

FIRESIDE FOCUS



Fireside Focus – January 12

In this week's edition...

Upcoming Dates

From the Admin Desk

Kindergarten 2024-25 Registration and Kindergarten Open House

Fireside School's 3rd Annual Read-a-Thon

Updated: School Bus Safety Reminders

Upcoming Dates

- **Friday, Jan 12 – Cancelled: Junior A Girls & Boys Basketball Tournament #2**
- Monday, Jan 15 -- deadline for cancellation of bus service to receive half year refund
- Friday, Jan 19 – Junior A Girls & Boys Basketball Tournament #3
- Monday, Jan 22 – Kindergarten 2024-25 Registration

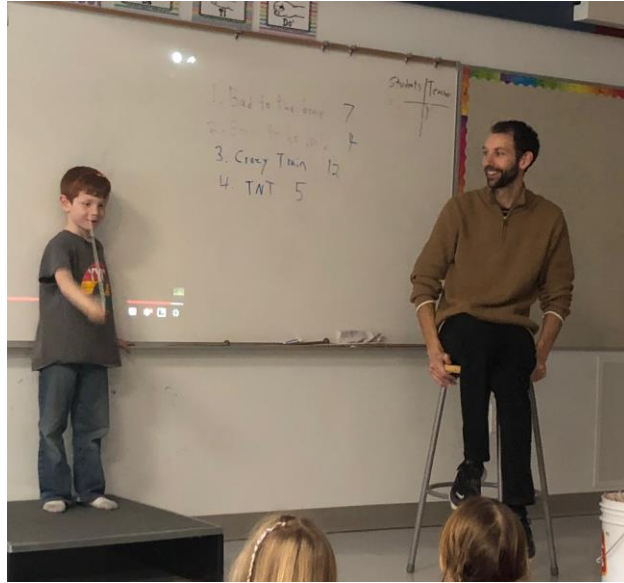
- Thursday, Jan 25 – Junior A Girls & Boys Divisional Tournament
- Friday, Jan 26 – 3rd Annual Read-a-Thon Begins (see below)
- Saturday, Jan 27 – Family Literacy Day
- Friday, Feb 2 – [HealthyHunger site](#) closes for Fun Lunch orders
- Friday, Feb 2 to Sunday, Feb 4 – First Read-a-Thon Minutes submission online
- Wednesday, Feb 7 – [Fun Lunch](#) (Mucho Burrito)
- Wednesday, Feb 7 -- Kindergarten Information Session (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 3 to Sunday, Feb 9 – 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

From the Admin Desk

Hello Fireside Families & Friends,

We were so happy to see everyone back at school on Monday! We're not so sure the extreme cold was welcomed in the same way, although some fun snow forts, snowpeople, and snow ramps were built during the few recesses we had outside. Indoor recesses and an eventual "cold day" off likely came as a treat for many of the kids this week.

Grade 2 Literacy Groups picked up where they left off and reading buddies were glad to have time together this week to share their love of books. In PE, students began gymnastics and continued basketball. And, in music, younger students are learning how to drum and keep the beat, including leading each other in playing beat patterns they learn in class.



At the School Council meeting on Wednesday, administration gave a mid-year update, and information was given about Kindergarten Registration for 2024-25, which will begin Monday, January 22 (see below). We know it's hard to believe we're almost halfway through this school year already! An update about the Fun Lunch coming up on Wednesday, February 7 was provided, and an overview of our upcoming Read-a-Thon was given; it's set to begin Friday, January 26 (see below).

Updates about upcoming events and fundraisers were shared at the Friends of Fireside meeting. Mention was also made about Bow Valley High School's upcoming [BobCon event](#) in support of Helping Hands, which will occur next Monday, January 15. Attendees can enjoy a showcase of art, drama, fashion, foods, game design, entrepreneurship, leadership, and more from BVHS students. It is a great opportunity to see some of the options available at Bow Valley High School (where many of Fireside's students will eventually go for high school) while also supporting a wonderful community organization.

Given the weather and school closures, Friday's Junior A Basketball Tournaments were cancelled. More information will be provided about upcoming tournaments, and we will keep you posted when we receive it.



