

Treasures

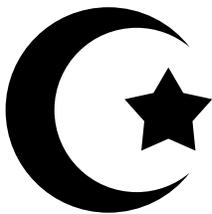
FAMILY NEWSLETTER

May 2022



Faith Celebrations this Spring

We have a very diverse community of people at Renfrew - our children and their families come from many different countries and from many different cultural backgrounds. This year, all three of these celebrations happened around the same time!



Ramadan

Ramadan is the ninth month in the Islamic lunar calendar. The Islamic calendar is based around the lunar cycle, so Ramadan rotates by approximately ten days each year. This year, Ramadan began on April 2nd and is expected to end on May 2nd. Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan and is celebrated during the evening of the last day of Ramadan.

The Fourth Pillar of Islam is Sawm, or fasting. Healthy adult Muslims fast during the month of Ramadan from dawn until dusk. This includes abstaining from drinking, eating, immoral acts and anger. Other acts of worship such as prayer, reading the Quran and charity are also encouraged during the holy month.

Passover

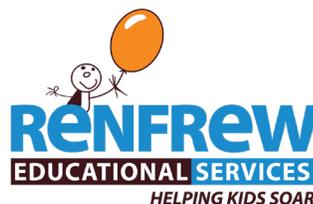
The eight-day Jewish holiday of Passover is celebrated in spring (15th - 22nd of the Hebrew month of Nissan, which is April 15th - 23rd this year). Passover commemorates the emancipation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. In Hebrew it is known as Pesach (which means "to pass over"), because Jewish homes were passed over when the last of the ten plagues was sent killing the Egyptian firstborn on the very first Passover eve. Pesach is observed by avoiding leaven, and highlighted by the Seder meals that include four cups of wine, eating matzah and bitter herbs, and retelling the story of the Exodus.

Easter

Easter, Latin Pascha, Greek Pascha, principal festival of the Christian church, which celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day after his Crucifixion. The earliest recorded observance of an Easter celebration comes from the 2nd century, though the commemoration of Jesus' Resurrection probably occurred earlier. Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox. Easter can fall on any Sunday between March 22 and April 25.

Important Dates

May 8 Mother's Day
May 23 Victoria Day *Schools Closed*



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Executive Message

News from the Executive Team



Janice McTighe
Executive Director



Kim LaCourse
Associate Executive Director



Nicki Wilson
Associate Executive Director



Terry Kirkham
Chief Financial Officer

Spring is in the Air!

Our classrooms are alive with the beautiful signs of spring. We have exciting events and activities planned for our last two months of school. At all our sites, we will take advantage of the beautiful weather as we plan to take many of our classroom centres outside to enjoy.

Please watch for email updates from the classroom teachers about the following activities at your child's school over the next two months:

- **Bowness Centre:** Butterfly larvae arrives, "Up in the Garden & Down in the Dirt" (gardening activities) and a "Coco Brooks" fundraiser.
- **Janice McTighe Centre:** Butterfly larvae arrive, "Bike Month" begins, Junior Leaders begin composting.
- **Child Development Centre:** Butterfly larvae arrives, Renny (Renfrew's Service Dog) visits May 18th, Seed Planting, "Mabel's Labels" fundraiser.
- **Thomas W. Buchanan Centre:** Book Week, "Come and Play" (classroom visits).

Thank You, Parents

May and June are months we take the time to thank our parents for all your support over the course of the year. We know this year we were once again limited with parent involvement in our schools but are excited to have opened opportunities up for May and June. Each classroom is planning a special 'Open House' please watch your inbox for information from your child's classroom teacher.

The Elementary Programs at both JMC and TBC will host their Farewell Celebrations for our grade six age students. Again, please watch for detailed information from the classroom teachers about this exciting event in June.

Family Day

We are excited to welcome back our Family Day celebration. On June 11th, 2022, each school site will host a family fun day from 10:30-12:00. Please watch for information over the next few weeks.

Transitions to New Schools

We realize that at this time of year, many of our children are preparing to move on to their community schools or Renfrew's Elementary Education program. Decisions have been finalized for placement in Renfrew's Elementary Education Program. We have many requests and, unfortunately, a limited number of available spaces. We are simply unable to accommodate every request for placement in this program.

Remember, our Family Support team and Site Managers are happy to help you with further placement planning. Please feel free to contact us anytime.

