

Footprints for Learning Academy

Annual
Report
2021/2022



Chair Message

Our 2021/2022 school year was another highly successful year for our students and staff at Footprints for Learning Academy (FFLA). Our student and faculty numbers continued to grow and we celebrated our first High School Graduation.

Across the province and in FFLA, COVID-19 mandates and regulations still played a part in this school year as we again made the changes in the delivery of our programs, as required. Thanks to our students, staff and parents adjusting and adapting, we came through with it with remarkable success.

Thankfully, during the last months of the school year, with COVID-19 restrictions being lifted, we were delighted to gradually return to normal with fully open classrooms, sports, clubs and other activities again being possible. We were even able to get our students back to the spring Outdoor Camp.

I am desperately proud of our students who have applied themselves, with encouragement from parents and staff. What a remarkable group of individuals!

I recognize the dedication, determination and just plain hard work that has gone into the many activities throughout the year from academics to sports; from drama to art; from extracurricular activities to celebrations as well as various clubs. Although somewhat limited this past year, these activities were exciting adventures as we embraced our opportunities to have fun, learn and grow together.

A heartfelt thank-you to students, staff, parents and volunteers for making 2021/22 such a memorable year and look forward to another wonderful adventure next year.

Board Members

The FFLA Board of Governance is responsible for ensuring that the mission and vision of FFLA are being fulfilled through strong leadership, effective planning, and sound fiscal management.

Thank you to the FFLA Board of Governance for their hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm.

Board Chair: Jane Anderson

Vice Chair: Corina Jeppesen

Treasurer: Laura Bancroft

Secretary: Karina Altvater

Directors: Ann Burt, Linda Kamitomo, Kate Smith and Kaylee Terriff

If you would like to reach a specific Board Member please contact our administration at 587-775-9303 or admin@footprintsforlearning.com.

About Us

Footprints for Learning Academy (FFLA) is a charitable, non-profit, private school in Airdrie, Alberta. We currently provide Kindergarten to Grade 12 education for students in Alberta as regulated and defined by the Government of Alberta's Education School Act and as per the Government of Alberta's definition of an accredited funded Private School.

Our school opened its doors in 2011/2012, with community and parent support, and offered a Kindergarten class of 19 students. By 2013/2014 we had expanded to a full K-7 school, in a brand new building, and were full to capacity (225 students) with a large waitlist. Over the past 10 years we have continued to grow and currently offer a dynamic, interactive, student-centered program for 477 students in grades K-12 with 2 campuses (both located in our small community of Airdrie).

FFLA's educational community is focused entirely on the best education possible for each learner - one based on excellence, on fundamentals mastery, and on personalization. One also grounded in a philosophy that values both the global and growth mindsets in their inherent sense of respect, responsibility and resourcefulness, allowing the students to ACHIEVE, EXPLORE, and EXCEL. Our goal is to provide the means to enable each student to become an enthusiastic, engaged, and effective learner within the greater community of learners and over a lifetime of new experiences.

Mission and Vision

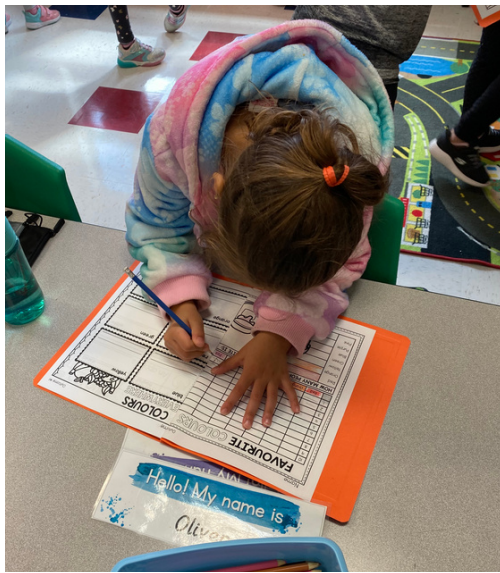
Each step in the journey of living and learning leaves FOOTPRINTS, lasting impressions from its explorations and environment. At FFLA, we take care to mark this pathway with the best of opportunities for student success as we VALUE:

Heritage - Following in the footsteps of those before us is essential to our learning process; we must be aware of the past and its invaluable impact on both the present and the future. Our heritage on this beautiful planet is being built together, as a collective.