1 - Read-a-Thon begins in 2 weeks (see below)

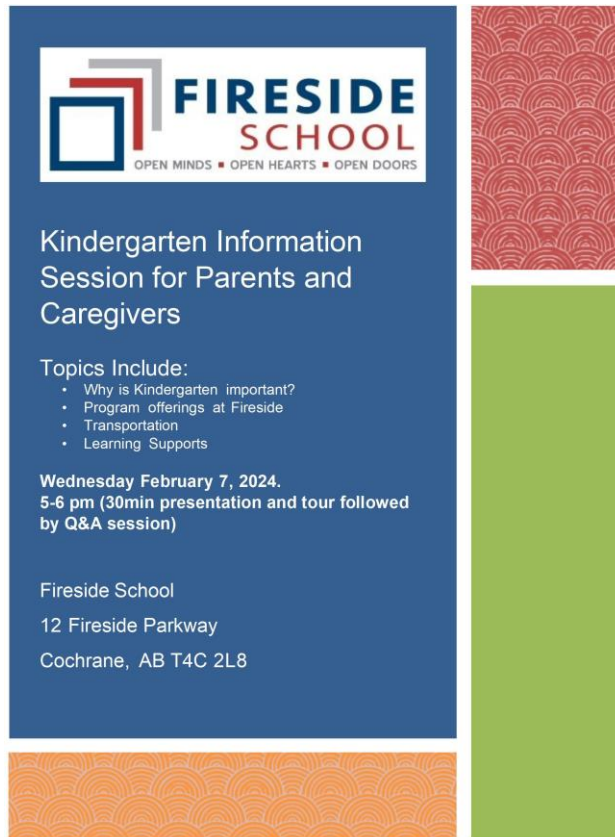
Wishing all of you a safe and cozy weekend.

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)

Kindergarten 2024-25 Registration and Information Session



Registration for Kindergarten 2024-25 will open on Monday, January 22. Information about Kindergarten registration, registration documents, and what to do after registration can be found on [Rocky View Schools site](#). Children who are five years old on or before December 31, 2024 may register in Kindergarten for the 2024–25 school year.

On Wednesday, February 7, we are pleased to welcome families with children who'll be starting Kindergarten in September 2024 to our Kindergarten Information Session. 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 and a Q&A session will follow. If you have any questions about this event, please contact us: fireside@rockyview.ab.ca or 403-932-4868.

Fireside School's 3rd Annual Read-a-Thon



We are very excited to announce that Fireside School's 3rd Annual Read-a-Thon will begin in two weeks!

It starts on Friday, January 26 (one day before Family Literacy Day) and will run for just over two weeks, ending on Monday, February 12. This year's theme is *Book Love: Growing Readers*. Our FUNdraising this year will go toward adding new Literacy Kits and Book Sets to our school's literacy resources.

During Read-a-Thon, each student sets a personal reading goal. Your child will keep track of their reading on the Master Tracker Form that will come home; they will keep track of "At School" reading and "On Own/At Home" reading. They can also collect pledges from family, neighbours, and others for the FUNdraiser on the Pledge Form (on the back of the Master Tracker Form).

One new aspect this year includes students and their parents submitting each "week's" minutes through an online Google Form. Here are the time-frames for each week of Read-a-Thon:

- Week 1: Jan 26 to Feb 2
- Week 2: Feb 3 to Feb 9
- Week 3: Feb 10 to Feb 12

The reading information to be submitted will be clearly marked on the Master Tracker Form and instructions will be included on the top of the Google Form.

Watch for more information and updates next week in *Focus* and via email the week it begins. 2024 Read-a-Thon packages will come home on Thursday, January 25. So, get ready to read read read for Read-a-Thon!



Updated: School Bus Reminders



If your child rides a school bus, please take a few moments to review the information and rules below.

With the very cold weather, please help your children remember to bring appropriate winter wear for their time at the bus stop and riding on the bus.

On extremely cold days such as the ones we had this week, students who are in the second-run of bus departures, now wait inside the school until the first-run of buses departs and their buses then arrive. Those who take the BGC bus wait near the front door; those who take Buses 26, 195, and 227 wait inside the grade 4/7 doors that exit out to the bus lane.

Some important safety reminders for riding the school bus:

- wait back from the edge of the sidewalk (e.g. on the grass) until the bus stops
- 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!

Fireside School

403.932.4868

fireside@rockyview.ab.ca

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