

# Treasures Family Newsletter

December 2023



## Important Dates

Dec 1	Elementary Education/Jr high OFF
Dec 8	Elementary Education/Jr high ATTEND
Dec 15	Elementary Education/Jr high OFF
Dec 21	Last Day of Classes <i>for all children</i>
Dec 22	Non-instructional Day <i>no classes, no SSP</i>
Dec 25	Christmas Day <i>Schools Closed</i>
Dec 26	Boxing Day <i>Schools Closed</i>
Dec 27	Winter Break
Jan 8	Classes resume <i>for all children</i>

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25<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Helping  
Kids  
Soar Gala

Celebrating Renfrew's  
**50<sup>th</sup>**  
Anniversary

March 13, 2024  
*The Westin Calgary, 320 4 Ave SW*

5:30pm: Cocktails & Auction Viewing  
7:00pm: Dinner & Program  
*Dress: Semiformal/Black Tie Optional*

Special musical performance by  
*Tom Jackson*

# Executive Message

## News from the Executive Team

### Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!

At this special time of year, we take time to reflect, share and celebrate family traditions. At Renfrew we are very fortunate to spend our days with special children and their families. We are also privileged to have dedicated Renfrew teams, as well as generous parent volunteers, Board Members, and committee members, who share their talents by supporting our Parent Advisory Councils, fundraisers and various school events.

Renfrew is one of the sponsors at the Bearspaw European Christmas Market being held on December 1, 2, 3, and 8, 9, 10. As you know our new Legacy school is being built right next to the Bearspaw Lifestyle Center where the Christmas market is being held. We encourage you to visit the market they will have exciting family events happening as well as a wealth of vendors to help with all your holiday shopping.

We would also like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a safe and festive holiday from our Renfrew family to your family.



**Janice McTighe**  
Executive Director



**Kim LaCourse**  
Associate Executive Director



**Nicki Wilson**  
Associate Executive Director



With Renfrew's Charity Gala just three months away we need your help! We rely on our families to help support the Gala by donating a silent auction item, cash donation, purchasing a ticket to the event or connecting us to a possible sponsor. Ticket information can be accessed by clicking on the link below. This is a major fundraiser for Renfrew and this year's proceeds will go towards the building of our Legacy school in Bearspaw.

At the back of Treasures, you will find all the information you will need to obtain a silent auction item as well as our contact information. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Givergy Fundraising Website:

[Helping Kids SOAR Gala - Celebrating Renfrew's 50th Anniversary](#)

### Holiday Helping Project

The annual Holiday Helping Project has a few days left in the campaign to raise funds to support Renfrew families. We know at this time there are more families in need than past years. Please reach out and donate if you are able - your contributions will make a difference in the lives of the children and families at Renfrew!

### Donations - United Way

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to families who were able to direct their United Way donations to Renfrew Educational Services. We know that many Calgary businesses matched their employees' donations, which increase the amount we receive. Also, many businesses acknowledge the volunteer efforts of their employees, and donate on behalf of the employees' volunteer hours at their children's schools. We truly appreciate the continuous support of parents.

### Winter Festival Celebrations

Our classrooms/sites will be planning special winter celebrations. Please watch for information from your child's teacher regarding any special events.



## Registration for the 2024-2025 School Year

Our registration process for our families will begin within the next few weeks. You will be contacted by the Manager of your child's site regarding online access to the registration package. At this time, we are offering internal registration for returning families before we open the registration to the community. If you have any questions or require support to complete your online registration, please contact the Manager of your site.

Word of mouth is often the best referral method, however we know that technology plays a large role as well and so we are asking you to tell your friends and families looking for specialized programs how happy you are with Renfrew. Please take a few minutes to complete a Google review by following this link, [Google Review](#) (Or right click and select "copy hyperlink" and paste it into your browser's address bar.)

