can be entered in for Week #2 draw prizes. Entries can be put in Mondays, Wednesday, and Friday. So, Read ON for Read-a-Thon! Our first set of draw prizes will be given out Tuesday.



*1 - Buddy Reading!*





Master Tracker Forms and Pledge Forms are due back to Homeroom Teachers on Tuesday, February 13. This information will be used to confirm reading minutes and will help us know which students are eligible to be entered into the draws for reaching specific minutes benchmarks during Read-a-Thon; these draws will be presented at our Celebration Assembly. It will also help us to know the top reader in each grade (receives a \$40 Indigo Gift Card, kindly sponsored by Friends of Fireside), and those students who read every day of Read-a-Thon (who will then be entered in a draw for 1 of 4 Calaway Park passes or 1 3-month Family Pass for SLC). The Celebration Assembly will occur the last week in February or first week in March; please stay tuned for updates as we get nearer to that time.

We have added a new sponsor this week: the Cambridge Group. We would like to thank them for their generous support in addition to thanking this year's generous Community Sponsors and Partners: Friends of Fireside Society, Cochrane Movie House, Found Books & Shop, BVHS Performing Arts, Calaway Park, Calbridge Group, Spray Lake Sawmills Family Centre, MacKay's Ice Cream, Fireside McDonalds, The Messy Moose Kids Art Studio, reetbeet Designs, the Fossheim Family, and the Gillies Family. We truly appreciate their support of our learners and programs. As we are also still welcoming new sponsors, so we will keep you up-to-date.

For more information on all things 2024 Read-a-Thon, here is a [PowerPoint](#) with Quick Facts about it. If you have any questions, please reach out to us.



*2 - Guest Reader, Superintendent Greg Luterbach*



*3 - Guest Reader, Associate Superintendent Murray Besenski*



4 - Guest Reader, Constable Nathan Moore

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### *Friends of Fireside Updates (March Madness is coming...)*

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Get ready for an exhilarating March with Friends of Fireside! We are thrilled to announce two fantastic events that are sure to bring excitement and valuable experiences to our community.

#### 🍌 March Madness: A Whirlwind of Prizes! 🍌

March at Fireside is not just about the arrival of spring; it's about celebrating our community with an extraordinary event – *March Madness*! Imagine 20 days filled with surprises, joy, and the chance to win incredible prizes. Here's what you need to know:

- Daily Draws: For 20 days, we will be drawing two prizes daily, and Fridays are extra special with three prizes!
- The Grand Finale: The event culminates in a breathtaking grand prize draw worth nearly \$900!
- Total Prize Value: We're giving away prizes worth over \$7000!
- Get Your Tickets: Dive into the fun by purchasing tickets at [www.friendsoffireside.ca](http://www.friendsoffireside.ca).

#### 🧑‍🎓 Babysitting and Home Alone Course: Last Chance to Register! 🧑‍🎓

In addition to March Madness, we're also hosting the ever-popular *Babysitting and Home Alone* course. This is a fantastic opportunity for our young learners to gain valuable life skills. Here's why you should consider enrolling your child:

- Registration is still open but spots are limited. Ensure your child doesn't miss out on this beneficial experience.

Join us in making March a month to remember with Friends of Fireside. Whether it's winning a prize in March Madness or empowering our kids through learning, there's something for everyone. Let's come together to celebrate, learn, and grow as a community!

Our next meeting is this coming Wednesday, February 7.

Looking forward to seeing you all participate in these wonderful events!

**Friends of Fireside  
4th Annual  
March Madness  
Over \$7000 in prizes!**

To participate, visit our website:  
[www.friendsoffireside.ca](http://www.friendsoffireside.ca)  
Tickets are 205 each. The first draw is held on March 1st.  
Winners will be announced the same or next day by email, Facebook  
One ticket wins one prize, but the final grande prize (29th) will be drawn from all tickets sold.

