



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December 18, 2024

Hello,

Ahead of the Winter Break, we wanted to take a moment to connect with you, our partners in education. Here is what we have in store for you in this month's newsletter:

- Celebrating our Annual Education Results Report and a look at our Audited Financial Statement.
- A reminder regarding our upcoming Winter Break; schools will be closed December 21 through to January 5. Classes resume on January 6, 2025.
- Thoughtful Moments from our system, connecting to learning that transfers
- Important dates for 2025

As always, 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 (Link: [Resolving Concerns](#)).

Happy Holidays from Foothills School Division

As the holiday season is upon us, we at the Foothills School Division sends warm greetings to our greater learning community. This time of year offers a moment to reflect on the many celebrations and moments of gratitude we share for the positive impact we create together.

As a system, our purpose remains steadfast: to place education at the centre of a flourishing community. We believe that through education, we cultivate curious minds, foster creativity, and encourage lifelong learning. This work only thrives through the dedication and support of our incredible team, partners in education, students, parents and guardians, and community members.

This year, we have seen our learning community thrive from innovative programs, local courses, activities, and community projects. These successes affirm that a

supportive educational environment is essential for nurturing each learner's potential.

Through this we are reminded that flourishing as a community is a shared responsibility. It is through our collective efforts that we build a nurturing and empowering atmosphere where every individual can thrive. We are grateful for the commitment of our teachers and school-based teams, the involvement and support of parents and guardians, and the cooperation of our community partners. Together, we create a brighter future, today.

During this festive season, may your homes be filled with joy, your hearts with love, and your days with laughter. Let us carry forward the spirit of collaboration and kindness into the new year, continuing to work hand in hand to enrich and uplift our community. How ever you may celebrate this season, may go you forward with good intentions.

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and best wishes for a prosperous New Year!



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.

- 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:

December 2024

- [Risk & Materials Management](#)
- [École Secondaire Highwood High School](#)

November 2024

- [Transportation Services](#)



Foothills School Division featured in Business View Magazine

A flourishing district of community-led learning

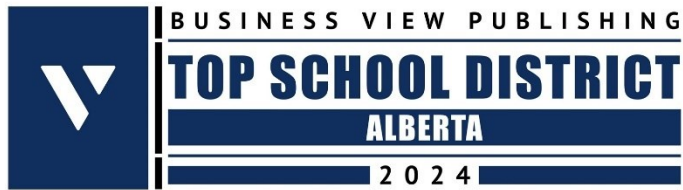
Foothills School Division has been recognized as a leader in education for its innovative and community-focused learning that emphasizes inclusivity, leadership, and community engagement. You can read the celebration of our flourishing community within the [October 2024 edition of Business View Magazine](#) or by viewing the [brochure version](#) of the featured article.

This article from Business View Magazine delves into how the division is creating a positive environment for students, teachers, and the wider community through ground-breaking programs and strong partnerships.

Learn about our commitment to transparency and collaboration, ensuring that every stakeholder has a voice in the decision-making process. Explore the real-world learning experiences provided through partnerships with local businesses and community organizations, and see how these initiatives are shaping the future of education.

[Read Article Now](#)

In addition to this highlight in the international magazine, Business View Magazine has named FSD as a top school district for 2024.



GRANT RECIPIENTS 2024

Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation congratulates grant recipients

From our partners:

The Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation recently completed its first fundraising event. The income from the golf tournament allowed us to request grant proposals up to a total value of \$3,000.00. Our sincere appreciation to each School Council who applied. We received 9 proposals totaling \$19,400.00.

The Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation Board met and reviewed all applications.

We are pleased to announce we will provide funding to three School Council projects. These include:

- École Okotoks Junior High School – to support the purchase of a Shapeoko Pro CNC Router for their woodshop
- École Senator Riley Middle School – to support the purchase of tower gardening supplies and to support the purchase of a cold food serving bar
- École Secondaire Highwood High School – to support their purchase of replace components of their theatre lighting control system

The Foundation Board was impressed with the quality and quantity of student focused projects. Although we are not able to support all of them, we remain very motivated to continue to raise funds and collaborate with Foothills School Division's schools and school councils to enhance student learning. We would like to thank all school councils who participated in the process and hope that as the Foundation continues its fundraising efforts, we will be able to support many more worthwhile projects.

