

Fireside Focus

Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors

The Week Ahead ~ January 14 to January 21

Upcoming Events at a Glance

Date	Time	Event
Monday, January 17	7:00 pm	Friends of Fireside Meeting (meet.google.com/yzb-pgbm-zvh)
Monday, January 31		Professional Learning Day (no school)
Wednesday, February 2	6:30 -8:00 pm	School Council (https://rockyview.zoom.us/j/2781208156)
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)

Hello, families and friends of Fireside!

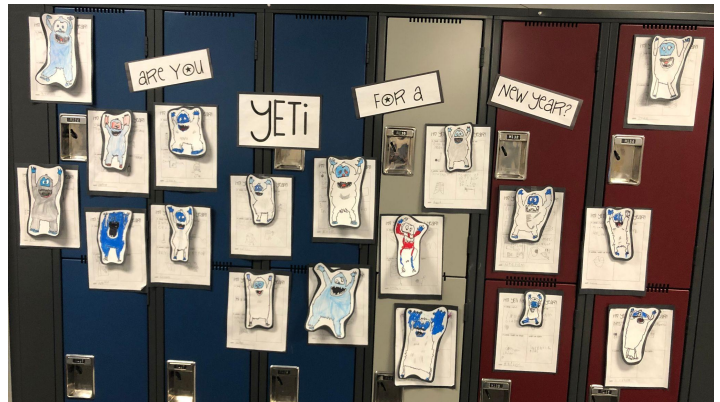
It was so lovely to see students back in the building with staff this week. There was a positive energy in the building with learning, laughter, and many activities humming after our return from the extended break.

Masks and Test Kit delivery has been delayed; we will advise as soon as they've been received and are ready for distribution to students.

Have a safe and cozy weekend.

NEW: Lunch Time Skate at the Outdoor Rink (7s & 8s)

Our grade 7 and 8 classes have been asking if they might go to the rink at lunch to skate, and we're excited to give it a try! Beginning next week, Grade 7s (on Mondays) and Grade 8s (on Wednesdays) can walk down to the rink to have a skate during their midday lunch & recess periods (11:35-12:15). A school supervisor will be on hand during that time (and we may even have our own skates on). There will be some rules students need to follow:



- 1) All skaters must be wearing a CCA approved helmet.
- 2) Only skaters can be on the ice (no shoes – we'd like to keep everyone's toes in tact)
- 3) Skates that come into the school must have skate guards on them.
- 4) Southland Transportation also requires skates be in a cloth bag.
- 5) Hockey sticks are not permitted.

We're excited to be able to support this activity and are hoping we might add some additional skating days if it proves to be popular. Some students have asked if they could bring their hockey sticks to school to store, allowing them to go play shiny on the rink after school. We're happy to support this as well, but for students who ride the bus, please be aware that Southland Transportation does not allow sticks on the bus.

NEW: 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 while at the school. 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.

NEW: Friends of Fireside - Did someone say Outdoor Learning classroom?

Did you know there are endless benefits that come from learning outdoors? This includes reduced stress, increased focus, collaboration, problem solving... and the list goes on.

We are excited 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 Casino Night fundraising initiative. The funds raised will 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 Night can be found here: <https://friendsoffireside.ca/casino-march-2022/>. If you can help out or have a grandparent or neighbour who might like to come out - please sign up: <https://forms.gle/GegH2uFKCbuNCrUY6>

Please mark your calendars – Upcoming Events:

- § Friends of Fireside Meeting – January 17 | 7:00 p.m. | meet.google.com/yzb-pgbm-zvh
- § Casino Nights – March 20-21

Coming Soon:

- § Home Alone/Babysitting Course
- § CPR Course

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

NEW: School Council Meeting Wednesday, February 2

Constable Nathan Moore, RCMP Officer and School Resource and Community Liaison, will be presenting at our February 2, 2022 School Council meeting. The presentation will be a basic Online Safety Presentation, tailored for parents. (Students in grades 6-8 receive a similar presentation in class.)

