

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER AUTISM CONNECTIONS FREDERICTON



It has been a very busy month, but also a month with great progress. Of course, the highlight would be our bowling event which raised \$25,000 of much needed funds. A special thank you to all that participated and supported this event. Our programming has also been excellent. The Parents and Tots program is wonderful and growing (4:00 until 5:00 on Wednesdays). Gymnastics is back as well on Wednesdays (5:00 – 6:00).

Our speaker series had an excellent presentation from Bruno Hache and was well attended. We are now switching gears and getting ready for Christmas and some new programming in January. One of the new programs will be a cooking and nutrition workshop which will include food safety, preparation and handling. This is exciting.

I am pleased to introduce two new members to our team. Dylan Whalley will be with us for six months and he is responsible for social media and library services. Amy Cyr joined our team on an internship from Eastern College and she will be working on our resource guide for families. Their help is awesome. Because we now have extra staff **the Centre will be open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 - 4:30.**

Our annual Christmas party is coming up on December 6th from 4:00 until 7:00. This will be a fun event with Food and of course a visit from Santa. In addition, this year we will be setting up at the Brookside Mall for fundraising. We start on December 2nd with the arrival of Santa. We will be holding **two raffles at the mall:** one for a *Baby Quilt* and one for a *Christmas Basket* full of gifts.

We are looking for volunteers who may be interested in taking a few shifts, any help would be appreciated. Just contact the office: acf@nb.aibn.com

We are also still looking for both books and toys. Any donations of autism related books to add to our library would be a great help in assisting families that need information and resources. Toy donations would be a great help as well; the centre would benefit greatly from contributions of old toys that families don't need any more. Things like action figures, mega-blocks and Lego are very suitable but we will accept many different kinds.

Our AGM will be coming up in late January and we hope to see many of you there. The future is exciting as we try to build better and more readily accessible services for families in our area. One of the things Dylan is working on is digitizing our library so our members can get access online. This will be a big help for those looking for resources.

We at the Centre wish all of you a happy festive season and all the best for 2018!

Rick Hutchins
Executive Director
Autism Connections Fredericton