

Mental health awareness week

May 1 to 7 is [Mental Health Week](#) in Canada. Chinook's Edge recognizes the importance of ensuring students have good mental health. CESD [has a number of supports in place](#), including a proactive program called "YES". YES stands for Youth Empowerment and Support. YES impacts all students in kindergarten through Grade 8.



YES club fun with Grade 2 girls at Cremona School (left), and at River Valley School (right)

YES "success coaches" go into all K-8 classrooms many times each school year to promote awareness of mental health protective factors and enhance social and emotional development. Success coaches also create programming and activities at schools - often in the form of a lunchtime or after school club - that encourage positive self-esteem, confidence and coping skills. The programs and activities are based on the social-emotional needs of students at each school. Some examples: Harry Potter club, gardening or



cooking club, crafting clubs, and board game activities."

We try to have a wide variety of activities that fit the needs and interests of students," says Raelynn Notley, YES Program Manager, Chinook's Edge School Division. "Our work is based around play and connection. If we can help kids develop social-emotional skills, resiliency, and a sense of connection, we are helping them with their mental health."



CESD bus driver, Melissa Brodeur

Bus driver appreciation day

May 1 is bus driver appreciation day - and we are so grateful for all of our great drivers!

Did you know:

- Our bus drivers transport 3,957 students safely to and from school each day?
- Chinook's Edge has 117 bus drivers and 30 spare bus drivers.
- Our buses travel 2,629,375 kilometers per year. That's enough kilometers to travel around the earth's equator 65.5 times!

Also, did you know, our bus drivers and transportation department ensure all school buses and their riders go through safety drills twice each year (as you can see in the photo)? That's to ensure everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency.

"Thanks to our bus drivers," says Kurt Sacher, Superintendent of Schools. "We appreciate each and every one of you so much. Thank you for ensuring our students arrive safely at school every day, and thank you for caring about them in the way that you do. You are making a significant difference!"



Bus safety drills, like this one in Penhold, happen throughout CESD twice a year