

**From:** [Foothills School Division](#)  
**To:** [FSD Communications](#)  
**Subject:** Your January 2025 FSD Newsletter  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 4:47:21 PM  
**Attachments:** [ATT00002.png](#)

---



# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



**January 29, 2025**

Hello,

Happy New Year! We are at the end of the first semester, which means Learner Profiles will be issued in the coming weeks. We look forward to your engagements at schools to foster positive relationships and discuss the depth of learning that has taken place so far this year.

We have an informative newsletter for you this month:

- The 2025-2026 Instructional Calendar has been approved and is now available at our website
- An important CUPE Local 5040 collective bargaining update
- Get Ready to Learn with Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten
- January Footnotes highlights how FSD continuously offers choice in education
- The Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation are hosting a wonderful night out in support of education
- FSD in the News  
& More!

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 ([Resolving Concerns](#)).

---

# 2025-2026 Instructional Calendar

The Board of Trustees approved the 2025-2026 Instructional Calendar, and it is now available at our website. You will find the calendar is similar to the year previous, balancing breaks while observing the dates held for PAT and Diploma exams.

Please note that at times the calendar may be updated due to changes in Diploma and PAT exam schedules. Please check our website for the most recent version before making travel plans.

[View 2025-2026 Instructional Calendar](#)

---

## Collective Bargaining Update – CUPE Local 5040

Foothills School Division has set up a Labour Relations page on its website to keep the public informed on the progress of collective bargaining with the Division's employee groups.

As you may be aware, Foothills School Division is currently working alongside CUPE Local 5040, who represents our valued school-based support team members, to reach a new collective bargaining agreement for 2024/2025+.

We have posted an important update on this page regarding the status of collective bargaining with CUPE Local 5040 that impacts school operations.

[Please visit the Labour Relations Page to stay informed.](#)

---

# 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.

- 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:

### January 2025

- [Technology Services](#)
- [Communications & Community Engagement](#)
- [École Okotoks Junior High](#)

December 2024

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

# Footnotes: *How FSD has, and continues to offer choice in education*

Foothills School Division has a long-standing history of providing choice in education. The Board of Trustees review and approve learning programs that the division provides to best meet the needs of the students, which in turn achieve the strategic directions of the division. From Junior Kindergarten (preschool) to Grade 12, FSD offers choice for learning, for *all* learners.

[Read more in the January 2025 edition of Footnotes.](#)

## FOOTNOTES

steps toward a flourishing community

December 2024 & January 2025

### HOW FSD HAS, AND CONTINUES TO OFFER CHOICE IN EDUCATION

#### ABOUT FOOTNOTES

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.

#### OUR HISTORY OF YOUR CHOICE IN EDUCATION

Foothills School Division has a long-standing history of providing **choice in education**.

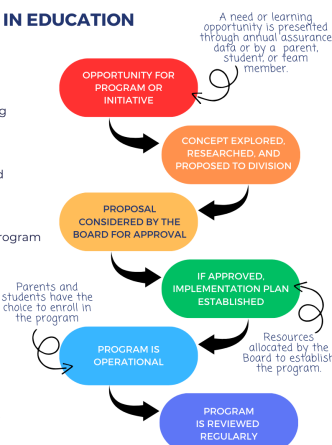
In **2001**, the Board of Trustees committed to offering French Immersion to students, providing the prospect of national and global careers.

FSD continues to offer innovative opportunities to respond to, and meet the diverse learning and career needs of our community:

- Alberta High School of Fine Arts
- International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program
- Explore: Nature-Based Learning
- Montessori
- Vertical Farm Initiative
- Dual Credit Pathways
- First Responder Summer School Program

The Board of Trustees review and approve learning programs that the division provides to best meet the needs of the students, which in turn, achieve the strategic directions of the division. **From Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12, FSD offers choice for learning, for *all* learners.**

LEARN MORE: [bit.ly/FSD\\_Learning](http://bit.ly/FSD_Learning)



---

## **Reminder: January 31 is a Non-Instructional Day for Elementary and Junior High Schools**

Our school teams that offer K through to grade 9 are engaging in professional learning on January 31. Please consult with your child's school website for further details.

---



GET READY TO LEARN WITH  
FOOTHILLS SCHOOL DIVISION

## JR. KINDERGARTEN & KINDERGARTEN

ENROLL NOW FOR  
FALL 2025

foothillsschooldivision.ca



# Get Ready to Learn!

## 2025-2026 Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten registration now open!

The Foothills School Division (FSD) is excited to announce that registration for its Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten programs is now open. These programs are designed to foster early childhood development and prepare children for a successful educational journey.

