



September 13, 2024

Hello,

We hope you have had a successful start to the school year. We look forward to continue to engage with you and share stories from our flourishing learning community. Here is what we have for you in this month's newsletter:

- September 2024 Footnotes on the steppingstones toward A.Place.for.All
- Welcome Week is September 13 to 21
- The National Day for Truth & Reconciliation is September 30
- An opportunity to connect and learn with Dr. Shelley Moore
- Two Thoughtful Moments on Generosity and Mastery
- FSD partners with CASA Mental Health to host a CASA Classroom

If you have wonders or concerns about your child's learning or learning environment, please connect with your child's school.

READ THIS MONTH'S EDITION

# FOOTNOTES

STEPS TOWARD A FLOURISHING COMMUNITY



Footnotes: September 2024

THE STEPPING STONES ON OUR JOURNEY.  
TOWARDS ADVANCING A PLACE FOR ALL

At FSD, we believe that a safe and caring environment helps our students thrive. We support their physical, social, and emotional well-being, allowing them to take academic risks, think creatively, and build resilience. Our focus on respect and integrity creates spaces where every learner feels valued. We also emphasize environmental stewardship and encourage belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity. These values are part of the foundational knowledge we draw from First Nations, Metis, and Inuit teachings. By working together, we aim to build trust and confidence, making our schools and communities a place where everyone belongs-A.Place.for.All

[Click here to read the September edition of Footnotes at our website](#)

## Advancing Wellness & Well-Being with a CASA Classroom

Foothills School Division is proud to announce that it is hosting a CASA Classroom starting in September 2024. This classroom will provide intensive, school-based mental health support for students across the division in grades 6 to 10 who are experiencing mental health challenges that affect their learning and well-being.

The CASA Classroom is part of a province-wide expansion of services offered by CASA Mental Health, Alberta's second-largest provider of mental health services for children and youth. CASA offers a range of supports for young Albertans and their families, including professional in-school support, live-in treatment, family support, trauma support, and more.

The Alberta government has committed to providing \$148 million over the next two years to double the amount of funding for CASA Mental Health. This will significantly expand services across the province, including doubling the number of CASA Classrooms from 8 to 16, building and operating three new live-in treatment facilities known as CASA Houses, and expanding specialty services delivered by CASA.

The Foothills School Division CASA Classroom is staffed by a multidisciplinary team of professionals, including a teacher, a mental health therapist, and a therapy support assistant. Further accessible supports include a registered nurse, therapy support navigator, and a consultative Psychiatrist or CanREACH-trained physician. The classroom will have a maximum of 12 students, who will receive instruction, as well as participate in individual and group therapeutic interventions and activities. Students will also access to programs and resources, as appropriate for their needs and abilities.

The CASA Mental Health Classroom will operate for the full school year in two semesters, from September to January, and February to June, and will follow the same divisional calendar as the other schools. Students from across the division can be referred to the program by their school-based teams and in consultation with their parents or guardians. The program will be offered at no cost to the families.

For more information about the CASA Classroom, please visit [casamentalhealth.org](https://casamentalhealth.org).

**[Read the announcement from the Province of Alberta](#)**



## Welcoming Week 2024

### Did you know?

- 1 in 4 people in Canada were born in another country
- 1.69 million people were welcomed to Canada as permanent residents from 2016 to 2022
- 1 in 3 Canadian businesses are owned by an immigrant
- 100% of Canada’s population growth by 2035 will come from immigration
- 1 in 4 health care workers are newcomers to Canada

Welcoming Week is a celebration to showcase the shift of communities striving to be more welcoming places for all, including immigrants. This year’s Welcoming Week takes place from September 13 - 22. This is a great initiative to highlight how we provide safe, welcoming, caring, and respectful learning environments.

### How you can participate:

- Use chalk to write welcome messages along your sidewalk
- Share stories with FSD and our community:
  - Share inspiring stories of how you, or your family are promoting inclusion or working together to make your community a better place for everyone.
  - Share photos that show how you are creating a welcoming place for newcomers.
  - Share on social media, please remember to use #WelcomingWeek2024 and tag @Foothills.School.Division
- Arrange a community or park clean up
- Host a newcomer connection event, with input from newcomers to your community

Here are some activities happening in our area:

Date	Activity	Location	Time
13	High River Library	Practical Dementia	10:30 - 11:15 am
14	Okotoks Library	By: Boys World Music	10:00 - 10:20 am
15	High River Library & FCS	Choir	3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
16	Okotoks Library	High River Library	10:30 - 11:15 am
17	High River Library	Practical Dementia	10:30 - 11:15 am
18	Okotoks Library	By: Boys World Music	10:00 - 10:20 am
19	High River Library	Choir	3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
20	Okotoks Library	Activity, Craft, Story Time	3:00 pm - 4:30 pm
21	High River Library & FCS	Art Exhibit	100 pm - 3:00 pm
22	Town of Okotoks & FCS	Social	7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
23	High River Library & FCS	Choir	3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

