

Fireside Focus

Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors

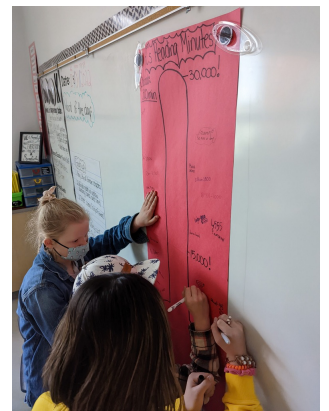
The Week Ahead ~ January 28 to February 4

Upcoming Events at a Glance

Date	Time	Event
Thursday, January 27 to Sunday, February 27		Fireside School Read-a-Thon - Book Love and FUNdraising Event
Monday, January 31		Professional Learning day (no school)
Wednesday, February 2	6:30 -8:00 pm	School Council (https://rockyview.zoom.us/j/2781208156)
Friday, February 11		Healthy Hunger (Booster Juice)
Monday, February 21		Family Day - No School
Tuesday, February 22 and Wednesday, February 23		No School
Thursday, February 24 and Friday, February 25		No School (Teachers' Convention)
Monday, February 28	7:00 pm	Friends of Fireside Meeting (meet.google.com/yzb-pgbm-zvh)
Sunday, March 20 and Monday, March 21	Please see poster at the end of this week's <i>Focus</i>	Casino Nights - Friends of Fireside (see below for information and for how to volunteer)

Hello, families and friends of Fireside!

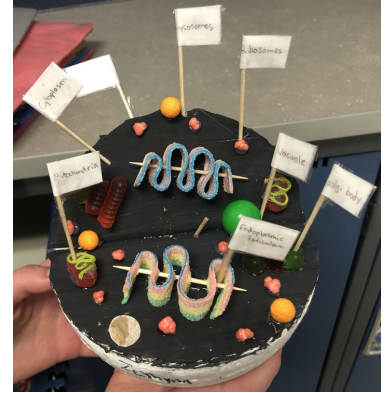
We've had a lot of excitement this week as we kicked off Fireside School's first Read-a-Thon Event on Thursday, February 27, for Family Literacy Day and "I Love to Read" Month! (Please see below for further details.) Today saw students busily crafting and designing their Class Tracker Minutes Thermometers, while the School-Wide ones for students and staff went up in the library. Talk of books and reading and goals for minutes students wish to read were in the air: Book Love is alive and well at Fireside!





We also saw our Grade 2 class host their Iqaluit Day on Thursday, which included making Inukshuks in the outdoor space alongside the bus lane.

Grade 8 students showed off their candy-designed cell projects and photography students were taking photos around the school, including trying to find in-the-moment features that look like letters.



Students were also working on the goals they set during our school-wide community activity block last week: seeking how they could positively contribute to building a sense of community within our school. From making signs to post with fun, positive messages in Mrs. Doll and Mr. McCormick's classes, to Mrs. Billings's grade 3 class who shared their SWA class goals in their classroom window, inspired by a quote from Maya Angelou "Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud," there were some very heartwarming moments throughout our days here as we connected with others and worked to build a community where we have Open Hearts.

Wishing everyone a safe and restful weekend!! Looking forward to hearing about all the reading when we return to school on Tuesday, February 1, 2022.





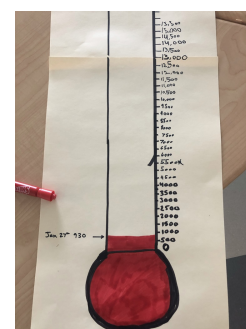
NEW: Fireside School Read-a-Thon ~ January 27 to February 27

Thursday, January 27th was the first day of Fireside School's Read-a-thon. Students all received the letter, Pledge Form, and Time Log sheet to bring home with all the information. Excitement and a love of reading has already begun to move through the building!

You can access the informational video made by The Friends of Fireside about this event here: [Link to Fireside Read-A-Thon YouTube Video](#)

Here are some of the highlights:

- The Read-a-Thon is a FUNdraiser to build a love of books and reading for students and staff.
- All funds from this FUNdraiser will go toward the Outdoor Learning Space, adding to the funds from the Casino Nights (March 20-21), organized by The Friends of Fireside Society
- There are prizes to be won for a variety of reading minutes and fundraising achievements (please see letter and video for more information), including a gift card for the Scholastic Book Fair in April for the top reader in each grade (kindly sponsored by Friends of Fireside).
- Each class is tracking their minutes on a Thermometer Minutes Tracker, which they created in class today (some classes have already updated their minutes for yesterday and today).
- Families can help to ensure students are keeping track of their "Read with Me" or At-Home Reading Minutes; they can also help by being sure to calculate School + Home Minutes and communicating those to school for each Friday of the Read-a-Thon
- We are challenging Herons Crossing School in Airdrie during our Read-a-Thon
- And, although it doesn't count toward the Read-a-Thon Minutes officially, Fireside's staff are keeping track of their own reading minutes to show off alongside students; they have also challenged the Herons Crossing Staff for the most minutes read.



Stay tuned for weekly updates on Fireside School's Minutes read, as classes will be updating their Thermometer Minutes Trackers each week. **BRING ON THE BOOK LOVE!!!**

UPDATED: School Council Meeting Wednesday, February 2

This coming Wednesday, February 2 is our next School Council meeting. The meeting is from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Please join us: <https://rockyview.zoom.us/j/2781208156>

Constable Nathan Moore, RCMP Officer and School Resource and Community Liaison, will be presenting about basic Online Safety. It will be similar to the one students are engaging in class. Constable Moore was born and raised in Alberta. He's been a police officer for 15 years, the last 9 of which in Cochrane. His wife, a recently retired police officer, and he have three kids, aged 12-18. His role with the Cochrane detachment is primarily as School Resource and Community Liaison; he is also one of the three Forensic Sketch Artists in the Province for the RCMP. We look forward to having him present for us on February 2, 2022.