Constable Moore was born and raised in Alberta. He has been a police officer for 15 years, the last 9 of which in Cochrane. His wife, who is also 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.

The meeting is from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Please join us: <https://rockyview.zoom.us/j/2781208156>

NEW: Advanced Registration 2022/23

On Monday, January 24th at 8:00 a.m., registration for the 2022/23 school year will begin. This is only for children who will be new to Fireside School next year and not for individuals moving from one grade to the next. Families registering their children in Kindergarten will use this process; it is important to note that morning and afternoon times are not on a first come, first serve basis and will be determined at a later date. A child must be five years of age by December 31 of the year they begin Kindergarten. Please note: students who do not attend Kindergarten in 2021/22 and are six years of age or older on Sept. 1, 2022, must start Grade 1 next fall, as required by Alberta Education.

You will find a link to the registration page on the front page of the Fireside webpage.

NEW: Grade 4's This Week

The Grade 4's have been learning all about light and shadows. We have learned that shadows are made when an opaque object blocks a light source. We used flashlights and classroom objects to see how shadows move and change when the light source does. We then took that understanding and applied it to make our own stop motion animations!



NEW: Bus Reminders

Just a friendly reminder that all items students bring onto the school bus must be tightly secured and/or safely contained within the bus seat. Additionally, they must not impede the aisle, emergency exits, or the driver's line of sight (i.e. block the window). Items, such as skates for example, must be contained in a canvas or cloth bag. Please note that some items will not be able to be transported due to safety and/or available space.

Further information about what items are permissible on the bus can be found on the Rocky View Schools site for Transportation: <https://www.rockyview.ab.ca/transportation/studentinformation> under "Transportation Articles and Equipment".

UPDATED: RVS Updates to Return to School Operations

Rocky View Schools' [2021-2022 Return to School Operations Plan](#) (click the link to access) was updated earlier this week.

UPDATED: Daily Health Checklist Usage

Earlier this week, the Alberta Government 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.

REMINDER: Bus Lane Safety

As we return to school, just a friendly reminder to parents and families to leave the bus lanes on the north side of the school open for School Buses only. Especially with our snowy and icy conditions at this time, having other vehicles in this space presents a number of safety concerns for students, families, and vehicles. Thank you for your cooperation with and attention to this reminder.

REMINDER: Masking

As per provincial requirements, masks continue to be required for all individuals (students, drivers, volunteers, and staff) on a school bus. Masks will not be required outdoors at RVS schools and sites.

A non-medical face mask is required while inside RVS schools and sites for:

- All students (Pre-Kindergarten - Grade 12)
- All staff members
- All visitors/volunteers

A reminder that Mask Exceptions can only be granted by a nurse practitioner, physician, or a psychologist using the provincial [Medical Note for Mask Exception](#) form.

Further information and updates on masking and mask exceptions can be found in the [2021-2022 Return to School Operations Plan](#).

REMINDER: Grade 6 Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) at Fireside

Grade 6 students at Fireside School will be writing Provincial Achievement Tests in May and June 2022 for this school year. In the coming months, Grade 6 teachers will continue their work with students around how best to engage and prepare for these assessments, including engagement of practice PAT assessments and reviews of assessment-taking strategies and skills.

For your reference, here are the dates for schools for Fireside students:

- Wednesday, May 18, 2022: Grade 6 English Language Arts Part A (Written)
- Wednesday, June 15, 2022: Grade 6 English Language Arts Part B (Reading Comprehension)
- Friday, June 17, 2022: Grade 6 Mathematics Part A (Numerical Response)

- Monday, June 20, 2022: Grade 6 Mathematics Part B (Multiple-Choice)
- Wednesday, June 22, 2022: Grade 6 Science
- Thursday, June 23, 2022: Grade 6 Social Studies

Parents and families can find further information on Alberta's Provincial Testing in the [Grade 6 Parent Guide, 2021-2022](#), including Testing Descriptions and Sample Questions. Further details about PAT's for our school specifically will be coming out to parents and families over the next few months in class communications and through future editions of the *Fireside Focus*.

Should you have any questions about these assessments, please do not hesitate to reach out.