

# Autism Society Wood Buffalo



Lower level of the Local 707A  
UNIFOR Building  
21B-10019  
MacDonald Ave,  
Fort McMurray, AB  
T9H 1S9  
  
587-452-9334

## Autism Society of Wood Buffalo News

2020 is off to a busy start! We are happy to be expanding our programs, services and our space! We are all moved into our new office and program room. (same location just a bit further down the hall)

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the newly formed Special Olympics Wood Buffalo committee to our community. For more information on activities and events visit their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SpecialOlympicsWB/>

Our board of directors has been working hard to create multiple information sessions for the new

year. Check out the "What's Going On In February" (page 2) to see what is coming up.

Collaborations and partnerships are what assist social profit organization to be able to provide services. We are happy to announce our renewed partnership with the Wood Buffalo Regional Library. They are assisting in the creation of new programming and opportunities for our adult community to connect. Our society is working with Neurodiversity YMM to ensure our programs meet the need of those they are intended to serve.

## 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!

But 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, discounts at some local businesses, 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/>

### 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.*



*"There are no extra pieces in the universe. Everyone is here because he or she has a place to fill, and every piece must fit itself into the big jigsaw puzzle."*

*~Deepak Chopra*

# What's on the go in February?

**February 2nd**

## Music & movement class with Ms. Karla

COME ENJOY SOME SINGING, DANCING & INSTRUMENT PLAYING!  
 SUNDAY FEBRUARY 2ND - 1-1:45PM  
 AT CHRISTINA GORDON SCHOOL, TIMBERLEA

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A PARENTED CLASS FOR CHILDREN AGED 3-7 YRS AND CHILDREN OF ALL ABILITIES WELCOME!

Email [programdirector@autismrmwb.org](mailto:programdirector@autismrmwb.org) for more details

**THE HUB**  
 FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

## LOW SENSORY PLAY

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH **AUTISM SOCIETY**  
OF THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO

### TUESDAYS

**8:45-9:45 AM**

**THE HUB TIMBERLEA**  
 (#6-118 Millennium Dr.)

This program is designed for families with children who are living with Autism or requiring low-sensory environments.

[www.thehubfrc.ca](http://www.thehubfrc.ca)

### Wednesday Night Activities: Paint Night

Wednesday, February 5  
 5:30-7:00pm

Adults with exceptionalities are invited to join us the first Wednesday of each month for programming tailored just for you!

In partnership with: **AUTISM SOCIETY**

For more information, please contact 780-743-7804-780-743-7073 or [reference@wbri.ca](mailto:reference@wbri.ca).

## Level Up!

Tuesdays  
 1:00-3:00pm

Do you like video games?

Stop by our drop-in program for adults with exceptionalities, every Tuesday!  
 Relax, play and have fun!

In partnership with: **AUTISM SOCIETY**

For more information, please contact 780-743-7804-780-743-7073 or [reference@wbri.ca](mailto:reference@wbri.ca).

## THINKING OF STARTING A BUSINESS FOR YOUR ADULT CHILD WITH ASD?

In 2012, Dr. Deborah Barrett co-founded Anthony at Your Service to create a good life for her adult son, Anthony, a low-verbal man with significant autism. Today, the business allows Anthony, and 20 others like him, to have visible, paid work in Edmonton and Calgary.

On Thursday, February 6, Deborah, who never saw herself as an entrepreneur, will be presenting at the Autism Edmonton's Parents of Adults Group. She will talk about the process that led to launching Anthony at Your Service, the surprises, the learnings, and what it takes to create a business for your loved one on the spectrum.

Thursday, February 6, 7-9 p.m.  
 Autism Edmonton  
 101, 11720 Kingsway Ave  
 Cost: Free  
 RSVP to [patricieretrett@autismedmonton.org](mailto:patricieretrett@autismedmonton.org)

WOOD BUFFALO SPECIAL OLYMPICS ALBERTA

## BOWLING!

CALLING ALL ATHLETES  
 COME DOWN AND REGISTER AT THE ALLEY  
 TUESDAY JAN 28TH FOR ADULTS,  
 SATURDAY FEB 1ST FOR YOUTH

**Adult Athletes**  
 TUESDAYS  
 6:30PM - 8PM  
\*Final Date: June 9, 2020

**Youth Athletes**  
 SATURDAYS  
 9AM - 10:30AM  
\*Final Date: June 19, 2020

One-Time Registration Fee \$25.00  
 Game Fee/Per Night \$8.50

Special Olympics Qualified. Intellectual Disability Required

Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.

[www.facebook.com/SpecialOlympicsAB](http://www.facebook.com/SpecialOlympicsAB)



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**

With thanks to Reginal Municipality of Wood Buffalo and their Community Impact Program grant we have been fortunate to sustain this program thanks to their funding consideration for 2020. The program allows us to continue community office hours and a continued contract with a Community Development Officer (CDO) who's roll with our society is to provide community training and engagement. The CDO 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 proگرامing

The Missing Pieces Program is a resource intended to promote acceptance and educate others about Autism Spectrum Disorder. It covers topics of understanding ASD, acceptance, how to assist and include others by understanding differences. Each lending bin 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.

