

FOOTNOTES

steps toward a flourishing community

November 2023

WELCOME

Welcome to Footnotes, a monthly newsletter of progress at Foothills School Division (FSD).

The majority of information provided will highlight the steps we are taking to ensure education is at the centre of a flourishing community. Our goal is to connect how the work of the Board of Trustees affects our students in the classrooms.

Engagement

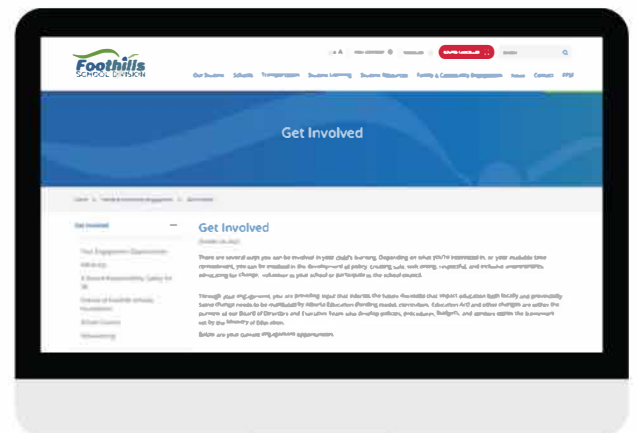
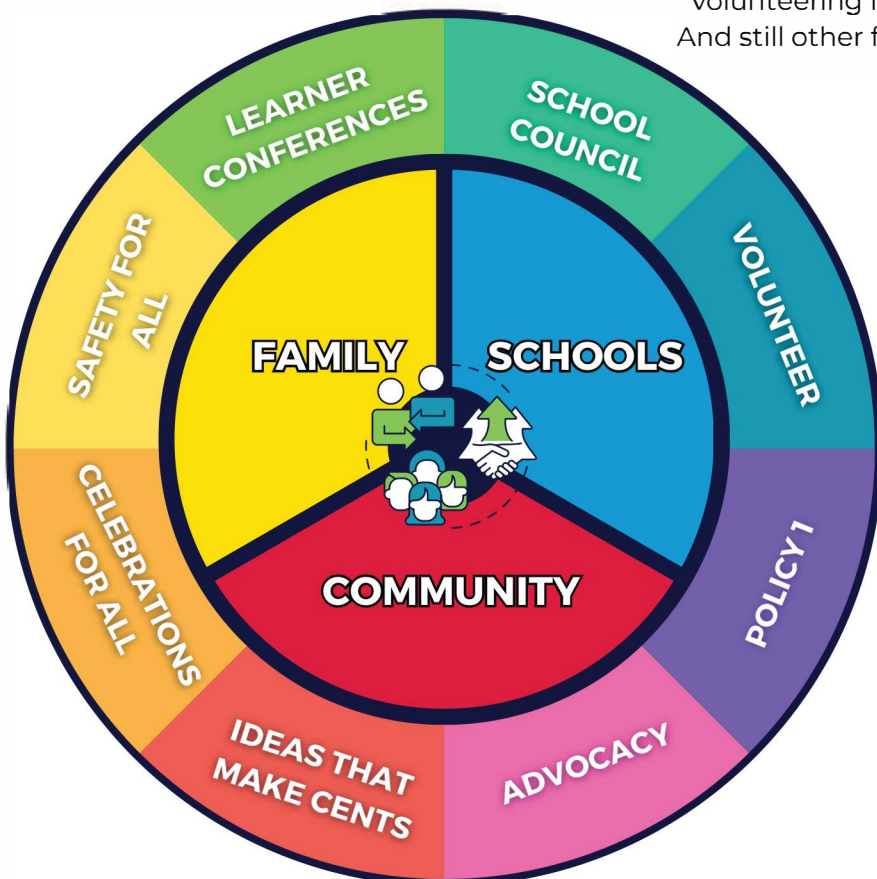
YOUR CONNECTION, YOUR VOICE

The Board of Trustees understands how important parents are as partners in education – bringing with them invaluable, unique knowledge about their children as learners. By creating positive and meaningful avenues for parents and caregivers to be actively engaged in their child’s learning journey, FSD is gathering the voice, passion, and creative ideas our community has to support the educational journey of all the learners entrusted to our care.

Engagement looks different for every family. For some, it is the monthly attendance at a School Council meeting, for others, it is volunteering in the school with ‘hot lunch’ or precision reading. And still other families engage with the system through Division or Alberta Education surveys or by sending letters to MLAs on FSD’s advocacy priorities. All of this engagement is important, and all of it matters as it guides and informs future decisions, impacting education at both local and provincial levels.

LEARN MORE:

[BIT.LY/FSD_GETINVOLVED](https://bit.ly/fsd_getinvolved)



MYTH VS. FACT

MYTH: Schools provide litter boxes to students.

FACT: This is a **hoax** coming from across the continent and is as harmful as it is untrue--distracting and taking time from the important work schools actually do to support all learners.

If there is cat litter found in schools today, it is used as traction during icy road conditions (link 1) or it can be tied to the increase in gun violence in schools within the United States. For example, a school district in Colorado is stocking classrooms with small amounts of cat litter as part of “go buckets”. These containers have emergency supplies - including candy for diabetic students, a map of the school, flashlights, wet wipes, and first aid items - in case students are locked in a classroom during an extended lockdown (link 2).

LEARN MORE:

- [BIT.LY/FSD_MYTH_NEWS1](https://bit.ly/FSD_MYTH_NEWS1)
- [BIT.LY/FSD_MYTH_NEWS2](https://bit.ly/FSD_MYTH_NEWS2)



WANT TO HEAR MORE ABOUT FSD? CHECK OUT OUR NEWS.

Bill C-18 is now in effect, meaning that articles from media outlets like CBC, Western Wheel, and High River Online can no longer be shared on our Facebook and Instagram pages. We won't let this stop us celebrating our flourishing community.

We are now collecting stories we see about our students, staff, and initiatives and posting on our website under FSD In the News. Start reading and celebrating our stories today: bit.ly/FSD_MediaLinks

Your Trustees

- WARD 1 - Jack Molyneux
- WARD 2 - John Evans
- WARD 3 - Theresa Letendre, Chair
- WARD 4 - Lisa Penzo, Vice Chair
- WARD 4 - Sharon Nichols
- WARD 5 - Phil Irwin

SUPPORTING WELL-BEING WITH READING WEEK

November, the eleventh month of the year; the month of Remembrance that also marks the unofficial start of winter, perfectly timed with colder, darker days to welcome the peak of cold and flu season... What better time for a break?!

In January 2023, the Board of Trustees asked for your feedback on calendar priorities. After this consultation, they passed the revised 2023-2024 calendar that focussed on the social emotional well-being of our students and team members.

That is why you see a reading break this **November 13 to 17**. Schools will be closed for a time of rest. Our Division Offices will remain open to assist you with any questions.



Your Executive Team

- Superintendent of Schools - Chris Fuzessy
- Assistant Superintendent, Corporate Services - Drew Chipman
- Assistant Superintendent, Learning Services - Caroline Roberts
- Assistant Superintendent, Employee Services - Allen Davidson