

FIRESIDE FOCUS



Fireside Focus – October 13

In this week's edition...

Upcoming Dates

From the Admin Desk

New: October Spirit Days (starting next week)

New: Fireside's October Outreach: Warmth, Wares, and Wonders Drive

New: Lost & Found

New: Grade 6 Provincial Achievement Test Dates (2024)

Updated: Fireside School Family Hallowe'en Dance

Updated: Allergies & Scent-Free Policy

Reminder: Friends of Fireside Fundraisers

Reminder: National School Bus Safety Week, Oct 16-20

Reminder: International/Canadian School Library Month

Reminder: Questions to Ask your Child About Their Reading

Upcoming Dates

- Tuesday, Oct 17 – Spirit Day 1 Fall Colours Day with Fireside Families (see below)
- Friday, Oct 20 – Spirit Day 2 Spooky Hair Day (see below)
- Friday, Oct 30 – Junior A Volleyball Tournaments
 - Boys: games at Racheview School at 6:00 pm (Indus) and 7:00 pm (Rancheview)
 - Girls: TBD
- Monday, Oct 23 – Students' Artwork due for Friends of Fireside's Artrageous Fundraiser
- Tuesday, Oct 24 – Photo Retake Day
- Friday, Oct 27 – Spirt Day 3 Cozy, Comfy Clothes Day (see below)
- Friday, Oct 27 – Family Hallowe'en Dances (see below)
- Friday, Oct 27 -- Junior A Volleyball Tournament
 - Boys: games at Banded Peak at 4:00 pm (Rancheview) and 5:00 pm (Indus)
 - Girls: TBD
- Tuesday, Oct 31 – Spirit Day 4 Hallowe'en Dress-up Day (see below)
- Wednesday, Nov 1 – School Council (6:30 to 7:30 pm) and Friends of Fireside Meetings (7:30 to 8:30 pm)
- Wednesday, Nov 8 – [Fun Lunch](#) (Little Caesars)
- Wednesday, Nov 8 – National Indigenous Veterans Remembrance Day
- Thursday, Nov 9 – Remembrance Day Assemblies
- Friday, Nov 10 – No classes
- Saturday, Nov 11 – Remembrance Day
- Sunday, Nov 12 – Artrageous orders deadline
- Monday, Nov 20 – Professional Learning Day (no classes)
- Wednesday, Nov 22 and Thursday, Nov 23 – 3-Way Conferences

From the Admin Desk

Hello Fireside Families & Friends,

It was another busy week at Fireside, even though it was short.

Hopefully, your children brought home their school photos. Ordering instructions and where to view all photo options are inside the envelope. Retakes are October 24th for those students who might've missed the first day or who would like a new photo taken. For retakes, **please be sure your children bring the first photo package back** with them to have a new photo taken.

Due to the rainy weather earlier in the week, there were a couple of indoor recesses. Our students took that in stride and found creative ways to still have fun during that time.





We also held our first S.O.A.R. Awards Assemblies. Students across all grades received awards for their excellence in Spirit, Outstanding Character, and Respectful and Responsible actions and attitudes. Skylar Hawk met students at the door and high-fived many of them: they were so excited to see Skylar! The Grade 7/8 Student SOAR Team (with some help from Mr. Ness) also engaged the Fireside Families in a fun Minute-to-Win-It Activity; Valley Family won!



1 - Mr. Banderk and Skylar Hawk sing "Baby Shark" with the students, a crowd favourite!



This year, we've maintained the decision to have more open spaces for recesses, with Grade 1-4 students out at the same time and Grade 5-8 out at the same time. A variety of games and activities are on the go on the fields, as well as play at our new Natural Learning Space. The Playground area, one of the most desirable places to be for recess, has a schedule so everyone can be safe and have a chance on the cool features.

Last week, we shared our reminiscing about the beginnings of the playground, which was supported and built through the amazing fundraising by Friends of Fireside. This week, we thought we'd share the playground's evolution, from when it first arrived, to planning, to the wonderful feature it is now. We are so glad to have this play-space, and we know the community enjoys playing on it when school isn't in as well.

