

FIRESIDE CHAT

August 18, 2023

Specialists

Mrs. Keppler &
Freddie the Falcon

Counselors

Message from Mrs. Keppler

What an energizing beginning to our school year as we welcomed our new Falcons to Fireside during Tuesday's New Family Welcome presentation, followed by our whole school Pop In for Popsicle event. Let's give a shout out to our PTO Board for their coordinating efforts and setting the stage for a year of parent partnerships and community engagement! As I shared with our families on Tuesday, our goal is for every family to feel welcomed and an important part of the Fireside family upon entering our front doors.

In order to support consistency with school procedures and continue to stay well informed, please make time to read the [Fireside Student and Family Handbook](#) with your child.

An area we are especially attuned to are safety procedures. Our motto at Fireside is Safety is everyone's responsibility. On that

front, please use the designated crosswalks when crossing the street with your child/ren and follow our “Hug and Go” drop off procedures. For those visual learners out there, some of our PRIDE Advisory student leaders made a safety video for you; [click here to watch it as a family this weekend!](#)

Phew- lots of new information for families and our kiddos this week. As a learning culture, we understand that new routines take practice, and that mistakes are part of the learning journey. As always, thank you for your partnership.

I look forward to seeing parents at our PK-5 Back to School Night on **Wednesday, Sept. 1st**. Please view the [BTSN schedule](#). We kindly request that parents make childcare arrangements.

Beginning on Monday, **August 21st**, we welcome our **Kindergartners and Preschoolers for their first full day**.

Thanks for supporting a strong beginning to the school year- let's rock it Falcons!

PTO News

Jog-A-Thon - Our BIGGEST Fundraiser!

Jog-A-Thon will take place this year on **Friday, September 22nd** during school hours on the soccer field. This fun event helps pay for classroom paraeducators, teacher supplies, student experiences, school community events, and more. Our goal is for each family to raise \$150/student, but feel free to donate any amount! The donation part is optional for every family. More information to come, but you can always start early. [Donate today!](#)

Mark your calendars for our family Jog-A-Thon Celebration on **Friday, September 29th from 5:00pm - 7:00pm**.

Help at Schools

Help at Schools

Now is your chance to get involved. Sign up and bookmark [BVSD's Help at Schools website](#) for all upcoming Fireside volunteer roles. Scroll to Fireside Elementary from the drop down list and click the blue "Login or Create Account" button. There are many upcoming opportunities to fit all schedules.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Meeting - Wednesday, August 23rd 5:30pm - 6:45pm

This is your chance to make a difference for your children at Fireside! Join our principal, Mrs. Keppler, the PTO board members, and fellow parents in the school library to discuss school needs, volunteer opportunities, community events, and funding. The monthly PTO meeting is scheduled on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Meetings alternate between mornings and evenings in an effort to accommodate all schedules. There will be babysitting available for all PTO meetings, and pizza served on evening meetings. [View the 2023-2024 schedule.](#)

More About the Parent Teacher Organization

New to Fireside or ready to get involved? Learn more about the team of volunteer parents who help support the school every year. Follow us on [Facebook](#) or visit the [PTO website](#) to discover the many ways to support our school.

Fireside Spirit Wear SALE is Happening NOW

The Fireside back-to-school spirit wear sale has begun! [Save 30% on everything in the store.](#) Choose from hundreds of spirit wear designs and garments that are delivered to your home in days.

Ways to Help Your PTO

Along with volunteering and donating, you can help your PTO by shopping at King Soopers and Safeway.

- **King Soopers:**

Linking your King Soopers account to the Fireside PTO is an easy way to support our school! Simply log in to [KingSoopers.com](#) and select "Community Rewards" under "My Account." Add the code NE165. Every time you purchase through King Soopers using your telephone number, a small portion will support Fireside.

- **Safeway:**

Safeway.

Safeway implemented a new card supplier and will no longer support the old Give Cards as of 2023. Please stop by the Fireside office to pick up a new card to reload for your grocery needs. Supporters will help Fireside earn 5% back every time the card is reloaded. Find out more at: [Safeway Community Giving Program](#). Please contact fundraisefiresidepto@gmail.com with questions.

Thank You for Ordering School Supplies!

It was so much fun to see everyone out for Pop in for Popsicles! As you may have seen, we had A LOT of school supplies to hand out! A small portion of each order goes toward our school and this year we raised about \$900 all because of you. Thank you for your continued support! All the little things make a huge difference!

Spotlight on Specials (by Suzanne Johnson, Tina Dozauer-Ray, Abby Sehnert, & Michelle Mattocks)

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We are thrilled to have you back, and for our new families, we look forward to meeting you. This year specials will rotate daily; A day, B day, C Day. Rotating daily means your student/s will have a different special each day. We want to make sure you start the school year out on the right foot, so here are a few tibits to get you and your student/s going.

PE days- please have your child bring a water bottle and wear tennis shoes for moving safely. No crocs or flipflops, please.

Music days- we will be singing, playing, creating and moving to music. Nothing special to wear or bring; can't wait to get started!

Art days- we get messy while creating masterpieces, so please wear clothes that can be easily washed. We have smocks, but we still get messy.

Library- Students will begin weekly library lessons the week of August 28. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up at [Help at Schools](#).

