



**GLOBAL SPORT ACADEMY GROUP**



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Foothills School Division joins forces with Global Sport Academy Group taking sports program delivery to the next level**

***Partnership launches with grade 7-9 boys hockey program***

**HIGH RIVER, AB, April 28, 2015** – Foothills School Division is partnering with the Global Sport Academy Group to offer enhanced sports programming for student athletes. Beginning in September 2015, Foothills School Division (FSD) and Global Sport Academy Group will collaborate on a hockey program for boys entering grades 7 to 9, with an eye to expanding programming in the future.

Under the auspices of the new Foothills School Division Sports Academy, the male hockey program succeeds the Peak Athletics Hockey Program introduced by FSD in September 2013.

Global Sport Academy Group (Global) is a leader in the shifting paradigm of youth sports and development on a global scale, and collaborates with industry leaders throughout North America in multi-sport disciplines. The programming and execution of this new approach to sport learning and development will be brought to life within the framework of FSD's vision for leading and supporting student learning.

"In Foothills School Division, we are always striving to enhance our program offerings to meet the needs and interests of our students. Operating the Peak program has been a rewarding experience and we have learned a lot about how best to maintain the high quality programming we have established in this area as we move forward into the future. Through this new partnership, FSD and Global Sport Academy Group will focus on our core strengths, delivering a winning educational experience that integrates academics and athletics in a unified strategic vision," says John Bailey, Superintendent of Schools for Foothills School Division.

"Global is very excited to collaborate with Foothills School Division on this innovative program. From the beginning we have recognized that our goals are clearly aligned and we all have a common vision, which is to develop community leaders and well-rounded citizens who will impact their communities in a positive way," says Mark Maloney, CEO, Global Sport Academy Group.

In 2015-2016, the grade 7 to 9 boys hockey program will involve 20 to 24 players and four goaltenders per grade level. Participating students will continue to attend École Okotoks Junior High School, while on-ice training will shift from the Scott Seaman Sports Rink at Heritage Heights to the Okotoks Recreation Centre to reduce travel time between the school and the rink, and more closely integrate the program into the Okotoks school community. For more information and to apply online for the 2015-16 school year, interested students and families may visit

[www.globalsportsacademygroup.com](http://www.globalsportsacademygroup.com). Two information evenings are also planned:

- Tuesday, April 28 – 7:00-9:00 p.m. at École Okotoks Junior High School – 1 Pacific Ave.
- Thursday, May 21 – 7:00-9:00 p.m. at École Okotoks Junior High School – 1 Pacific Ave.

More...

## **Foothills School Division Sports Academy... contd.**

École Okotoks Junior High School Vice-Principal, Bill Holmes, will continue to serve as the lead administrator for the FSD Sports Academy program. FSD is also in the process of recruiting a certificated teacher to serve as program liaison, focusing on curriculum alignment with the Alberta Program of Studies, and student academic assessment, evaluation and reporting.

Looking ahead, FSD and Global will discuss expanding the boys hockey program into high school and adding a girls hockey program.

### **About Foothills School Division (FSD)**

FSD serves more than 8,000 students in junior kindergarten (pre-kindergarten) through grade 12, and employs over 800 teachers and support staff. Located on Calgary's southern border within the M.D. of Foothills, FSD serves the towns of Okotoks, High River, Turner Valley and Black Diamond, and the communities served by our Blackie, Cayley, Heritage Heights, Longview, Millarville and Red Deer Lake (south Calgary) schools. FSD operates 19 public schools, three Hutterite Colony schools and three open campus locations providing academic and behavioural support programs. As a public school division, we are here to improve learning for ALL students and offer a rich variety of quality programs and services to meet the needs and interests of our students. For more information please visit [www.fsd38.ab.ca](http://www.fsd38.ab.ca).

### **About Global Sport Academy Group (Global)**

Global, which also operates the Springbank Sports Academy at Springbank Community High School, is fortunate to work with some of the top players in the game. Program coaches have a vast array of experience at all levels of the game from professional down to the grassroots. CEO Mark Maloney, one of the program founders, along with Jeff Ovens and Jamie Fox, won the Calder Cup this past year with the Texas Stars of the American Hockey League in his role in player development with the Dallas Stars of the National Hockey League. Mark is also CEO of TheDrillBook, a technology and mobile development platform that is moving across the globe in the sports of hockey, soccer and baseball. Key members of Global's management group include Jeff Ovens, who was co-creator of FSD's Peak Athletics Hockey Program and development coach with the Medicine Hat Tigers of the Western Hockey League, and Jamie Fox, a successful grassroots hockey development builder. For more information please visit [www.globalsportsacademygroup.com](http://www.globalsportsacademygroup.com).

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### **For more information, please contact:**

Allen Davidson, Assistant Superintendent, Foothills School Division, 403-652-6501

Deborah Spence, Communications Manager, Foothills School Division, 403-652-6502 (direct), 403-422-0915 (mobile) or [SpenceD@fsd38.ab.ca](mailto:SpenceD@fsd38.ab.ca)

Jamie Fox, Director – Foothills School Division Sports Academy, Global Sport Academy Group, 403-993-1916 or [jfox@globalsportacademygroup.com](mailto:jfox@globalsportacademygroup.com)