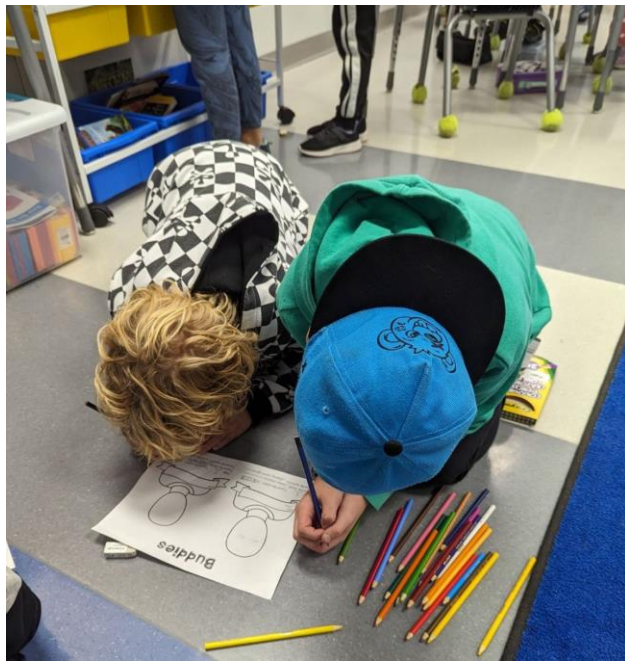


2 - The playground just before it became the playground. (Thank you, FoF!!)





We are also pleased to have our younger-older buddies meeting as classes again this year. Each older grade class has paired up with a younger grade class for a variety of activities, reading, and other things already this year.





We successfully completed our Annual Fire Inspection this week and are proud to say that we passed. All schools in RVS collaborate closely with local emergency personnel to ensure emergency response plans are effectively coordinated with appropriate agencies. RVS has created [this guide](#), which outlines the key elements of the Emergency Response Plan and answers questions parents frequently ask regarding emergency preparedness. We hope you find this guide helpful and informative.

The bus evacuation practice on Wednesday went smoothly. For students who ride the bus to and from school, these drills are a very important part of ensuring their safety. A reminder to see below for information and further tips for being safe waiting for, loading, and riding the school bus, as National School Bus Safety Week is next week.

In the next two weeks, we have some fun spirit days planned (see below) as well as the Hallowe'en Family Dance, organized by Friends of Fireside (see below). We'll be sure to share information and pictures of all the fun in *Focus*. Next week, we also look forward to sharing information about the first Junior A tournaments of the year. The Boys Team is currently playing at the school (winning an intense, come-from-behind game first match) and the Girls Team is playing at Beiseker. See above for upcoming tournaments.

Wishing you all a wonderful 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)

New: October Spirit Days (starting next week)





Autumn is officially here. Our Grade 7/8 Leadership Class and S.O.A.R team has been busily planning some Fun Fall Spirit Days for us, starting next week.

Spirit Day 1: Tuesday, Oct 17 is Fall Colours Day -- Wear one of many different fall themed colours. Everyone that is in the same Fireside Family will wear the same colour. River: Orange; Forest: Brown; Mountain: Yellow; Meadow: Red; Valley: Black

Spirit Day 2: Friday, Oct 20 is Spooky Hair Day -- With 11 days to go until Hallowe'en, students and staff are invited to embrace their spooky side with how they style their hair. Please see costume rules below for some guidance.

Spirit Day 3: Friday, Oct 27 is Cozy, Comfy Clothes Day -- Embrace the fall season and be cozy and comfy on this Friday! Clothing could include PJ's, oversized hoodies, sweatpants, slippers, etc..

Spirit Day 4: Tuesday, Oct 31 is Hallowe'en -- a day for students to wear their Hallowe'en costume to school for our Hallowe'en costume parade! Please note the rules: masks, fake blood, and weapons (including hitting items) are not allowed. Given that we're grades K-8 at Fireside School, it's important the costumes are appropriate for children of all our ages to see.

Fireside's October Outreach: Warmth, Wares, and Wonders Drive

Family	Meadow	Forest	Valley	Mountain	River
Items to Collect	Hair scrunchies PJ's - womens And kids	Hair Brushes & combs Toques and mittens	School supplies Slippers Colouring books and markers	Play dough Puzzles Art Supplies	Stickers Little lego kits Journals and pens

The first week of November, our school will be collecting items for the Big Haven Shelter in Cochrane. Classes will collect specific items based on their Fireside Family groupings: Meadow, Forest, Valley, Mountain, River. Our goal is to have 100 of each item to donate. These items will help the families supported by Big Haven Shelter meet their basic needs and provide supports as we approach the holiday season.

Each Homeroom will have a box or bin for the collection of its assigned items.

Let's support local families and cheer on our Fireside Families to collect and donate to help our community SOAR!

Lost & Found





On Friday, October 20, we will be clearing out our Lost & Found. There are several jackets, hoodies, and other items that would love to find their way home to you before that occurs. We have 3 locations for Lost & Found in the school now, so please have your children check it out for anything you might be missing at home. Please know that you can check in at the office to ask to come in to check them as well.





Grade 6 Provincial Achievement Test Dates (2024)

Every year, Grade 6 students write Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) in all four core subjects: English Language Arts & Literature, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science. These assessments reflect the essentials that all Alberta students are expected to achieve.