Innovation - Following a model that combines the best of resources and teaching methods makes us mindful of the innovations possible for learning. It is a process where we will give our students every opportunity to advance in their individual learning - to use today for their best tomorrow.

Progress - Following the progress of each learner ensures that each is ready for that next step, those directions that allow all to become citizens of the future - ready to embrace the challenges of this world and for each to forge their own pathway towards new ideas, solutions, and discoveries.

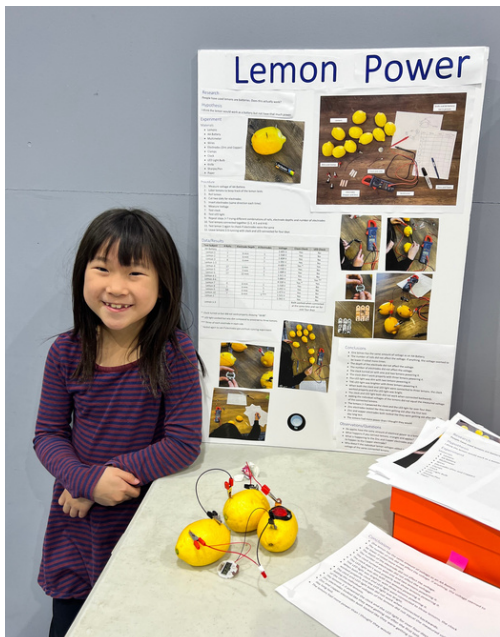




Literacy Program

Literacy learning begins in the home and community as children listen to language in conversation, literature and media and where they learn to speak, view and represent their first circle of words. It continues to build on that foundation in school where literacy should be a balanced menu of activities to stimulate, teach, and extend the learner's development of communication and thinking skills.

A unique addition to our literacy programming is the inclusion of the D'Nealian cursive method. Our students learn to work with words and develop their writing, reading and handwriting skills daily and cross-circularly.



Science Program

At FFLA, we believe in the value of Project and Inquiry-Based Learning, most especially within our Science Classroom. In such, we follow Alberta Education program of Studies in all levels of learning from Elementary to High School - to determine what knowledge and skills outcomes we will study. We then explore each topic through student directed practices (e.g. demonstrations, simulations, experiments, modelling, visualization, and field trips) so that the curricular lessons unfold in a circle of understandings that are tied to the learners' interests and questions.

We celebrate our students achievements and learning with a school-wide Science Fair each year. We were thrilled to be able to host an in person event again this year! Over 70 students participated and set up their projects in our gym for everyone to see.



Social Studies Program

The FFLA Social Studies program aligns directly with the Alberta Education Program of Studies. Learning in Social Studies is related to the core concepts of citizenship and identity and is achieved through focused content at each grade level.

