



November 22, 2024

Hello,

We hope you had a restful Fall Break. We are grateful for your partnership in education. Here is what we have for you in this month's newsletter:

- November 2024 Footnotes on how division and school-based decisions are evidence-informed.
- An reminder to share your thoughts about our Flourishing Community
- An opportunity to purchase a chromebook for your student(s)
- Thoughtful Moments from our system, connecting how our actions reflect the goals within our Education Plan.

If you have wonders or concerns about your child's learning, please connect with their teacher; if you wish to address a concern regarding learning environments or school operations, please connect with your child's school.

READ THIS MONTH'S EDITION

FOOTNOTES

STEPS TOWARD A FLOURISHING COMMUNITY



FOOTNOTES

steps toward a flourishing community November 2024

HOW EVIDENCE-INFORMED DECISIONS ADVANCE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

WELCOME

Welcome to the Footnotes, a monthly newsletter showcasing how Foothills School Division (FSD) is placing education at the centre of a flourishing community. These highlights are assurance to our school community that the Board of Trustees is actioning the goals and priorities of FSD's annual Education Plan making visible how the work of the Board is connected to schools and students in their classrooms.

WHAT ABOUT THAT NEW HIGH SCHOOL FOR OKOTOKS?

Foothills School Division was awarded design funding in the 2023-2024 budget for a new high school in Okotoks. With Alberta Infrastructure leading the design meetings, the Board is taking steps to ensure FSD is ready for when construction funding is announced.

SO WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?
The green light! As the local decision-making authority, the Board of Trustees' work begins when the provincial decision-making authorities complete their work and invite us in.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE NEW BUILD
As partners in education you can make a big impact by sharing your voice to advocate for approval of construction funding. This includes sending letters to high-influence entities like the Minister of Education and your MLA.

The design, programming, and name of the facility will be evidence-informed based on your participation in engagement opportunities. FSD will conduct surveys and events to gather your feedback, once we are able to proceed with the facility planning process.



How evidence-informed decisions advance continuous improvement

This edition of *Footnotes* highlights how FSD is advancing education within the community and ensuring the Education Plan goals and priorities are met.

Key points include:

New High School for Okotoks: FSD received design funding for a new high school, with Alberta Infrastructure leading the design. The Board is preparing for construction funding approval.

Community Involvement: The community is encouraged to advocate for construction funding by contacting local high-influence decision-makers. FSD will gather feedback through surveys and events to inform the design, programming, and naming of the new facility.

Evidence-Informed Decisions: Parents and guardians are active partners in their child's education. The regular reminders to check gradebooks has increased engagement on Edsembl.

Assurance surveys and other data collection methods help FSD make informed decisions.

School Councils: These councils play a crucial role in school success by informing improvement planning and enhancing student learning and engagement.

[Click here to read the November issue of Footnotes](#)



Meet our Board of Trustees

Foothills School Division is governed by six elected officials who represent the five wards of the division. They set the strategic direction of the division and allocate resources to achieve the Education Plan. [You can learn about our Board of Trustees at our website.](#)

Board Meeting Dates

All Public Board Meetings are held at Division Office unless otherwise noted. Meetings begin promptly at 1:00 pm.

- November 27, 2024
- December 11, 2024
- January 15, 2025
- January 29, 2025
- February 12, 2025
- March 5, 2025
- March 26, 2025
- April 9, 2025
- April 30, 2025

Celebrating our Flourishing Community

Check out the Flourishing Community Reports shared at our Board Meetings:

October 2024

- [Blackie School](#)
- [Director of Student Learning \(7-12\) & Assurance](#)
- [Director of Student Learning \(JK-6\) & Staff Development](#)
- [Manager of Communications & Community Engagement](#)
- [Cayley School](#)
- [Director of Professional Learning & Education Partner Relations](#)



Congratulations to our first Flourishing Foothills Community Award recipients for 2024-2025!

The Board of Trustees would like to recognize and congratulate Mike Crawford and Mindi Barstad of Crawford Insurance, Jason McCauley of Sobeys High River, and Blair & Bev Gordon of Century 21 for their actions and commitment for living the values of community, for supporting young people and their families, and for demonstrating their commitment for "A Place for All" by presenting them with the first 2024-2025 Flourishing Foothills Community Award!

During the 2023-24 school year, Spitzee School Council addressed parental financial struggles by running a holiday gift card drive to support vulnerable families. The above FFCA recipients, along with other community leaders, brought in donations totaling \$2500 within hours. The community's generosity helped 19 families with gift cards for necessities and treats from businesses around High River.

The FFCA recipients were showered with gratitude and presented a certificate of appreciation at the Spitzee School Council meeting held on November 20, 2024.



foothillsschooldivision.ca



Purchase a Chromebook with PC Corp

From our partners, [PC Corp in Calgary](#):

PC Corp proudly extends the same discounted pricing and enhanced service benefits available to Foothills School Division for division purchases to all FSD families.

This approach reflects our commitment to delivering exceptional value and reliable support to the community.

By offering these savings and high-quality service beyond the classroom, we ensure that parents not only benefit from cost savings but also gain peace of mind with continuous support throughout the lifespan of their equipment, providing confidence of ongoing, quality service that retail outlets often can't match.

It's our way of reinforcing our partnership with FSD and directly supporting the families within the division.

Parents are welcome to reach out directly to PC Corp for the latest product offerings and dedicated service support. We're here to assist with all inquiries and provide ongoing assistance to ensure satisfaction with every purchase.

