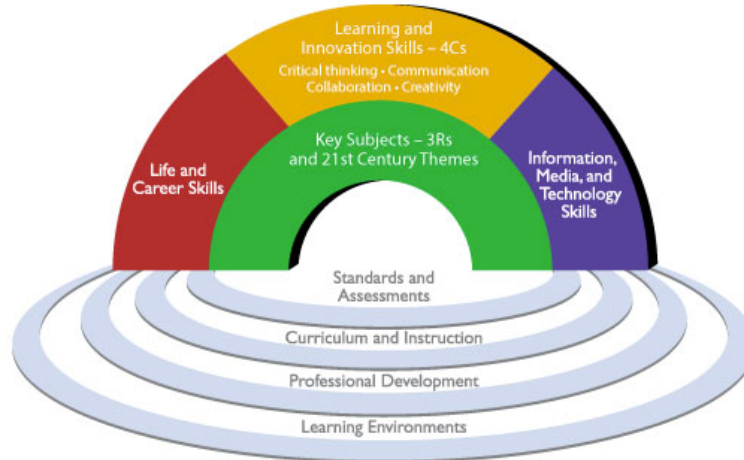


Fabulous Foothill Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas break with your family and those you love. At Foothill Elementary, we are committed to teaching the whole child. We desire to help every student become creative, critical problem solvers, and to love learning so they can be successful and happy in life, and contribute to the world. A framework that describes Foothill extremely well comes from the Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning (<http://www.p21.org>).



The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning framework is grounded in a positive learning environment. Our theme this year is “Leaving a Legacy through Kindness.” We desire that our students will love coming to school because they feel loved and know that they make a difference. We desire for them to live the Foothill Four (Courage, Courtesy, Responsibility, and Respect) and Dr. B’s Challenge (see end of my message). We know the learning environment is essential for learning.

The top of the framework describes STEAM perfectly with the 4Cs: Critical thinking, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity. As a STEAM school, we purposefully integrate all of the key subjects to ensure students learn these 4Cs. Also, our epic grant and efforts to purposefully utilize technology in STEAM help students prepare for career, college, and ultimately for life.

Teachers are the most important part to student learning and are foundational in all that we do. The things we do as a Professional Learning Community (weekly Monday collaboration, professional development, curriculum/instruction, and standards/assessments to name a few) support teachers in their work and help build capacity as each of us continually learn.

At the end of January, a team of teachers and I will be traveling to Boston to learn how to become even better at what we do. We will visit a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning School, the Museum of Science in Boston, MIT, and a school district implementing technology particularly well. We are in the process of applying to become a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning exemplary school (only 40 exemplary schools in the nation) since we are living these things already and hope to continue to improve. We would be the first 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning school not only in Utah, but also in all of Utah’s neighboring states. At Foothill, we truly desire to leave a legacy one child at a time as we continue to lead our district and state!

Sincerely,

Dr. Backman (Dr. B.)  
Principal, Foothill Elementary

Be Kind. Be Optimistic. Learn. Work Hard. And Live Life to the Fullest!