Junior Kindergarten (JK) is a play-based preschool program that develops social skills, motivation to learn, language and numeracy skills. The additional bonus to our JK program is that students become acquainted with a school and its structures, fostering a readiness to learn as the child enters Kindergarten. Students who are enrolled in JK are a part of the school culture and resources including assemblies, concerts, learning commons (library), gymnasium, and educational expertise.

The program is currently offered at select schools in High River, Okotoks, Blackie, and DeWinton, and is open to any young learner who is aged 4 by December 31, 2025. Younger learners with a demonstrated need may be eligible for Junior Kindergarten; [please visit our website for details.](#)

Kindergarten with FSD develops a child's readiness to learn, growing upon their skills in literacy and numeracy, science, the arts, and more. Students will engage in play-based learning that incorporates several aspects of the curriculum into a single lesson, developing critical-thinking skills and a mind for inquiry. Plus, children who participate in FSD's Kindergarten program

will demonstrate a greater readiness to learn for when they enter grade 1. Learners who are age 5 by December 31, 2025, are eligible to enroll in one of our engaging Kindergarten programs.

FSD offers Kindergarten in every FSD community. Providing choice in education for the region, alternative Kindergarten programs include:

- French Immersion at École Percy Pegler (Okotoks) and École Joe Clark (High River)
- Explore: Nature Based Learning at École Percy Pegler (Okotoks)
- International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program at Millarville Community School (Millarville)
- Interested in Montessori? It is offered from Grade 1 to 6 at Big Rock School (Okotoks)

While part time Kindergarten is offered at every elementary school, full time programming is available at:

- Big Rock School (Okotoks)
- Dr. Morris Gibson (Okotoks)
- Westmount (Okotoks)
- Spitzee (High River)
- Heritage Heights (DeWinton)
- C. Ian McLaren (Diamond Valley)
- Red Deer Lake (Priddis)
- École Percy Pegler (Okotoks) and École Joe Clark (High River) in French Immersion

Parents can complete the quick and secure online registration at home. Digital copies of the child's birth certificate or passport will be required as part of the process. If you encounter any issues or have questions while completing the forms, you can call the school's office for assistance.

Foothills School Division is a place for all, offering pathways for all learners. We invite parents and guardians to learn more about FSD at our website at [foothillsschooldivision.ca](http://foothillsschooldivision.ca) or call Division Office at 403-652-3001.

[\*\*Junior Kindergarten Registration Guide\*\*](#)

[\*\*Kindergarten Registration Guide\*\*](#)

[\*\*Register Now\*\*](#)

---



# Minds Matter Third Annual Hockey Game a big success



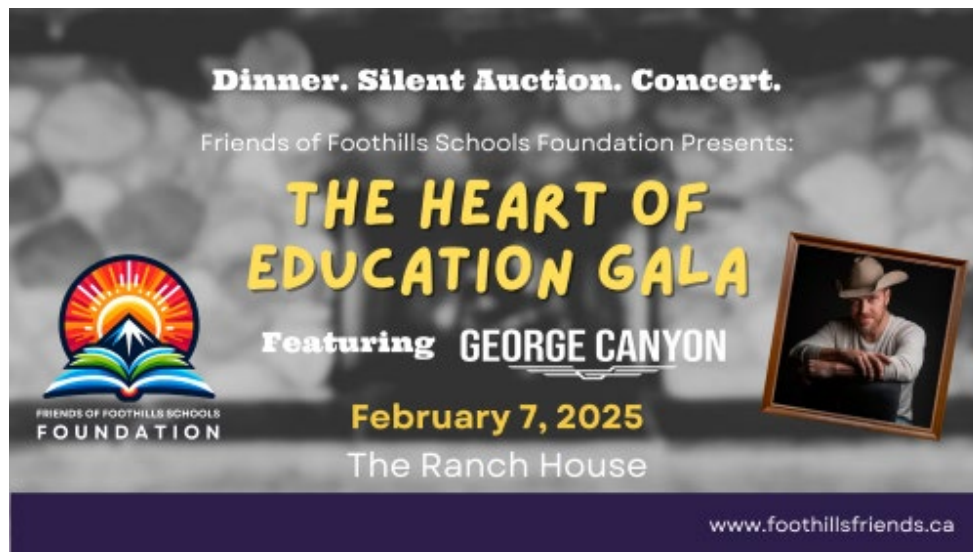
The Okotoks Oilers recently hosted the annual Minds Matter game, an event dedicated to raising awareness about youth mental health in the Foothills region. This year's game was a huge success, drawing a large crowd of 1,512 and providing an exciting experience for all attendees.

