

Fireside Focus

Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors

The Week Ahead ~ February 11 to February 18

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, February 14 to Friday, February 18		Monday - Red White & Pink Day Tuesday - Jersey Day Wednesday - Formal Day Thursday - Pink Shirt Day Friday - PJ + Anything but a Backpack Day
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
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
Wednesday, March 2	6:30 - 8:30	School Council Meeting (https://rockyview.zoom.us/j/2781208156)
Wednesday, March 16 and Thursday, March 17	4:00-7:00 each day	3-Way Conferences (more information to come soon...)

Hello, families and friends of Fireside!

Read-a-Thon is moving on full steam ahead at Fireside. Students' minutes were again collected today and Classroom and Whole School Trackers were updated to reflect this week's amazing reading minutes. And Fireside School staff are reading right alongside students, collecting their own minutes as well.

Grade 3's are preparing for the Pink Shirt day next Thursday (see below for further information), Ms. MacKay's class was creating non-fiction Crot Poetry, Olympic Sports are continuing in PE and gymnastics has started, and Grade 8's are finishing up their work on Circulatory and Respiratory Systems.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend!!

IMPORTANT: Parking Lot on the North End of our School

Last week we made a request that persons making use of the back parking lot for pickups and dropoffs be mindful of space, courteous to one another, and remaining clear of stalls that are needed. Since that time, there have been some interactions that have necessitated our calling bylaw enforcement. In particular, it is critical that the handicapped stalls remain clear, as we have a number of students with mobility limitations, and these are the only spaces where they can be unloaded. Please be aware that if we notice unauthorized vehicles in those spaces, we will be recording license plates and notifying bylaw enforcement.



UPDATED: Fireside School Read-a-Thon is ON!

Fireside School's second week of Read-a-thon saw students adding 186, 729 minutes to their total! The new total on the Whole School Tracker now reads: 371, 351 minutes!

Class Trackers are steadily getting higher, moving toward the class goal each HomeRoom set at the start: AMAZING!

A reminder of how our Read-a-Thon and FUNdraiser works can be found in the video made for Fireside especially 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.

Next Friday, Week 3, it will be time to update our totals again; thank you to students and families for ensuring that numbers are ready for Friday morning so Homeroom Teachers can collect them and put them up on the Trackers.

Pledges can continue to be added to students' Pledge-Sponsor Form. These forms and the Grand Total for Minutes read, which is on the reverse of the form, should be returned to HomeRoom teachers the week of February 28-March 4, please.

We look forward to seeing what next week's additional minutes will be. . . : **BRING ON THE BOOK LOVE!!!**

Spirit Week

Grade 7/8 Leadership students have organized a *Fireside Spirit Week* for next week: Feb. 14th to 18th. We recognize there may be a challenge in 5 consecutive “theme” days, but hopefully these are plenty of fun without being too difficult. They are, of course, optional.

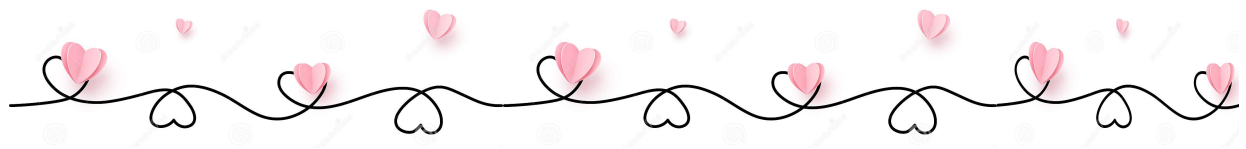
*Monday, Feb 14th: Red and White Day – Wear your Valentine’s colours

*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 shirt (*kindly organized by Grade 3 students and teachers, in coordination with Mrs. Abrahams - please see below for further information*)

*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: Friends of Fireside

A BIG thank you to everyone who has signed up to volunteer for our Casino Nights event – we appreciate all your help! An email has gone out with important information regarding this event. Please watch your Inbox.

