

Fireside Focus

Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors

The Week Ahead ~ December 3 to December 10

Upcoming Events at a Glance

Date	Time	Event
November 29 to December 10		Fireside Winter Holiday Food Drive
Friday, December 3		Last Day of Term 1
Friday, December 3		Junior B Volleyball Tournament
Monday, December 6		First Day of Term 2 (New Grade 7 & 8 Options)
Friday, December 10		Junior A Basketball Tournaments
Monday, December 13	7:00 pm	Friends of Fireside Meeting meet.google.com/yzb-pgbm-zvh
Friday, December 17		Last day of school before Winter Break
Monday, January 3		First day back to school after Winter Break
Friday, January 7		Next Healthy Hunger Day

Hello, families and friends of Fireside! It has been a busy and bustling week at Fireside School!

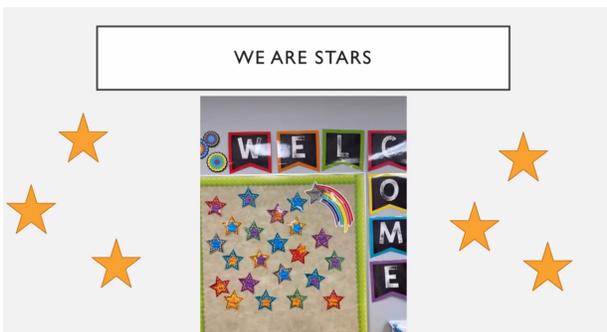
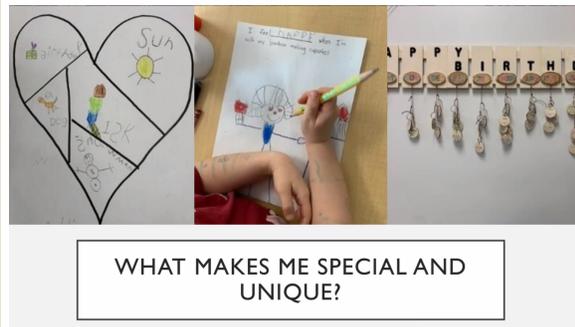
With the term ending on Friday, grade 7 & 8 Options were in their final week of classes. Final activities, productions, and showcases were on the go including: the Drama class presented their staged reading of *The History of Messy Rooms* in costumes from Ms. Sly's costume box and ones kindly loaned to Fireside from Bow Valley's amazing Performing Arts Director, Adrienne Fossheim; Photography students chose their best photograph from those they'd composed over the course of the term as showcase pieces, while others were also taking video or photos of the Drama Presentation; and our Outdoor Leadership class took its first field trip with Ms. Meija and Ms. Michaud.



On Wednesday, at Fireside’s monthly School Council Meeting, Learning Support shared a video by Shelley Moore about the “Evolution of Inclusion”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQgXBhPh5Zo> Then, they discussed how Inclusion is approached at Fireside.

Following that, Kindergarten teachers shared student learning and key areas of focus in their classrooms: how students are unique, the importance of belonging, and the ways we belong in various kinds of community. Thank you to both groups for sharing their knowledge, passions, and learning programs at the meeting.

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support



Snow was flying again this week. It seems that, with December’s arrival, winter is definitely on our doorstep.

Before we close this week, a HUGE thank you to Friends of Fireside for their contribution toward helping Fireside purchase new point-and-shoot cameras for our Photography Options: thank you!

As this week comes to a close, we wish everyone a cozy and lovely weekend!

NEW: Welcome to New Staff

We are pleased to welcome four new staff members to Fireside School: Learning Assistants Ms. Sujatha Kondepati and Miss Alexis Brown and Custodians Ms. Kelly Harmeson and Mr. Ian Pascual. With these additions to our Fireside School learning community, we now have 65 staff that are directly connected to Fireside School.

NEW: Allergies ~ Fireside School is Scent-aware and Nut-aware

Some students and staff at Fireside School have nut or fragrance allergies. Therefore, Fireside is a nut-aware and scent-aware school. Please do not send items with nuts to school with students. We also ask that students refrain from wearing perfume, cologne, or other strongly scented products or sprays to school. Additionally, students should not bring perfume, cologne, or body spray products (e.g. Axe) to school with them, please. The same is true for parents, families, volunteers, or visiting teams entering the school for meetings, conferences, presentations, or tournaments. Thank you for your attention to and respect of these health concerns: we want to keep everyone safe at Fireside!

