

FIRESIDE FOCUS



Fireside Focus – February 9

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Upcoming Dates

- 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
- Wednesday, Feb 14 – Valentine's Day
- Friday, February 16 – Professional Learning Day (no classes)
- Monday, February 19 – Family Day (no classes)
- Tuesday, February 20 & Wednesday, February 21 – No classes
- Thursday, February 22 & Friday, February 23 – Teachers' Convention (no classes)
- Monday, February 26 – Classes resume
- Wednesday, March 6 – School Council & Friends of Fireside Meetings (6:30 to 8:30 pm)
- Thursday, March 7 – Read-a-Thon Celebration Assemblies
- 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)

From the Admin Desk





Hello Fireside Families & Friends,

We had a wonderful wintery week at Fireside. Some weekend snow and mild temperatures made for great conditions for recesses, Iqaluit Day (see below for pictures), an Outdoor Education field trip, Winter Walk Day on Wednesday, and plenty of trips down the frozen slopes below the playground. We also had some fun things going on in the school, including classes starting soccer skills in gym, Guest Reader Sharon Cronin (RVS, Director of Instructional Leadership & Learning) visiting several of our classes, and Mr. Petterson's Shop class racing the cars they'd made while Grade 1 classes looked on and judged.

We also had many parent volunteers in the school this week, helping with Fun Lunch and Grade 2 Iqaluit Day. Our Grade 2 students experienced many aspects of Inuit culture throughout the day, including building Inukshuks out of ice, which you can see displayed in the spaces beside the bus lane.





On Wednesday, we had familiar faces and several new ones at our School Council and Friends of Fireside meetings. RVS Board Chair Fiona Gilbert (Trustee Ward 6 - Cochrane) brought the Board Update, including information on protocols for inclement weather, transportation changes coming in 2025, and continuing challenges in securing enough bus drivers and buses for many routes in RVS. She also highlighted the new bus app that is currently being tested and will be rolled out to families soon. Our School Council Chair Krystle Anderson led discussions about Fun Lunches and upcoming events. Friends of Fireside kindly awarded funding to support to our Read-a-Thon for final awards and prizes and also provided updates on the upcoming Babysitter and Home Alone opportunities (see below), as well as March Madness (see below). Their next meetings will be held at Fireside School on Wednesday, March 6; please know that new members are always welcome.





Temperatures will still be cold at the start of next week. Please double check that your kids have their winter gear with them. And please pop in after school to have a look through the lost and found racks, as things will be donated at the end of next week.

Finally, a friendly reminder that there is no school next Friday, as it is a professional learning day. Then, there will be no classes the week of February 19 through February 23 for Family Day and Teachers' Convention.

Have a wonderful weekend everyone!

Dave Banderk (Principal; dbanderk@rockyview.ab.ca)

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

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

Read-a-Thon is ON! -- Week #2



WILD THINGS
8 FT 0 IN

Which
Storybook Character
Are You As Tall As?

WILLY WONKA
6 FT 2 IN

MISS FRIZZLE
5 FT 8 IN

ROZ THE WILD ROBOT
6 FT 5 IN

GREG HEFFLEY
5 FT 11 IN

ANNE SHIRLEY
5 FT 7 IN

CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS
5 FT 6 IN

BEN RIDLEY
5 FT 3 IN

PERCY JACKSON
5 FT 9 IN

MIA TANG
4 FT 8 IN

RAMONA QUIMBY
4 FT 2 IN

OOMPA LOOMPA
3 FT 11 IN

ARTHUR
3 FT 2 IN

PIGEON
1 FT 1 IN

DESPEREAUX
0 FT 2 IN

As of Monday, 215,000 minutes have already been recorded so far for this year's Read-a-Thon: amazing! As the week has progressed, classroom trackers are blooming with each day's minutes, and we can't wait to add to our Master Tracker in the Learning Commons new minutes that come in from Week #2 (to be submitted by Monday, please – see below).

We are just finishing up Week #2 of Read-a-Thon today! Awesome reading, sharing of books and book love, and friendly reading competitions have been going on throughout the week. It is so exciting to hear about all the reading that's also happening at home! Many students also took a moment to measure themselves on the height post Mrs. Cheverie created near the Grade 1 hallway, so they could see which fictional character is closest to them in size.

Your child's Homeroom Teacher will be communicating At-School Minutes to you today. **If your student was absent on any day, please simply put an "A" in that space on their Master Minutes Tracker page.** Please calculate the total At School Minutes and At Home/On Own Minutes for your child, and record it on their Master Tracker in the appropriate spaces for Week #2. These totals are what to enter in the [Read-a-Thon Minutes Google Form](#).

