

December 2023 Newsletter

Principal's Message

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Well, I suppose it isn't with all this warm weather. But Christmas is right around the corner! It is going to be an awesome season - we have a lot of great things going on.

First off, the word of the month that we have chosen for December is "reciprocity" or "giving back". We have a number of initiatives that we are supporting to try and give back to our local community:

- 1) Silver Linings - Mrs. Hudey has partnered with an organization in Coaldale that provides Christmas gifts for seniors. We are collecting aero chocolate bars, popcorn twists, and shampoo to donate to this organization. Some classes will also be writing cards to give to the seniors.
- 2) Angel Tree - we are also a drop off location for Angel Tree again this year. If you are interested in providing a gift, feel free to grab a little "angel" from the office, purchase a gift, and return it to school. We will then deliver them to Angel Tree.
- 3) Food Bank - the last few Christmases we have donated non-perishable food items to the local Food Bank. This is a great way to support families in our Lethbridge communities. Feel free to send any donations with your child(ren).

We also have some great events happening over the next few weeks. First off, we have a simplified version of our "12 days of Christmas" that we will start celebrating next week. A couple members of the Lethbridge Hurricanes will be visiting the school on December 6th. They will hang out with the students at recess and then sign some autographs in each classroom. We also have our mini-volleyball tournament on December 7th, which is always a lot of fun. There will be volleyball starting at 2 o'clock, along with a small concession for students and families. Lastly, we have our Christmas concert on Tuesday, December 19th. We will have an afternoon performance at 1:00 and an evening performance at 6:00. Like last year, we are planning on allocating 2 tickets to each performance per family.

On our Professional Development day on Friday, December 1st, we will be looking at the data collected from our visioning night to start crafting a new mission/vision. It will incorporate a lot of the great things that are happening at our school, as well as the feedback provided by staff, students, and parents. When I have a draft document, I will be sure to share it with parents for feedback.

I also wanted to say thank you to all of you, the parents. This is such a special little school and I am so appreciative of all the work of this wonderful community. Whether we have 6 or 7 parents volunteering for hot lunches, or 20 parents at our School Council meetings, or all of you having conversations with your children about what it means to be kind, respectful, caring members of our school community. Thank you for all your support!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call or send me an email!

Mitchell Van Dyk



December 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 PD Day no school for Students	2
3	4 Hot lunch Sweet & sour Meatballs & Rice	5 Volleyball 3:30-4:45 Grade 1/2 Pavan Park	6 Lethbridge Hurricanes Visit School Council meeting	7 Mini-Volley ball Tournament 2:00 PM	8	9
11	11 Hot lunch Pulled Pork	12 Kindergarten Field trip to Coaldale Food Market	13	14	15	16
17	18 Hot Lunch Hot Dogs	19 Christmas Concert and Bake Sale 1:00 Pm and 6:00 Pm	20	21 Turkey Dinner	22 No School first day of Christmas Holidays	23
24	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31	First Day Back to School is January 8					

Music/Fine Arts

The students are working hard to bring you a fabulous Christmas production called *Star Bucks*. Each class has been busy learning songs with choreography (actions), and can't wait to perform for you at the concert on Dec 19. Costume requirements are very simple. Please send items to school labelled with your child's name as soon as possible, and they will be kept here safely until the concert.

Kindergarten-Reindeer antlers (\$ Store)

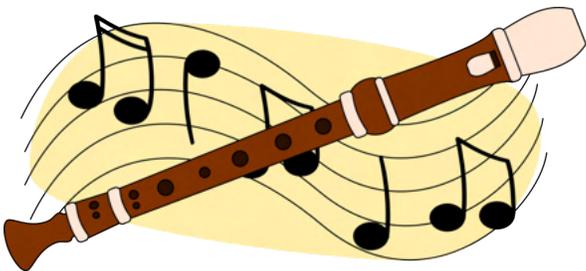
Grade 1/2- any combination of: sunglasses, hat, beaded necklace

Grade 3/4- nothing specific required

Grade 5- nothing specific required

Grade 6- Elves: as much green and red as possible

Reindeer: brown pants/shirt, \$ store antlers



In the new year, I would like to start a recorder unit with students in grades 3-6. I am happy to purchase recorders in bulk for cost savings, and then students will have it to keep at the end of the unit. Please keep an eye out soon for the option to purchase on School Cash Online, and I will place the order before Christmas. Recorders will cost \$5 each.