NEW: PE at Fireside

Phys. Ed. Classes have been finishing their November units this week at Fireside. For our grade 1-4 students, they are finishing up with Target Games, Skipping, Rock Climbing, and "I Love a Challenge". "I Love a Challenge" is a series of 40 video challenges to foster a growth mindset and a love of physical literacy. Ask your child what their favourite "I Love a Challenge" was and what level they achieved. Our grade 5-6 students learned how to juggle and worked hard to set a goal to master 2 or 3 ball juggling. Our grade 7's and 8's finished up their basketball unit, as well as rock climbing and skipping. For warm-ups, the 7 and 8's worked to get their heart rates up by dancing. Ask your child how to do the "Cotton Eye Joe" -- it was a favourite!!

NEW: Fireside's Winter Concert

Students are working hard with Mr. Petterson and Mr. Chung on this year's Winter Concert, which explores the vast array of talent at Fireside School, while questioning the reason why students take a break every winter. This concert takes advantage of digital media, music performance, visual art, dance, and acting to explain the many reasons for the season. It also seeks to explore diversity within the celebrations of the season this time of year. Watch for a private *YouTube* link on the 15th of December for a showcase that is truly out of this world!

NEW: Friends of Fireside

Our snack bag fundraiser has arrived! Orders will be sent home today Friday, Dec. 3 and Monday Dec. 6. Please let us know if you haven't received it. Thanks for all your support!

Casino Nights! We are still looking for evening shift volunteers for our March casino nights! Shifts are either 7:00pm to 3:30am or 11:00pm to 3:30am both Sunday March 20th and Monday March 21st. Please sign up on our google form. <https://forms.gle/Zas1m2uGg2nspwka9>
A **BIG** thank you to everyone who has already signed up! We appreciate it so much!

Exciting news! FOFS now has a website! Keep tabs on what FOFS is up to directly on our site! You can also sign up for casino volunteering there as well - <https://friendsoffireside.ca/>

The next Friends of Fireside meeting will take place on Monday, December 13, at 7:00 p.m.; the first meeting of the new year will be on Monday, January 17, 2022. New attendees are welcome. You can join our meeting in GoogleMeet: <meet.google.com/yzb-pgbm-zvh>. Hope to see you there!

Thanks as always for all your support!

NEW: Outdoor Leadership 7/8 Field Trip

On Tuesday, November 30, the grade 7's and 8's in Outdoor Leadership went out to the beautiful forest behind Banded Peak School in Bragg Creek. They spent the day testing out some of the skills they have been learning in class, including making shelters, cooking food, and even doing some winter tree identification!. All the hard work was paired with some fun games as well. Their teacher Ms. Meija says, "I think it is safe to say Fireside's first ODL field trip this year was a success!" Agreed!



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NEW: Fireside Hawks Sports Teams News

Junior B Volleyball: The girls and boys Junior B Volleyball teams wrap up their season on Friday, December 3rd. The boys will travel to Bearspaw and the girls to Mitford. Both teams have made huge improvements over the last 2 weeks of tournaments and practices. They finished their last practice on Wednesday by practicing and playing all together. It was great to see the team competition and comradery.

Junior A Basketball: Well, after three hard-fought basketball tryouts, the Junior A boys and girls basketball teams are now finalized. This will be the first time Fireside has had a Junior A girls team, and we are excited! There were over 20 athletes trying out for each team, so it was great to have such a huge interest in playing this year. The A teams will have their first tournament next Friday, December 10th. It should be a very exciting season for them, with many opportunities to develop their skills and show Fireside spirit. In February, opportunities to play Junior B basketball will come around for those who did not make the team this time.

THANK YOU!!!!: A huge thank-you to all the teacher-coaches so far in this fall season: they have volunteered their time to make our sports teams a success at Fireside and have given students an opportunity to play school sports and show their Fireside Spirit.

