

# Treasures Family Newsletter

January 2024



## Important Dates

Jan 1	New Year's Day <i>Schools Closed</i>
	Winter Break
Jan 2	Winter Break
Jan 3	Winter Break
Jan 4	Winter Break
Jan 5	Winter Break
Jan 8	Classes Resume <i>for all children</i>
Jan 12	Elementary Education/Jr high ATTEND
Jan 19	Elementary Education/Jr high OFF
Jan 26	Non-instructional Day <i>no classes, no SSP</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

### Happy New Year!

We would like to welcome everyone back to school on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. We hope you and your family had many wonderful opportunities to create special memories over the holidays.



**Janice McTighe**  
Executive Director



**Kim LaCourse**  
Associate Executive Director



**Nicki Wilson**  
Associate Executive Director



## Helping Kids Soar Gala – We Need Your Help!

As you are aware our major fundraising charity gala will take place on **March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024**, and we are asking for your support by donating a nominal amount of \$30.00 so we can purchase items towards our silent auction, by purchasing a ticket or by connecting us with a possible sponsor. You can make a cash donation right now by following this link to the [Gala page of our website](#). Scroll down until you see “Cash Donation” under the Silent Auction heading.

We have a few packages in hand, but we are struggling to find items for our “Hot Ticket” and live auction. We are looking for items that are unique and provide the bidder with an experience.

We have included a list of ideas – if you are able to support this, please contact [jackicassidy@renfreweducation.org](mailto:jackicassidy@renfreweducation.org)

- ▶ Flights
- ▶ Destination Accommodations – condos
- ▶ Sporting events – box seats for stampede, hockey games, blue jay tickets with accommodations, golfing in the United States, etc.
- ▶ Restaurants – dinner for 4 or more
- ▶ Wine for a year
- ▶ Golfing/accommodations
- ▶ Someone to come cook in your home
- ▶ Concert tickets
- ▶ Helicopter tour with accommodations
- ▶ Stay at a vineyard with wine tour
- ▶ Hunting package
- ▶ Progressive dinner
- ▶ Spring cleaning package
- ▶ House cleaning for a year

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 new school in Bears paw.

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 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary](#)

### Renfrew Educational Services Celebrates 50 Years!

For 50 years, Renfrew Educational Services has continued to develop and meet the needs of families. You may not be aware that Renfrew grew from a one-room classroom to our current four schools, community services and our Assessment and Therapy Services department.

Renfrew is a not-for-profit registered charity operating as an independent school, and as such, we are required to raise all funds for capital projects. Projects include purchasing and maintaining our fleet of buses, building our schools, and making school improvements and expansions. Generous support from corporate Calgary, individual donors, and the Renfrew Board of Directors, along with staff and families, makes a tremendous impact on the success of our fundraising endeavours!



## Our Programs & Services

We know as parents you are aware of the school programs that we offer but there are many other programs and services that Renfrew provides. As parents of Renfrew, you are ambassadors for new families and for potential supporters/donors to Renfrew. We are very proud of the programs and services we offer to many families throughout the city of Calgary and surrounding areas.

Our school sites have been thoughtfully placed throughout the city of Calgary. Each of our sites provides a **Preschool Program** and at the Janice McTighe and Thomas W. Buchanan Centres, you will also find our **Elementary and Junior High Program** for students with disabilities.

At each of our sites a comprehensive program for children with Autism is offered which includes an onsite and home component. This program is called **Specialized Services Program (SSP)** and spaces are limited. If this is of interest to you, please speak to the manager at your child's site. We also offer **Integrated Services for Children with Motor Disabilities (ISMD)** a specialized program for children with motor disabilities such as Cerebral Palsy which has a strong focus on motor development. This program can be found at the Janice McTighe and the Thomas W. Buchanan again if this is of interest to you, please speak to the manager at your site. Both these programs are offered to children in our pre-school program.

