

# Fireside Focus

Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors

The Week Ahead ~ February 4 to February 11

## Upcoming Events at a Glance

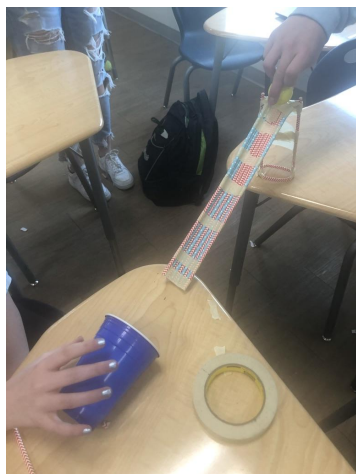
Date	Time	Event
Thursday, January 27 to Sunday, February 27		<b>Fireside School Read-a-Thon - Book Love and FUNdraising Event</b>
Monday, February 14 to Friday, February 18		<b>Spirit Week (see below)</b>
Monday, February 21		<b>Family Day - No School</b>
Tuesday, February 22 and Wednesday, February 23		<b>No School</b>
Thursday, February 24 and Friday, February 25		<b>No School (Teachers' Convention)</b>
Monday, February 28	7:00 pm	<b>Friends of Fireside Meeting</b> ( <a href="https://meet.google.com/yzb-pgbm-zvh">meet.google.com/yzb-pgbm-zvh</a> )
Sunday, March 20 and Monday, March 21	Please see poster at the end of this week's <i>Focus</i>	<b>Casino Nights - Friends of Fireside (see below for information and for how to volunteer)</b>
Wednesday, March 2	6:30 - 8:30	<b>School Council Meeting</b> ( <a href="https://rockyview.zoom.us/j/2781208156">https://rockyview.zoom.us/j/2781208156</a> )

Hello, families and friends of Fireside!

It was a busy week for learning, just as it is every week...

The Read-a-Thon was in full swing, as students signed out books from the Library, found new Home Reading books, and challenged each other to see who could read the most minutes each day. Grade 1's were focused on welcoming in the Lunar New Year and building their ideas of city spaces. Grade 4's are working on Flat Lay Self-Portraits; Ms. Sly had the pleasure working with them to help them think about how to take the best representational photo.





Grade 7's and 8's finished the week by playing Olympic-style sports in Physical Education and Grade 7's were building bridges out of straws to see if it would hold the weight of a golf ball; if the ball could roll down the bridge's slope without any "casualties", it passed the test!



We'd like to issue a gentle reminder that the staff parking lot at the back of the building is meant for staff parking and is not intended to be a pickup and dropoff zone. While this is not currently "policed," we have encountered a number of instances recently where staff were unable to exit the lot until it cleared or where there were concerns in the morning. Please be courteous to staff and to one another, as we would prefer to not have to block off or monitor the lot. Additionally, please kindly stay out of the bus lane, as this is where the buses need to pull in to drop off or pick up students.

As next week begins, we're looking ahead to the start up of Ping Pong tournaments and many of our students are looking forward to discussing their favourite Olympic events and are ready to track the medals Canada will win.

Have a safe and wonderful weekend, hopefully enjoying our very nice weather for February.

### **NEW: Spirit Week**

Our grade 7/8 Leadership students have organized a spirit week for Feb 14th to 18th. We recognize the challenge in 5 consecutive "theme" days, but hopefully these are plenty of fun without being too difficult. They are of course optional.

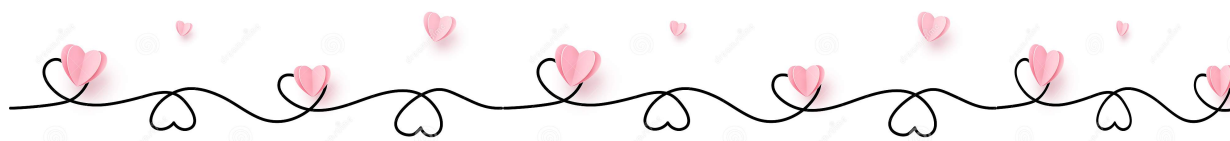
Monday, Feb 14th: Red and White Day – Wear your Valentine's colours.

Tuesday, Feb 15th: Jersey Day – Represent your favourite team

Wednesday, Feb 16th: Formal Day – Break out the "Picture Day Outfit" and dress your best.

Thursday, Feb 17th: PINK SHIRT DAY – Support anti-bullying and promote kindness by wearing your pink shirts.

Friday, Feb 18th: PJs + Anything but a Backpack Day – Wear your PJs and get creative by bringing your school gear in anything but a backpack. Pillow cases, decorated boxes, Halloween bags, tied off school shirts, and many other creative ideas have been tried. What will your non-backpack be?



### **NEW: Community Therapy Dogs are now part of the Fireside School Community**

Listening/Caring Tails is a Rocky View Schools approved program designed to help children increase their comfort and confidence by reading out loud (Listening Tails) to therapy dogs. The therapeutic help provided by our dogs is tailor-made to fit each situation, with the common theme that dogs provide a level of comfort that only they can (Caring Tails).

At all times, dogs in this program are on leash and supervised. The success of the program stems from the fact that dogs love the attention they receive from children being with them and are non-judgemental listeners (Listening Tails). They also have a calming, relaxing effect on those who are having a problem self-regulating (Caring Tails).