Counselor Corner (by Molly Kobus & Suzy Kennedy)

Hello Fireside Families,

We are beyond thrilled to welcome you and your family to the 2023-2024 school year! For those who don't know me, my name is Molly Kobus (Ms. Molly) and this will be my fifth year as Fireside Elementary's school counselor. As your child's school counselor, I strive to meet the diverse social, emotional, and academic needs of all students. The school counseling program focuses on helping students achieve academic and personal success through a variety of preventive and developmentally-appropriate activities. I work with students in all settings including: Classroom lessons, small groups, and individual support. I will keep you updated with any pertinent and/or helpful information in the Fireside Chat under "The Counselor's Corner" section.

It is very common for students to have a mix of emotions with the transition back-to-school. Please see below for resources to help your child have a smoother start to the upcoming school year.

Related Articles:

[10 Ways to Help Your Child Adjust to a New School](#)

[10 Tips for Easy Back to School](#)

[Back-to-School Resources for Families and Educators](#)

[Back to School Routine: Tips for Creating Structure and Predictability](#)

[How Can We Help Kids With Transitions?](#)

[Preparing Your Child for the New School Year](#)

[Transition Resources for Parents, Teachers, and Administrators](#)

Referrals

Counseling referrals may be received from students and/or guardians.

Students can fill out a Request to see the counselor form. They will be taught how to do this during the first few weeks of school. You can also contact me by email/phone.

Counseling Website

Please check-out the [Fireside Elementary Counseling Website](#) for a range of resources and ideas for supporting your child. If you can't find something you are looking for, do not hesitate to reach out.

Contact

Molly Kobus, School Counselor (she, her, hers)

Office Phone #: (720) 561-2897

Email: molly.kobus@bvsd.org

Hi, my name is Suzy Kennedy (Ms. Suzy) and I am the Mental Health Advocate at Fireside Elementary. This is my third school year at Fireside and it is a privilege to be back at this vibrant, connected community. I am a Colorado native and spent 20 years with Boulder County in child welfare work. I transitioned to BVSD in February 2022 to provide more intensive support to families after the fires.

I enjoy spending time with my 13 year old son as well as hiking, skiing and reading. Please reach out to me if your student needs some more intensive social/emotional support or additional resources. I share an office with Ms.Molly. The following is BVSD's description of my role.

The Role of the Mental Health Advocate: The Mental Health Advocates promote resiliency and academic success by providing intensive and comprehensive social/emotional support to the district's higher needs students, as well as consultation to school staff. They actively work with individual students, school staff, parents/guardians and the community to implement appropriate interventions by supporting each student and offering concrete assistance. They will frequently connect with parents to provide consultation and resources to support individual student needs. Services are offered to students and are voluntary.

Contact

Suzy Kennedy M.A., Mental Health Advocate

Office Phone #: (720)-561-2583

Email: suzy.kennedy@bvsd.org

Back to School Night - August 30

4:30-5:00 Teacher presentation: PK

5:00-5:20 Welcome from Mrs. Keppler (Grades PK, K, 1)

Amphitheater

5:30-6:00 Teacher presentations: Grades K-1

6:05-6:35 Teacher presentations: Grades 2-3

6:40-7:00 Welcome from Mrs. Keppler (Grades 2-5) Amphitheater

7:00-7:30 Teacher presentations: Grade 4-5

*please note: childcare is not provided, adults only please

Childcare for Late Start Wednesdays

We are offering free Childcare for Students on **Wednesday Late Starts** again this year. Drop off starts at **7:50 am**, by the cafeteria entrance, door #30.

The first late start will be on Wednesday, August 23.

A few different activities will be available during this time, including arts & craft, board games and catching up on homework. If the weather allows we will take the children out to the playground.

A light breakfast will be offered free of charge this year.

If you are planning on having your child(ren) attend, please click on this link to sign up: <https://forms.gle/SrjmtNpChrHTHp6z9>

For questions, contact Christina Tomhave at christina.tomhave@bvsd.org.

Safely Getting to School

As we start the year, we want to review student drop-off and arrival routines that will keep our kids safe.

When using the Dahlia Street or parking lot Hug-n-Go areas:

- Pull cars to a forward-most spot the Hug n' Go lane as you arrive.
- Have your child get out the passenger side of the vehicle.
- Stay only long enough to drop off and say goodbye; please do not exit your vehicle.
- No U-Turns on Dahlia street

If you are walking or biking to school:

- Please use the designated crosswalks; Do not cross Dahlia in front of the school.
- Please dismount your bikes on school property. In the morning and afternoon this includes the sidewalk in along Dahlia street
- Please do not park in the middle of the cul-de-sac across Dahlia street


For those visual learners out there, some of our PRIDE Advisory student leaders made a safety video for you; [click here to watch it as a family this weekend!](#)

Free & Reduced Lunch Applications re: Other Waived Fees

Even though breakfast (7:30am) and lunch will be free this year, please complete the free and reduced meal application. It is important to do so, as it waives and reduces fees district-wide for families, can impact transportation, and impacts important funding for individual schools.

Completing the FRL application does qualify families for a 50% reduction in Lifelong Learning tuition, and waived tuition for BVSD Online classes (excluding the \$50 registration fee).

You can complete the application from your Infinite Campus Student/Parent Portal. Once you are logged into your portal account, please select More on the left side then Applications/Forms to begin the application process. Once you have entered the required information, you may click "Submit" and your application will be submitted pending approval.



Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) would like to continue connecting with you via email. To set preferences for which types of messages are sent to your email address, activate your free [InfoCenter](#) account. If you prefer to stop receiving emails from BVSD, follow this link and confirm: [Unsubscribe](#). Please note that if you unsubscribe, your email address will be placed on the "blocked list" for the remainder of the current school year and will no longer receive BVSD school or district emails that are distributed through our SchoolMessenger service.

SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.