

Treasures Family Newsletter

October 2024



It's going to
be a great
month of fun!



Important Dates

Oct 2	Picture Day <i>CDC</i>	Oct 14	Thanksgiving <i>Schools Closed</i>
Oct 4	EEP/Jr High <i>ATTEND</i>	Oct 18	EEP/Jr High <i>ATTEND</i>
Oct 10	Non-Instructional Day <i>No Classes, No SAS</i>	Oct 24	Family Night
Oct 11	Non-Instructional Day <i>No Classes, No SAS</i>	Oct 25	EEP/Jr High <i>OFF</i>
		Oct 31	Halloween

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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

Our School Year is Off to a Great Start!

We appreciate your patience and understanding as our schools settle into our new routines.

We have experienced many busing changes over the last month, but we feel overall our bus service has settled into a regular routine. We are very fortunate to have an outstanding transportation system with a fleet of 48 buses and the most amazing bus drivers! Please keep us informed if there are any changes that will affect your child's bus ride.



Helping Kids Soar Charity Gala March 13th, 2025 – “Building our Future”

We are so excited to hold our 26th gala event – from small beginnings raising \$15,000.00 dollars year one to \$345,000.00 this past March. We are presently working on our sponsorship material and will be asking our families for support in purchasing auction items and sponsorships.

Did you know that Renfrew is a not-for-profit organization, and we rely on fundraising for many of our special projects. We do not receive any government funding for any capital expenses so all of our specialty rooms such as our Mind and Movement Rooms, Greenhouses, Multi-Sensory Rooms along with Specialized Equipment,

Assistive Technology, and we cannot forget our Buses, and school buildings are all paid for by individuals like you. We are grateful for the support we receive which allows us to provide exceptional spaces and materials for your children.



To date we have raised just over 17 million dollars over halfway to the project goal of 30 million. This year's gala funds will continue to support the Legacy School in Bearspaw. This is a very exciting project as we build a school that will offer children (preschool to grade 12) with disabilities an exceptional program in a purposeful designed school.

Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Please watch for information about Parent Advisory Council meetings at your child's school location. The PAC is one way that parents can participate in their child's school. It is also a fun way to connect with other Renfrew parents. Please consider joining this committee. The manager at your location will be happy to discuss the details with you.

Family Night

Our first Family Night is scheduled for October 24th – we are very excited to host this family fun event. Information will be sent to you within the next few weeks from your child's teacher.

Did You Know...

Renfrew offers many different types of services to children and families within Renfrew as well as within the community.

- ▶ We offer our **Preschool Programs** at our four school sites. In our preschool we serve close to 400 children. We also offer 150 spaces to students in our **Elementary Education and Jr. High Program**. The Elementary/Jr. High programs operate out of the Janice McTighe and Thomas W. Buchanan Centres.
- ▶ Our specialized programs/services include **Children with Motor Disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorders, Wellness Empowerment Program, and Stoney Nakoda and Tsuut'ina Nations**.
- ▶ Our **Community Services** department continues to provide services to students attending various community and Independent Schools.
- ▶ Our **Assessment and Therapy Services** department offers work in the community completing assessments and intervention.

If you would like information about any of these services, please speak with the Managers of your child's school site.

Open-door Policy

At Renfrew, we have an open-door policy. We know many families liked the option of using virtual platforms to connect so either way – virtual or in-person we are always available. Please call, email, or arrange a virtual meeting with your child's teacher, or contact the Manager with any questions you have.

Renfrew is proud and honoured to have talented and knowledgeable teams working with children and families. From the first step on the school bus then inside our schools and throughout the community at large, our staff is devoted, caring, and dedicated to doing what is best for your children. We are proud of our 51 years of experience educating young children and planning for our youth. We continue to provide exemplary programs and services to children and their families and look forward to another successful year of fun and learning!

