

FIRESIDE CHAT

December 15, 2023

Message from Mrs. Keppler

Let's just say Thursday afternoon and this morning have been a bit topsy-turvy with the internet and phone access down districtwide. As I shared during our PRIDE assembly this morning, I am incredibly proud of how our students and staff adapted and shifted gears so swiftly with the unexpected. Our 5th graders were in awe that I had to use a pay phone to call my parents when I was their age.

Our theme for this morning's PRIDE assembly highlighted our mission, "We are an inclusive community that fosters a love for learning." Thanks to our amazing PRIDE Advisory team, they led the show by teaching others about the different cultural celebrations that are celebrated around the globe. I must say I got a bit choked up hearing our students sing, "Auld Lang Syne" as well as our traditional PRIDE songs. Feel free to learn alongside us by viewing our [December PRIDE Assembly](#).

I also want to give a shout out to our Student Council for leading

this year's canned food drive to benefit Louisville Community Food Bank. 2,340 pounds were donated! Thanks to their efforts, more families in need will be fed this holiday season.

Last, we have some important safety reminders, where we need your help:

- Our crossing guards have noticed an increase in cars not stopping for pedestrians. The police department is aware of this and will try to be present at drop off and pickup as we all get used to the new lane alignment.
 - If you are walking to school, take your time and use the designated crosswalks.
 - We have the opportunity to teach our children safe crossing skills every day on the way to school - please teach your child to wait until all cars are stopped before stepping out into the street.
 - No one should cross until instructed to cross by the crossing guard. This is an important practice as we want our children to eventually be able to cross streets by themselves.
 - Please take your time and be aware of your surroundings. If a crossing guard has stepped off the sidewalk, even if they are not past the concrete islands, you are required to stop and wait until pedestrians have cleared the crosswalk.
- During this busy time of year, let's all work together to slow down and be observant when driving to support the safety of our students and community.
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PTO News

We love the staff here at Fireside, and we know you do, too! Are you wondering what to give for the holidays? Your PTO has you covered. [View Staff Favorites](#) to get some really great ideas! Please note, giving a gift to Fireside Staff is completely optional.

Support Fireside While Holiday Shopping

There are several easy ways to support our school this season!

1. Grandrabbits: While shopping the best toy store in town, mention Fireside Elementary bunny bucks at checkout to give 5% back to our school. Grandrabbits will issue a gift card with all money earned at the end of the school year.

2. King Soopers: 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.

3. Safeway: 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](#).

4. Box Tops: [Follow this link](#) to set up your profile and begin scanning your grocery receipts. It's that simple!

The Fireside Giving Tree Wall

Thank you to everyone who has taken mittens off of the Giving Tree wall. Your generosity for the community is greatly appreciated and admired. Molly and Candace will be busy delivering the presents to all the families! If you have any questions please contact Nina at ninalv@gmail.com

Dining for Dollars Update

"Thank you for supporting Chipotle D4\$ this week, the school earned \$525.11, that is spec-taco-ular!"

Staff Breakfast: Wednesday, January 10th

It's time to start planning the return back to school for our wonderful staff. Help us welcome everyone back from Winter Break with breakfast. Your PTO will be providing bagels, cream cheese, and coffee. [Signup](#) and help welcome back the staff!

Upcoming PTO Meeting

- Wednesday, January 24th: 5:30pm - 6:45pm in the library
 - Free pizza and free babysitting
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More About the Parent Teacher Organization

New to Fireside or ready to get involved? Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or visit the [PTO website](#) to discover the

many ways to support our school.

Spotlight on Specials: Music (by Tina Dozauer-Ray)

It's almost time for **Fire Choir**! Fire Choir will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays (with a couple of exceptions) after school between winter break and spring break. It is open to all fourth and fifth graders who love to sing! I gave out hard copy registration and info sheets in music class, but they can also be found [HERE](#). Please get your completed form and participation fee to me before Wednesday, **December 20**.

Counselor Corner (by Molly Kobus)

We wanted to reach out as the two year remembrance of the Marshall Fire is approaching. As a counseling team and school, we recognize that this time brings out different emotions and responses for all of you. We all process and grieve in different ways and there is no right or wrong way to do so. Please know, no matter what you need during this time, we are here to support the process.

As a school, we are here to support your child(ren) and your families in whatever way is most helpful during this complicated anniversary.

The [American Psychological Association](#) has outlined support for the anniversary of a traumatic event. A few of the coping strategies to help through traumatic anniversaries include:

- Recognizing and acknowledging the emotions that you may experience.
- Finding healthy ways to cope with your distress: This might include sharing memories or feelings with those that you love and/or trust. Participating in activities that allow you to focus on something other than these memories are good strategies for some.
- Use your support system: Reach out to friends and family

members and do not isolate yourself. Connection during this time helps.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if your child is needing additional support.

In partnership,

Christa Keppler (Fireside Principal)

Bobby Lehman (Dean)

Molly Kobus (School Counselor)

Suzy Kennedy (Mental Health Advocate)

FET (Families and Educators Together)

Thanks to all the families that joined us at our FET meeting in October! We had 5 staff members and 11 parents, and 1 PTO Representative, with 7 countries represented! We hope that the entire Fireside community will be involved with FET by reading the notes from our monthly meetings, posted on the [FET website \(11/13 Community Notes\)](#). We greatly appreciate your interest and support!

Our next FET meeting is on Monday, December 18th, 4:45-6:30. We will be discussing the challenges of raising children in a digital world. For more information or to RSVP to this event, please contact Shelby at shelby.warshaw@bvsd.org.

Thank you Impact on Education!

A shout out to Impact on Education for funding a grant to support our Wednesday after school Academic Tutoring at Fireside. If your child is in need of this support, please reach out to Janine Fitzgerald (janine.fitzgerald@bvsd.org).

Thanks to our partners at [Impact on Education](#) for all the ways they've supported our school community. They've invested \$2.5 million to advance their mission this year, working to ensure BVSD students facing barriers to success have access to the

same opportunities as their peers. A few ways you can support their work include:

- Filling out their parent survey ([English](#) / [Spanish](#))
 - [Visiting their website](#) to learn more about their work
 - Reading their digital [2023 Impact Report](#)
 - [Making a year-end gift](#)
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Lunch Menus in Other Languages

Our lunch calendar for the rest of the year is now available online in five additional languages

([Vietnamese](#), [Nepali](#), [Japanese](#), [Turkish](#), [Chinese](#), [French](#)).

English and Spanish versions remain available online and in physical copies.

P.R.I.D.E Awards

Congratulations to this week's P.R.I.D.E. award winners:

Fiora Blind, Lula Johnson, Marshall Santi, Fiona Beilke, Maddie Rollins, Emet Friedman, Fiona Drummond, Raelyn Hafer, Vivienne Delwo, Evelyn Straus, Milana Bright, Cole Portrey, & Zane Humphreys.

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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.