FOOTNOTES

steps toward a flourishing community

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.**
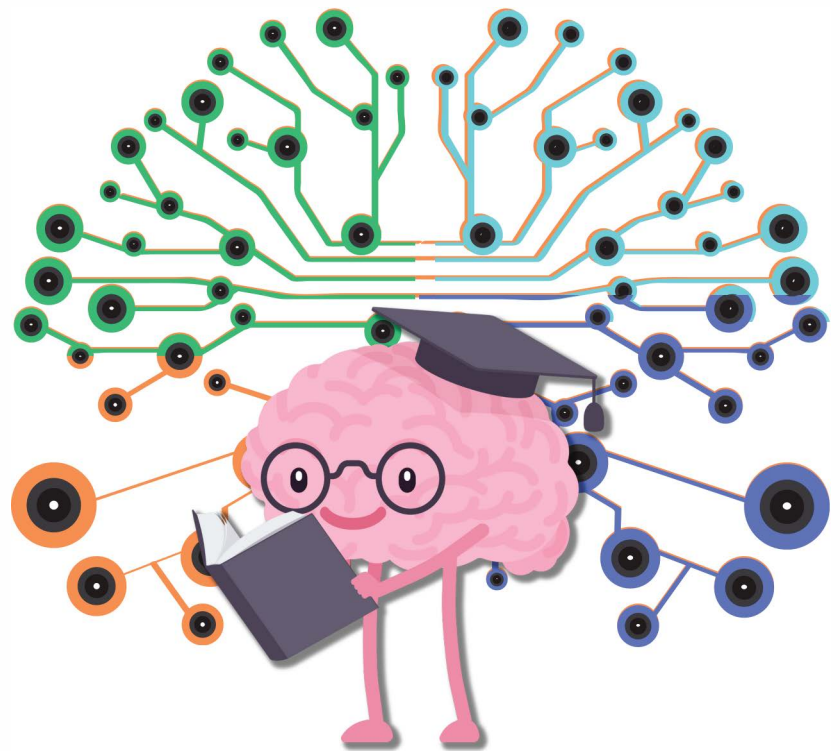
A.I. & EDUCATION

EMBRACING ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY

Foothills School Division supports all our learners to explore the resources and tools available to them, including A.I. Key to this support is guiding the use of any tool or technology in a meaningful, effective and ethical way.

So how is FSD embracing A.I.?
Staff members from across the division are collaborating and sharing their learning around this rapidly changing technology to develop assessment and acceptable-use guides with the goal of helping students in the classroom understand how A.I. can enhance their learning.

ETHICAL USE

Like any resource, understanding how to use it effectively and ethically matters.

A.I. tools, such as ChatGPT can be utilized as a starting point, to launch further exploration and understanding of a topic. Knowing to cite references and showing your work is a part of the learning process.

DID YOU KNOW?

The concept of Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) originated in the 1950s. The limits of computer memory and cost of operating a computer ($200,000 a month!) prevented the advances in technology we see today.
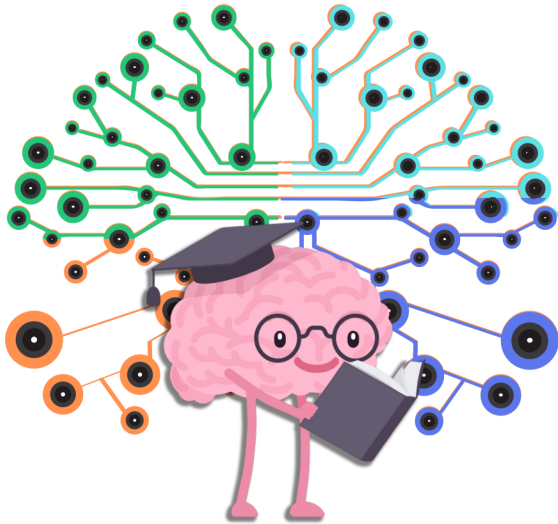
Now, we all carry a supercomputer in our pocket!

LEARN MORE: bit.ly/FSD_Ref_AIHistory

A.I. & EDUCATION

TOOLS AVAILABLE

From predictive text, to Siri and Alexa, CAPTCHA, online banking, and vehicle lane assist, A.I. is integrated into our lives each day.

SOME TOOLS TO EXPLORE:

CodeBreaker
What is it? An A.I. space for use in education. This tool assists students and parents to break down concepts and steps to solve problem.
Why it's great: No login required. Designed by a Manitoba Teacher, with the focus of learning in mind.
Try: Ask it to solve a tricky math word problem!

Goblin.Tools
What is it? is a collection of small, simple, single-task tools, mostly designed to help neurodivergent people with tasks they find overwhelming or difficult.
Why it's great: No login required. Use Judge to read the tone of a text or email, ask Magic ToDo to break down a task into simple steps, and much more!
Try: Ask Magic ToDo how to change the oil in your vehicle. Don't understand a step? Use the the magic breakdown tool to simplify a task even further.

Microsoft Copilot
What is it? Copilot is a version of ChatGPT nestled within Microsoft's platform.
Why it's great: If Bing is your preferred search engine, you can easily access Copilot.
Try: Provide it a list of items in your pantry and ask it to offer you meal ideas.

OpenAI
What is it? OpenAI is an AI research and deployment company. There are several tools within OpenAI.
Why it's great: There is a free version for quick use of ChatGPT; login required.
Try: Use the prompt, "You are a 7 year old who is interested in geology. What questions might you have about the earth?"

CONTINUOUS LEARNING AS LEADERS AND LEARNERS

This month, Superintendent Fuzessy is presenting on "Leadership in the Age of A.I." at the College of Alberta School Superintendents Learning Conference. He, alongside Director of Technology Services, Sally Smith, will be showcasing how FSD is leveraging technology to best serve our students and staff in a world where advances in technology arrive each day.

The Alberta Education Teaching Quality Standard (TQS) indicates educators are to incorporate digital technology and resources, as appropriate, to build student capacity.

FSD is building a hub of resources for staff to access to improve efficiency, improve student engagement with curriculum, and discover tools to share with parents to help with homework and school projects.

Foothills SCHOOL DIVISION

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