Our **Community Services Department** continues to provide services to students attending Calgary Catholic School District, Foothills School Division, and Golden Hills School District along with various Independent Schools. Our **Assessment and Therapy Services Department** continues to grow as we provide services such as assessments, intervention, counselling, Low Incidence, and Play therapy city wide and to surrounding areas such as Airdrie, Okotoks, Chestermere, Canmore. Renfrew is also providing programs and services to Tsuut'ina, and Stoney Nakoda First Nations.

Our services also extend after hours and include the following programs.

- ▶ Our **Stepping Out on Saturdays (SOS) Respite Program** is a unique service which provides a Saturday program for children with disabilities from 5 to 12 years of age.
- ▶ Our **Augmentative or Alternative Communication (AAC) Everywhere** program is a Saturday program offering various social outings which provides opportunities for children using devices to communicate with other peers – parent/guardian participation is required.

This year we are providing services to over 50 contracts resulting in programs and services for more than 10,000 children/students in Calgary, and surrounding areas.



## Registration

Ongoing registration for children with disabilities continues for children who are presently registered with Renfrew. If you have not confirmed your child will be returning next September, please contact the manager at your child's site.

## 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:

**Janice McTighe**

Executive Director

T 403.219.5388 F 403.291.2499  
janicemctighe@renfreweducation.org

**Kim LaCourse**

Associate Executive Director

T 403.219.5386 F 403.291.2499  
kimlacourse@renfreweducation.org

**Nicki Wilson**

Associate Executive Director

T 403.291.5038 ext. 1643  
nickiwilson@renfreweducation.org

**Warmest Regards,**

*Janice, Kim & Nicki*

Please follow us on all social media platforms and take a moment to write a Google Review so we can share with the community the experiences of our families first-hand. Simply search for Renfrew Educational Services on Google and look for the "Write a review" button. Please share your happiness with our programs for others who are looking.





# Are you a parent or caregiver of a child in early intervention programming?

We are recruiting caregivers like you to participate in a research study about the ways that early intervention programming fosters family resilience.

## We are looking for caregivers with children who:

- have a developmental delay or disability (e.g., autism, Down syndrome, ADHD)
- are between 2 and 7 years old
- have been in programming for at least 3 months
- are currently enrolled, or finished programming in the past 3 months
- Receive or previously received in-home support



## What will you be asked to do?

You will be asked to complete an [online survey](#) expected to take between 30 and 40 minutes to finish, and you will also be asked to indicate your interest in participating in a [1-hour follow-up interview](#) with a researcher. In exchange for your participation, you will have a chance to win 1 of 2 \$100 giftcards of your choice (Amazon, Chapters, or Walmart).

## How to get involved?

If you are interested in participating in this research, you can either contact Katie Howard at [kehoward@ualberta.ca](mailto:kehoward@ualberta.ca), scan this QR code to access the consent form and survey, or go to this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q82PG3M>



This study is supervised by Dr. Phillip Sevigny, PhD, and has been approved by a Research Ethics Board at the University of Alberta [StudyID: Pro00132235]

**SSHRC**  **CRSH**  
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada  
Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada



# Family Support



## THANK YOU! Holiday Helping Project 2023

Family Support would like to thank everyone for their contributions to the Holiday Helping Project this year. Your kindness and generosity helped us support Renfrew families this holiday season. Thank you!

## 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 a **School Information Session**.

### Transitioning out of Renfrew's Preschool Program

- ▶ **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.