Parents and guardians are also invited to purchase the Google Management License with the PC Corp device at a cost of \$45 per device. This would assure that during school hours, the Chromebook will act as a school-owned device, and outside of school hours, the Chromebook will function as a personal device. This allows students to automatically connect to the secure FSD network (bypassing the Guest WiFi) when on-site and also write provincial assessments and exams on their own, familiar device.

You can contact PC Corp via email at calgaryadmin@pccorp.com or by phone at 403-290-5687. We're here to help!

A reminder to be a part of our Framework for a Flourishing Community

At Foothills School Division, we know that success is mutual. As a system we advance goals to achieve the success of our students, staff, and community. The same can be said about flourishing. One does not flourish in isolation—it is a continuous, collaborative effort of community members to co-create the conditions for each individual to flourish.

We believe that a flourishing community is one where everyone feels connected, valued, and empowered to contribute. Over the last five years, we have been building capacity within our own learning community to understand what it means to flourish and developing a culture that meets our organizational purpose to place education at the centre of a flourishing community.

After years of development, we believe that we are now at a place that is critical to invite you, our greater learning community, to join us on this journey toward flourishing. This project aims to understand what flourishing looks like within our workplaces, homes, and community, all with the intent to determine how we can co-create the conditions for each individual to flourish.

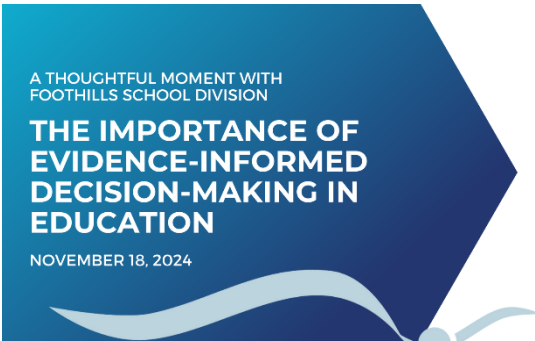
Please watch the invitation to join us at the video below, and contribute to this project at the following link:

[insert video] <https://youtu.be/gUDNalxoBmc>

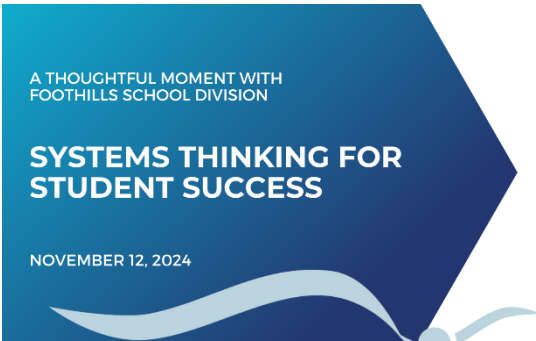
Participate link fsdconnect.com/flourishing-communities

A Thoughtful Moment

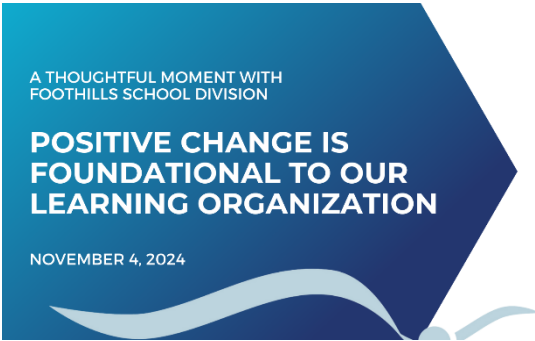
A Thoughtful Moment is a weekly blog post intended to connect the strategies outlined within the education plan to the work within our classrooms and community. With perspectives from across the division, we invite you to read these short reflections on how together, we are placing education at the centre of a flourishing community.



https://foothillsschooldivision.ca/_ci/p/21557



https://foothillsschooldivision.ca/_ci/p/21542



https://foothillsschooldivision.ca/_ci/p/21451



https://foothillsschooldivision.ca/_ci/p/21286

FSD Partnership: The Foothills Community Coalition is seeking members for the Youth Advisory Committee

The Foothills Community Coalition is looking for 20 youth who are between 15 to 18 years who live, work, study or play in the region of the Foothills to be involved on the Youth Advisory Committee.

Purpose:

The purpose of the Youth Advisory Committee is to be the voice of young people by providing advice and feedback related to the planning, design, and building of an Integrated Youth Hub.

Youth Advisory Committee Commitment:

- Commit for a minimum period of 1 year with the option to participate until project completion – estimated 36 – 48 months.
- 6- 8 meetings annually, to be held in person on weekday evenings.
- The first meeting will be held mid December 2024.

Why get involved?

- Help to build a safe, inclusive space for youth to access supports and services.
- Help to make community-based supports and services more youth-friendly.
- Be heard.

Application Process Requirements:

Make a connection with our Interim Director, Lori Anne Schultz

- Send an email to Schultzlo@fsd38.ab.ca
 - Indicate your interest to participate on the Advisory.
 - Complete the provided application form and return by November 28, 2024.
 - Parent/guardian consent to participate is required.

Reminder for Bus Riders

A friendly reminder that at times, road and weather conditions will cause service delays and cancellations. Families are reminded to have alternate plans in place should cancellations occur. We also remind all students to dress for the weather, with the expectation to be in the elements for 10 or more minutes while waiting for the bus.

Important Dates

December 13 - Non-Instructional Day (no school)

December 23 to January 6 -Winter Break

View the year-at-a glance here: bit.ly/FSD-Calendar

Get Connected

[foothillsschooldivision.ca](https://www.foothillsschooldivision.ca) | communications@fsd38.ab.ca

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)