Learning Commons



Thank you to everyone that supported the Scholastic Book Fair. Our little school sold close to \$3000.00 in books, allowing us to receive \$800.00 in free books. The Lucky winners of the book Draw were Hannah Baker and Mrs. Hudey.

I will be starting to send home the Scholastic flyers in January. More info on ordering from those will come in the January newsletter.

Here are the Learning Commons (book exchange) times by grade level...

Kindergarten- Tuesdays

Grade ½ Mrs. Slusar - every second Tuesday (Dec.12th)

Grade ½ Mrs. Klassen -every other Tuesday (Dec.5th /Dec 19th)

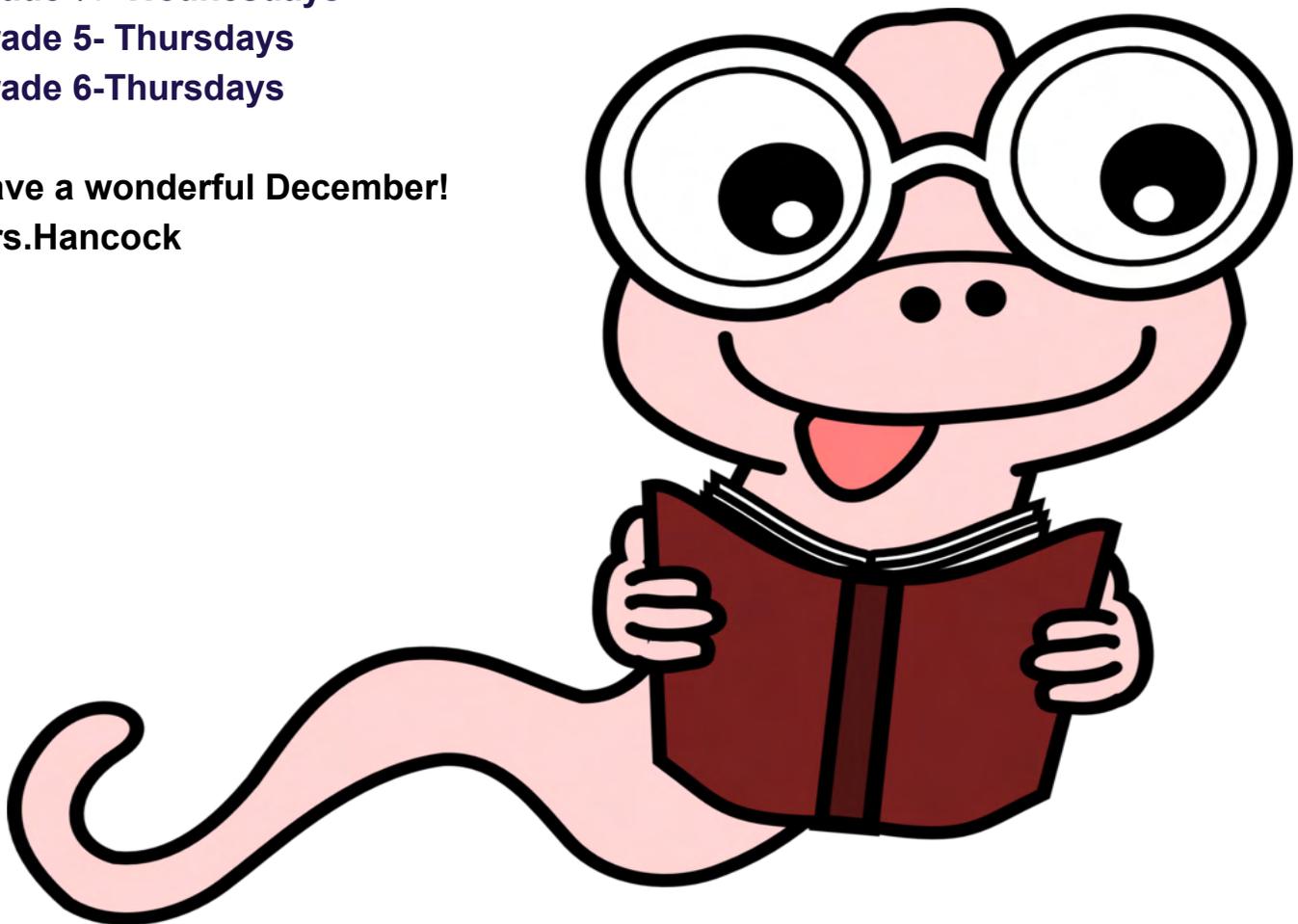
Grade ¾- Wednesdays

Grade 5- Thursdays

Grade 6-Thursdays

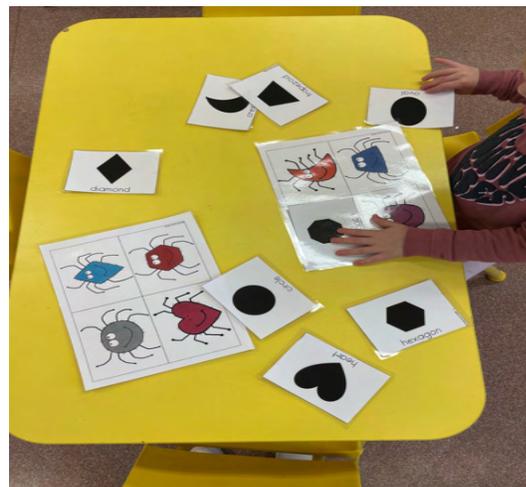
Have a wonderful December!

Mrs.Hancock



Sunnyside Early Learning Program

What great weather for November!! We are so lucky to be able to spend so much time outside. In our science center this month we are learning about ants. Did you know that ants have no ears? they 'hear' by feeling the rumbles in the ground through their feet. Ants can lift up to 20lbs their own body weight. if a second grader was as strong as an ant they could pick up a car. We were busy this month making poppies, learning about our 5 senses, dinosaurs, fossils, baking soda volcanos, and starting our Gingerbread theme.



Kindergarten News





Grade 1/2 News – Mrs. Slusar

The month of November has been yet another busy one filled with lots of playing, learning, building friendships and much discussion around our word of the month - RESPECT. We have spent much time talking about, drawing about and writing about what respect means to us. Here are some of the written responses from our class:

This is how I show respect at home:

- clean up after yourself (Khloe)
- hug my brother (Brodie)
- play with mom and dad (Ella)

This is how I show respect in the classroom:

- raise my hand (Kysten)
- listen to my teacher (Jaxon)
- do my work (Ryker)

This is how I show respect in the schoolyard:

- share the balls (Burns)
- being nice to people (Constance)
- pick up garbage (Tyden)
- bring in the equipment (Timber)

We look forward to another visit to Pavan Park on December 5th from 9:00 - 12:00. We will be joined by **Kylie Fineday who is the** Indigenous Success Coordinator for the Palliser School Division. Once again, we would love to have you join us. Please let me know if you are able to come and help us out on that day.

Looking ahead, December will be filled with lots of Christmas activities like making cards and giving gifts to seniors, celebrating the 12 days of Christmas, singing Christmas carols, participating in the Christmas concert, and enjoying a special Turkey dinner and hayride. We are truly blessed to have these many opportunities. We will also continue to read from our book bins daily and write our “How-to” and “Expert” books. In Math we are finishing up a unit on geometry and starting a measurement unit. Our word for this month is “Reciprocity”. The students will be learning how they can “give back” to their family, friends and community.

As I mentioned last month we are spending more time inside during our STEAM time creating and building. If you have any items that you could donate to our “maker space” that would be appreciated. We could use small cardboard boxes (cracker size), toilet paper and paper towel rolls, small plastic items like lids off of bottles or fruit squeeze. Also I have some old electronic items that the students are wanting to dismantle. If you have any small tools like screwdrivers or pliers that you could donate to our classroom, that would be much appreciated. You can send any of these items to school with your child.

I hope you all enjoy a wonderful holiday season!