## News from Calgary Public Library



### What were Calgarians reading in 2023? We have the answer!

The Collections team at Calgary Public Library has crunched the numbers and compiled our annual Top Ten lists to share what our community was reading this year. Whether you're looking for a cozy book for a winter weekend or just want to keep up with the latest trends, head online to see what our community couldn't get enough of in 2023. [calgarylibrary.ca/Top10](https://calgarylibrary.ca/Top10)

### Family Literacy Day is January 27

Literacy learning is more than reading books together as a family. Make food, sing songs, and play games together with your children or grandchildren. And if you are working on reading with your young one, make it fun by being a word detective and don't forget to offer lots of praise. Here are 16 ideas to help your child learn to read: [calgarylibrary.ca/library-news/16-ideas-to-help-your-child-learn-to-read/](https://calgarylibrary.ca/library-news/16-ideas-to-help-your-child-learn-to-read/)

### Join us for Virtual Family Storytime

If you can't make it to a Calgary Public Library location, you can still participate in Family Storytime at the Library. Join us virtually every Tuesday at 11:30 am for stories, songs, and fingerplays the whole family can enjoy from the comfort of home. Register for free here: [calgarylibrary.ca/events-and-programs/programs/family-storytime-virtual/](https://calgarylibrary.ca/events-and-programs/programs/family-storytime-virtual/)

*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, neighbourhood and community. Every Renfrew school location has a Family Support Worker.*

## 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

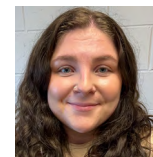
*Child Development Centre*  
403.291.5038 ext. 1244  
[estevenson@renfreweducation.org](mailto:estevenson@renfreweducation.org)



**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

**January 25, 2024**

Morning Group: 9:15am

Afternoon Group: 1:00pm



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! Renfrew will provide a limited number of free admission tickets.

**PARKING:** Please note that 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).

- 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.

**Registration is limited!**

Please register by **January 18, 2024** by emailing Sarah Livingstone at [sarahlivingstone@renfreweducation.org](mailto:sarahlivingstone@renfreweducation.org)

**In your email, please include the following information:**

- ▶ Which date are you registering for?
- ▶ 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

## Valentine's Day Craft

Janice McTighe Centre, 2050 21 Street NE

**February 8, 2024**

1:00 - 2:30pm



Join us as we create a fun Valentine's Day craft together! Tap into your creative side with this light-hearted activity. Since this craft is designed to be easy, there will be lots of time to chat, laugh, and connect with other Renfrew parents and guardians. At the end of the session, we will invite you to write your own Valentine to highlight something that you love and appreciate about yourself.

- *This is an adults-only activity. Supplies and refreshments will be provided.*
- **Parking:** There is free street parking near the Janice McTighe Centre (JMC).

Please register by **February 1, 2024** by emailing Sarah Livingstone at [sarahlivingstone@renfreweducation.org](mailto:sarahlivingstone@renfreweducation.org)

**In your email, please 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

## Mandala Art

Child Development Centre (CDC) 3820, 24 Ave NW

**March 6, 2024**

1:00 - 2:30pm



Join us for an adults-only coffee group at Renfrew's Child Development Centre (CDC) location! In addition to enjoying coffee, tea, and treats, you will be invited to participate in the relaxing activity of colouring mandalas. What an enjoyable way to explore your creative side while meeting other parents and guardians!

- *This is an adults-only activity. Supplies and refreshments will be provided.*
- **Parking:** There are a variety of parking lots near the Child Development Centre (CDC). Renfrew will reimburse you for the cost of parking for this event (up to 2 hours). We will confirm details about this when you register.

Please register by **February 27, 2024** by emailing Sarah Livingstone at [sarahlivingstone@renfreweducation.org](mailto:sarahlivingstone@renfreweducation.org)

**In your email, please 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





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...