Here are the assessment dates that have been set by Alberta Education for this school year so you can make note of them:

- Wednesday, May 15 -- English Language Arts & Literature Part A (Writing)
- Wednesday, June 12 -- English Language Arts & Literature Part B (Reading)
- Thursday, June 13 -- Mathematics Part A
- Friday, June 14 -- Mathematics Part B
- Wednesday, June 19 -- Social Studies
- Thursday, June 20 -- Science

Parents/Guardians of Grade 6 students will receive other communications throughout the year with more information closer to those dates. The *Parent Guide for Grade 6 Provincial Achievement Tests* can be found [here](#).

Updated: Fireside School Family Hallowe'en Dance

On October 27, Fireside School is hosting a spook-tacular Family Hallowe'en Dance. So, dust off your best costumes and come join us for a night of dancing and delightful scares!

The full event starts at 5:30 and finishes at 8:30. That said, to keep it fun for all ages, there will be separate time frames, with one geared toward younger grades and one geared for upper grades within this time frame.

Starting 5:30 pm: We will host activities and play music geared towards our younger crowd, Kindergarten to Grade 4.

Starting 7pm: All grades are welcome to enjoy music and activities for Grade 5 – Grade 8.

Do you have kids in overlapping grades? Don't worry, everyone is welcome to join us at any time between 5:30 and 8:30, no need to leave early to show up late!

Because of capacity limitations, we can only sell a limited number of tickets. Each guest requires 1 ticket. Tickets can be pre-purchased through the link below and will be given out by the school in advance of the dance.



Things to note:

- Parent supervision is required; students without parents cannot be admitted.
- Small concession is available, cash only, water is free.
- Coat check is available by donation.
- **This is a nut-free and scent-free event.**
- **Each guest** requires 1 ticket.
- Halloween costumes are strongly recommended, but there are few rules:
 - No blood & gore
 - No inflatables
 - No weapons / hitting items

We are looking for volunteers

Our Hallowe'en Family Dance can't be done without our amazing community, so we are looking for volunteers for setup, cleanup, and general supervision.

Please email president@friendsoffireside.ca to sign up!

Let's make it a hauntingly memorable night! Get your tickets now and join the fun. We look forward to seeing all the creative costumes!

Buy your tickets now at: <https://order.friendsoffireside.ca/>

Updated: Allergy Awareness and Scent-Free Policy





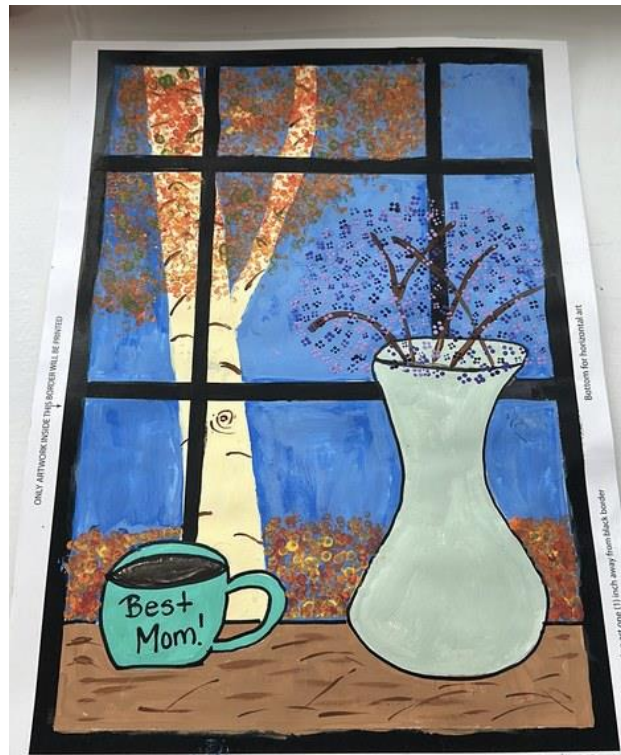
The safety and health of our students and staff are very important to us. Because we have a number of students and staff who are highly sensitive to certain allergens, we ask that all people entering the school please refrain from wearing perfume, cologne, body sprays, scented products, and essential oils; we also ask that nuts and nut products also remain out of the school.

- Please refrain from wearing perfume, cologne, scented products, or essential oils when coming into Fireside School. (You might've noticed that there are now signs on the front entry doors noting this health and safety concern.)
 - *Please note: essential oils can cause reactions for several people in our school, including especially those with coconut oil (base) and coconut, tropical, floral, and citrus (orange, lemon, lime, lemongrass, etc) scents.*
- Please do not bring perfumes, colognes, scented products, or essential oils into Fireside School; most especially, please do not spray them or open/use them in the school at any time, including before or after school.
- Since we are a Nut-Aware School, please do not bring products with nuts into the school, including in snacks, lunches, or treats.

We thank you for your attention to and respect for these health concerns and for helping us to keep everyone safe from allergic reactions this school year.

If your child has allergies, please bring them to the attention of the Homeroom Teacher so that we can be aware of those allergy cautions as well. Thank you.