Grade 6 Soccer: Mrs. Nusl, Ms. McDonald, Mr. Chung

Junior A Boys Volleyball: Ms. Simpson, Mrs. Espersen

Junior A Girls Volleyball: Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Dancey

Grade 6 Girls Volleyball: Mrs. Nusl, Ms. Mejia

Grade 6 Boys Volleyball: Mr. Petterson, Ms. Humphries

Junior B Girls Volleyball: Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Dancey

Junior B Boys Volleyball: Ms. Simpson, Mr. Petterson

NEW: Winter Break and Travel

As Winter Break approaches and travel plans are being made, we wanted to ensure families are aware of current federal requirements for travel. For families considering travelling outside of Canada, please be aware that under Federal travel requirements, unvaccinated children under 12 (including those who have had their first of two vaccine doses) are not to return to school for 14 days once they return to Canada. Please see the full requirements outlined by the Government of Canada: https://www.rockyview.ab.ca/school_2021/travelling-and-return-to-school

NEW: Fireside School Nutrition Program Update

Fireside's School Nutrition Program has had some changes that we wish to bring to your attention. However, what is still the same is that food is available for students who've forgotten their lunch or snacks or for those who need school to supply a lunch (no questions asked).

For lunch: students are able to access a brown bag lunch during the lunch hour from the Servery, which is located beside the gym, just off the Learning Commons. Ms. Michaud is there to help students get lunch at that time.

Healthy snacks and fruit will still be available in the main office, the Roost, Learning Support classrooms, and CDA offices.

NEW: RCMP Visit to Grade 7

Mid-November, Ms. Clark went to Grade 7 Health Classes for presentations and discussions centred around our words having power. The intention was to help students identify and use respectful language with their peers and understand that negative word choice can have negative impacts. As an extension to these discussions and activities, Constable Nathan Moore visited our Grade 7 Health classes on



November 25th, during their LA and Social Studies blocks with Ms. Simpson. Constable Moore continued the conversation, also focusing on cyber-bullying and safe, appropriate behaviour on social media.

NEW: Grade 1 this week

Grade 1's have started talking about the needs of plants and animals, including that cardinals migrate in the winter and that birch trees thrive in cold environments. Grade 1 classes have also had fun looking at the activities they do as families, especially during the winter. It is great to see their work decorating the grade 1 hall!



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[Lunch Bell Time Revision](#)

Please note that we have made a minor adjustment to our lunch schedule. Lunch times for each grade now operate as follows:

- 11:35-11:55 – Lunch for grades 5-8 (grades 1-4 recess)
- 11:55-12:15 – Lunch for grades 1-4 (grades 5-8 recess)

Fireside School is a closed campus and, as such, students may not leave the premises unless we have confirmation that they are going home every day for lunch. If you have not done so already, confirmation can be completed by emailing the office or a student's homeroom teacher to indicate that permission to leave for lunch time each day is confirmed. When students are going home for lunch, they would return to school at 12:15 p.m. to go to afternoon classes.

[Fireside Winter Holiday Food Drive](#)

The Cochrane Activettes look to Cochrane-area schools as hubs for generating food and essential household supplies for families in need of support. These donations ensure there are supports available both over the holidays and well into the new year. Fireside School has provided some of the largest donations in recent years, and we would like to continue this growing tradition.



Below we've included an additional copy of the Food Drive "Bingo" Card, which shows the Activettes's requests for this year. Each class is engaged in friendly competition to see which class can bring in as many requested items as possible, and our Learning Commons is definitely showing great participation thus far.

The drive officially began Monday, November 29th; it will run until Friday December 10th. We look forward to seeing how our students, staff, and community continue to come together to be able to give back to our larger community through this activity.

10 Days of Winter Countdown Bingo

<u>Pancake Mix and Syrup</u> (5 points)	<u>Canned Soup & Stews</u> (3 points)	<u>Whole Grain Cereal & Oatmeal</u> (3 points)	<u>Infant foods</u> (2 points)
<u>Toiletries</u> (deodorant, soap, toothpaste, etc.) (3 points each)	<u>Canned fruit</u> (3 points)	<u>Dish Soap</u> (3 points)	<u>Canned Meats & Fish</u> (3 points)
<u>Lentils/Beans</u> (3 points)	<u>Rice</u> (3 points)	<u>Cooking Oil</u> (5 points)	<u>Granola Bars</u> (3 points)
<u>Laundry Detergent</u> (5 points)	<u>Peanut Butter, Jam, Honey</u> (5 points)	<u>Canned Vegetables</u> (2 points)	<u>\$10 Grocery Store Gift Card</u> (10 points)
<u>Juice</u> (3 points)	<u>Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Paper Towel</u> (5 points)	<u>Diapers (sizes 4,5 6) & Pull-Ups</u> (10 points)	<u>Pasta Sauces</u> (3 points)

Complete Bingo Card: bonus 50 points

High demand food items include proteins (meats, stews, etc.), followed by fruits and vegetables.