

# Autism Society Wood Buffalo



Lower level of the Local 707A  
UNIFOR Building  
25B-10019  
MacDonald Ave,  
Fort McMurray, AB  
T9H 1S9  
  
587-452-9334

## Autism Society of Wood Buffalo News

We hope everyone managed to stay warm during February. It seems we are seeing better weather and longer days now!

February 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> we gathered parents and service workers to share their experiences navigating services and supports for persons with neurodevelopmental disabilities and mental health. The sessions were part of a study through University of Calgary. We look forward to being a part of this work moving forward.

With thanks to Blake Crossley and his Boston4Kids journey were wrapped up another

fundraiser. Three lucky people walked away with some pretty cool prizes.

You may have noticed on our social media pages some mention of 40 Assets. We are part of a community group, Assets in Action, working together to promote positive youth development in our region. For more information on the Assets visit:

[www.search-insitute.org](http://www.search-insitute.org)

On February 20<sup>th</sup> we held our Annual General Meeting. Our new board is excited for all 2019 will bring!

### VISION

*We envision a centre in RMWB that will be recognized as the primary provider of support and services in our community and surrounding areas. Every person will have access to a center that provides the ability to bridge the gap between families, professionals, education support and assessments. Our goal is to guide families and individuals to the supports needed at each stage of their life.*

### MISSION

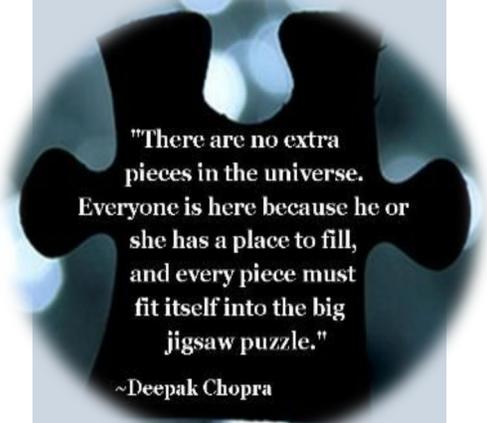
*We strive to accommodate a support network that fosters an inclusive community by providing information, supports, awareness and programs to all those in our community affected by ASD and other barriers.*

## April is Autism Awareness Month

### **How will you spread awareness in April?**

Our Community Ambassador would love to work with your school, organization or business to assist you in creating a campaign for next month. Whether you choose to celebrate for one day or the whole month we have resources that will help you build awareness in a way that will work for you! From hosting a "Go Blue" day April 2<sup>nd</sup> to creating small challenges aimed to raise awareness throughout the month of April, we can help you "make the pieces fit"!

**For more information contact  
Nicole Spring – Community Ambassador  
780-215-2459  
autismrep@gmail.com**



# What's on the go in March?



**K-SNAP**  
KIDS' SPECIAL NEEDS ACTIVITY PROGRAM

A program designed for children who would benefit from a semi structured group program where they will improve on their physical fitness and social communication. Come visit us on March 3rd for our first session!

WHEN: Sundays 10am-12pm (Starting March 3rd)  
AGES: 6-12 yrs  
COST: Free  
WHERE: Fort McMurray Boys & Girls Club (20 Riedel Street)

For more information or to register email: [youth@fmbgc.ca](mailto:youth@fmbgc.ca)



## SOCIAL-RESPITE PROGRAM

A new and exciting respite program for youth; an opportunity to build friendships and social interactions while taking part in recreational activities.



Interest-based, youth-led program	Mondays, Wednesdays & Saturdays	For youth aged 11-17 yrs
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Call 780-531-5777 for more information



### SENSORY FRIENDLY JUMP TIME!

Aim High Park and the Autism Society of Wood Buffalo are excited to offer sensory friendly jump times – launching 9-11am April 4th 2018. We invite our children who love to jump but struggle with sensory stimulation to join us during our sensory friendly jump times. During these times the park will only be open to our card holding children, their siblings and caregivers. The music will be low, and you can enjoy bouncing with less crowds.

**What you need to know...**

- Admission is \$10 with sensory discount card.
- \$10 admission is for one jumper & caregiver
- Each jumper will need trampoline socks (you can reuse them next time!)

School days: Wednesdays 2-3pm  
School holidays: Wednesdays 9-11am

To get your Sensory Jumping Card...  
Email: [secretary@autismrmwb.org](mailto:secretary@autismrmwb.org)  
or  
Call or text: 780-531-5777




## FINANCIAL PLANNING

March 12th  
7pm - 9pm



### INFORMATION SESSION

Are you looking for some advice or answers about planning for you or your child's financial future? Join us for a free information sessions where we will cover topics ranging from RDSP, Life Insurance, Education Funds, Taxes.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**  
587-425-9334  
[www.autismrmwb.org](http://www.autismrmwb.org)

Autism Society office  
10019 MacDonald Ave  
Lower level of the UNIFOR building



## JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY IN MARCH

### Royal Canadian Legion

Games begin at 1pm  
Doors open at 12pm

## Next General Meeting

### Wed March 6th 7pm-9pm

You are invited to attend the Monthly General Meeting of the Autism Society of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.