We would love some last-minute feedback on our survey! It closes tonight (Friday Feb 11th, at 7:00 p.m.), and we will be doing a draw for a gift card to the Mezzo/PZA/Stump for participating in the survey. Please leave contact information if you’d like a chance to win. Thanks so much to everyone who has already given feedback! Much appreciated! Survey Link

Mark your calendars – Upcoming Events:

*Friends of Fireside meeting – Feb 28th | 7:00pm | Location: to be determined.

*Casino Nights – March 20-21

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

NEW: Pink Shirt Day

The Grade 3 leadership groups are very excited to be hosting Pink Shirt Day at Fireside this year on Thursday, February 17th. They will participate in spreading positive messages and energy through the activities they’ve created for Fireside School. There will be a few lead up activities occurring as well.

Pink Shirt Day is about working together to stop bullying behaviour by celebrating diversity and promoting kindness and inclusivity. It's about creating a community where all people feel safe, valued, and respected. Pink Shirt Day began in 2007 when a student in Nova Scotia was bullied for

wearing a pink shirt to school and has since been recognized annually as a day to stand against bullying. It will officially take place Feb. 23, which is a vacation day for RVS schools. Instead, many schools will observe Pink Shirt Day during the week of Feb. 14-18. In addition to encouraging students and staff to wear pink, schools are planning a variety of events and activities to promote kindness including art projects, random acts of kindness and participation in virtual events and seminars.

Next week, we look forward to sharing moments of those activities with you.

[NEW: Parent Education Sessions in partnership with Community Education Services](#)

09 FEB 2022 - 10:00 AM - Noon: Brain Science: Sciences of Hope and Resilience *please register using the poster link only***** This session exists to support caregivers with the fundamental elements of brain science with a focus on the strengths of knowing how this can positively impact children and youth development. The interactive session will provide insight into brain structure and the stress response. In addition, we will explore adverse childhood experiences and Covid-19 as they relate to brain development, while providing information and strategies to build resilience. [Poster](#)

16 FEB 2022 - 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Managing Anxiety in Youth within the COVID-19 World *please register using the poster link only***** This session will outline the differences among worry, stress, and anxiety, and how the COVID-19 pandemic may affect mental health and wellness in teens. The session will also cover clinical presentations of anxiety and provide parents with insight as to what is 'normal' and when to seek help from a mental health professional. The session will also cover strategies for parents to assist their youth in navigating this complex world, including stress management, self-care, and strategies for improving executive functioning and resilience. [Poster](#)

11 Apr 2022 - 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM: ADHD & Executive Functioning: For Children & Youth *please register using poster link only***** The session will be an overview of ADHD and how issues with impulsivity and/or inattention impact children's ability to manage their environments. The session will also explore the impact ADHD has on Executive Functioning and how it relates to managing everyday tasks, and meeting daily expectations at home and at school, including social, emotional, behavioural and academic demands. [Poster](#)

25 MAR 2022 - 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM: Earth Play: The Benefits of Outdoor Exploration *please register using the poster link only***** They don't call them the great outdoors for nothing! Getting outside is great for both mental health and physical health! This session will provide individuals with information about the benefits of play, exploration, and adventure for supporting positive mental health. You will leave this session with practical, age-appropriate ideas to get outside, get moving, and get messy as a family. [Poster](#)

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More Information: <https://community.hmhc.ca/>

[Community Therapy Dogs are now part of our 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.

[REMINDER: 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).

[REMINDER: Daily Health Checklist Usage](#)

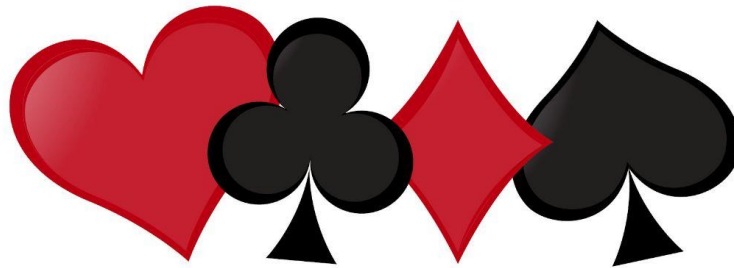
The Alberta Government recently updated its [Alberta Daily Health Checklist](#) (click on the link to view). Please ensure that students are completing this checklist each day before leaving for school. Parents/Guardians play an essential role, as they support actions in the home (such as keeping children/students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

