

# **FIRESIDE FOCUS**



## Fireside Focus – January 26

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

Upcoming Dates

From the Admin Desk

Read ON for 2024 Read-a-Thon!

PowerSchool Reminders

Reminder: Where to Find Bus Updates

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

Reminder: Kindergarten 2024-25 Registration and Kindergarten Open House

---

### *Upcoming Dates*

---

- 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 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)

---

*From the Admin Desk*

---

Hello Fireside Families & Friends,

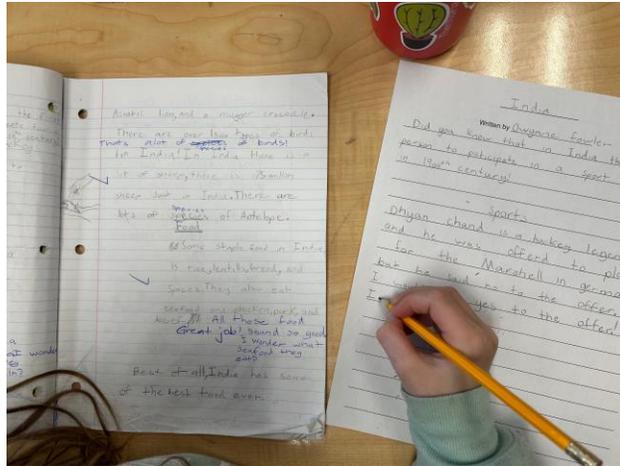
Students were very excited to go back outside for recesses this week. Many were making snow slides or snowpeople or snowforts to play in during their outdoor time. In PE this week, students were focusing on a variety of basketball skills, including accuracy, team work, and persevering even when you do not make the first shot perfectly.



Grade 3 students in Mrs. Billings's class researched facts about India (including its culture and geography) this week, exploring elements of the country's culture, food, celebrations, geography, and wildlife. Once they completed their research, they practiced full sentence and paragraph writing, adding "hooks" to grab attention, along with their personal reactions to what they'd learned.

On Friday, the whole school participated in a Reading Chain to kick off Read-a-Thon. Every student and staff member (over 900 people) all read together for 20 minutes. That's over 18,000 minutes of reading to start us off on this year's Read-a-Thon! See below for more details on Read-a-Thon and information that will be helpful in supporting your children as they participate and strive for their personal reading goals over the next 2+ weeks.





Junior A Boys won basketball GOLD at the 1A Divisionals on Thursday, bring Fireside it first athletics banner since the school opened! Amazing!! We'd also like to celebrate our Junior A Girls team who completed an undefeated regular season! They played with amazing grit and skill in a very tough 2A Divisional Championship tournament on Friday. Thank you to Tim Shaw, Kait Duong, and Marcia Loewen for coaching our Junior A Basketball Teams.

Wishing all of you a wonderful 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))

---

*Read ON for 2024 Read-a-Thon!*

---



*1 - Super Reader Leaders Liam Blackwell and Laura Wright!*

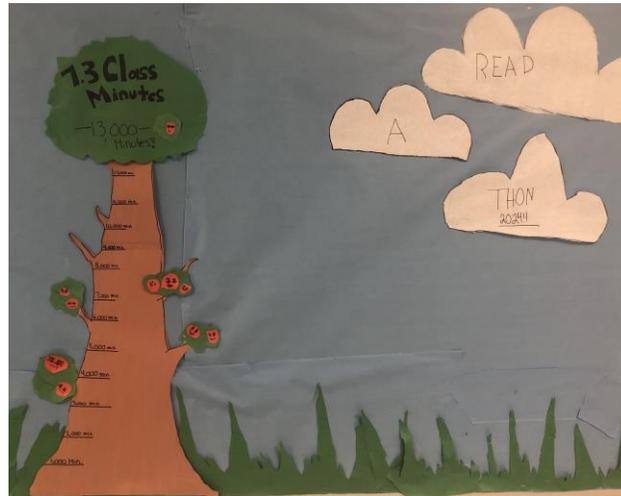
Read-a-Thon 2024 started FRIDAY with a whole-school Reading Chain. Each Homeroom Class was buddied with another class to read together. Students and staff formed a "chain" of readers on both floors of the school to kick-off our event for this year. And it's going to be another amazing Read-a-Thon at Fireside School, we have no doubts!

