

# Autism Society

Of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo



## SOCIETY NEWS

March is finally here which brings some pretty exciting things to look forward to! First of all, we are that much closer to summer (!! ) and second of all, APRIL ACCEPTANCE CAMPAIGN is right around the corner! Attached to this newsletter you will see all of our exciting events that will be happening during the month. As always, if you have questions please do not hesitate to contact us!

We also have a couple ongoing fundraisers happening, they will be attached as well!

Our Social Respite program has been quite successful these past few months as well, with 393 total respite hours just in February!

A big thank you to everyone who have donated to our society and camp fund within the past couple months. Your generous donations will help many kids at our summer camp – Training for our staff, boat rides, activities, etc.

If you would like to take part in our April events or donate, please contact us with the information below!

We hope to see you all (virtually) in April!



### Contact us!

Lower level of the Local 707A UNIFOR Building  
21B-10019 MacDonald Ave,  
Fort McMurray, AB  
T9H 1S9

Phone: 587-452-9334

Email: [autismsupport@autismrmwb.org](mailto:autismsupport@autismrmwb.org)

Website: [www.autismrmwb.org](http://www.autismrmwb.org)

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram,  
and Twitter!



→ @autismRMWB

### 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.

### Values

- Support an inclusive community by respecting people, valuing diversity, and a commitment to equality
  - Raising awareness and understanding to create acceptance in the community
  - Empowering individuals to achieve their goals
  - Inspiring optimism in the community
- Provide an emotionally safe and supportive setting.

# April “National Days”



## April 2021

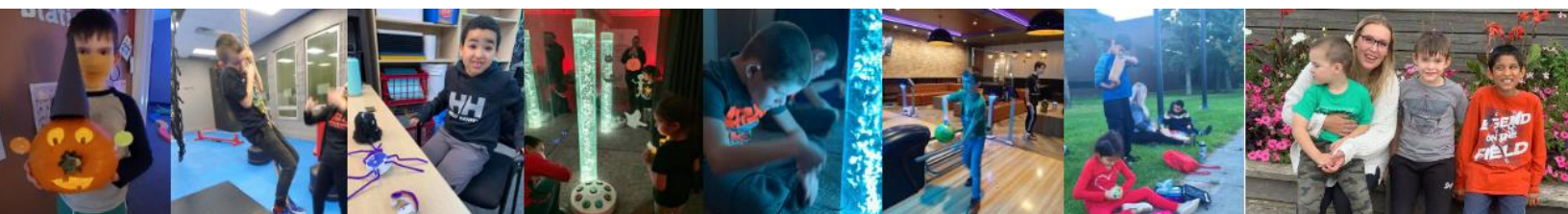
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Rock-a-Thon Kickoff!	2 Autism Awareness Day	3 Love your Children Day
4 Easter	5 Deep Dish Pizza Day	6 Caramel Popcorn Day	7 Beer Day	8 All is Ours Day	9 Unicorn Day Name Yourself Day	10 Sibling Day
11 Poutine Day	12 Licorice Day	13 Scrabble Day	14 Laughter Day	15 Art Day	16 Eggs Benedict Day	17 Haiku Day
18 Animal Cracker Day	19 Bike Day Hangout Day	20 Look Alike Day	21 Admin Professional Day Canadian Film Day	22 Jellybean Day Earth Day	23 Picnic Day Book Day	24 Skipping Day
25 Telephone Day	26 Pretzel Day	27 Tell A Story Day	28 Superhero Day Denim Day	29 Dance Day	30 Hairstylist Appreciation Day	

As many may know, April is Autism Awareness Month, with April 2nd being National Autism Awareness day. With COVID still restricting our ability to host events we have come up with a fun filled month of virtual activities that will help us spread acceptance and awareness.

Autism acceptance is more than a day or a month, it is something we need to work towards every day. We don't need a special day to talk about and learn about autism, we need to make it part of our everyday lives. We have taken a month of regular days and fun “national days” in hopes we can spread more awareness and understanding on how we can ensure autistic individuals in our community are accepted and included.