As of today, you can use the [Read-a-Thon Minutes Google Form](#) to enter your child's At School and At Home On Own Minutes information for Week #2 (Week 2 includes: Saturday, Feb. 3 to Friday, Feb. 9). The Week #2 [Read-a-Thon Minutes Google Form](#) will be open from Friday, Feb. 9 until Sunday, Feb. 11.



1 - Mrs. Nussli's class reading with Mr. Lofthouse for Read-a-Thon

Our first set of draw prizes were given out Tuesday; the names of the 18 winners were announced on Wednesday after all prizes had been given out by our Super Reader Leaders Laura Wright and Liam Blackwell. Entries for Week #2 Draw Prizes can still be put in prize boxes on Monday, Feb. 12; these draws will include the last three days of Read-a-Thon as well and will be made Tuesday morning. Based on what's been submitted through the [Read-a-Thon Minutes Google Form](#) and the returned Master Minutes Trackers, some students may receive additional ballots for Super Draws, including things such as being one of the top five readers in Week #1 and/or Week #2, being one of the school's top readers or the top readers in their classes, among other things.

Monday, February 12 is our last day of Read-a-Thon. At School and At Home/On Own Minutes totals for this weekend (Saturday, Feb. 10 and Sunday, Feb. 11) and Monday, Feb. 12 can be entered in the [Read-](#)

[a-Thon Minutes Google Form](#) starting Monday, February 12; it will be open through Wednesday, February 14.

Please send your child's Master Minutes Tracker and Pledge Form pages back to your child's Homeroom Teacher next Tuesday, February 13. These forms will be used to help confirm minutes submitted, as well as look at who the top reader in each grade is, as well as the top fundraiser.



2 - A few of our Week #2 Draw Prizes

Information from Master Minutes Trackers 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 on Thursday, March 7; letters will be sent to parents of recipients.

Three more days to go: Read ON for Read-a-Thon!

Read-a-Thon Community Sponsors & Partners



3 - Thank you to our generous Community Partners & Sponsors!

After School Fireside Soapstone Sculpting Clubs (Grades 4-8)

Leave your CAN'T at the door!

**Come join us after school
Tuesdays from 2:30 to 4:00
starting February 27th at the:**

Fireside Soapstone Sculpting Club



Grade 4,5,6!

Improve your sculpting skills while working on a cool, challenging project. You will be introduced to planning your sculpture. For those interested, you will also be introduced to the safe use of small rasps and small stone chisels to help in the shaping and detailing of your sculpture.

Cost:\$40 4 week Program

Call 825-733-0630 or email
workshops@uniquesoapstoneexperiences.ca
to sign up.



Leave your CAN'T at the door!

**Come join us after school
Wednesdays from 2:30 to 4:00
starting February 28th at the...**

Fireside Soapstone Sculpting Club



Grade 7-8!

Improve your sculpting skills while working on a larger or more challenging project. Safety and planning will be a big part of this experience. You will learn basic design and how to safely use rasps and small stone chisels to help create more depth and detail in your sculpture.

Cost:\$55 6 week Program

Call 825-733-0630 or email
workshops@uniquesoapstoneexperiences.ca
to sign up.



Kindergarten AHS Eye Exam Information

How well can your child see?



Eye See...™
Eye Learn!

You can't see the world through your child's eyes, but your optometrist can. During your child's eye exam, your optometrist will assess:

- Visual acuity (how well they can see)
- Lazy eye, crossed eyes
- Nearsightedness, farsightedness, astigmatism
- Colour vision
- Eye coordination, tracking and depth perception
- Eye health



For more information about

Eye See...Eye Learn™

contact the Alberta Association of Optometrists
at 1-800-272-8843 or visit
optometrists.ab.ca/esel

Alberta
Association
of Optometrists 

Eyewear Partners:



The Alberta Association
of Optometrists
gratefully acknowledges
funding support from the
Government of Alberta.



Earlier in the fall, all Kindergarten parents received a parent package from Eye See...Eye Learn™. Alberta Health Services provides coverage towards the eye exams for all Kindergarten students in Alberta. The program also provides free eyeglasses to those Kindergarten students who are found to need eyeglasses.

The Alberta Association of Optometrists has requested we send the information out one more time, digitally, as a reminder to our Kindergarten parents so they are aware of this opportunity. Here is it!

Has your child had their annual eye exam? It's important to do before they start school!