4 Sacred Bloom Box \$130	5 Great things in store \$75	6 Chatters Gift Basket \$268	7 Melody Makes It Mascarons \$24	8 Cannon Cakes Explorer Tour \$312.50
Cochrane 1 hour Bowling Rental \$63	Yamnika Wolf Dog Intro Tour \$86	Cabaza Grande GC \$25	Sunny Side Up \$30	Ippon Karate Dojo \$120
11 Toyota Premium Detail Package \$449.95	12 Pampered Chef Fry Oil \$75	13 SLS 3 mth. membership \$390	14 Shrade Pack \$110	15 Ippon Karate Dojo \$120
Mama Mia GC \$50	Ippon Karate Dojo \$120	Elbow Springs Golf \$99	Cake Tessa 1 dozen Rural cupcakes \$50	Sunnyside Up GC \$30
18 Z-Squared Design \$55	19 Three Seeds Prize \$75	20 Flirt cosmetics \$50	21 Heart to Home Basket \$88	22 Ippon Karate Dojo \$120
Cochrane Floral Boutique \$185	Elbow Springs Golf 18 Holes Pass \$89	Sacred Pangea 60-minute Massage \$110	My Greek Plate \$25	Toyota Premium Detail Package \$449.95
25 Sabores Gift Basket \$200	26 Rebel Comics gift basket \$50	27 Good Year Tires \$1200	28 Mama Mia GC \$50	Wintergreen Golf & Country Club \$268
Ippon Karate Dojo \$120	Cochrane Lanes 1 hour bowling \$63	Calway 4 single day passes \$208	Lannie Rae Pancake Mixes \$60	29 <b>Grande Prize</b>
1 Night stay at Fairmont Banff Springs \$500		Enjoy Breakfast with Lannie Rae Pancake Mix \$15		<b>Almost \$900!</b>
Dinner at Jaipur Indian Cuisine \$100		Three Seeds laser engraved cutting board \$75		
Play at The Messy Moose Studio for 2 \$45		Cochrane Floral Boutique Fancy 3-month subscription \$160		

*The Reading + Giving Tree in Mr. Russell's Class*

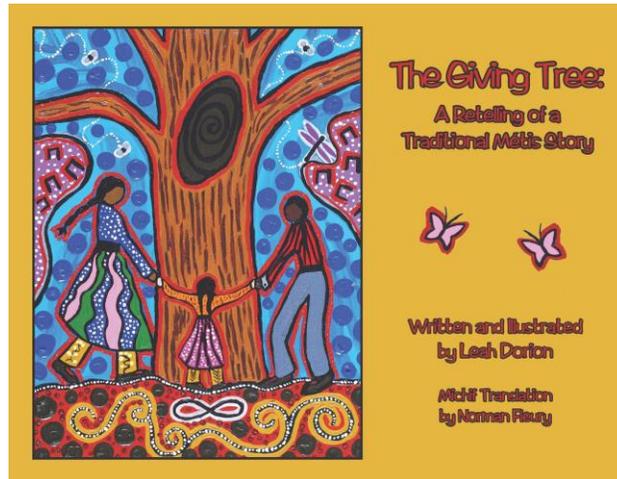


Check out the Grade 2 Reading Tree in Mr. Russell and Ms. Felesky's (Student Teacher) classroom! They've curated an engaging space dedicated to fostering a love for reading, aligning with this month's Read-A-Thon theme, "Growing Readers."

Their choice of a tree has two connections: one is Read-a-Thon and the other a class engagement project that will start in February.

The tree first mirrors the growth that can occur with care and time for young readers, who can thrive through consistent reading practice and engagement. Each leaf on our tree represents the students' independently set reading goals, showcasing the variety of minutes they aim to accomplish throughout Read-a-Thon. At the heart of our tree, our friendly companion named 'Hoot' (chosen by the students) oversees our reading space and proudly displays the collective class goal...10,000 minutes!





In addition, the class's journey with their Reading Tree doesn't end with Read-A-Thon. At the end of February, they will redesign their tree into a symbol of essential core values. Ms. Felesky will lead the class in a book study of the picture book *The Giving Tree: A Retelling of a Traditional Métis Story* by Leah Dorian. Students will engage in student-centered explorations of core Métis values that nurture the whole human: strength, courage, kindness, tolerance, honesty, respect, love, sharing, caring, balance, and patience. The students will actively participate in various hands-on learning activities that involve collaborative learning within the school community, creative projects, and real-world applications. We look forward to bringing you updates on their projects in February and March.

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### *P3 Hockey Academy at Mitford School: Information Evening*

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On February 8, Mitford School will be hosting an Information Evening for the newly approved P3 Hockey Academy that will be there for next school year (2024-25). This program has successfully run at Ecole Manachaban since 2018 and now it's Mitford's turn.

This meeting is open to families of current Grade 6 and 7 students (who will be in Grade 7 and 8 next year) who might be interested in attending. To answer any questions and provide more details about the program, they invite families of current Grade 6 and 7 students (who will be in Grade 7 and 8 next year) to join them for an Information Night at 6:30 pm on February 8th, 2024. The session will be held at Mitford Middle School, located at 110 Quigley Drive, Cochrane. The evening will include an engaging presentation, and the school's team will be available to address any inquiries you may have. It's a fantastic opportunity to gain insights into how this program can benefit your child's overall development.