Learn about our partners, the Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation at their website: foothillsfriends.ca



FFSF Presents: The Heart of Education Gala

Join us for an unforgettable evening at the Heart of Education Gala with the Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation! This inspiring fundraiser features:

Live Music: Enjoy a captivating 60-minute solo acoustic performance by George Canyon.

Gourmet Dinner: Savor a delicious menu from Highwood Catering, with options like Prime Rib, Asparagus & Cream Cheese Stuffed Chicken, or a vegetarian Stuffed Quinoa Red Pepper. Plus, indulge in Dessert Grazing Boards!

Silent Auction: Bid on exclusive items and experiences that'll leave you excited!

Event Details:

Date: Friday, February 7, 2025

5:30 pm: Happy hour & appetizers

6:30 pm: Dinner

7:45 pm: Dessert, coffee, and auction viewing

8:30 pm: George Canyon concert

10:00 pm: Auction closing & event wrap-up

Location: The Ranch House, 240241 306 Ave. W. Foothills, AB

Tickets:

- Individual: \$140
- VIP Table (8 people): \$2,500 (includes front-row concert seating & \$1,500 CRA tax receipt)

Proceeds from the event go directly to support students through the Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation, helping every learner reach their full potential. Come for the music, food, and fun, and leave knowing you've supported education in the Foothills. **Education is the heart of every thriving community.**

[Purchase Tickets Here](#)

Tickets are securely processed using Zeffy.com

<https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/the-heart-of-education-gala>

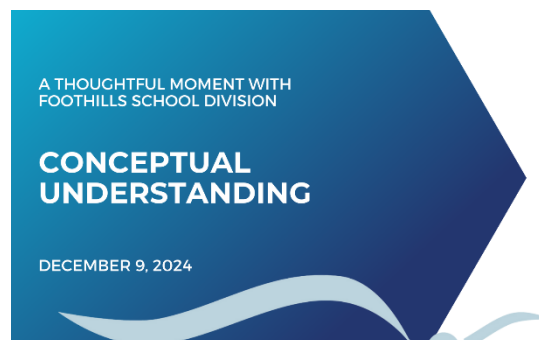
<https://georgecanyon.com/>

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://www.foothillsschooldivision.ca/_ci/p/21990



https://www.foothillsschooldivision.ca/_ci/p/21904

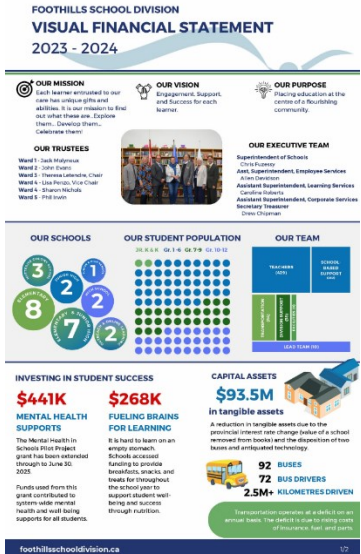
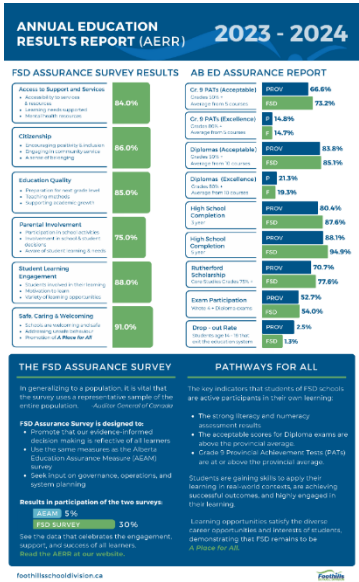


https://www.foothillsschooldivision.ca/_ci/p/21790



https://www.foothillsschooldivision.ca/_ci/p/21695

Foothills School Division celebrates the engagement, support, and success of all learners through the Annual Education Results Report and Audited Financial Statement



Foothills School Division (FSD) is pleased to announce the release of its Annual Education Results Report (AERR) and Audited Financial Statements for the 2023-2024 school year. These documents provide a comprehensive overview of the Division's achievements, financial health, and ongoing commitment to placing education at the centre of a flourishing community.