Social Media & Web Page

There's always something going on at Renfrew and we want others to know what we're up to! Our Facebook page (search Renfrew Educational Services), Twitter feed (follow us at @RESCalgary), Instagram (renfreweducationservices) and LinkedIn (search Renfrew Educational Services) are used to communicate messages, fun things happening around our locations, updates about our programming and services and general topics of interest. Check us out online, like, share and follow so you can stay 'in-the-know'!

Thank You

Thank you sincerely for the many, many ways you help Renfrew and for trusting us with your children. Our doors are always open. We are available to meet with parents at any time. Please feel free to contact us:

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Executive Director

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nickiwilson@renfreweducation.org

Terry Kirkham

Chief Financial Officer

T 403.291.5038 ext. 1399
terrykirkham@renfreweducation.org

Warmest Regards,

*Janice, Kim,
Nicki & Terry*



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Twitter

[@RESCalgary](#)



LinkedIn

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Family Support



Important Update!

If you are applying to the Government of Alberta's Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) Program, you must apply online through www.MyAlbertaSupports.ca. FSCD is no longer accepting paper applications.

If you need support with this process, please contact your local **Family Resource Centre**. Family Resource Centres assist individuals with disabilities and their families with accessing and navigating the variety of disability supports and services available in Alberta. Staff at Family Resource Centres can assist families who manage their own services through the Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) and Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) programs. For more information, visit <https://www.alberta.ca/family-resource-centres.aspx>.

In Calgary, the Family Resource Centre is operated by Autism Alberta. Please note that your child does not have to have an autism diagnosis to access this service.

Phone: 825.407.8659

Email: FamilyResourceCentres@autismalberta.ca

Year End Survey!

Renfrew's Family Support team will be sending out a survey by email in May. Please take a moment to fill it out through the link provided in the email. As you complete this short survey, please think about some of the activities, information or support you may have received from Family Support and whether this has led to any connections or resources that are supporting you in your home and community. Information collected in the surveys is shared with the agencies that provide funding to Renfrew's Family Support program, including The City of Calgary – Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) and the United Way. Thank you!

News from Calgary Public Library www.calgarylibrary.ca

Ultimate Summer Challenge

There are prizes and challenges to compete with friends and family. The Ultimate Summer Challenge starts in June and registration opens May 18. Find out more at calgarylibrary.ca/summer.



Kindergarten Book Bags

These bags are filled with everything you need to support your child starting kindergarten in fall 2022: age-appropriate library books, tips and tricks for parents, and more. Visit your nearest library or request a bag at calgarylibrary.ca/kindergarten-book-bag.

in-person and Virtual Programs

Find new and favourite programs both in person and online. School-age kids can learn to code, develop drawing skills, explore the solar system, go on a math quest, practise mindfulness with afterschool yoga, and more! calgarylibrary.ca/programs

TumbleBook Library

This digital resource for kids and families animates and reads interactive books out loud. Find classic and new favourite books in this digital Library, including French and Spanish titles. calgarylibrary.ca/TumbleBook-Library.

The Family Support Team

The Family Support team is available if you have questions, need resources, are looking for ways to increase your social connections or if you would just like to talk.

Renfrew Schools



Cory Francis
Family Support Worker
Team Lead

Janice McTighe Centre
403.291.5038 ext. 1351
cfrancis@renfreweducation.org



Jill Randall
Family Support Worker
Intake

Child Development Centre
403.291.5038 ext. 1244
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Sarah Livingstone
Family Support Worker

Bowness Centre
403.291.5038 ext. 1811
slivingstone@renfreweducation.org



Jaye Harry
Family Support Worker

Thomas W. Buchanan Centre
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jharry@renfreweducation.org



Karen Beekhuizen
Family Support Funding
Manager

Child Development Centre
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kbeekhuizen@renfreweducation.org

First Nations



Jill Randall
Family Support Worker

Bighorn
403.721.2262
jrandall@renfreweducation.org



COFFEE & CHAT ACTIVITIES

Wed. May 11, 2022 10:00am or 1:00pm

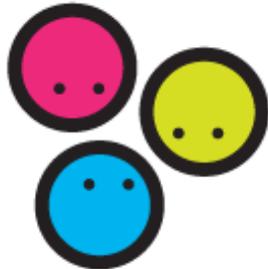
KidzGo - 688 Heritage Dr SE #100, Calgary, AB

KidzGo

Join us at KidzGo (www.kidzgoplay.ca) for a morning or afternoon of indoor play! KidzGo offers a variety of fun activities ranging from a race track, giant slides, large building blocks, and more. Siblings are welcome. Renfrew will pay your admission!