Mrs. Slusar



Tumbleweed Races



READING BUDDIES



Pavan Park



Grade 1/2 News - Mrs. Klassen

November has been jam packed with learning, growth, and lots of fun. Here are a few highlights from the past few weeks!



Buddy Reading with grade 6's on Halloween!



Thank you for all the donations of materials, supplies, and "stuff" to build and create in our makerspace!



Our annual Tumbleweed Races were a blast! Thanks to grade 6's for joining us!



We shared and celebrated our "small moment" stories this month. It is amazing to watch these young writers grow each and every day!



We are so grateful for Ms. Francom and Ms. Koopmans! Every single child benefits from these amazing EA's!



More gratitude...

“ I am thankful for reading” - Makena

“ I am thankful for nature” - Ivy

“I am thankful for math and writing” - Connor

“I am thankful for being outside” - Preese

“ I am thankful for my go-cart” - Mackoy

“I am thankful for friends and family” - Harlow

“I am thankful for learning” - Wyatt

“I am thankful for my animals” - Aubree

“I am thankful for the teachers” - Kaylor

“ I am thankful for my dog “ - Jaxon

“ I am thankful for having a sister” - Merritt

“I am thankful for my brothers” - Rustin

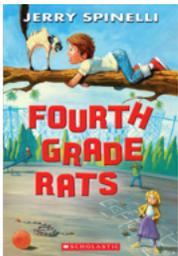
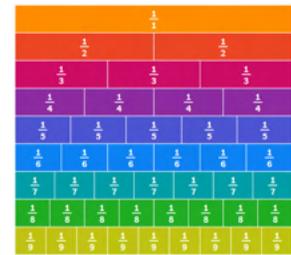
December News from 3/4J



Greetings Parents and Families of 3/4J! I can't believe December is here! With each and everyday the energy levels grow in anticipation for our Christmas Concert and our much needed and deserved Christmas Holidays!!! I hope you and your family have a wonderful holiday season filled with love, laughter and, of course, good food!

We have many things on the go here in our classroom, including new units in most subjects. Here's a brief description of what's going on in our classroom!

Math: We just started our unit on fractions. We want to develop a strong foundation so we will spend a lot of time exploring them including understanding, identifying and comparing fractions (just to name a few).



Reading: In reading we have now turned our attention to fictional reading. Students are being challenged to read higher level novels. We will be spending time looking at characters, setting, problems and solutions, etc. within a story. As a class we are reading "Fourth Grade Rats", Jerry Spinelli's follow up book to "Third Grade Angels"! Such fun reads! We also plan on reading Christmas stories to the Preschool students.

Writing: We have started a unit on descriptive writing. The goal is to start expanding our vocabulary by choosing stronger, more descriptive words for our writing. In Word Work we continue to focus on growth in the areas of phonics, vocabulary, and spelling skills. At the moment we are focusing on adding suffixes to words.

- happy
- thrilled
- pleased
- satisfied
- ecstatic

Science: We wrapped up our Matter unit by taking part in an online workshop from Scientists in School. Everyone took part in five different experiments. See some of the pics below. Our new unit is called Changing Earth. We will be looking at how the Earth changes in gradual and sudden ways including layers of the earth, tectonic plates, mountains, glaciers, earthquakes, volcanoes, etc. and that's just the first section!!



Social: We continue to look at the quality of life in Peru, Tunisia, India and Ukraine. Up next is a look at things such as goods and services.

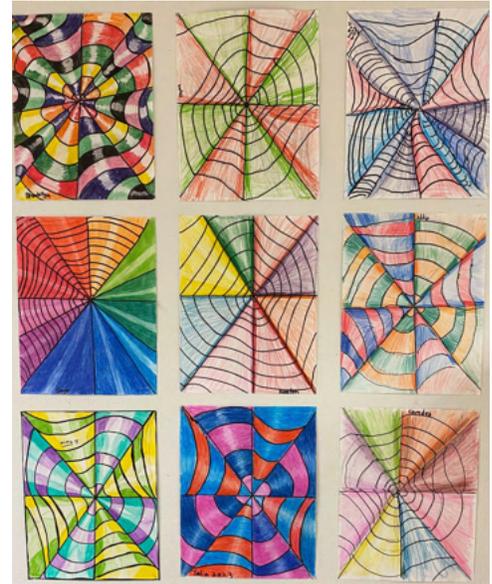


Art: We have completed our 3-D waves. They are looking amazing!
Up next: We'll be creating Christmas art using oil pastels and chalk.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday. Best wishes for a fabulous 2024!