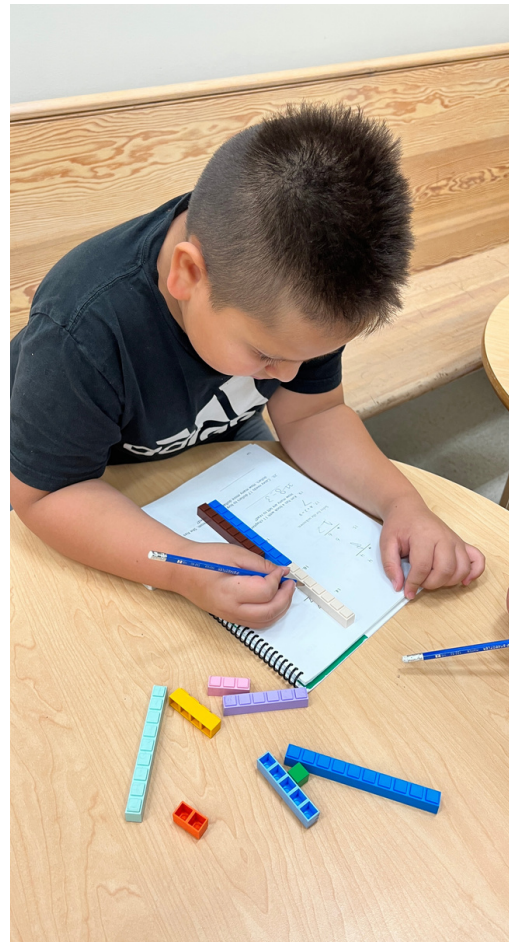
Global Awareness is an additional area of study that we have incorporated into our K-12 social studies program. We believe it is important to learn about all seven continents on this earth, with an added focus on geography. It is a weekly block of time where students trek across the globe to become familiar with its lands, waters, flora, and fauna. This is designed as extension to the Lands, Places, and Peoples strand of Alberta's Social Studies Program of Study and is intended to grow our global understandings to those cultures found both inside and outside of our immediate community.

Math Program

At FFLA we have a unique approach to Mathematics and have blended the recommended Alberta Education resources (e.g. Math Makes Sense) with Math U See and other innovative resources like Khan Academy to find the ideal BALANCE for learning math.

By including all of these methods in our classrooms we ensure that our math program aligns with Alberta Education's curriculum but also offers our students more flexibility and independence in their learning pace. Mastery is the key to our approach and each individual student must master a concept before moving onto the next.

In our planning we also highlight the need in numeracy studies to be touched upon in all curricula (e.g. Entrepreneurship) to discover the value of numbers, the meaning of equations, and how to problem solve both logically and creatively in the real world.



Entrepreneurship Program

In addition to all of the core subjects and electives at FFLA we also offer an entrepreneurship program to provide an economic edge to our learning. This will prepare our students to graduate with business skills, economic understanding and financial literacy.

We have partnered with Jr. Achievement Canada (JA), BizWorld (BW), and use the National Content Standards for Entrepreneurship Education (NCSEE). We created an FFLA Entrepreneurship Curriculum for our school that will prepare our students for the 'work world' and provide them with knowledge and skills sets that will enable them to achieve their goals and aspirations.



Languages Program

We include two different language studies programs for our students - Spanish for grades K-12 and French for grades 4-6, with an added option for a continuation in grades 7-12.

These learning opportunities align with the FFLA agenda towards Global Mindedness and provide another platform for literacy enhancement.

At FFLA, our students are immersed in the Spanish language program starting in Kindergarten and continues through all grade levels. We use Total Physical Response (TPR) and Total Physical Response Story Telling (TPRS) to teach our students Spanish as a second language. The main goal in our Spanish classrooms is to utilize comprehensible input with a focus on the verbs, in order to help our students become proficient in understanding, reading, writing, and eventually speaking their new language.

In addition to the in-class Spanish learning we provide our FFLA middle school students with the opportunity for a 10-day cultural, humanitarian and Spanish language immersion experience by traveling to a Spanish speaking country. It is during this trip that students not only learn about the culture but they learn to serve others globally. We are hopeful that we will be able to resume our travels in the 2023/2024 school year!



Athletics Program

FFLA believes that strong physical education and extra-curricular athletics programs are essential to a balanced and quality education. That is why our K-12 classes receive daily physical activity. We have Physical Education classes in a large gym or mini-gym with climbers, intramurals and electives with rotating team sports, and multiple extra-curricular athletics programs.

Students can participate in our extra-curricular athletics program at our Jr. High (Grades 6-9), Junior Varsity (Grade 10), and Senior Varsity (Grade 10/11/12) levels. All of FFLA's athletic programs are offered through ASAA's South Central Zone and the CAAA. For our Varsity program, certain sports are offered directly from FFLA and others are offered in partnership with Bert Church High School.

