



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER AUTISM CONNECTIONS FREDERICTON

It has been a very busy December but now things are winding down for the holiday break. The Centre will be closed from December 21st until January 3rd. The new year looks very promising with a number of new initiatives. In January the Centre will have a second staff person joining the team. The position of "Opportunities Development Coordinator" is a new position that will help to increase our capacity to develop new programs and partnerships. This is very exciting.

Our Christmas Party was a huge success. A special Thank You to members of the Canadian military for supplying the Centre with a tree (outdoor) fully decorated and a wonderful Santa Claus whom the kids really enjoyed. It was so heart warming to see so many families take part in this annual celebration.

January will bring new opportunities and new programming. We hope to begin **Cooking and Nutrition Classes**, bring back **Tae Kwon Do** and a **Reading Program for Kids**. New programming will include a much needed **Parent Support Group**, a **March Break Camp**, **Art Classes** and a few workshops to be announced in the New Year. Of course we will still have the **Adult Chill and Chat**, **Speaker Series**, **Gymnastics** and **Youth Nights** in partnership with OPAL Family Services.

The "**Art is a Spectrum**" **Art Gallery Project** will be ready for an early March launch and we are excited to bring the permanent display in to our centre for all to enjoy year round. This project has a wonderful partnership with the New Brunswick College of Craft and Design. There are many other initiatives in the planning stages and 2019 plans to be a busy year for the Centre.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our board of directors for tremendous support and guidance as well as the many volunteers who are essential for the centre to offer the wide range of programming and special events. A special wish to all for a happy holiday and joyful time with family and friends. See you in the new year.

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