The AERR highlights several key accomplishments that underscore FSD's dedication to student engagement, support, and success. Notably, the Division celebrates achievement in several areas including:

Student Learning Engagement: The FSD Assurance Survey, issued to all parents from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12, reports that 88% of parents believe that their

child is learning literacy and numeracy skills that are useful. From that same survey, 87% of parents are satisfied with the learning opportunities available at their child's school. 93% of students indicate that it is important to do their best (Student Intellectual Engagement Survey) and 97% of FSD teachers report that students are engaged in learning (Alberta Education Assurance Measures).

Citizenship: Locally, FSD's citizenship measure is at 86%, which is 6.6% above the provincial average.

Safe, Caring, and Welcoming Schools: Foothills School Division is a *Place for All*. This is shown in the 91% of parents who responded positively to questions around safe, caring, and welcoming learning environments in the FSD Assurance Survey. This is an 11% increase from 2022-2023 FSD Assurance Survey, reflecting the Division's commitment to creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all students. From students, 87% report positive peer relationships on the Student Orientation to Schools Questionnaire (SOS-Q).

Achieving Excellence in Assessments: Grade 12 diploma exams and grade 6 and 9 Provincial Assessment Tests are a standardized assessments in core subject areas. 85% of students scored in the "acceptable" range (at or above 50% mark) for diploma exams, and of those students, 19% scored in the "excellence" range (at or above 80% mark). This is a testament to the dedicated efforts of both teaching and support staff at our schools, as well as the system supports who promote engagement, support, and success for all learners.

In addition to these educational achievements, the Audited Financial Statements for 2023-2024 demonstrate FSD's prudent financial management and transparency while providing high-quality and robust learning opportunities.

With a continuous focus on investing in student success, the division utilized over \$441,000 of the Mental Health in Schools Pilot Project grant funds to engage students in well-being support programs and resources. While the grant funding was to conclude at the end of this calendar year, we are grateful for the province's commitment to extend our mental health projects through to June 30, 2024.

The 2023-2024 budget for the division anticipated a \$922,489 deficit. Through strategic budgeting and optimized resource management, the division was able to reduce the actual deficit to \$372,505 all while maintaining its high-quality learning opportunities. To see how the Division has successfully managed its resources to support its strategic goals and ensure the sustainability of its programs and services, you may access the Audited Financial Statements at the division's website.

In addition to the above, Foothills School Division would like to highlight the following additional accomplishments for the 2023-2024 school year:

- Welcomed the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta to Oilfields High School, who acknowledged the achievement of the Vertical Farm Initiative and its impact on student learning, the community, and our environment.
- Hosted a division-wide learning conference on building a trauma-informed culture, to enrich supports and services for students.

- A system of reporting that engages parents in learning, by regularly communicating student growth and achievement, all leading to student success.
- Continued the Indigenous Advisory Circle to foster reciprocal relationships and advance truth and reconciliation efforts.
- Hosted the inaugural First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Graduation Ceremony.
- Continued piloting the full-time kindergarten program in select schools across the Division.
- Provided ongoing literacy and numeracy support to address learning disruptions from kindergarten to Grade 12.
- Engaged with staff and community to build the 2024-2025 academic calendar.
- Co-hosted the third annual Foothills Youth Mental Health Partnership Summit in collaboration with community organizations.
- Maximized funds to support staffing increases across the Division as part of the budget decisions for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Identified FSD as a leader with A.I. at the College of Alberta School Superintendents Spring Conference.

For even more celebrations and highlights from the 2023-2024 school year, we welcome you to read the Annual Education Results Report at our website foothillsschooldivision.ca.

- [Audited Financial Statements](#)
- [Annual Education Results Report](#)

Reminder for Bus Riders

Winter weather is upon us, with the prospect of -30 and beyond temperatures coming soon. 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 23 to January 5 -Winter Break

January 6 – Classes resume

January 30 – Second Semester begins

January 31 – Non- Instructional Day (Elementary & Junior High Schools Only)

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

Get Connected

foothillsschooldivision.ca / communications@fsd38.ab.ca

[Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#)