## Thank You

Again, parents, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your continued support and for entrusting your children to our care. Our doors are always open. We are available to meet with parents at any time. Please feel free to contact us:

**Janice McTighe**  
Executive Director

T 403.219.5388 F 403.291.2499  
[janicemctighe@renfreweducation.org](mailto:janicemctighe@renfreweducation.org)

**Kim LaCourse**

Associate Executive Director

T 403.219.5386 F 403.291.2499  
[kimlacourse@renfreweducation.org](mailto:kimlacourse@renfreweducation.org)

**Nicki Wilson**

Associate Executive Director

T 403.291.5038 ext. 1643  
[nickiwilson@renfreweducation.org](mailto:nickiwilson@renfreweducation.org)

**Warmest Regards,**  
*Janice, Kim & Nicki*

**BEARSPAW LIFESTYLE CENTRE**

Handcrafted Christmas Goods  
Bratwurst & Craft Beer  
Outdoor Chalets  
Baked Goods  
Mulled Wine  
Folk Dancers  
Fiddlers  
Santa Claus

Children's Story Corner  
Christmas Carolers  
Outdoor Firepits  
Family Skating Rink  
Specialty Coffees  
Hot Chocolate  
Choirs

**PLUS 80 ARTISAN & FOOD VENDORS!**

# EUROPEAN CHRISTMAS VILLAGE MARKET

IN BEARSPAW

**FIREWORKS EVERY NIGHT!**

FRI DEC 1	3-8PM
SAT DEC 2	12-8PM
SUN DEC 3	12-6PM
FRI DEC 8	3-8PM
SAT DEC 9	12-8PM
SUN DEC 10	12-6PM



Facebook

Search: Renfrew Educational Services



Instagram

RenfrewEducationalServices



LinkedIn

Search: Renfrew Educational Services



Special Olympics Canada Winter Games  
**CALGARY 2024**  
Jeux d'hiver d'Olympiques spéciaux Canada



February 27 - March 2, 2024

Calgary is ready to welcome the nation for the **Special Olympics Canada Winter Games Calgary 2024**. Over 4,000 visitors, including athletes, coaches, officials, and mission staff, along with their families and friends, will gather in Canada's winter sport capital.

Celebrations officially commence February 27, with the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR), VIP Reception, and the Opening Ceremony presented by the Calgary Flames Foundation. The Games wrap up March 2 with a community celebration presented by Safeway at Olympic Plaza in the morning, then the Closing Ceremony that evening, followed by the popular athletes' dance. The days between are packed with the eight sporting competitions and various activities and events.

You can find out more about the games including a schedule of events by following this link, <https://calgary2024.specialolympics.ca/>.

### What are the Special Olympics?

Not everyone is familiar with the Special Olympics. You can find out more about Special Olympics in Canada by visiting their website <https://www.specialolympics.ca/>, you can also visit the Alberta Chapter of Special Olympics here, <https://www.specialolympics.ca/alberta>.

### Did you know...

- ▶ The Special Olympics began as a result of a Canadian researcher, Dr. Frank Hayden, a sport scientist at the University of Toronto. His research challenged the mindset of the day and proved that it was not a person's disability that prevented them from participating in sports, it was simply the lack of opportunity.
- ▶ Dr. Hayden's research and proposal for a National sport competition and caught the attention of Eunice Kennedy Shriver. As a result, the first Special Olympics competition was held in 1968 in Chicago.
- ▶ Canada was represented by a group of 12 students and a teacher from the Beverly School, as well as Toronto Maple Leafs captain George Armstrong, serving as Honorary Team Captain.

### Renfrew is excited about the games!

Our teachers and staff have lots of activities planned to celebrate the Special Olympics Canada Winter Games - both in the classrooms and in the gym. We will learn about the sports like Alpine Skiing, Curling, Floor Hockey, Snowshoeing and more!

Who knows, maybe some of our Renfrew students will be inspired to become future Special Olympians themselves!





# Family Support

## Renfrew's Family Support Program

Renfrew's Family Support Program is dedicated to the well-being of the families and children we serve. Our program offers a variety of family-centred services to facilitate connections and to support families in the home, neighborhood and community. Every Renfrew school location has a Family Support Worker.