This past year was one of incredible growth in our athletics programming. We had our Jr. High teams all back up and running with record numbers of students who joined the various teams! Our FFLA Foxes represented our school incredibly throughout the year in Cross Country, Volleyball, Basketball, Badminton and Soccer. Our Sr. High students who chose to join teams also excelled in Football, Golf and Badminton!

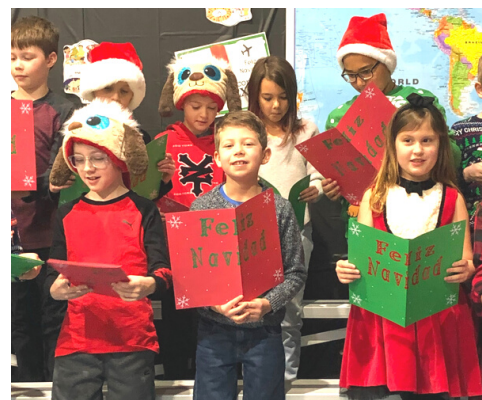


Music and Drama Program

At FFLA, we believe that Music and Drama are essential components of a balanced education. These arts provide opportunities for students to discover and express their own abilities to create and contribute individually and as a group. We take our Music and Drama program seriously and as such we have an experienced and dedicated specialist teacher who engages students with thematic productions each year.

In December, our grade 1-4 classes filmed another virtual holiday concert that was shared digitally with all of our FFLA families.

While in May our grades 4-6 students proudly took to the stage for our spring musical Suessical! It was a colorful, creative and entertaining show.



Our Graduating Class of 2022



Name: Aiden

What is your plan now that you have completed high school? In August, I will be moving to Rock Springs, Wyoming to play hockey in the USPHL.

What is a favourite memory of your time at FFLA? The field trip to Big Hill Springs Provincial Park because it was the first field trip I had been on in 3 years.

The thing I will miss most about FFLA is all of the friendly staff and students.

My time at FFLA most influenced me by reinforcing independent work habits and time management.



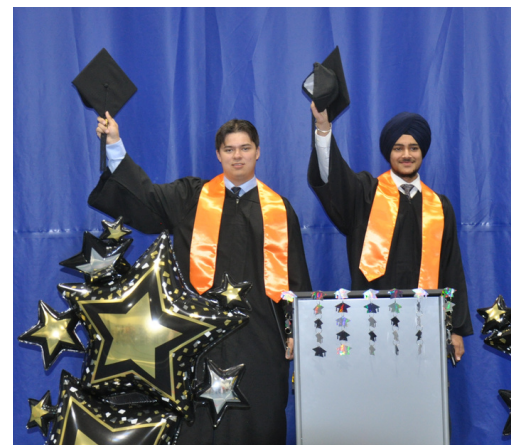
Name: Gurbaj

What is your plan now that you have completed high school? I will be working for this coming year and applying to schools.

What is a favourite memory of your time at FFLA? Going on our overnight camping trip with Ms. Holland. We had a lot of fun.

The thing I will miss most about FFLA is: The people, teachers and students.

My time at FFLA most influenced me by... my teachers helping me and making sure I was going to graduate.



FFLA Cares

Impacting our Community and World

At FFLA we believe that contributing to the world around us is an important part of education. Throughout the year we encouraged our students to focus on citizenship and giving back to those in our community and world and in the end our FFLA Families helped to raise over \$11,000.00 for some incredible causes! We can't wait to see the impact they make next year.

TERRY FOX RUN SEPTEMBER

The students at FFLA raised over **\$2000.00** for the Terry Fox Foundation with this year's run. AMAZING!!!

ALBERTA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OCTOBER & MAY

In partnership with Heritage Homes & Renovations and One Stop Rentals, we helped to raise a grand total of **\$3494.55** for the Alberta Children's Hospital with delicious hot dog lunches!