Merry Christmas!
Jan Henderson



MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Mrs. Hudey – Grade 3/4

December 2023 News!

Get ready for an exciting month of holiday spirit!

Here's what we have been doing– and what's coming next!!

Language Arts - Reading:

Reading challenging chapter books:)

**focusing on comprehension strategies and vocabulary

New class read aloud- “ Bat and the Waiting Game.”

Students are enjoying book two in the “Boy Called Bat” series.

Good news! Our classroom won \$25 at the Scholastic Book Fair!!

Writing:

Paragraph writing - brainstorming-plan-draft-edit-publish

Poetry- students did an excellent job writing Remembrance day poems! Students wrote and presented commercials to all of the classrooms advertising for the Silver Lining Christmas project!

We also helped the Kindergarten class write letters to Santa!

Science-We are starting our next topic- “Earth Systems- Changing Earth”

Social Studies- We continue to research and compare global communities.

(Peru, Tunisia, Ukraine, India)

Math-Addition and subtraction with regrouping - rounding - estimating - decimals

Keep practicing those basic facts!

Art- Holiday art!

The Twelve Days of Christmas! Get ready to show your Christmas spirit!

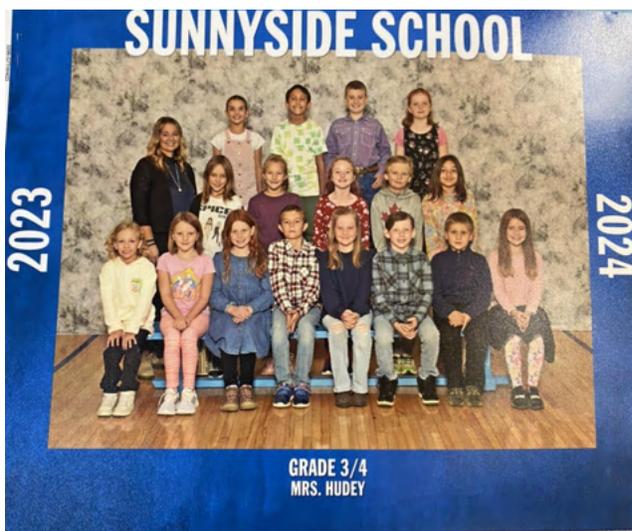
Sunnyside Community Christmas Project-

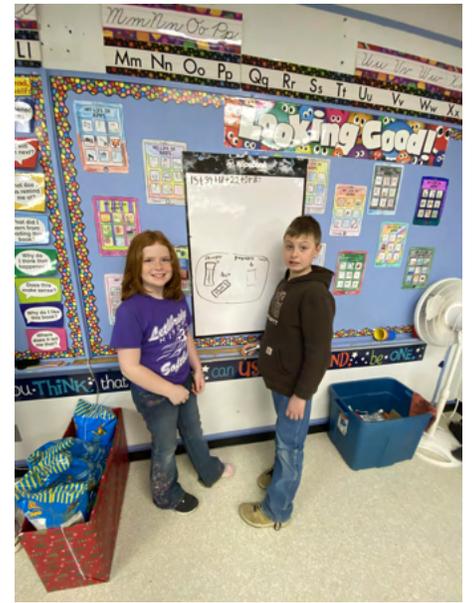
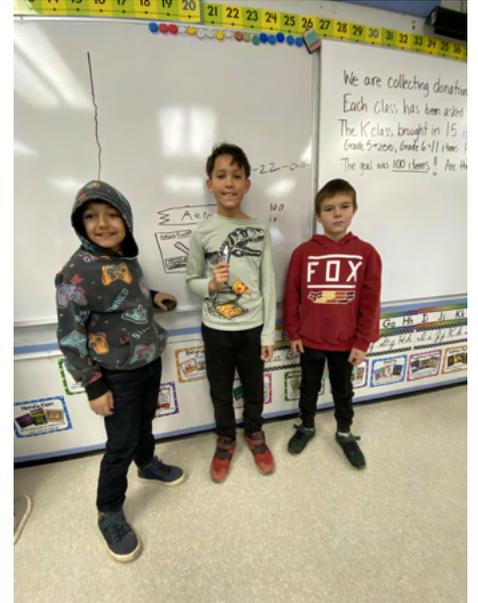
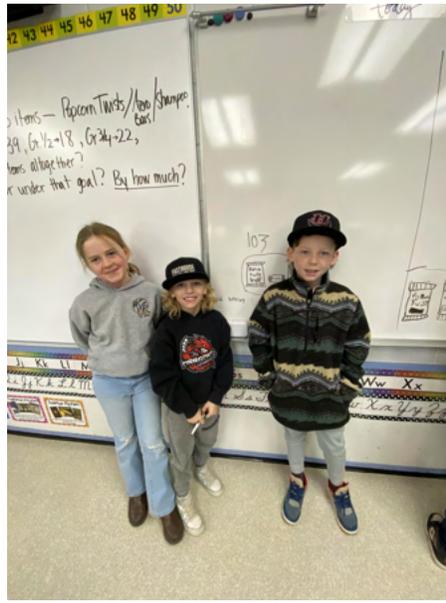
We have been busy collecting donations and cards for ‘Silver Linings’ to make Christmas gift bags for local seniors! THANK YOU for the generous donations!