## THANK YOU! Holiday Helping Project 2023

Family Support would like to thank everyone for their generous contributions to the Holiday Helping Project this year! Your donations will be used to purchase gift cards for Renfrew families to brighten up their holiday season.

### HOLIDAY SUPPORT

2023 has been a challenging year and we recognize that many families may be struggling financially with the rising costs of living in Calgary. Do you need support to connect with holiday food or gifts this year? If so, please reach out to the Family Support Worker at your child's Renfrew location.



## Thank you for supporting Central Library



CALGARY  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

In November, Central Library celebrated its fifth birthday and more than 5,000 of you joined us to celebrate this powerful community hub in the East Village. More than 275,000 people have attended close to 14,000 programs at Central Library since it opened in 2018. And we're just getting warmed up! Here's what's coming up at the Library in December:

- ▶ **Visit a Winter Wonderland at the Library** - Head to Central and Memorial Park libraries from December 9 – 22 for daily winter fun including crafts, movies, snacks, and more with special family-friendly programming celebrating the season every weekend.
- ▶ **Sing songs and read stories with Mayor Jyoti Gondek** - On December 9 at 1:00 pm, join Mayor Gondek at Central Library for the Mayor's Holiday Storytime, featuring wintery books, rhymes, fingerplays, and more.
- ▶ **Try something new with Family Game Time** - Pick from a wide range of tabletop and board games (best for ages 5+) to enjoy with your family and friends on Friday December 8 from 1 – 2:30 pm at Central Library
- ▶ **Plan your holiday visits**, including New Year's Eve at the Library, at [calgarylibrary.ca/upcoming-events](https://calgarylibrary.ca/upcoming-events)

Want to be part of the action? The Library is looking for volunteers for a variety of programs and events. See all volunteer opportunities and submit your application at [calgarylibrary.ca/volunteer](https://calgarylibrary.ca/volunteer)

Thank you for making 2023 another one for the books. We're excited to see what we achieve together in 2024.

## Meet 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.

The following is a list of the Family Support Workers and their contact information.

### Renfrew Schools



**Cory Francis**  
Family Support Worker  
**Team Lead**

*Janice McTighe Centre*  
403.291.5038 ext. 1351  
[cfrancis@renfreweducation.org](mailto:cfrancis@renfreweducation.org)



**Sarah Livingstone**  
Family Support Worker

*Bowness Centre*  
403.291.5038 ext. 1811  
[slivingstone@renfreweducation.org](mailto:slivingstone@renfreweducation.org)



**Emily Stevenson**  
Family Support Worker

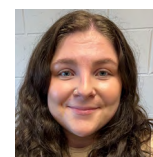
*Child Development Centre*  
403.291.5038 ext. 1244  
[estevenson@renfreweducation.org](mailto:estevenson@renfreweducation.org)



**Emily Voisey**  
Family Support Worker

*Thomas W. Buchanan Centre*  
403.291.5038 ext. 1606  
[evoisey@renfreweducation.org](mailto:evoisey@renfreweducation.org)

### First Nations



**Alexa Connolly**  
Family Support Worker

*Bighorn Health Centre*  
*Mini Thni / Stoney Health (Morley)*  
[aconnolly@renfreweducation.org](mailto:aconnolly@renfreweducation.org)



# COFFEE & CHAT

Family Support offers a variety of Coffee & Chat groups during the school year. This is a great opportunity to connect with other Renfrew parents & guardians!

Please reach out to the Family Support Worker at your Renfrew location if you require help with transportation.

## Telus Spark Science Centre 220 St George's Drive NE



Renfrew is pleased to announce that we are part of Telus Spark's ([www.sparkscience.ca](http://www.sparkscience.ca)) Community Connections Program again this year! This partnership allows Renfrew to access a limited number of tickets to the Telus Spark Science Centre. If you are interested in exploring this exciting facility with your child(ren), please join us on one of these dates! Renfrew will provide a limited number of free admission tickets.