CHANGE FOR CHANGE NOVEMBER

FFLA's CHANGE for CHANGE fundraising event was created by our FFLA Leadership students and ran for the entire month of November. The money collected was used to provide much needed meals for students living and learning in Haiti through the charitable work of Haiti Arise. The FFLA community came together and managed to raise **\$3564.00** for this important cause!

FOOD BANK AND TOY DRIVE DECEMBER

Our FFLA families did an incredible job collecting donations of non-perishable food items and unwrapped toys for our classroom Christmas trees. There was a total of **1430 items** donated all together!

Items were given to the Airdrie Food Bank, the Salvation Army and to the Alberta Children's Hospital.

ART FOR ANIMALS MARCH

Our grade 1-6 students created special pieces of animal themed art work this year which were sold and printed on cards, mugs, coasters and canvas'. The finished products were beautiful!

We chose the APARC of Airdrie to be the recipient of the funds raised. We hope that this donation of **\$1711.36** will help support the amazing work that they do for animals in our city!

HATS ON FOR MENTAL HEALTH APRIL THROUGH TO JUNE

The HATS ON initiative was an opportunity for us to increase awareness about the importance of mental health and help to raise funds for an amazing cause. Students donated a total of **\$333.00** to be able to wear a hat on Fridays!

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART JUNE

Did you hear the news?! Our very last FFLA Cares initiative is taking place on Monday, June 27! Our students will be showing off their jump rope skills as they raise money and awareness for the Heart and Stroke Foundation's JUMP ROPE FOR HEART initiative!

To register and start collecting donations please register your child here: www.heartandstroke.ca/how-you-can-help/events/jump-rope-for-heart

Our Staff



2021
2022



The best teachers are those who show you where to look but don't tell you what to see.
ALEXANDRA K. TRENFOR

Our Supporters



Magic Mountain Child Development Centre Ltd. – Provider of the School Facility and Equipment for the 2013 Expansion. “Magic Mountain Child Development Centre Ltd. has been serving the community of Airdrie for over 20 years. They continue to serve this growing community by offering quality child care and education programs to Airdrie’s families. Their goal is to create a standard of excellence in childcare and education, providing programs that meet the diverse needs of Airdrie and the surrounding communities.”



Kinsmen Club of Canada – \$7,000 Grant for Gym Equipment. “KinCanada is an all-Canadian service organization made up of dedicated member volunteers who serve their community’s greatest needs through hosting and sponsoring events and community service projects. Since its founding, Kin, Kinsmen and Kinette clubs across Canada have contributed more than \$1 billion to Canadian communities and disaster relief programs beyond our borders.”



Staples (Airdrie) – Since 2015 Staples has supported FFLA through a variety of ways, such as sponsorship donations, in-kind printing, and gifts of both school and office supplies. They have also been an amazing partner by providing our school tools program and many of our technology purchases.



WestJet – Since 2013 WestJet has been donating annually “a gift of flight” to our school. This has raised over \$20,000 to date for our school.



Alberta Computers for Schools – Our partnership began in 2018 and it has brought technology into the hands of our students in a way we didn’t believe we ever could. “Computers for Schools is a national program that refurbishes computers donated from government, private business and individuals for use by schools, libraries, not-for-profit organizations, Indigenous communities and eligible low-income individuals.”



Accro Woodworking – Over the past 5 years Accro Woodworking has provided sponsorship donations to many FFLA events and has also been a supporter of our athletics program.



Canadian Website Solutions – This local Airdrie professional provided FFLA with much assistance and time in coding and developing our new Website. The digital expertise will give us the ability to keep our public platform updated on an ongoing basis. Thank you!



Clothing for a Cause – FFLA and Clothing for a Cause have been collaborating since 2016. “Clothing for a Cause has utilized the recycling of reusable clothing and household textiles to provide assistance to international groups since 2005, and has now recently starting providing the same opportunity to local schools, clubs and organizations.”

Thank you for
generously
supporting us!

In the past 10 years our
FFLA families have helped
to raise over \$100,000.00!!!

This through a variety of
donations and fundraisers.