We encourage you, your business or your school to get involved and join in on some of the fun. Instead of wearing blue on April 2nd, host a Pajama Day on April 16th for National Pajama Day. Share a Haiku on April 17th and tag us in your post for National Haiku day. Let staff wear jeans on April 28th for National Denim day. Check out our calendar and see how you could incorporate some fun days! We will help you out with some messaging and information to share, and ideas on activities for the day!

We are reaching out to businesses in the community to help with some of the dates so watch our social media pages for updates and information.



# Big Event – SAVE THE DATE



## The Autism Society of the RMWB Presents:



On **April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021**, The Autism Society of the RMWB will be hosting a virtual Comedy show with comedians **Comics Not Otherwise Specified**. This Comedy show and Keynote Presentation features 4 Autistic Adults that consider themselves "the world's most awkward boyband". Keep an eye out on our Social Media for a link to purchase Tickets!

Below are the Comedians Bios:

**Michael McCreary** is an autistic comedian, author (Funny, You Don't Look Autistic) and TEDX speaker who has been performing stand-up comedy since age 13. In the past 6 years, he has performed stand-up shows and keynote addresses in every province in Canada – plus the Yukon - and across the United States. He has been featured on The National and on CBC Radio's "Laugh Out Loud"! Michael gives you permission to laugh at his act "Does This Make My Asperger's Look Big?" <https://www.aspiecomic.com/>

**Curran Dobbs** is an up-and-coming autistic comedian from Victoria. His dry delivery has entertained audiences in BC, and at the ANCA World Autism Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland. Curran was a finalist in Vancouver's Yuk Off (2019). He has also appeared in films, including a starring role in the short film Godhead, which has been featured at, among others, the Toronto International Film Festival and the Cannes Film Festival. @Currandobbs

**Adam Schwartz** is a stand-up comedian and author. Adam is a finalist for Winnipeg's wackiest comedian with a day job, Rumour's comedian with a day job and has appeared in the Winnipeg Comedy Festival. Adam is a regular on the Fringe Festival circuit and his show Aspergers: A Tale of a Social Misfit has sold out in many cities. Adam's books include "I have Aspergers so I'm better than you," and "Shh... don't tell mom" as well as a children's book "Ana and the Substitute Teacher". <https://www.adamschwartzcomedy.com/>

**Pat Tiffin** is a comedian, blogger, and comedy show producer from London Ontario. He spent the last 10 years honing his craft all over southwestern Ontario. In 2012, he won the Funny 1410 "So You Think You're Funny?" Contest. In 2019, Pat was selected as one of the Top 100 for CBC's Next Up. Later that year, Pat helped co-found the "London Laughs" Comedy Festival. When he's not on stage, you can find him on the weekends at Yuk Yuk's London and producing shows under 340 Comedy Collective moniker.

# ROCK-A-THON



## ***It's ROCK A THON TIME!!***

Are you ready? The 2019 event raised just over \$3800 and rocked for a combined 386 hours!! Sadly, COVID forced us to cancel the event last year.

**This year we are setting a goal of \$5000, and 500 hours rocked.**

**The Autism Society of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo** would like to challenge schools, businesses, organizations and families to participate in our Second **Rock-a-Thon** during the month of **April**. All funds will help support our mission to accommodate an inclusive support network for all in our community.

### **Here's how it works:**

**Step 1-Have your team set a rocking goal (how many hours would you like to rock in the month) and a donation goal.**

-Once your goal is set, please contact the Autism Society by **March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021** and we will provide your team with a poster, tracking sheets and donation forms. We will also provide some information to have at your rocking area so that those participating can learn more about sensory needs and ASD.

**Step 2-Find a rocking chair or 2.**

-Make sure your team knows where to find it and how to track their rocking time.