**PARKING:** You will be required to pay for parking (\$7/day) if you choose to park in the Telus Spark parking lot. You can pay for parking at the machine located beside the front doors or you can download the ParkPlus App and prepay for your parking session (Zone 8310).

**PLEASE NOTE:** Adults must come with a child and children must be accompanied by an adult. Parents and guardians are responsible for transporting and supervising their children. If you require help with transportation, please contact the Family Support Worker at your Renfrew school.



**Goodnight Moon is back!** This exhibit brings Margaret Wise Brown's classic childhood tale (a Renfrew favourite!) to life. The Digital Immersion Gallery at Telus Spark has been transformed into the great green room, where visitors will enjoy an immersive rendition of the story and interact and play with characters and images from the story's visual universe.



**Silver & Bold:** Telus Spark is ready for the holidays! We are delighted to announce that your tickets will also allow you to explore Silver & Bold, a beautiful light exhibit at Telus Spark! This light exhibit is on all day and Telus Spark will also be open late for this special experience (until 10 pm). For more information, visit the website <https://www.sparkscience.ca/>.

### Registration is limited!

**December 14, 2023**

**Morning Group: 9:15am      Afternoon Group: 1:00pm**

**Please register by December 8, 2023**

Register for either of these sessions by emailing Sarah Livingstone at [sarahlivingstone@renfreweducation.org](mailto:sarahlivingstone@renfreweducation.org)

[renfreweducation.org](http://renfreweducation.org)

#### In your email, please 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
- ▶ The ages of all people attending
- ▶ If you are bringing a support aide

## School Information Sessions

Are you wondering where your child with special needs will go when he or she leaves Renfrew? Do you have questions about the process of transitioning to a new school?

You are not alone! Join us for our **School Information Sessions**.

### Transitioning out of Renfrew's Preschool Program

▶ **December 12, 2023 1:30 – 3:00pm**

- Online using ZOOM
- Register by **December 5, 2023**

▶ **February 8, 2024 6:30 – 8:00pm**

- Online using ZOOM
- Register by **February 1, 2024**

### Transitioning out of Renfrew's Elementary Education and Junior High Program

Transitioning out of Renfrew's Elementary Education and Junior High Program is a big life event that affects the whole family. Do you have questions about the process of transitioning to a new school or about issues related to junior high school? This will be a great opportunity to meet other parents and share your hopes and fears for the coming year. A Manager and Family Support Worker will be available to answer questions about the process of transitioning out of Renfrew.

▶ **January 24, 2024 1:30 – 3:00pm**

- Thomas W. Buchanan Centre (75 Sunpark Drive SE)
- Register by **January 17, 2024**

#### To Register for Information Sessions:

- ▶ Email Sarah Livingstone at [sarahlivingstone@renfreweducation.org](mailto:sarahlivingstone@renfreweducation.org)
- Please include the date of the session, your name, your child's name, and Renfrew location in your email.

If you have any barriers to attending these sessions, please contact the Family Support Worker at your Renfrew school.

# Important Dates

## December 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Elementary Education/Jr high OFF	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 Elementary Education/Jr high ATTEND	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Elementary Education/Jr high OFF	16
17	18	19	20	21 Last Day of Classes for all children	22 Non-instructional Day no classes, no SSP	23
24	25 Christmas Day Schools Closed Winter Break	26 Boxing Day Schools Closed Winter Break	27 Winter Break	28 Winter Break	29 Winter Break	30
31	<p><b>Coming up:</b></p> <p><b>Jan 1</b> New Year's Day <i>Schools Closed</i>      <b>Jan 19</b> Elementary Education/Jr high OFF  <b>Jan 8</b> Classes Resume <i>for all children</i>      <b>Jan 26</b> Non-instructional Day <i>no classes, no SSP</i>  <b>Jan 12</b> Elementary Education/Jr high ATTEND</p>					



## 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.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_