#### **Key Details about the Hockey Academy Program:**

- Frequency: The program will run two times per week, providing students with a well-rounded and immersive experience.

- Location: All sessions will take place at the Spray Lakes Sports Center in the heart of Cochrane, ensuring a first-class environment for skill development, enjoyment, and efficiency. We have access to the 3 ice surfaces as well as our premium P3 Training Facility above Totem 1.
- Transportation: We understand the importance of convenience for parents. Thus, P3 Sports will take care of transporting the students to the rink on the scheduled academy days. Parents will kindly be asked to arrange pick-up from the facility on those specific days.

If you have any questions or want further information on this session, please contact Mitford School: (403) 932-4457.

**FIRESIDE SCHOOL**  
OPEN MINDS ■ OPEN HEARTS ■ OPEN DOORS

Kindergarten Information  
Session for Parents and  
Caregivers

Topics Include:

- Why is Kindergarten important?
- Program offerings at Fireside
- Transportation
- Learning Supports

Wednesday February 7, 2024.  
5-6 pm (30min presentation and tour followed  
by Q&A session)

Fireside School  
12 Fireside Parkway  
Cochrane, AB T4C 2L8

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*Updated: Kindergarten 2024-25 Registration and Information Session*

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Next Wednesday, February 7, we are pleased to welcome parents and caregivers whose children will be starting Kindergarten in September 2024 to our Kindergarten Information Session. (Children who are five years old on or before December 31, 2024 may register in Kindergarten for the 2024–25 school year.)

This evening will run from 5:00 to 6:00 pm here at the school. We'll be sharing information about what to expect in Kindergarten, along with other important information about attending Fireside School. A tour of our Kindergarten rooms and school, along with a Q&A session, will follow. If you have any questions about this event, please contact us: [fireside@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:fireside@rockyview.ab.ca) or 403-932-4868.

Online registration for Kindergarten in the 2024-25 school year is now open. Information can be found on the [Rocky View Schools website](#), with instructions for registering on [School Engage](#).

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### *Reminder: PowerSchool*

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We wanted to extend a friendly reminder to families that a critical tool for communication of student learning is PowerSchool. Teachers report student achievement on curricular outcomes here and also use the platform to record comments on assessments of learning.

Click the link to access the web version of the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). Additional information about PowerSchool, as well as login instructions can be found [here](#). Parents can enable email notifications when updates are made. A mobile [app](#) is also available that can provide similar alerts. However, we'd like to note the mobile version of the platform does not have as much functionality (information) as the web version.

If you're having difficulty logging in or using the platform, you can email or call the PowerSchool Support Desk ([pssupport@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:pssupport@rockyview.ab.ca), 403.945.4115).

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### *Reminder: Friends of Fireside Update: Home Alone/Babysitter Training Courses*

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We are excited to once again offer two incredible learning opportunities: the Babysitters Training Course and the Home Alone Course. Perfect for young minds eager to learn essential life skills!

#### Babysitting Course (Ages 10+)

Become a super sitter with our comprehensive babysitting course! Tailored for ages 10 and up, this program covers everything from child care to basic first aid, ensuring you're prepared for any babysitting scenario.

Date & Time: Saturday, March 16, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Cost: \$68

#### Home Alone Course (Ages 9/10+)

Ready to be a home alone hero? This course is designed for ages 9/10 and above, teaching you how to stay safe and responsible when home alone. Learn key skills such as handling emergencies and basic first aid.

Date & Time: Saturday, March 16, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Cost: \$45

 Location: Fireside School

📄 Registration: register at [www.babysittingcalgary.com](http://www.babysittingcalgary.com)

Don't miss this opportunity; spaces are limited!



ORGANIZED BY: FRIENDS OF FIRESIDE

## HOME ALONE COURSE

AGES 9/10+

**Saturday**  
**March 16th, 2024**

9:00AM-12:00PM **\$45.00**

**WE OFFER :**

- Basic First Aid
- Home Safety Rules
- Emergency 911
- What to do if you are choking
- Street proofing and safety
- Safety to and from school
- Stranger danger and awareness
- Your responsibilities and rights

\* All students will receive a Canada Safety Council Manual and Certificate



register at  
[www.babysittingcalgary.com](http://www.babysittingcalgary.com)

AT THE FIRESIDE SCHOOL  
12 FIRESIDE PKY, COCHRANE, AB.

### Contact Us!

Fireside School

403.932.4868

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

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