**Step 3-Rock for however many hours that you decided during the month of April.**

-How your team rocks, is up to you: you can rock an hour a day or hold an event and have several people rock at once.

**Alternate ways to participate** – Set up a rocking area in your business/organization and have a donation bin. To sit in the rocking area, people will donate to your goal. Have them fill in how long they rocked to help you achieve your “timed rocked” goal.

**Rocking not your thing?** That's okay, the reason for this event is to bring awareness and acceptance for the need of people to have a safe place to self-regulate. Instead of a rocking area create a quiet area people can access to do what they require. We will provide information on stimming and suggestions on items you could include in the area.

The team who raises the most donations will receive a trophy and most importantly **BRAGGING RIGHTS!** So, let's get rocking Wood Buffalo...we can help raise awareness and acceptance!

Thank you for all your Support!!

**#ROCKONWB**



# Fundraisers



## APRIL IS AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

Help us reach our fundraising goal by ordering a shirt that can be worn throughout April to show acceptance!

**\$20 ADULT | \$15 KIDS**



Adult Sizes: Sm, Med, Lg, XL, 2XL  
Kid Sizes: Xs, Sm, Med, Lg, XL



Please contact  
jennalocke0@gmail.com to order!  
Include size, adult or child, total  
number, and color.

Autism Society of the RMWB Presents

*Online Silent Auction*

April 1st, 2021 - April 31st, 2021

If you or your business have any items that you would like to donate to our Silent Auction please contact:  
jennal@autismrmwb.org



## SPRING IS ALMOST HERE, GET YOUR GARDENS READY NOW!

The Autism Society of the RMWB is holding a seed fundraiser.  
All of the proceeds go directly to our programming.

To order visit <https://shop.makeitsow.com>

Use **username:** autismsupport@autismrmwb.org

**Password:** autismsupport1 at checkout!

\*\* Please keep the shipping address the same, just change the billing address to your address. \*\*



## The Autism Society of the RMWB is holding a hanging basket fundraiser!

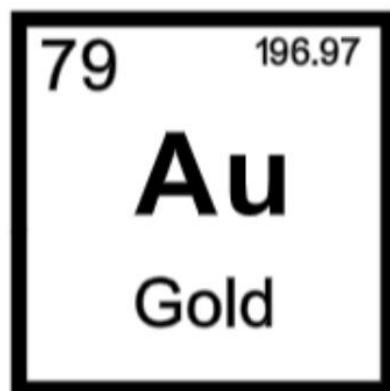
Don't miss out on the chance to get  
beautiful Organic Calibrachoa,  
Geraniums, Petunias, mixed plants,  
Strawberry, Tomato baskets and Organic  
Fertilizer.

Please visit our Shop tab on our  
Facebook page to order!

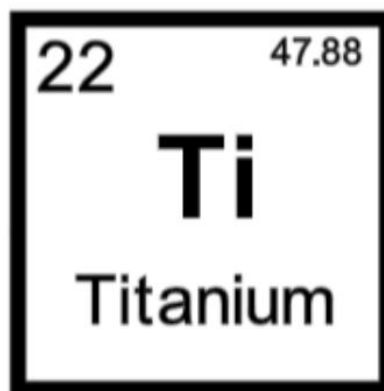
Orders must be made by April  
22nd for delivery by May 12th



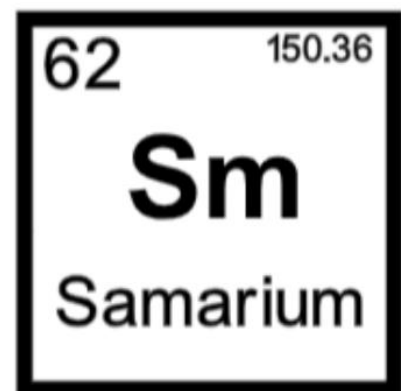
# Thank You to Our Sponsors!



**Valuable**



**Strong**



**Talented**