

FIRESIDE FOCUS



Fireside Focus – September 15

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Upcoming Dates

- Friday, Sept 22 – Photo Day
- Wednesday, Sept 27 - Healthy Hunger (Subway)
- Thursday, Sept 28 – Orange Shirt Day
- Friday, Sept 29 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (no school)
- Friday, Oct 6 – Professional Development Day (no school)
- Monday, Oct 9 – Thanksgiving (no school)

From the Admin Desk

Hello Fireside Families & Friends,

We've settled into our school routines this week. Introductions and review are mostly in the rear view mirror, as classes are into full swing with the new year's curricula.

In our upper grades, Junior A Volleyball tryouts for Grade 7 & 8 students started on Monday. Those selected to play will be able to participate in 5 tournaments around Rocky View this year. After the Junior A season ends (end of October), Junior B Volleyball will begin, where all athletes who attend are able to play, except for those who made the Junior A teams. Grade 6 Volleyball also starts up at that time. For more information, please contact our Athletic Director, Melanie Hamilton.

Our School Council and Fundraising Society (Friends of Fireside) met here at the school last Wednesday. Each group elected Executive Members. School Council Chairperson [Krystle Anderson](#) and FoF President [Roger Versluis](#) will be returning in their respective roles this year. Both groups meet on the first Wednesday of every month (for January and April, it will be the second Wednesday of the month). Please contact them directly if you would like to have something added to either of their meeting agendas. Parents are warmly invited to attend either or both of these meetings.





On Thursday, our first S.O.A.R. Assemblies took place, where Mr. Banderk and Skylar the Hawk helped our students learn about the importance of our guiding values: Spirit, Outstanding Character, Achievement, and Respect. We also learned what our school families will be this year. Students and teachers were placed into one of five families: Forest, Meadow, Mountain, River, and Valley. The Family activities help our kids to build relationships across the grades and add some fun games and challenges throughout our year.

We ended the day today with our Terry Fox Run with all staff and students (our Kinders did theirs earlier in the day). See below for more photos and details.

Wishing you all a lovely, sunny 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)

Terry Fox Run



Fireside's classrooms and hallways were empty for part of Friday afternoon as the school made its way onto the fields to participate in this year's Terry Fox Run. Students and staff ran, walked, cartwheeled, and rolled around the fields while Mr. Petterson & Mr. Chung kept everyone entertained with music and encouragement. Runners wore stickers displaying who they were running for, most of whom had been touched by cancer in some way. A special thank you to our Grade 1 team and their kids for organizing and running the event.

The Terry Fox Foundation has created an online fundraising page for our school. Families can still make donations to the Foundation in support of cancer research. It will be open for donations until next Friday, September 22.



Donate online at: <https://schools.terryfox.ca/31246>

- Click the link above to donate or search for our school name at terryfox.org
- There is no minimum donation, every dollar counts!
- Receipts are issued immediately to donors by email

Superintendent's Update – School & Family Communication



From Greg Luterbach, Superintendent of Rocky View Schools:

As we begin the school year, I wanted to address an important topic to us all – school and family communication.

At RVS we work hard to share information about what is happening in your child's classroom, at the school and across the division. This communication comes in many forms – classroom emails, parent/teacher conferences, school newsletters, websites, social media, division letters and more. RVS teachers, school and division staff aim to provide you with the most relevant information. We encourage you to please take time to read it. Our school and division websites are a great resource for additional information and to answer questions you may have – please check them often for updates.

There are times when you may need more specific information about your child, which could be in an email, phone call or meeting depending on the question or situation. We welcome ongoing dialogue with families.

We ask for your patience and understanding in how and when a teacher or administrator responds. Most of their days are spent in front of students focussed on their learning. When they are not in the classroom, they are preparing for the next day, reviewing assignments or getting home to their families and they might not be able to return your call or email that day. Under normal circumstances, school staff will respond to emails within 24 hours on school days (not after 6 p.m.) or by the end of the following workday if received on the weekend/holiday. Across all of RVS, we do not expect school staff/teachers to read or respond to emails after 6pm on school days or on weekends/holidays. This common expectation across all our schools and is described in [administrative procedure 145](#) which is linked to here.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. Together, we can create a supportive environment that benefits our students' learning and growth.

Wishing everyone a great 2023/24 school year.

