

Treasures Family Newsletter

January 2025

Important Dates

Jan 6	Classes Resume <i>for all children</i>
Jan 10	EEP/Jr High <i>ATTEND</i>
Jan 17	EEP/Jr High <i>OFF</i>
Jan 24	Non-Instructional Day <i>No Classes, No SSP</i>
Jan 31	EEP/Jr High <i>ATTEND</i>

Inside

Executive Message	2
Family Support.....	4
Important Dates	6

Renfrew Educational Services

Gala

Building our Future

March 13, 2025

BMO Centre

Stampede Park, 20 Round Up Way SE

5:30pm: Cocktails & Auction Viewing

7:00pm: Dinner & Program

Dress: Semiformal

Event Sponsor

 **EllisDon**



Executive Message

News from the Executive Team

Happy New Year!

We would like to welcome everyone back to school on January 6th, 2025. We hope you and your family had many wonderful opportunities to create special memories over the holidays.

Helping Kids Soar Gala – We Need Your Help!

As you are aware our major fundraising charity gala will take place on **March 13th, 2025**, and we are asking for your support by donating a nominal amount so we can purchase items towards our silent auction, by purchasing a ticket to attend or 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

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| ▶ Airline Flights | ▶ Someone to come cook in your home |
| ▶ Destination Accommodations – condos | ▶ Concert tickets |
| ▶ Sporting events – box seats for stampede, hockey games, blue jay tickets with accommodations, golfing in the United States, etc. | ▶ Helicopter tour with accommodations |
| ▶ Restaurants – dinner for 4 or more | ▶ Stay at a vineyard with wine tour |
| ▶ Wine for a year | ▶ Hunting package |
| ▶ Golfing/accommodations | ▶ 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 continue to support building of our new Legacy 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 – Building Our Future](#)



Janice McTighe
Executive Director



Kim LaCourse
Associate Executive Director



Nicki Wilson
Associate Executive Director



Renfrew Educational Services Celebrates 51 Years!

For 51 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 with our **Stepping Out on Saturdays (SOS) Respite Program**. This is a unique service which provides a Saturday program for children with disabilities from 5 to 12 years of age.
- ▶ 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.



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

Registration

Ongoing registration 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.

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.



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.

Gateway

Are you a newcomer to Canada?

Gateway is a collaboration among organizations to better serve and support newcomers who choose to make Alberta their new home. Born out of the desire to improve the lives of newcomers in Calgary, Gateway ensures immigrants and refugees are connected to the best-fit programs and services to thrive in their new homeland. Talk to your Family Support Worker about a referral to Gateway! We are happy to help connect you with this great program.



CALGARY
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

News from the Calgary Public Library

Register for In-Person and Virtual Programs

Start the new year with Library programs that will inspire learning, creativity, and new possibilities. There are many free programs to pick from including Math Quest, Level Up! Gaming Club, Career Coaching, Skill Builders, and more. Browse Library programs and register today: calgarylibrary.ca/programs

Read our 2024 Books of the Year

More than 17 million physical and digital items are checked out each year by more than 800,000 members at Calgary Public Library, but there are some that stand out from the rest. The 2024 books of the year are categorized into lists that include three titles — Adult, Young Adult, and Children's. It includes work from a local author, titles of critical acclaim, and some hilarious kids' books. View the 2024 Books of the Year: www.calgarylibrary.ca/books-of-the-year

Family Reading Pick: The Wild Robot

Start a family reading adventure with this year's Family Reading Pick, The Wild Robot. The kickoff event is Saturday, January 25 at Central Library from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, where there will be robotic crafts, play time with Steel the Robotic Dog from TELUS Spark, and a screening of The Wild Robot movie. If you can't make it to the event, copies of the book and an activity booklet will be available for families to take home from all locations except Rocky Ridge and Prototype: Skyview.

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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.

Telus Spark Science Centre www.sparkscience.ca

220 St. George's Drive NE

Wednesday, January 22

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



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.

Heat Up the Holidays

Don't let the cold weather freeze over your holiday spirit, shake off the snow and turn up the heat at TELUS Spark this festive season! From thaw-dropping holiday lights to sizzlin' science experiments and even a bark-tacular show - there's something for everyone to melt over. Unlike those other holiday experiences, where you have to put on more layers than the Earth's core to see festive lights, Spark has the heat cranked so you and the crew can celebrate in comfort - no snowsuit required!

- **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 January 15

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

JMC Coffee & Chat

2050 21 Street NE

Wednesday, January 15

1:00-2:30pm



Parents and guardians from all Renfrew schools are welcome to join us at our Janice McTighe Centre location (2050 21 Street NE) for an adults-only coffee group as we welcome the new year!

This is the perfect opportunity to meet other parents and guardians while enjoying some light refreshments. Treat yourself to an hour of supportive conversation as we share tips and strategies for prioritizing our own health and wellness as we head into 2025. Participants will receive a small planning tool to support you on this journey!

Please register by January 8

by emailing Sarah Livingstone at

sarahlivingstone@renfreweducation.org

In your email, please include the number adults who will be attending this group.

School Information Session

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 Session**.

➤ **January 16, 2025 6:30 – 8:00pm**

- Online using ZOOM
- Register by **January 9, 2025**

To Register for the Information Session:

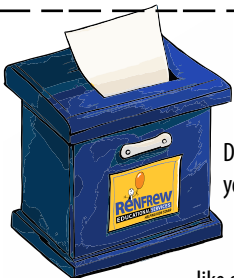
- Email **Sarah Livingstone** at sarahlivingstone@renfreweducation.org
 - Please include the date of the session, your name, your child's name, and Renfrew location in your email.

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

Important Dates

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			Winter Break	Winter Break	Winter Break	
			New Year's Day Schools Closed			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Classes Resume for all children				EEP/Jr High ATTEND	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
					EEP/Jr High OFF	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
					Non-Instructional Day No Classes, No SSP	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
					EEP/Jr High ATTEND	
<div>Next Month:</div> <div> <div>Feb 6 Progress Reports go home</div> <div>Feb 7 EEP/Jr High OFF</div> <div>Feb 12 Parent/Teacher Conferences Evening</div> <div>Feb 13 Non-Instructional Day No Classes, No SSP Parent/Teacher Conferences Day</div> <div>Feb 14 Non-Instructional Day No Classes, No SSP</div> <div>Feb 17 Alberta Family Day Schools Closed</div> <div>Feb 21 EEP/Jr High ATTEND</div> <div>Feb 28 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: _____

Renfrew Educational Services

Gala Building our Future

Renfrew Educational Services Foundation

Charitable Registration No. 777625492 RR0001

Thursday, March 13, 2025

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 \$23 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 \$8.5 million dollars for school buildings, buses, specialized rooms, adaptive equipment and specialized programs and services. At this year's Gala we will be celebrating our 26th Annual Gala "Building Our Future". Our event will be held on **March 13, 2025**, at the BMO Centre at Stampede Park.

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 or 403.973.2278**. For those of you who have supported us in the past, we greatly appreciate 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**.

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**.

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 24th, 2025

Event Information:

Renfrew Educational Services Foundation
26th Annual Gala: "Building Our Future"
March 13th, 2025
BMO Centre - Stampede Park

Forward Item and Form To:

26th 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

Office Use Only: Item # _____

Charitable Registration No. 777625492 RR0001