The Oilers played an impressive match, showcasing their skills and teamwork on the ice. Beyond the thrilling game, the event featured various activities aimed at promoting mental health awareness, including informative presentations and engaging activities to underline the importance of mental wellness.

Attendees enjoyed the lively atmosphere and the opportunity to learn more about mental health in a fun and engaging environment. The Minds Matter game continues to be a highlight in the community, bringing people together for an important cause.

Minds Matter is a partnership between Foothills School Division and Recovery Alberta, promoting wellness in schools and community.





## 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, front-row seating): \$2,500

**Proceeds** from the event go directly to support students through the Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation, helping every learner reach their full potential.

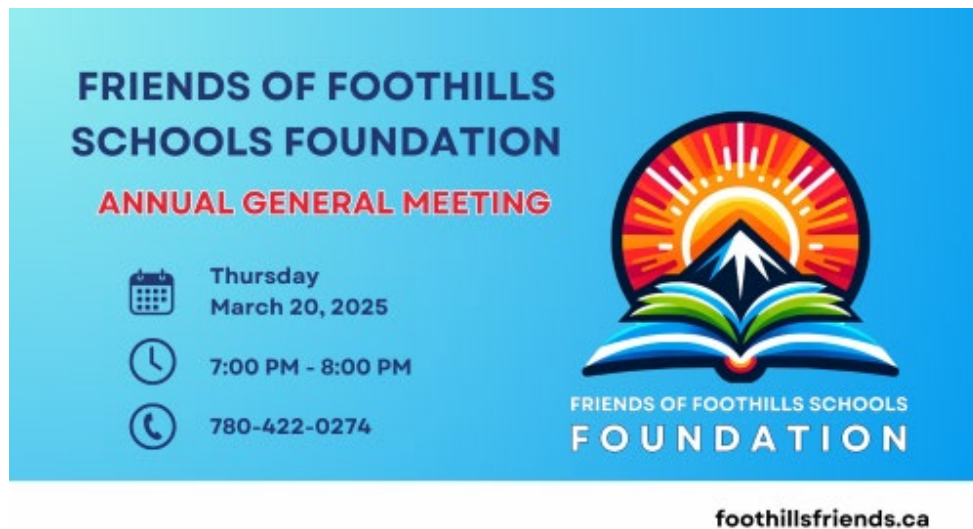
Come for the music, food, and fun, and leave knowing you've supported education in the Foothills. **Education is the heart of every thriving community.**

[Purchase Tickets Here](#)

*Tickets are securely processed using Zeffy.com*

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

<https://georgecanyon.com/>



The poster features a blue background with white and red text. On the left, it lists the date and time: 'Thursday March 20, 2025' and '7:00 PM - 8:00 PM', accompanied by calendar and clock icons. Below that is the phone number '780-422-0274' with a phone icon. On the right, there is a logo of an open book with a sun rising behind a mountain peak. Below the logo, it says 'FRIENDS OF FOOTHILLS SCHOOLS FOUNDATION'. At the bottom right of the poster, the website 'foothillsfriends.ca' is listed.

## FFSF Annual General Meeting

FFSF Annual General Meeting  
7:00PM, March 20, 2025  
Boardroom, Spitzee Crossing  
2nd Floor, 129 4th Avenue SW, High River

The Annual General Meeting for the Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation is coming up on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 7pm at the Foothills Schools

Division boardroom. It's a great chance to hear about what the Foundation has been up to this past year, ask questions, and vote on some important matters. We'll be sharing updates on our activities, achievements, and progress, plus discussing potential changes to the bylaws and incorporation objects. We'll also give an overview of the organization's financial health and future plans.

If you're interested in joining the Board of Directors, feel free to reach out to the [Executive Director](#) to learn more about the process. We'll also be going over role descriptions for board and volunteer roles, so it's a perfect time to get more involved.