## Enhanced Social Media and Website Restrictions for Students

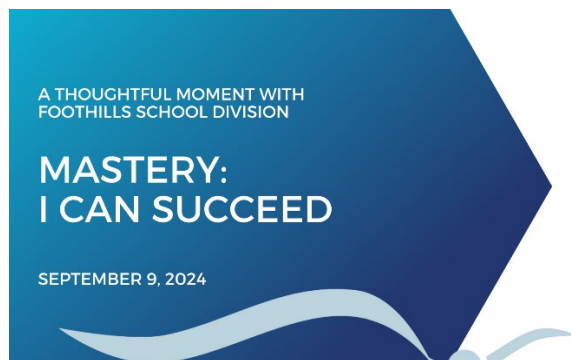
In line with Alberta's recently passed Ministerial Order (#014/2024) regarding the use of personal mobile devices and social media in schools, and the update to Administrative Procedure 350 - Student Code of Conduct, we are further enhancing our efforts to create a safer, more focused learning environment for our students.

Beginning Monday, September 16, 2024, we will be refining our existing restrictions on social media access during instructional time on all school networks and devices. These enhancements are designed to minimize distractions and promote positive mental health and learning outcomes, in accordance with the Standards.for.the.Use.of.Personal.Mobile.Devices.and.Social.Media.in.Schools outlined in the Ministerial Order (#014/2024).

In addition to restricting social media for students, we have also refined and enhanced our existing web filtering settings to promote access to educational resources. We will continue to safeguard our network is safe, secure, and conducive to learning while adhering strictly to what is necessary and appropriate.

These decisions were made after careful review, with the goal of maintaining a safe, respectful, and academically focused online environment for all students. We believe these updates will further contribute to the well-being and academic success of our students.

Thank you for your understanding and support.



**CONNECTING THE DOTS**  
**FAMILY CONFERENCE**  
**PRESENTS**  
**Dr. Shelley Moore**

**Dr. Shelley Moore - teacher, researcher, and advocate - speaks to parents about inclusive education.**

**Join us for a day of learning and connection!**

Scan for more information and registration!

**September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**9:30 am - 4:30 pm**  
**Highwood High School**  
**\$35 pp (Includes Lunch)**

\*Certified Childcare Available; Inquire for details\*

\*In partnership with CTRSD and FSD\*

ROSEBUD Birdies for Kids, FCSS, United Way, United Way, High River, 403-603-3232, Inclusionfoothills.org

## Connecting the Dots Family Conference

Brought to you by Inclusion Foothills and community partners, join us for a day with Dr. Shelley Moore!

Dr. Moore is a teacher, researcher, and advocate for inclusive education. The Connecting the Dots Family Conference is open to educators and parents who are interested to learn more and connect over inclusive education.

September 28, 2024  
 9:30am – 4:30pm  
 Highwood High School  
 Tickets \$35 (includes lunch)

For tickets and details, visit [inclusionfoothills.org](https://inclusionfoothills.org)

# Share the Knowledge

*Truth & Reconciliation Week 2024*  
*September 23-27*

Register at [trw-svr.nctr.ca](https://trw-svr.nctr.ca)

 National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation  
 UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

#TruthandReconciliationWeek

Foothills School Division is deeply committed to advancing First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) education as part of its broader goal to foster an inclusive and supportive learning environment for student success. This commitment is reflected in FSD's Education Plan,

which emphasizes the importance of integrating FNMI perspectives, worldviews, and histories into the learning to promote understanding and reconciliation.

In recognition of the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation on September 30, and Truth & Reconciliation Week, FSD actively engages in activities that honour the survivors of residential schools, their families, and communities. We encourage members of our flourishing learning community to participate in community and school events to improve our understanding and show support for the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

### Important Dates

**September 27** – Non-Instructional Day (no school)

**September 30** - Statutory Holiday: National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

**October 14** - Statutory Holiday: Thanksgiving

**November 1** - Non-Instructional Day (no school)

View the year-at-a glance here: [bit.ly/FSD-Calendar](https://bit.ly/FSD-Calendar)

---

Get.Connected

[foothillsschooldivision@ca.n9communications@fsd94.ab.ca](mailto:foothillsschooldivision@ca.n9communications@fsd94.ab.ca)

[Facebook](#) . [Instagram](#)