NEW: Grade 2 Iqaluit Day!

On Thursday, all grade 2 classes engaged in a Celebration of Learning for the end of their Social Studies unit studying Iqaluit in Nunavut. For their final projects, students built Inukshuks in the area beside the bus lane; you can see their beautiful and creative work in the outside school space along the bus lane beside the school if you're walking by the school. Students also built Igloos out of marshmallows and made Inukshuk trading cards. Making Arctic animals out of clay and using repurposed items to make little Indigenous-style drums were the finale of the day. Students completed their final journal reflections today to share their thinking about what they learned in doing these activities, which they've learned about in their class unit.



UPDATED: January 27th was Family Literacy Day

Did you know that Thursday, January 27th was Family Literacy Day? As our Read-a-Thon started yesterday, we thought we would leave these 12 questions you could discuss and explore with your student(s) when they're reading or you're reading together at home:

1. Could this story be true? Why or why not?
2. Where is the setting of this story?
3. Who is this story about? Tell me what you know from the book about him or her or them.
4. What words would you use to describe the main character? Why?
5. Do you like the main character? Why or why not?
6. Does the main character have a problem? What is it?
7. How is the problem solved? (What is the solution?)
8. What is the scariest, funniest, saddest, most interesting, or most funny part of the story? Read it aloud.
9. Do you like this story? Why or why not?
10. Do you know any real people who are like the characters in this story? Who are the people and how are they similar or different?
11. Would you like to be a character from the story? Why or why not?
12. Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?

UPDATED: Friends of Fireside

Did you know there are endless benefits that come from learning outdoors, such as reduced stress, increased focus, collaboration, problem solving?! The list goes on. Fundraising from the upcoming Casino Nights will go toward Fireside School being able to create an outdoor learning space for our students and learning!!

We are so excited that this wonderful opportunity is coming to Fireside School but **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** We have a few more evening shifts to fill and need some on-call people for our fundraising initiative – Casino Nights. The funds raised directly benefit the children of Fireside School. Here is the [link](#) to sign up – your support is greatly appreciated. More information about Friends of Fireside and our casino can be found [here](#) and on the poster at the end of this week's *Focus*.

Mark your calendars – upcoming events:

- Friends of Fireside meeting – Feb 28th | 7:00pm | [Link to join](#)
- Read-a-thon! Details to follow soon!
- Home Alone/Babysitting course – POSTPONED; CPR course – POSTPONED
- Casino Nights – March 20-21

Friends of Fireside would love to hear from you! Please take a quick moment to fill out our community survey. Here is the [link](#) for the community survey. Answer for your chance to win a gift card to The Stump/Mezzo/PZA! You must include contact info to be included in the draw. February 11th is the deadline.

Please watch our Facebook page for new updates and thank you as always for your continued support!

Volunteering

Thank you to everyone who submitted their names for volunteering in the school. We are starting to contact potential volunteers as needs are identified. If you missed the chance to add your name to our roster, please email Mr. Ness (jness@rockyview.ab.ca) with your name, day/time availability, and any preferred volunteer activities that interest you. Please remember that all volunteers must have a current vulnerable sector check completed and show proof of vaccination or negative PCR Covid test.

Recess/Lunch Activities

We are adding more activities for students to enjoy during unstructured times. Upper grades will have the opportunity to play board games and enter a ping pong league at lunch time. Lower grades will get to enjoy activities and games led by some of the older students. If there is a specific club or activity you would like to lead in our school, please contact Mr. Ness (jness@rockyview.ab.ca).

Therapy Dogs at Fireside

Fireside will be welcoming Therapy Dogs to our school in the coming weeks. The dogs will always be on a leash. Students who will be connecting with the Therapy Dogs will be provided a consent form to be signed by a parent/guardian in order to participate.

REMINDER: Daily Health Checklist Usage

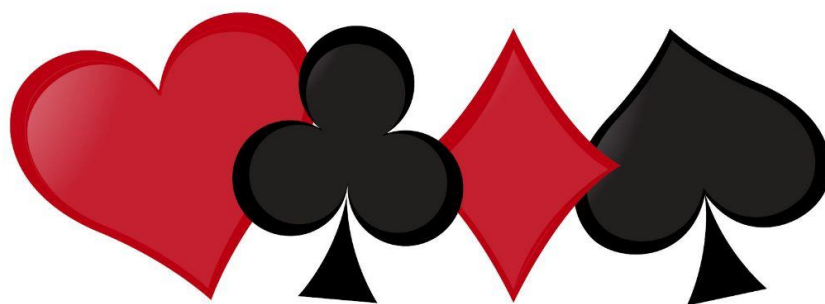
The Alberta Government recently updated its [Alberta Daily Health Checklist](#) (click on the link to view). Please ensure that students are completing this checklist each day before leaving for school. Parents/Guardians play an essential role, as they support actions in the home (such as keeping children/students home when sick and accessing testing if symptoms develop) that ultimately keep other children, students, and staff safe.



ACE CASINO &
FIRESIDE SCHOOL'S



CASINO NIGHT



SUNDAY MARCH 20
MONDAY MARCH 21

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Help us fundraise for the new outdoor
learning area for Fireside School!

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We are still looking for volunteers for both days.
Visit friendsoffireside.ca/casino-march-2022 for
more info or write us at president@friendsoffireside.ca