Fireside presently has two dogs involved in the Listening/Caring Tails programs. The participating dogs are Daisy (Ms. Amy Stark's), who will be based in the Learning Support Centre and Ms. Stark's Kindergarten classroom and Chewy (Mr. Shaun Perratt), who will be based in Mr. Perratt's class. The dogs participating in this program have been trained, temperament assessed and health checked in order to join.



### **NEW: Fireside School Read-a-Thon is ON!**

Fireside School's first week of Read-a-thon has come to an end. Collectively, our students have read 124, 675 minutes since Thursday, January 27 – way to go!!

Our Read-a-Thon is a FUNdraiser to build a love of books and reading for students and staff; the funds raised will go toward our Outdoor Learning Space, adding to the funds from the Casino Nights (March 20-21) organized by The Friends of Fireside Society. Pledges can continue to be added to the Pledge-Sponsor Form, which can be returned the week of February 28-March 4.

Each class is tracking its own weekly minutes on a thermometer tracker outside their classrooms. The friendly competition between classes up and down each hallway for weekly bragging rights has begun.

Fireside School has been challenged by Herons Crossing School in Airdrie to see which school can read the most minutes; the staffs have also challenged each other to see which staff can read the most minutes in a month!. RVS Board Chair Fiona Gilbert (Trustee Ward 6 Cochrane) also has a challenge going with Airdrie Trustee Fred Burley (Ward 3). Everyone wants in on the fun!

A kind reminder to students and families: please calculate the Weekly school + home minutes and bring that total to your Homeroom Teachers each Friday morning. For Kindergarten and younger class families, please total the "Read with Me" or at-home reading minutes to be added to school minutes in class each Friday.

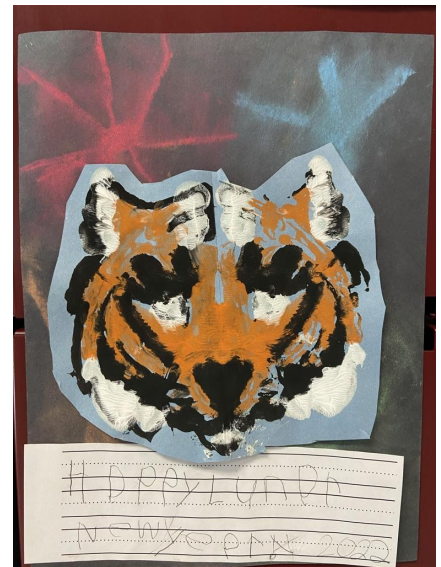


A reminder of how our Read-a-Thon and the FUNdraiser portion works can be found in the video made by The Friends of Fireside Society: [Link to Fireside Read-A-Thon YouTube Video](#) Thank you to Mrs. Chapin for making this video for our students and families.

Stay tuned for next week's update on minutes read, as classes will be updating their Thermometer Minutes Trackers each week. *BRING ON THE BOOK LOVE!!!*

#### **NEW: Mrs. Weintz's Grade 1 Class**

This week, Mrs. Weintz's Grade 1 Class welcomed in the Year of the Tiger for Lunar New Year in a unique way. Students were given a half-face tiger template to colour, using cotton balls; then, they folded the paper over to imprint on the other half to make the complete tiger face. Students creatively had the idea to add in fireworks or other celebratory designs to their work. The display in the hallway of the students' work was very neat to see, including Happy Lunar New Year messages beneath.



#### **NEW: Grade 4's Winter Walking**



### UPDATED: School Council Meeting

On Wednesday, February 2, at our School Council meeting. Constable Nathan Moore, RCMP Officer and School Resource and Community Liaison, presented about basic Online Safety. He shared several resources that parents could look to for support on discussing online and social media safety with their children and encouraged them to have conversations with their students about these aspects so they can be safe. Thank you to Constable Moore for his time in presenting; it is very much appreciated.

### UPDATED: Friends of Fireside

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*.

*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.

### **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

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](mailto: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](mailto:jness@rockyview.ab.ca)).

**REMINDER: Daily Health Checklist Usage**

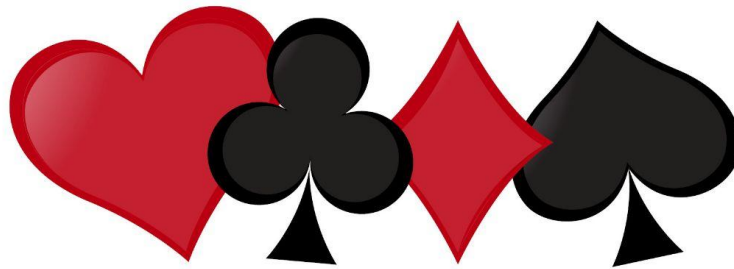
The Alberta Government recently updated its [Alberta Daily Health Checklist](#) (click on the link to view). Please ensure that students are completing this checklist each day before leaving for school. Parents/Guardians play an essential role, as they support actions in the home (such as keeping children/students 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](https://friendsoffireside.ca/casino-march-2022) for  
more info or write us at [president@friendsoffireside.ca](mailto:president@friendsoffireside.ca)