Participants who qualified through their Provincial and Territorial Games, will compete in eight sports:

- ▶ 5-Pin Bowling
- ▶ Alpine Skiing
- ▶ Cross Country Skiing
- ▶ Curling
- ▶ Figure Skating
- ▶ Floor Hockey
- ▶ Snowshoeing
- ▶ Speed Skating



## 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!

# Important Dates

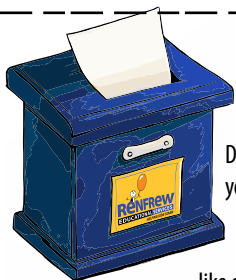
## January 2024



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

**Coming up:**

<b>Feb 2</b> Elementary Education/Jr high ATTEND	<b>Feb 16</b> Non-instructional Day <i>no classes, no SSP</i>
<b>Feb 7</b> Progress Reports go home	<b>Feb 19</b> Alberta Family Day <i>Schools Closed</i>
<b>Feb 9</b> Elementary Education/Jr high OFF	<b>Feb 23</b> Elementary Education/Jr high ATTEND
<b>Feb 14</b> Parent/Teacher Conferences <i>EVENING</i>	
<b>Feb 15</b> Non-instructional Day <i>no classes, no SSP</i> Parent/Teacher Conferences <i>DAY</i>	



## 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?

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Email your suggestion to:  
**Renfrew@renfreweducation.org**

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

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



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

Celebrating Renfrew's

50<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary

Renfrew Educational Services Foundation

Charitable Registration No. 777625492 RR0001

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Renfrew Educational Services offers a broad range of specialized programs and is an acknowledged leader in program development for children and students with disabilities. Renfrew is also known for its responsiveness to the needs of families and the community which has led us to the undertaking of our Capital Campaign. We are raising funds to expand our services to Junior & Senior High School. To date we have raised just over \$5 million dollars towards our goal of \$30 million dollars.

Renfrew's Charity Gala is one of Calgary's premiere charity fundraising events. Over the years, this event has raised close to \$8 million dollars for school buildings, buses, specialized rooms, adaptive equipment and specialized programs and services. At this year's Gala we will be celebrating 50 years of service to children and families. Our event will be held on **March 13, 2024**, at the Westin Calgary (320 4 Ave SW).

We would love for you to become a sponsor at our event. For enquiries about sponsorship opportunities, contact **Janice McTighe, Executive Director, [janicemctighe@renfreweducation.org](mailto:janicemctighe@renfreweducation.org), 403.219.5388**. For those of you who have supported us in the past we greatly appreciated your support and ask that you consider becoming a sponsor for this year's event.

For sponsorship or ticket information, visit our website at **[www.renfreweducation.org](http://www.renfreweducation.org)**.

Our Gala features an amazing silent and live auction. If you wish to donate an item or have questions about the auction, contact **Jacki Cassidy, Event Manager, [jackicassidy@renfreweducation.org](mailto:jackicassidy@renfreweducation.org)**.

On behalf of all the children/students, families and staff of Renfrew Educational Services, we invite you to support the development of our new Flagship school as we SOAR to grade 12.

Yours truly,



**Jim Reid**  
Chairman, Foundation Board of Directors



**Tom Buchanan**  
Chairman, Society Board of Directors

# Item Information Form

Detailed Item Description: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Item can be exchanged for different size:     Yes     No

Item Value: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tax Receipt:

An **invoice or receipt** clearly indicating the value of the donation **must accompany the donated item** or a tax receipt will not be issued.

**Please note:** When requesting a tax receipt for an invoiced item, the receipt can **only** be issued to the name that appears on the invoice.

**Canada Customs and Revenue Agency regulations prohibit issuance of tax receipts for donation of services. (hotel rooms, use of a condo, aesthetic services, massage etc.)**

**Tax Receipt Required:**     No     Yes

Donated by: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person (if donor is a business): \_\_\_\_\_

Donor's Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Renfrew Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please ensure that every space above is completed.**

**Donation Deadline:**

January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Event Information:**

Renfrew Educational Services Foundation  
 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Gala  
 March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
 Westin Calgary

**Forward Item and Form To:**

Annual Charity Gala  
 Renfrew Educational Services Foundation  
 2050 – 21 Street NE  
 Calgary, Alberta, T2E 6S5

**Enquiries:**

Jacki Cassidy  
**T** 403.291.5038 ext 1396  
**F** 403.291.2499