

# **FIRESIDE FOCUS**



## Fireside Focus – October 6

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

Upcoming Dates

From the Admin Desk

New: Fireside School Family Hallowe'en Dance

New: Friends of Fireside Fundraisers

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

New: International/Canadian School Library Month

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Reminder: Allergies & Scent-Free Policy

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### *Upcoming Dates*

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- Monday, Oct 9 – Thanksgiving (no school)
- Thursday, Oct 12 – Grade 6 Immunizations

- Monday, Oct 23 - Students' Artwork due for Friends of Fireside Artrageous Fundraiser
- Tuesday, Oct 24 – Photo Retake Day
- Friday, Oct 27 – Family Hallowe'en Dances
- 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)

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*From the Admin Desk*

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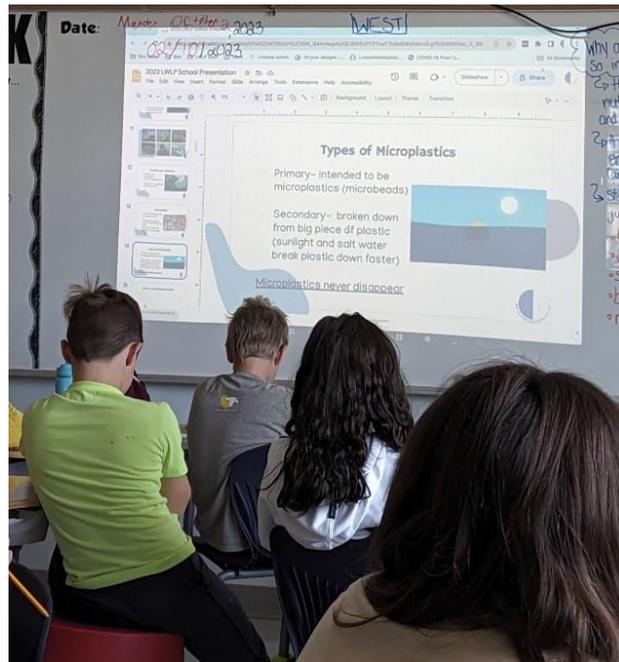
Hello Fireside Families & Friends,

This week, our Grade 4 classes made Fall Soup from the bountiful harvest of our community garden. This year's 4s shared the soup with last year's Grade 4s (who planted the veggies in the spring) and the Kinder classes who helped with the harvesting just last week. It was delicious! We want to take a moment to also thank all of our families who supported us with keeping our community gardens weeded, watered, and cared for over the summer. The result of our efforts together was a ton of veggies! This truly is becoming an awesome tradition of sharing, bringing grades together, and learning about where our food comes from.



Grade 4's also connected with Cochranite Jade Janzen (*Lives with Less Plastic*) in Zoom for a Plastics Presentation, learning about single use plastics. Meanwhile, our choir began to practice songs it will share at our upcoming Remembrance Day Assemblies. More clubs began in earnest this week; there is a

different club or group going each day, and students can look at the board next to the main office to see the opportunities that are available. The Junior A Boys' and Girls' Volleyball Teams continued their practices this week in advance of upcoming tournaments. And students also navigated the cooler weather at recess with mostly smiles (albeit cold ones near the end of the week). We ask that you please help your children remember what they might need for each day's changing weather to be comfortable, whether it is warm or cool (or both!) on that day.



At our monthly School Council meeting, RVS Board Chair and Trustee Ward 6 Cochrane [Fiona Gilbert](#) shared information about the multi-faceted public engagement meetings that are occurring in Airdrie this year, indicating that Cochrane may be seeing similar engagement in coming years given how fast our school populations are growing. After sharing successes and lessons learned from the *RVS Strategic Plan*, she also shared details of Year One of RVS's [2023-2027 Education Plan](#). This plan includes a continued commitment to advancing students' numeracy and literacy skills, building future-ready students, and creating inclusive, engaging, healthy learning opportunities for all students. We also shared how Fireside School will be pursuing its own goals aligned within these areas, which will be shared with our larger school community in the weeks to come.



Friends of Fireside's meeting brought exciting new details about the Family Hallowe'en Dances on October 27 (see below). Current and upcoming fundraisers (see below) and reminiscing about the building of the playground years ago also featured in the discussions. The school is hoping our amazing fundraising supporters will be able to help us with some additional improvements outside. Stay tuned! The next meetings for School Council and Friends of Fireside are Wednesday, November 1st. Everyone is welcome!



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

Our first bus evacuation practice will be next week, in advance of National School Bus Safety Week. Please see below for more information for students and families on being safe on the school bus, waiting, loading, and riding.

Students in Grades 1, 2, and 3 brought home letters and information on their upcoming Grade-wide Literacy Groups, which will begin next week. Information about a child's typical reading development and grade-level reading behaviours can be found on our school's *Beginning of the Year Reading*

*Behaviours Continuum*; we are happy to share [this reference guide](#) with you as parents and families. Again, we welcome any [feedback](#) you might have on this guide. See below for some ways to engage with your child around the books they'll be reading in class and on their own this month.

Wishing you all a wonderful long 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))

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### *Fireside School Family Hallowe'en Dance*

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Mark your calendars, goblins and ghouls! Fireside School is hosting a spook-tacular Family Hallowe'en Dance on October 27th. 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, but 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!

Due to capacity limitations of the school, 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 distributed through the school.

**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](mailto: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/>



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.

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***New: National School Bus Safety Week, Oct 16-20***

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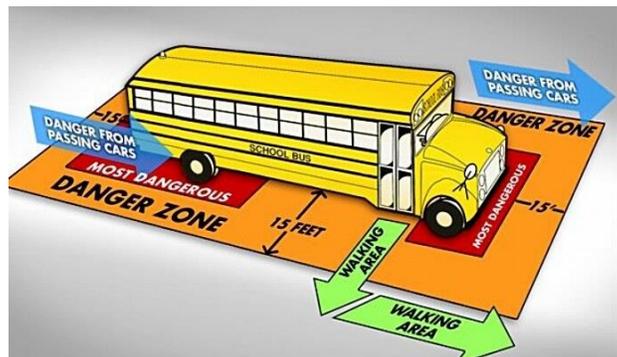
October 16-20 is National School Bus Safety Week. Many of our students use the bus to come to school, so we wanted to share some information with you about bus safety. Students can also be on a school bus for field trips, so safety information is important for all students and families.

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.

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*International/Canadian School Libraries Month*

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## **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.




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### *Questions to Ask Your Child About Their Reading*

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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?
- Did you learn any new words so far? What do they mean?
- What new facts have you learned so far?
- If the book was a TV show, which actors would you cast in it? Explain why.
- If the main character in that story lived next door, would you be friends? Explain.
- Where is the story set? Does it remind you of any place you've been?





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### *Reminder: Allergy Awareness and Scent-Free Policy*

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At Fireside School, we want to do our best to keep everyone safe and healthy. 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 (including especially those scented with orange, coconut, and lime). 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.
- Please do not bring perfumes, colognes, scented products, or essential oils into our school; most especially, please do not spray them or open/use them in the school at any time.
- 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.

**Contact Us!**

Fireside School

403.932.4868

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