Thank You

Our doors are always open! We are available to connect 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

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Associate Executive Director

T 403.291.5038 ext. 1643

nickiwilson@renfreweducation.org

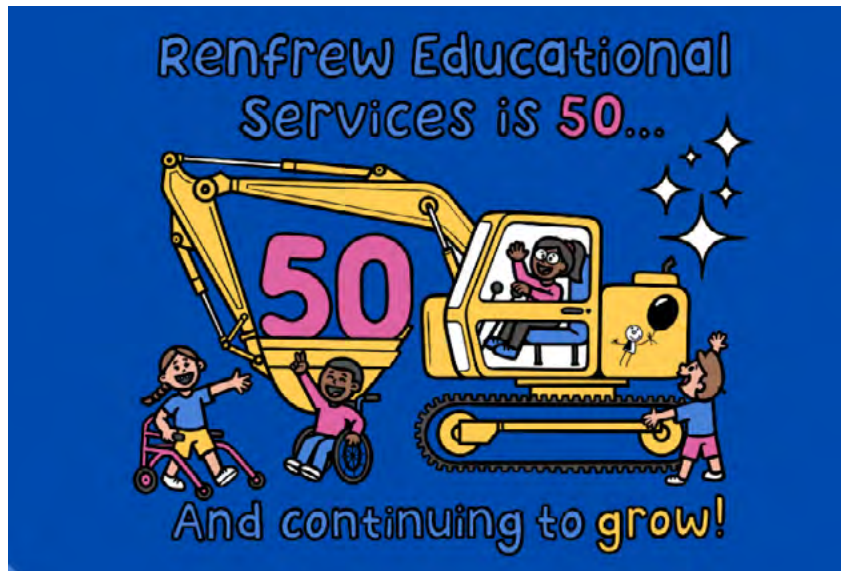
Warmest Regards,

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 or click here: [Google Review](#). Please share your happiness with our programs for others who are looking.





50th Anniversary T-Shirt Fundraiser

We are excited to be selling a special edition 50th anniversary t-shirt! Adult, youth and toddler sizes available in a variety of colours! Grab your cute digger themed t-shirt today and help support Renfrew's continued growth with our Legacy School Project.

When purchasing, make sure to click on **Additional Information** and enter which of our 4 school locations you want your shirts sent to for convenient pick up.

50th Anniversary T-Shirts

Adult Shirts



Youth Shirts



Toddler Shirts



Family Support

What is 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, neighborhood and community. Every Renfrew school location has a Family Support Worker.

Mark Your Calendars! Holiday Helping Project 2024

We are pleased to announce that the Holiday Helping Project will begin **November 1!**

The Holiday Helping Project is an annual program that provides assistance to Renfrew families during the winter holiday season. From November 1 to December 1, we invite you to send a donation to school with your child. Renfrew will provide you with a tax-deductible receipt for any donation of \$20 and over, if requested. A form will come home in your child's backpack with more details. All donations collected will be used to buy gift cards for Renfrew families who may not be able to buy special food or gifts at this festive time of year.

Do You Have Questions about the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)?

Renfrew is excited to offer you the opportunity to meet with 'The RDSP Guy' - **Steven Williams!** If your child has been approved for the Disability Tax Credit, or if you have questions about opening up a Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP), Steven can review the RDSP information with you and help answer your questions about what to do next.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please sign up for a personal meeting with Steven by emailing us with your **first and second choices for meeting times**. Each meeting has a time of 30 minutes. Meetings will be held every half hour from 10:00am until 2:00pm.

Janice McTighe Centre

2050 - 21 Street NE

Wednesday, October 23, 2024

10:00am - 2:00pm

Registration is Limited!

Please register by October 16, 2024

by emailing Emily Voisey at
evoisey@renfreweducation.org

In your email, please include the following information:

- Your name
- Your child's first and last name
- Your child's Renfrew location
- Your first and second choice for meeting time
(Appointments are offered in half hour increments, at 10:00am, 10:30am, 11:00am, 11:30am, 12:00pm, 12:30pm, 1:00pm and 1:30pm)



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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



Sarah Livingstone
Family Support Worker

Bowness Centre
403.291.5038 ext. 1811
slivingstone@renfreweducation.org



Emily Stevenson
Family Support Worker

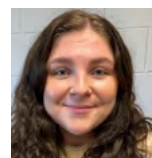
Child Development Centre
403.291.5038 ext. 1244
estevenson@renfreweducation.org



Emily Voisey
Family Support Worker

Thomas W. Buchanan Centre
403.291.5038 ext. 1606
evoisey@renfreweducation.org

First Nations



Alexa Connolly
Family Support Worker

Bighorn Health Centre
Mini Thni / Stoney Health
(Morley)
aconnolly@renfreweducation.org



COFFEE & CHAT GROUPS

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

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

Greeting Cards for All Occasions!

Janice McTighe Centre (JMC) 2050 21 Street NE

Tues, Oct 29, 2024

Morning 9:00 - 11:00 am **OR** Afternoon 1:00 - 3:00 pm



Join us as we create greeting cards 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. All materials are provided, and each person will be able to take home two completed cards.