See the exciting work of the Friends of Foothills Schools Foundation at their website or follow them on Instagram @friendsoffoothillsschools

---

## 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.



### [Assessment in Education: Striking the Balance](#)

January 27, 2025

[Read at our website](#)

### [Why and how we focus on literacy and numeracy](#)

January 20, 2025

[Read at our website](#)

A THOUGHTFUL MOMENT WITH  
FOOTHILLS SCHOOL DIVISION

*"There is always an opportunity to deepen a learner's understanding, to discover ways of connecting concepts to real-life situations, and to grow in one's reading, writing, and mathematical skills through fostering a true joy for learning."*

JANUARY 20, 2025

foothillsschooldivision.ca



A THOUGHTFUL MOMENT WITH  
FOOTHILLS SCHOOL DIVISION

*"...the exciting environment of French Immersion encourages students to think creatively and solve problems in innovative ways, which are essential skills in today's fast-paced world."*

JANUARY 13, 2025

foothillsschooldivision.ca



## [The Advantage of French Immersion](#)

January 13, 2025

[Read at our website](#)

NOW HIRING  
**BUS DRIVERS**

Do you want to travel, make a positive impact, and bring your preschooler to work with you?

**APPLY TODAY**

foothillsschooldivision.ca



## **Now Hiring: Bus Drivers**

Looking to drive into a new career?

We are hiring individuals who are safety-minded and want to make a positive difference in our community.

With free driver training and first aid, competitive wages and benefits, a collaborative (and fun) team, the beautiful Foothills scenery, and the opportunity to bring your preschool-aged child along for the ride, we are a great fit for many individuals!

[Check out our website to learn more about this opportunity and apply today!](#)

---

## 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

**January 30** – Second Semester begins

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

**February 17** – Family Day Statutory Holiday

**February 18 – 21** – Schools Closed (Professional learning, ATA Convention)

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

---

## FSD in the News

- January 21 - [‘Friends’ making new friends at Foothills schools](#) (WesternWheel.ca)
- January 15 - [Foothills hosting ‘Info Night’ on kindergarten programs](#) (WesternWheel.ca)
- January 15 - [French immersion school programs are a hit in the Foothills](#) (HighRiverOnline.com)
- January 15 - [What you need to know to register your young one for Kindergarten or JK](#) (HighRiverOnline.com)
- January 14 - [Okotoks Oilers put on a show at annual Minds Matter](#)

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.

- [Game \(WesternWheel.ca\)](#)
- [January 14 - Upcoming gala with George Canyon is raising money for local schools](#) (HighRiverOnline.com)
- [January 14 - The Okotoks Oilers are helping to raise mental health awareness](#) (HighRiverOnline.com)
- [January 13 - Mustangs finish second](#) (HighRiverTimes.com)
- [January 13 - GALLERY: Foothills Falcons take flight at Sheep River Shoot-Out](#) (WesternWheel.ca)
- [January 12 - GALLERY: Okotoks teams shine at Knights Classic](#) (WesternWheel.ca)
- [January 9 - Were local school divisions affected by the recent cyber-attack?](#) (HighRiverOnline.com)
- [January 7 - Helping more Alberta children take to the ice](#) (video) (CTVNews.ca)
- [January 7 - Foothills Sr. Boys and Girls both competing in tournaments this week](#) (HighRiverOnline.com)
- [January 7 - Foothills Falcons host Alberta's best at Sheep River Shoot-Out](#) (WesternWheel.ca)
- [January 7 - Foothills charities split over \\$76,000 in Western Wheel Cares](#) (WesternWheel.ca)
- [January 6 - High River Spitzee School's Giving Tree brightens holiday season](#) (WesternWheel.ca)
- [January 6 - 91% of Foothills parents find schools welcoming: survey](#) (WesternWheel.ca)

### **Get Connected**

[foothillsschooldivision.ca](http://foothillsschooldivision.ca) |  
[communications@fsd38.ab.ca](mailto:communications@fsd38.ab.ca)

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

This email was sent in compliance with Canada's Anti-Spam legislation. You are subscribed to receive commercial electronic messages from your child's school and Foothills School Division. These include topics such as picture days, field trip costs, school fees and more. You may withdraw this consent at any time by clicking [Unsubscribe](#).

Please note, if you select Unsubscribe to All, you will no longer continue to receive messages of a non-commercial nature, such as absence or Emergency notifications.

Please contact your school to update your phone number, email address, additional contact information and/or to update your Students Attendance by replying directly to this message.

This email was sent by Foothills School Division, 129 4th Ave SW, Suite 300, High River, AB, T1V 1M7. 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.