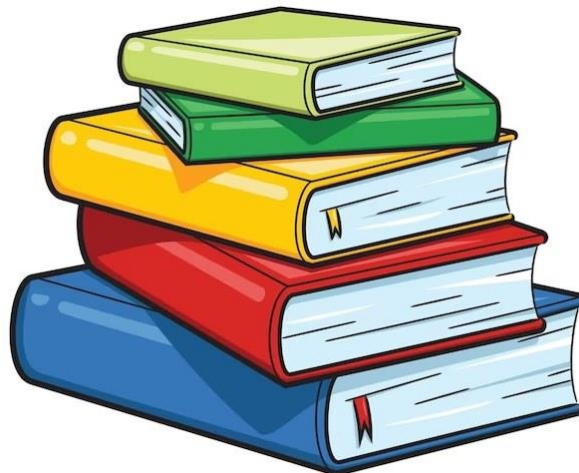
Greg Luterbach, Superintendent of Schools

Welcome to Fireside: Jeff Horvath, Indigenous Learning Specialist



We are very pleased to welcome RVS Indigenous Learning Specialist Jeff Horvath to Fireside School for the next three weeks. He will be connecting and working with a variety of different classes to expand understandings around Indigenous learning and ways of knowing, including Learning on the Land. He will also be joining us for our Sharing Ceremony on September 28, as we recognize Canada's National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Welcome, Jeff; we are so glad to have you at our school!

Beginning of the Year Reading Behaviours



Parents often ask what it means for their child to be reading "at grade level." While it can certainly be helpful to know whether a child is above, at, or approaching their grade level in reading, without knowing what specific behaviours these indicators describe, it can difficult to know how best to support

a child in their reading development. To help parents with this, Fireside has created [this reference guide](#) that will hopefully assist families in understanding what behaviours would be typical of a child's reading development at their grade level. We welcome any [feedback](#) you might have on this guide.

Updated: Honouring National Day for Truth & Reconciliation - Orange Shirt Day



Fireside School will honour Canada's National Day for Truth and Reconciliation by holding a Sharing Ceremony on Thursday, September 28 with a Sharing

Starting Monday, September 25, classes will explore some key information and questions about this day (grade appropriate); there will also be reflection on why it's important to help everyone feel safe and cared for at school.

Each Homeroom Class will create a classroom poster that represents their classroom identity. Questions of reflection include: "What is our classroom learning story?" and "How does my classroom and learning community make me feel safe and ready to learn?".

During the last week of September, Grade 5/6 Leadership students will be reading Indigenous stories and poems with younger students in Kindergarten through Grade 3 during our literacy blocks. Finally, on Thursday, September 28, classes will come to the gym grade by grade throughout the day to share their class's representation. Each student will put out individually designed feathers, which represent their answers to the question "What does Fireside feel and look like and why is it a safe place to learn?". At the end, all the posters will show the make up our school community's "blanket" of sharing and commitments to being a safe and caring school.

Please remember to help your children remember to wear an **Orange Shirt** on Thursday September 28th. And remember that **Friday September 29th will not be a school day**, as it is a day in lieu of

Saturday September 30th, which is officially recognized as National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Canada. We look forward to sharing photos of our Sharing Ceremony with you in September 28's *Focus*.

Updated: Allergy Awareness and Scent-Free Policy

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.

Reminder: Student Authorization Forms

Just a friendly reminder to complete your student's Student Authorization Forms. These forms need to be filled out each year. These forms cover School Walking Field Trips, use of your student's photo, etc. You can find these on [School Engage](#). Please contact the office with any questions you may have filling out the forms.

Reminder: Healthy Hunger



Healthy Hunger is back! Our first fun lunch will come from Subway. To order, or view all upcoming Healthy Hunger dates please, please visit the Healthy Hunger Website at www.healthyhunger.ca. If you are new, you will need to create a new parent account and then add your student! Ordering closes one week prior to each Healthy Hunger day, but meals as far as the end of the school year are accessible on the site.

Please note: for all dietary and allergy restrictions we encourage you to reach out to Subway directly.

If your child is away on Healthy Hunger days, please reach out to us via phone or to let us know if you would like the meal/treat to be donated, given to a sibling to take home, popped in the fridge for Thursday, or picked up! We hate to see food going to waste!

There will be no donation button year. That said, we will be supporting any families who might need a sandwich for any reason; please contact the the office or an administrator if needed.

Reminder: Backpack Program



In partnership with Cochrane & Area Family Resource Network (FRN), Staples and the Kiwanis Club of Cochrane is hosting a Backpack Program, which aims to ease the stress of being ready for the start of school by providing students in Kindergarten to Grade12 with important back to school supplies.

Eligible participants must show proof of enrolment in a Cochrane or West Rocky View County school and provide GST/HST Credit Notice listing dependent children. Applications must be done in-person as you pick up the supplies at the same time. FRN's address is: 127 First Ave. W Cochrane.

Contact Us!

Fireside School

403.932.4868

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