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas!!

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to







Grade 5 News – Mrs. Hass

How is it December already?! You know what they say, “Time flies when you are having fun,” and WE SURE ARE!! Students will be deep into the science unit of Electricity by Christmas. They will get a chance to build several circuits. We are working on Multiplication and Division in math, solidifying our facts through talks, games and tasks. We are working on our writing stamina, and will have several new stories written by Christmas, including a fun gingerbread house real estate brochure to go with a special art project. It’s going to be a busy month full of so much awesome learning.



Halloween



Around the Classroom



Remembrance Day Collaborative Art



Wetlands Animal Sculptures



Grade 6 News – Mrs. Jesse

We've made it to my favorite month of the year and I am so excited for all the fun activities we have planned in our classroom and in our school. Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions about all the activities that will be happening, as there will be many!

Math: For the past few weeks, students have been challenged with many tasks using factors and multiples. They used factorization and prime factorization to solve many problems at the whiteboards. They worked with many strategies to discover common multiples and common factors of a variety of numbers. Factor rainbows, value tables, reverse multiplication and specific divisibility rules were all practiced and evaluated. We have moved into order of operations and will start fractions in December!

Science: In science this month, students finished their investigation on wetlands. We jumped into electricity and have been learning about both static and current electricity. Students created safety posters and experimented with short circuits. We will continue our study of circuits in December.

LA: In reading, students have finished their second unit: Interpreting Characters. In December, students will focus on identifying the elements of fiction in a common novel during our Interpretive Book Club unit. In writing, students finished and celebrated their personal narratives. They are working on their second personal essay and will move into some creative writing using Christmas as their theme/topic.

Social: We have finished our third project in our second unit on the regions of Canada. Students have completed an infographic and an I-region I-pad. They then used their infographic to teach a fellow grade five or six student about their region. Together they compared and contrasted the two regions. Students will finish up a postcard project and hopefully a diorama project in December. Students will be asked to bring some materials for their diorama from home.

Important Dates:

PD Day: December 1

12 Days of Christmas: December 6-22

Secret Santa Gift Exchange (letter to follow) December 22nd

**** I am also considering creating table clothes wreaths again this year, but may need some parent volunteers. Will keep you updated on this project.**





HOW TO ACCESS
SUPPORT THIS

CHRISTMAS



<https://www.lethbridge.ca/>

IF YOU NEED SUPPORT OVER THE BREAK, YOU CAN

1

Call or Text the Kids
Help Phone
1-800-668-6868
Text: 686868



2

Call the Distress
Line of SW Alberta
1-888-787-2880
403-327-7905

3

Call Access
Addiction and
Mental Health
1-877-303-2642
OR
811



4

Text CONNECT
to 741741
Crisis Text Line



5

Call the Mental
Health Helpline
1-877-303-2642

