



2020 – 2021 Student Engagement Opportunities

Greetings from the Community Engagement team at The Mustard Seed!

At The Mustard Seed we focus on building community, growing hope, and supporting change. While we primarily serve individuals experiencing poverty and homelessness, we are also passionate about transformative educational opportunities for young learners. It is our desire to come alongside schools and teachers to support classroom learning, especially in the unique times that we find ourselves in!

Our engagement opportunities have been thoughtfully designed to align with Alberta Education curriculum and to develop conversations around themes such as empathy, giving back to the community, stereotypes & stigma, and our role as engaged citizens. While we understand that there are unique challenges this year, we have a range of engagement opportunities from classroom presentations to experiential learning and offer diverse opportunities for varying age groups, including our SEEDschool program through Campus Calgary.

While we have many standard engagement opportunities that have been developed over years of presenting in schools and working with teachers, we are constantly innovating. If you're interested in connecting your students with The Mustard Seed and see an opportunity to work with us on something that isn't presently listed on the following page, we'd love to start with a conversation.

Please note that we have adapted most of our program offerings to reflect the current realities surrounding the pandemic and can offer them safely.

Sincerely,

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Educator's Book List

We've put together a resource of our favourite books for classroom use that touch on homelessness, poverty, empathy, justice, and kindness. This resource includes:

- A brief summary of each book and its central themes
- Age recommendations and guided reading levels
- Activity suggestions to deepen learning

If you'd like to be one of the first to receive this updated resource, please email us at CommunityEngagement@theseed.ca

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Presentations & Workshops

Time: 20 minutes – 1 hour (age/grade dependent) **Grade:** K – 12

Details: Online or In-Class Presentation

The Mustard Seed is pleased to offer presentations to students about poverty and homelessness in Calgary. Our presentations focus on understanding why homelessness and poverty are challenges in our city today and encouraging students to find ways to engage with their community. We present to individual classes as well as entire schools and can tailor a presentation to your classes' learning or specific topics if requested.

To request a speaker please complete [our form](#) and we will respond to your request at our earliest convenience.

Email speakersbureau@theseed.ca with any questions.

Tours – Virtual Only

Time: 30 minutes

Grade: K – 12

Details: Online or In-Class Presentation

The Mustard Seed is offering virtual tours that showcase photos and videos of our programs and buildings, including Canada's largest Permanent Supportive Housing building. We are able to deliver these tours in-class or virtually through video conferencing software.

To book, please complete [our form](#) and we will respond to your request at our earliest convenience.

Email Tours@theseed.ca with any questions.

Please be watching for an even more interactive tour experience in early 2021

Tutoring

Time: 1+ hours/week

Grade: 6+

Details: Online

We are working with teachers-in-training to offer free tutoring for students in the community.

To have their students be assigned a tutor, guardians can fill out our form [here](#)

Email CommunityEngagement@theseed.ca with any questions

Experiential Learning, Service-Learning, and Professional Development

Time: ½ day, full day, or multi-day

Grade: 6+

Number of Students: maximum 30

The Mustard Seed offers experiential learning opportunities for groups of up to 30 students aged 13+. These activities range from half day to full day. Some examples of these activities include our "A Day in the Life" experience where students explore what it might be like to live a day in the shoes of a person experiencing homelessness and "The Mustard Seed Economy Game" through which students learn about discrimination and prejudice by creating their own city. Allowing your students to fully engage in their learning will open their eyes in new ways and leave them eager to gain more insight into the world around them. We also offer versions of these activities as opportunities as professional development for educators and faculty. Some of these activities can be hosted at your school if/when external visitors are allowed. The Mustard Seed can host your students on-site if/when offsite trips are allowed.

Email communityengagement@theseed.ca for more information or to book a date and time to come learn with us.



SEEDschool

Time: 5 full days of programming

Grade: 3+

Number of Students: One class

The Mustard Seed is proud to offer SEEDschool: a 5-day field study program through Campus Calgary/Open Minds. Classes of students in grades 3-12 can attend SEEDschool for an entire week of study to learn about social issues, empathy, and how we can create healthy communities together. During this week, students will learn from experts, explore the Beltline and Downtown neighbourhoods, hear real stories of resilience and hope, and work together to find ways to make their own communities safer, more inclusive, and more vibrant.

Applications for the 2021-2022 school year are open in January and due in April. Please visit [our website](#) or email KelseyBrown@theseed.ca for more information.

Coldest Day of the Year

Date: February 2021

Grade: K - 12

The Mustard Seed is encouraging schools to participate in the Coldest Day of the Year fundraising walk in February 2021. Students walk up to an hour outside, navigating a safe walking route around the school. By walking outside in the cold, students will gain an understanding of the challenge faced by those experiencing homelessness. By fundraising, they'll be supporting The Mustard Seed in our efforts to bring hope to those in need in Calgary. More information [here](#), or email info@cdoj.org

Giving Opportunities

Help meet the practical, every-day needs of our clients, while engaging students in conversations about what it means to give back. The Community Engagement team at The Mustard Seed would be happy to join your class and speak to students as they participate in any of these giving opportunities. Here are some ideas we love:

Volunteering

- We can host groups of 10-30 students aged 12+ at our Sorting Centre for volunteering from 1:00pm to 3:30pm Tuesday-Friday. Students will be responsible for sorting through clothing, hygiene, and household donations at our warehouse in the Foothills Industrial Area. Volunteer times are flexible to accommodate for final bell times. For more information or to book, email Volunteer@theseed.ca

Clothing Drives

- Year-round, some of our greatest donation needs are for brand new underwear, men's size 29+ pants/shorts and female size 5+ pants/shorts. We are encouraging classes to host a clothing drive collect these items from February-April; we will have drivers available to pick up these donations from schools April 2021.

Adopt-a-Family

- For the first time, we are offering classes and schools an opportunity to "adopt" a low-income family this Christmas through our community hubs. Classes and/or schools will work together to buy gifts and needed items for families in our community, to be delivered at Christmastime. We would be happy to share more information with your class about this opportunity, and will have educational resources to deepen students' learning as they give back.
- For more information or to sign up, please contact CommunityEngagement@theseed.ca