



Early Childhood + School Age Community Conversation Notes: February 8th, 2023

TRENDS:

- Baby & Me has seen lower attendance because there's been quite a lot of sickness in that demographic.
- Seeing more food insecurity and financial instability with families.
- Alberta Supports continues to prove difficult to use with 2+ hours wait times.
- Teens are really busy travelling; they are engaged and we're not hearing "I'm bored" as much. Teens are struggling with study habits and their final tests as a result.
- Increase in kids having anxiety.
- Routine immunizations, healthy beginnings.
- Alberta Health Services (AHS) reporting an outbreak of Gonorrhoea, Syphilis and Chlamydia.
- AHS is reporting a swing back to health promotion facilitation. Alberta Health Services Addictions/Mental Health is still short staffed. There are financial challenges, as well as addictions and mental health issues on the rise. Provincial "residential" Tx facilities are free. But, hard to get into.
- Early Childhood parents are seeking treatment for addictions and then on their return home seeing a hard dynamic to adjust to.
- RCMP's Community Conversation: concern about cyclists not following traffic laws.
- Catalytic Converter robberies are crimes of opportunity, not a local crime issue.
- Parents are struggling with kids' issues.

COMMUNITY UPDATES:

- Public health has lost their travel program. People now need to travel to a larger centre to obtain travel vaccinations. Children over 5 can obtain vaccinations at a pharmacy. Families with children under 5 will need to travel.
- The Early Learning and Childcare strategy - associated Action Plan coming soon.
- Project coordinator position posted for Community Development.
- Jasper Park Cycling Association is bringing back Pedal Pushers.
- The Library is offering Food for Fines again this month until Feb 17.
- Thursday and Friday were PD days and there were 20 teens going on the Ice Walk. Friday was rock climbing. Rec Room is great! Pool activities are a hit.
- Youth Community Helpers made emergency food packs.
- The Gay Straight Alliance is building momentum.
- Indoor playgroup on Wednesdays and Fridays has added a craft component to Fridays. The program, *Van Gogh's Violets* runs for an hour inside of the Friday Indoor Playgroup time.
- RCMP Musical Ride coming back in June.
- Council looking into town-wide internet.
- The Library offers story time every Saturday, 10:30am with a craft.
- Tween Takeover is still happening at the Library.
- The Library is still accepting technology that doesn't work.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS OR EVENTS:

- Coldest Night of the Year: Food Bank/Jasper Community Team Society fundraiser. Sign up for a 2km or 5km walk through the community. Raising awareness for homelessness, food insecurity and mental health.
- February 22 is Pink Shirt Day. Community Dinner on the 19th will be Pink Shirt Day themed.
- Go Girl is coming up.
- Circle of Security will be running again soon.
- Storytelling Night on February 21st is a fundraiser for Wildflowers. Local Jasperites telling stories about Jasper and its locals.
- Youth and teen programs coming in June.
- February 22, 6-8PM Grande Yellowhead Public School Division Engagement session

ACTION:

- **MC and Torr:** to share study skills.
- **Lisa** Look into Aynsley/Jenn sessions
- Will weave in food insecurity ages 0-4, Grade 6-9
- **Tor:** Get Wendy GSA Valentine's Day swag for Council to wear
- **Lisa:** Add sexual health (did you know) box
- Parent meet-ups/support
- **Everyone** stress the importance of public health in schools.
- **Everyone** importance of GYPSD bus in town.

What do you think?

- ✓ [Municipal public engagement opportunities](#)
- ✓ [Give feedback, contact council or report an issue.](#)
- ✓ [You can also contact council by emailing them.](#)

All things Community Conversations:

- ✓ [Community Conversations schedule and information](#)
- ✓ Community Conversations most recent notes

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