Reminder: Friends of Fireside Fundraisers



Artrageous is back!! Forms were handed out to all classes this week. Over the next two weeks, students will create their own imaginative art pieces on their form and fill it in with their name, class, and other information. The artwork is then used on a variety of items that can be ordered, making great keepsakes for years to come. Monday, October 23rd is the deadline for submitting these pages to Homeroom Teachers. Then, watch for information on how to order items with your child's artwork on them in future *Focus* editions; the order deadline is Sunday, November 12.

Also watch for details on the Winter Purdy's Fundraiser, which will start at the beginning of November.

Reminder: National School Bus Safety Week, Oct 16-20



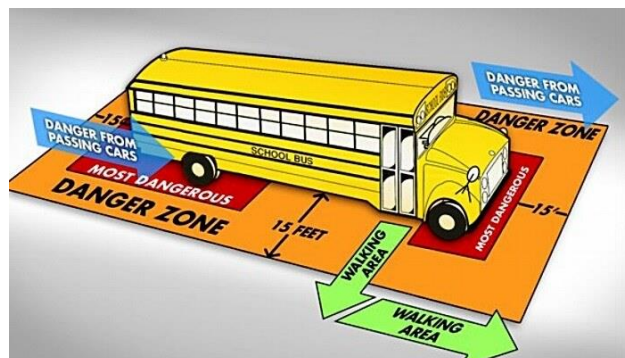
October 16-20 is National School Bus Safety Week. Many of our students use the bus to come to school, so we wanted to share some information with you about bus safety. Students can also be on a school bus for field trips, so safety information is important for all students and families.

Safety while riding the bus includes helping students to remember to:

- always listen to the bus driver.
- use the handrails when getting on and off the bus and secure items such as backpacks.
- sit down in their assigned seat as quickly as possible.
- stay seated and face forward (e.g. back to the back of the seat).
- not walk around 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 and not shout or scream on the bus so the driver can concentrate.
- be courteous and kind to other people riding the bus.

[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.



Given that we have two waves of buses this year at Fireside, here are a few other safety reminders:

- students in the first wave of buses -- please find your bus and get on as soon as possible.
- students in the second wave of buses -- please find your bus sign and stand there respectfully and safely.
- students waiting at the signs need to be sure they're leaving room for the buses to stop safely before moving to board the bus (e.g. on the grass and not the sidewalk).
- please do not throw balls or other items by the bus lane during bus pick up after school; please walk scooters or bikes on this sidewalk during that time as there are many people.
- never walk behind a school bus; if you are crossing in front of a school bus, be sure to make eye contact with the driver before crossing.

Reminder: International/Canadian School Libraries Month



LIBRARIES FOR LIFE

October is both International and Canadian School Libraries Month. This year's international theme is "The School Library: My Happy Place where Creativity and Imagination Flourish". Our library plays an important role in reading and literacy. At Fireside, classes book library time to come to our school's Learning Commons and find new books, hear stories, and fuel their love of reading, including sharing books with others. Our library is also a place where students can research areas of interest, explore new worlds in fiction and non-fiction books, complete group work and learning, and have personal reading time. It is definitely an important part of our school!

Throughout this month, there are interesting days that honour the role of libraries, librarians, books, and literacy in children's lives:

- October 11: Myths and Legends Day (celebrates these stories and their long history. To take part, read about your favourite legends or discover new ones).

- October 16: Dictionary Day (emphasizes the importance of learning while using dictionary skills and increasing one's vocabulary).
- October 23-27: Media Literacy Week (promoting digital media literacy alongside safety and awareness).
- Monday, Oct 23: Canadian School Libraries Day (Theme: Speak Up for School Libraries! and their importance in our schools and communities).
- Friday, Oct 28: Canadian Library Workers Day (this day includes acknowledging local librarians and library workers, such as those at the Cochrane Library, which partners with us throughout the year for presentations and other things).

And, looking ahead to other important book and reading days coming up: November 8 is "I Read Canadian" Day.



Reminder: Questions to Ask Your Child About Their Reading

Talking to your children about the books they read is an important way to support your child's literacy and reading development. Discussions and questions about books help your child engage in critical thinking about their reading, which is a key skill for success in school as well as life.

Once your child has chosen a book, you can ask questions such as:

- Why did you select this book? or What makes you think it will be interesting?
- What do you think the book is going to be about? or What do you think is going to happen?

While your child is reading a book, you can try asking questions such as:

- Will you catch me up on the story? What's happened so far in the story?
- What do you think will happen next? Why?
- What are you liking about this book? or What parts do you think are the most important so far?
- If you were that character, what would you have done differently in that situation? Why?

- After your child has finished a book, you can ask questions such as:**

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Contact Us!

Fireside School

403.932.4868

fireside@rockyview.ab.ca

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