This year, Read-a-Thon will run from Friday, January 26 through Monday, February 12. Yesterday (Thursday), a package of information should've come home with your children so that you have everything you need to support them as we "Read ON for Read-a-Thon" in 2024.

Each student set an individual learning goal on the top of the Pledge Form, and tomorrow they can start tracking their At Home/On Own Minutes. At School Minutes for Week #1 will be communicated home next Friday so Week 1 Minutes can be submitted in the new [Google Form](#) (see below for more information).

To participate in the FUNdraiser, Readers can sign up family, friends, neighbours, and others to support them in their reading for Read-a-Thon. Our FUNdraising this year will go toward adding new Literacy Kits and Book Sets to our school's literacy resources so we can continue the Book Love here at Fireside!

Many classes were already getting their Classroom Trackers ready on Thursday so they're ready to roll. Also, Mrs. Clancy has designed the Master School Tracker in the Learning Commons so we can celebrate each step we take toward reaching our goal of reading at least 500,000 minutes. We look forward to sharing each week's level with you in the coming weeks.



GROWING  
READERS



FiReSide  
ReAdAthon  
2024





As they reach reading goals, share their reading with others, and read read read for Week 1 next week, students will have the opportunity to receive draw ballots from staff members; those ballots can be entered in for draw prizes. Entries can be put in Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

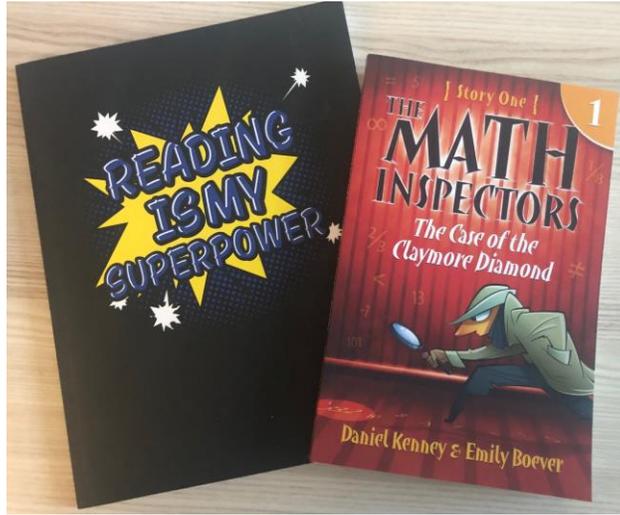
One new aspect this year is that each reader (with help from parents and caregivers) will enter each "week's" minutes into our new [online GoogleForm](#).

Here are the time-frames for each week of Read-a-Thon:

- Week 1: Jan 26 to Feb 2 (submit minutes for these dates between Friday, Feb. 2 and Sunday, Feb 4)
- Week 2: Feb 3 to Feb 9 (submit minutes for these dates between Friday, Feb. 9 and Sunday, Feb 11)
- Week 3: Feb 10 to Feb 12 (submit minutes for these dates between Monday, Feb. 12 and Wednesday Feb. 14)

The reading information to be submitted for each time frame will be clearly marked on the Master Tracker Form, and instructions will be included on the top of the GoogleForm to help you know what to

do. Students can receive further ballots to enter for each week's draw prizes based on the information submitted.



2 - Examples of Week 1s Draw Prizes





3 - Bookmark Making Party for a winner + 3 friends (kindly donated by the Fossheim Family)

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. These pages will also help us to know who is the top reader in each grade (who will receive 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 would like to thank 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. And, 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.

Also, just in case you missed it, last week, *Cochrane Eagle* just featured an article on our Read-a-Thon; you can check it out [here](#)!

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).

---

### *Where to Find Bus Updates*

---

If your child takes the school bus, did you know that you can get updates on their bus route through the Bus Status 4 App? Well, you can! If you go to [Rocky View Schools' Bus Status page](#), you will see the download for the App (for Google or GooglePlay) in the upper right-hand corner.

For more information on Bus Safety and riding the school bus, please see below.

---

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

---

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.

---

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

---



**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

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

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 parents and caregivers whose children will 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, 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.

**Contact Us!**

Fireside School

403.932.4868

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

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