

# Treasures Family Newsletter

February 2024



## Important Dates

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

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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*

**OUT!**

# Executive Message

## News from the Executive Team

We are all in this together - raising funds and awareness!

### Sold out!

Our gala is sold out but there is still a way for you to help! We will soon launch two raffles on the Givergy site. You will be able to buy tickets for a chance to win a week's stay in Turks & Caicos and tickets to win 100 our Wine Tree of 100 bottles of wine! These raffles will be open to the public so when we send out the link, please share it with your family and friends.



Givergy Fundraising Website:

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

### Alberta Family Day

**February 19<sup>th</sup>** is Alberta Family Day. We wish you a fun-filled day with your family celebrating and creating wonderful memories.

### Registration

Preschool and Kindergarten registration for children with disabilities continues at all our school sites for September 2024. Please contact the Manager at your location if you have any questions.

Registration for our Elementary Education Program and grade 7 continues at our Janice McTighe Centre and Thomas W. Buchanan Centre locations. With a long list of interested families, and limited numbers of spaces available, we consider the following factors:

- ▶ A balanced classroom for the children
- ▶ Representation from all school sites
- ▶ Parent commitment to Renfrew Educational Services
- ▶ Commitment to pay \$4,500 dollars a year for school fees.

Making decisions for placement in our Elementary Education and grade 7 spaces are difficult and we appreciate your patience and understanding.

### Contact Information Changes

It is very important for us to have up-to-date contact information.

If there have been changes to your home address, home phone number, work and cell phone numbers or emergency contact information, please inform the Manager at your child's location.

### Parent Advisory Councils (PAC)

Our site PACs have been very active over the last few months and have exciting things planned for the remainder of the year. Let's peek at what's coming up:

- ▶ **Janice McTighe Centre**
  - Watch for more information to follow as the Scholastic Book fair arrives in March.
- ▶ **Bowness Centre**
  - Fundraising activities will include Coco Brooks, Clothing and Toy Sale and bottle drives.
- ▶ **Child Development Centre**
  - Fundraising activity just started with Calgary Chocosweats Factorie.
- ▶ **Thomas W. Buchanan Centre**
  - Presently firming up a spring event – stayed tuned!



**Janice McTighe**  
Executive Director



**Kim LaCourse**  
Associate Executive Director



**Nicki Wilson**  
Associate Executive Director

### 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](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*

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.



# Family Support

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)



**Further Education Society**  
Strengthening Communities

## Parent Child Mother Goose (PCMG)

Renfrew is pleased to announce a new partnership with **Further Education Society of Alberta (FESA)**! FESA ([www.furthered.ca](http://www.furthered.ca)) will host a free Parent Child Mother Goose (PCMG) group at Renfrew on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

**This group is for Renfrew parents and guardians and their children ages 2-5 years old. Siblings under the age of 5 years are welcome to attend.**

This is an excellent opportunity to meet other Renfrew families while also learning how to encourage your children's early development through songs and rhymes.

## Parent Child Mother Goose (PCMG)

Wednesday, Feb 28<sup>th</sup>  
9:30 - 11:00am

Janice McTighe Centre  
2050 21 Street NE

Please register by February 16, 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

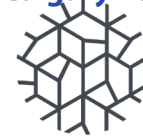




# COFFEE & CHAT

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!

## News from Calgary Public Library



CALGARY  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

### Mandala Art

Child Development Centre (CDC) 3820, 24 Ave NW

March 6, 2024 1:00 - 2:30pm



### Leap into Love Reading Challenge

Join the Leap into Love Reading Challenge! Read three books in 29 days: a romance novel, a personal journey of love and acceptance, and a story about the power of friendship. Participants will be automatically entered into a weekly draw for a title of their choice from Shelf Life, and a grand prize draw. The challenge runs February 1 – 29. Register online starting February 1. <https://calgarylibrary.ca/connect/readers-and-writers>

### Celebrate Family Day at your local Library

Join us for a heartwarming day of family fun at your local Library on Family Day. Capture the moment with free family portraits, bring your favourite stuffies for Storytime, and get creative with family-friendly crafts and activities. Bring your kids, parents, grandparents, siblings, your cousin or your best friend. Whether they're the family you're born with or the family you've chosen, everyone is welcome! [calgarylibrary.ca/family-day](http://calgarylibrary.ca/family-day)

### Stream movies for free with your Library card

Streaming services can add up, but not at the Library. Watch more than 30,000 documentaries, classics, international films, and learning videos for free on Kanopy with your Library card. There are even movies and popular TV shows just for your children and grandchildren in Kanopy Kids. <https://calgarylibrary.ca/read-learn-and-explore/digital-library/kanopy/>

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!

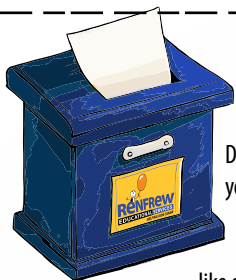
# Important Dates

## February 2024

| Sun | Mon  | Tue | Wed                                      | Thu  | Fri  | Sat |
|-----|--|-----|--|--|--|-----|
|     |  |     |  | 1  | 2<br>Elementary Education/Jr high ATTEND       | 3   |
| 4   | 5  | 6   | 7<br>Progress Reports go home            | 8  | 9<br>Elementary Education/Jr high OFF          | 10  |
| 11  | 12   | 13  | 14<br>Parent/Teacher Conferences EVENING | 15<br>Non-instructional Day no classes, no SSP<br>Parent/Teacher Conferences DAY | 16<br>Non-instructional Day no classes, no SSP | 17  |
| 18  | 19<br>Alberta Family Day<br>Schools Closed | 20  | 21                                       | 22   | 23<br>Elementary Education/Jr high ATTEND      | 24  |
| 25  | 26   | 27  | 28                                       | 29   |  |     |

**Coming up:**

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Mar 1 Elementary Education/Jr high OFF                          | Mar 15 Elementary Education/Jr high OFF    | Mar 27 Spring Break                      |
| Mar 8 Elementary Education/Jr high ATTEND                       | Mar 22 Elementary Education/Jr high ATTEND | Mar 28 Spring Break                      |
| Mar 10 Daylight Saving <i>Spring Forward</i>                    | Last Day of Classes for all children       | Mar 29 Good Friday <i>Schools Closed</i> |
| Mar 13 Renfrew's Helping Kids Soar Gala<br>No Afternoon Classes | Mar 25 Spring Break                        | Spring Break                             |
|   | Mar 26 Spring Break                        |  |



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_