This is an adult-only event with light refreshments!

Please register by Oct 22, 2024

by emailing Sarah Livingstone at

sarahlivingstone@renfreweducation.org

Telus Spark Science Centre www.sparkscience.ca

220 St. George's Drive NE

Wednesday, October 9

Morning group 9:15am Afternoon group 1:00pm

Thursday, November 14

Morning group 9:15am Afternoon group 1:00pm

Thursday, December 12

Morning group 9:15am Afternoon group 1:00pm

Register by Oct 2

Register by Nov 7

Register by Dec 5



Renfrew is pleased to announce that we are part of Telus Spark's 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:** Please note that you will be required to pay for parking (\$10/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.

Registration is limited!

Please register by emailing

Sarah Livingstone at

sarahlivingstone@renfreweducation.org

When registering, it is important to 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

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**.

- ▶ **October 17, 2024 9:30 – 11:00am**
 - Online using ZOOM
 - Register by **October 10, 2024**
- ▶ **November 6, 2024 1:30 – 3:00pm**
 - Online using ZOOM
 - Register by **October 30, 2024**
- ▶ **November 26, 2024 6:30 – 8:00pm**
 - Online using ZOOM
 - Register by **November 19, 2024**

To Register for Information Sessions:

- ▶ Email Sarah Livingstone at 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.



Celebrate Love Your Library Day

Show some love for your local Library! Calgary Public Library is hosting Love Your Library Day on Saturday, October 26. Visit any location across the city to enjoy free, family programming while discovering everything the Library has to offer. Programs include storytimes, musical performances, games, crafts, special activities, and more. Learn more about the festivities: calgarylibrary.ca/love-your-library

Make Your Own Work of Art from Home

Art Night In is a new series at the Library with bi-weekly programs throughout the fall. On October 16, you'll be able to create an acrylic mountain landscape painting as a tribute to the beautiful backdrops of Alberta — all from the comfort of your home. Register for the Art Night In virtual program: [Link: Make Your Own Work of Art](#)

Fish Creek Library Receives International Design Recognition

Fish Creek Library has been included in American Libraries Magazine's 2024 Library Design Showcase. This location has gone through major renovations and has become the permanent home for Engine 23. Thousands of people in our community have enjoyed the interactive, decommissioned fire truck. Have you checked it out yet? Read more about Fish Creek Library's recognition: [Link: Fish Creek Library](#)

Media Literacy Week

In October, Calgary Public Library is preparing for Media Literacy Week (Oct 21–25) with several events in partnership with organizations like YouthLink and CBC. Here are a few you can register for now, with one more to be announced in early October

Media Literacy Week – Digital Citizenship with Youth Link (Gr. 5 - 9)

Learn how social media and online activities can affect your mental well-being, and discover tips for staying safe online! [Link: Digital citizenship with Youth](#)

Media Literacy Week – Exploring the Digital Library (Gr. 4 – 6)

Find out about all the amazing resources you can access with your Calgary Public Library Card! [Link: Exploring the Digital Library](#)

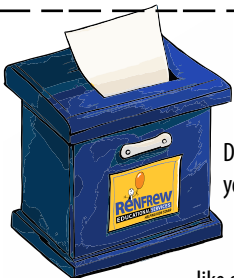
Media Literacy Week – How to Look at Media (K -3).

Discover the truth behind online content, its creators, and the best ways to engage with digital media! [Link: How to Look at Media](#)

Important Dates

October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Picture Day CDC	3	4 EEP/Jr High ATTEND	5
6	7	8	9	10 Non-Instructional Day No Classes, No SAS	11 Non-Instructional Day No Classes, No SAS	12
13	14 Thanksgiving Schools Closed	15	16	17	18 EEP/Jr High ATTEND	19
20	21	22	23	24 Family Night	25 EEP/Jr High OFF	26
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween		
<div> Next Month: </div> <div> <div> Nov 1 EEP/Jr High ATTEND Nov 8 EEP/Jr High OFF Nov 11 Remembrance Day Schools Closed Nov 14 Parent/Teacher Conferences Evening </div> <div> Nov 15 Non-Instructional Day No Classes, No SAS Parent/Teacher Conferences Day Nov 22 EEP/Jr High ATTEND Nov 29 EEP/Jr High OFF </div> </div>						



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: _____