You can choose to come in the morning or in the afternoon. The morning group is at 10:00am, the afternoon group is at 1:00pm. You are welcome to stay as long as you like. The facility closes at 7:00pm.

- Adults must come with a child, and children must come with an adult. No outside food is allowed, and socks or slippers must be worn inside.



KidzGO

Please register by May 4, 2022
by emailing Jaye Harry at
JayeHarry@renfreweducation.org

When registering for this event, it is important to include the following information:

- **Which group are you registering for? Morning or afternoon?**
- Your name and the name of your Renfrew child
- The Renfrew location that your child attends
- How many people are attending this event
- The ages of all people attending this event
- If you are bringing a support aide

Thurs. May 26, 2022 9:00am or 1:00pm

Treehouse - 3337 34 Avenue NE

Treehouse

Join us at Treehouse for a morning or afternoon of indoor play! Treehouse (www.treehouseplay.com) has an open-concept space which includes play structures, games and prizes, rock climbing and a game floor. Siblings are welcome. Renfrew will pay your admission!

You can choose to come in the morning or in the afternoon. The morning group is at 9:00am, the afternoon group is at 1:00pm. You are welcome to stay as long as you like. The facility closes at 9:00pm.

- Adults must come with a child, and children must come with an adult. No outside food is allowed, and socks or slippers must be worn inside.
- **Please note** that Treehouse requires participants to sign an online waiver form. You can view this waiver on the website at <http://treehouseplay.com/waiverform/index.html>.



Indoor Playground & Cafe

Please register by May 19, 2022
by emailing Sarah Livingstone at
SarahLivingstone@renfreweducation.org

When registering for this event, it is important to include the following information:

- **Which group are you registering for? Morning or afternoon?**
- Your name and the name of your Renfrew child
- The Renfrew location that your child attends
- How many people are attending this event
- The ages of all people attending this event
- If you are bringing a support aide

Tuesday June 14, 2022 1:30 - 3:00pm

Inglewood Bird Sanctuary at 2425 9 Avenue SE

Inglewood Bird Sanctuary

Join us for a leisurely walk at the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary! We'll meet outside the Nature Centre and then explore this beautiful natural area beside the Bow River. Bring binoculars (if you have them) and dress for the weather. This event will run, rain or shine. This is a great opportunity to meet other Renfrew parents and guardians as we wrap up the school year!



Please register by June 7, 2022
by emailing Cory Francis at
coryfrancis@renfreweducation.org

When registering for this event, it is important to include the following information:

- Your name and the name of your Renfrew child
- The Renfrew location that your child attends
- How many people are attending this event

IMPORTANT DATES



May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
8 Mother's Day	9	10	11	12	13	14		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
22	23 Victoria Day Schools Closed	24	25	26	27	28		
29	30	31						
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Coming up:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Jun 1 Red Shirt Day <i>https://easterseals.ca/english/redshirtday/</i></p> <p>Jun 3 Non-Instructional Day <i>No Classes, No SSP Sessions</i></p> <p>Jun 11 Renfrew Family Day</p> <p>Jun 19 Father's Day</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Jun 21 National Indigenous Peoples Day</p> <p>Jun 22 TBC "Final Year of Elementary" Farewell</p> <p>Jun 24 JMC "Final Year of Elementary" Farewell</p> <p>Jun 29 Last Day of Classes <i>for all children</i></p> <p>Jun 30 Non-Instructional Day <i>No Classes, No SSP Sessions</i></p> </td> </tr> </table> </div>							<p>Jun 1 Red Shirt Day <i>https://easterseals.ca/english/redshirtday/</i></p> <p>Jun 3 Non-Instructional Day <i>No Classes, No SSP Sessions</i></p> <p>Jun 11 Renfrew Family Day</p> <p>Jun 19 Father's Day</p>	<p>Jun 21 National Indigenous Peoples Day</p> <p>Jun 22 TBC "Final Year of Elementary" Farewell</p> <p>Jun 24 JMC "Final Year of Elementary" Farewell</p> <p>Jun 29 Last Day of Classes <i>for all children</i></p> <p>Jun 30 Non-Instructional Day <i>No Classes, No SSP Sessions</i></p>
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Renfrew's Suggestion Box

Do you have an idea or suggestion you want to pass on to us? A question that you want answered? Something about Renfrew that you like or don't like?

Email your suggestion to:

Renfrew@renfreweducation.org

or use this form, remembering to include your name and contact information.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____