Eye See...Eye Learn™ is a program that provides kindergarten-aged students with a comprehensive eye exam from an optometrist. There is Alberta Health coverage towards your child's eye exams up to age 19. If required, kindergarten-aged students also receive a free pair of eyeglasses.

How kindergarten-aged students participate

Step 1 Parents can find a participating optometrist at optometrists.ab.ca. Click on Find an Optometrist and **Eye See...Eye Learn™**, then enter your postal code to find a doctor close to you. Call and book an appointment.

Step 2 See your optometrist for the eye exam. Have your health card ready. There is Alberta Health coverage towards your child's eye exams up to age 19.

Step 3 If required, kindergarten-aged students will receive a free pair of eyeglasses. Ask to see the frame selection available. The optometrist will order your glasses for you.

***Free glasses are covered by a one year manufacturer's warranty.**

Who can participate?

Eye See...Eye Learn™ is available to all kindergarten-aged students in Alberta. It's important to address eye health and vision problems before children begin school.

Children are eligible from August until they begin grade one.

Eye exam coverage

There is Alberta Health coverage towards your child's eye exams up to age 19. It's a painless, non-invasive process that could change their lives!

Did you know?

- 80% of learning is visual.
- 1 in 4 school-aged children has a vision problem.

- An eye exam detects health problems such as crossed eyes or lazy eye.
- Children with vision problems are often misdiagnosed as having learning or behavioural disabilities.
- The earlier an eye health or visual problem is identified, the more likely it can be corrected.
- Children often don't know they have a vision problem, as they believe what they are seeing is normal.
- It is not uncommon for parents to believe they would know if their child has a vision problem, because these issues can be hard to spot particularly if there is a problem in only one of the eyes.

Updated: Friends of Fireside: Home Alone/Babysitter Training Courses



HOME ALONE COURSE
AGES 9/10+
Saturday
March 16th, 2024
9:00AM-12:00PM **\$45.00**

ORGANIZED BY: FRIENDS OF FIRESIDE

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

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

There are still opportunities open for the Babysitters Training Course and Home Alone Course. Perfect for young minds eager to learn essential life skills!

📍 Location: Fireside School 📄 Registration: register at www.babysittingcalgary.com

😊 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

Don't miss this opportunity; spaces are limited!

Update: Friends of Fireside Updates (March Madness is coming...)



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

To participate, visit our website:
www.friendsoffireside.ca
Tickets are 20¢ 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 Cochrane 1 hour Bowling Rental \$63	5 Great things in store \$75 Yamouka Wolf Dog Intro Tour \$36	6 Chatters Gift Basket \$268 Cubase Grande GC + Intro \$25	7 Melody Makes It Macarons \$24 Sunny Side Up \$30	8 Cannon Carves Explore Tour \$312.90 Ippon Karate Dojo \$120 Garden Consultation - Frankie Lou \$100
11 Toyota Premium Detail Package \$449.95 Mama Mia GC \$50	12 Pampered Chef by Jill \$75 Ippon Karate Dojo \$120	13 SLS 3 mth membership \$390 Elbow Springs Golf \$99	14 Shreds Pack \$110 Coke Vasee 1 dozen floral cupcakes \$50	15 Ippon Karate Dojo \$120 Sunny Side Up DC \$30 Harris Creek Heritage Candy \$50
18 Z Squared Designs \$55 Cochrane Floral Boutique \$185	19 Three Seeds Prize \$75 Elbow Springs Golf 19 Holes Pass \$99	20 Flirt cosmetics \$50 Sacred Pangea 60-minute Massage \$110	21 Heart to Home Basket \$89 My Creek Plate \$25	22 Ippon Karate Dojo \$120 Toyota Premium Detail Package \$449.95 Wintergreen Golf & Country Club \$266
25 Sabbies Gift Basket \$200 Ippon Karate Dojo \$120	26 Rebel Cow gift basket \$50 Cochrane Lanes 1 hour bowling \$63	27 Good Year Tires \$1200 Callaway 4 single day passes \$208	28 Mama Mia GC \$50 Lennie Rae Pancake Mixes \$60	29 Grande Prize Almost \$900!

**1 Night stay at
Fairmont Banff Springs \$500**
Dinner at Japur Indian Cuisine \$100
Play at The Messy Moose Studio for 2 \$45

Enjoy Breakfast with Lennie Rae Pancake Mix \$15
Three Seeds laser engraved cutting board \$75
Cochrane Floral Boutique Penny
3-month subscription \$160

Reminder: PowerSchool

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.

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!

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, 403.945.4115).

Contact Us!

Fireside School

403.932.4868

fireside@rockyview.ab.ca

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

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