To find out what events and programs are upcoming or on the go visit our website **AUTISM RMWB.ORG**

Or find us on Facebook **@autismRMWB**

## Lending Shelf

We know how expensive it can get to purchase sensory aids, resources and toys, so we have started a lending shelf. All the donated items are available to be leant out and tested by families, caregivers and workers.

We offer items such as, ball chairs, move and sit seats, learning tools, games, education resources, books and more.

The lending shelf is open to everyone. Our members have an unlimited access to the materials.



## MEMBERSHIP

AUTISM SOCIETY OF THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO  
25B-10019 MACDONALD AVENUE, FT MCMURRAY, AB. T9H 1S9



Join the growing number of families, professionals and community members that make up the Autism Society of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

Together we can raise awareness and bring positive changes in our community

The Society's mission is to accommodate a support network that fosters an inclusive community by providing information, supports, awareness and programs to all those in our community affected by ASD and other barriers.

### Why become a member of our Society?

- **Support:** in the form of parent discussion groups, information sessions on various topics, information and advice on working with your child's school or simply a friendly ear on the end of a phone.
- **Voting rights:** when you purchase a paid membership and agree to the Society's By-Laws, Values, Vision and Mission.
- **Advocate:** be a voice for our autism community. Help us to raise awareness and supports for people with special needs in our region.
- **Opportunity:** to be involved with committees, events and activities to work towards an inclusive community.

### Benefits to becoming a member:

- Unlimited access to our Lending Library.
- 10% off items purchased in our Sensory Store.
- Early registration for summer camp and other specialized programming.
- Early access to family events such as Tubing, Easter Egg Hunt, Family Camping, etc.
- Member rates for workshops, seminars and conferences
- Receive bi-monthly newsletters, updating on the Society's work in the community and upcoming events.
- Discounts with community partners (e.g. Aim High)

### How to become a member:

- **Complete:** 'Voting Membership' application form; agreeing to Autism Society of the Regional Municipality's Terms & Conditions.
- **Pay \$20 annually:** either by cash, EMT ([autismsupport@autismrmwb.org](mailto:autismsupport@autismrmwb.org)) or through our shop tab link on our Facebook page.

Please see our website for more information: <http://autismrmwb.org/become-a-member/>

## Become a Member Today

Ever wondered who can become a member of the Autism Society of the RMWB?

Anyone over 18yrs old can, that's who!!

Why should you become a member?

You will receive free or reduced cost admission to events, early bird registration for family events and programs (such as Camp Kids First), 10% off items in our Sensory Store, the chance to vote at our Annual General Meeting and Special Meetings and much more!

How can you join?

Click the 'Shop Now' button on our Facebook page to purchase annual membership for \$20 or go to our website for more ways to join.

<http://autismrmwb.org/become-a-member/>

## The Missing Piece Project

With thanks to Autism Speaks Canada the Autism Society Wood Buffalo was able to begin an Ambassador Program in 2017. We have been fortunate to sustain this program thanks to funding provided by The RMWB Community Investment Program. The program allows us to continue community office hours, a community ambassador and the expansion of the Missing Piece Project. The Ambassador is here to provide support and guidance with connecting individuals to programs, supports and information. As well as providing education and awareness to the community through public engagements, presentations and information.

- Present to your group on topics such as inclusion, introduction to autism, and general awareness.
- Help your organization or business create an awareness campaign
- Connect individuals to services and supports with in our region
- Advocate with families
- Provide information
- Connect with and create relationships with organizations in the community to assist them in creating inclusive programming

The Missing Pieces Program is a resource intended to promote and educate others about Autism Spectrum Disorder. It covers topics of understanding ASD, acceptance, how to assist and include others by understanding differences. Each contains activities designed to promote inclusion, understanding and acceptance and will be tailored to the specific user group.

The resource can be borrowed from the Autism Society office with training provided if required. A presentation by an autism ambassador is also available.

Intended audience for the program are for educational staff, Students (K-6 kits available), community groups and employers.

We are excited to soon be launching a video series titled One More Piece, as an extension of this initiative.

## The Missing Piece Learning about Autism Spectrum Disorder

PRESENTED BY



**AUTISM SOCIETY**  
OF THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO

