

Treasures Family Newsletter

September 2025

**Welcome
to Renfrew
Educational
Services!**



Important Dates

Sept 1 Labour Day *Schools Closed*

Sept 5 EEP/Jr High *OFF*

Sept 12 EEP/Jr High *ATTEND*

Sept 13 Renfrew Family Day (10am-12pm)

Sept 19 Non-Instructional Day *No Classes, No SSP*

Sept 22 School Picture Day *JMC*

Sept 23 School Picture Day *JMC*

Sept 24 School Picture Day *JMC*

Sept 25 School Picture Day *BOW*

Sept 26 EEP/Jr High *ATTEND*

Sept 30 National Truth & Reconciliation Day
Schools Closed

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Executive Message

News from the Executive Team

“Together, we begin another wonderful year of learning at Renfrew!”

We are delighted to welcome all our children/students and families to the start of another exciting school year at Renfrew Educational Services. This time of year, is filled with fresh possibilities, new friendships, and opportunities for growth. Our dedicated staff are eager to partner with you in supporting your child's learning journey, and we look forward to celebrating many achievements together in the months ahead. Thank you for being such an important part of our Renfrew community—we are so glad you are here!

Renfrew Buses

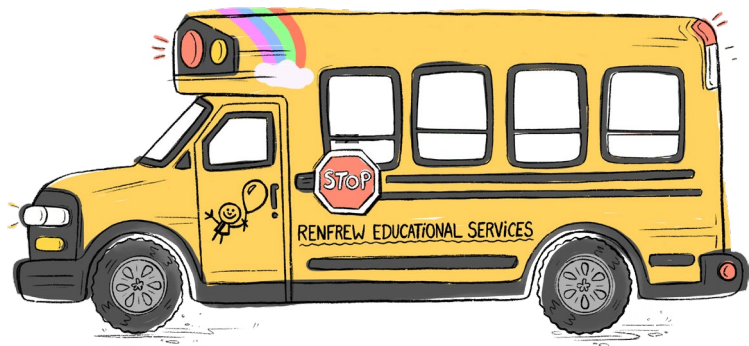
As we begin the new school year, we may experience a few adjustments to bus schedules. Routes are carefully planned by our Manager of Transportation and assigned to drivers in late August. However, as new children join us or families move, minor changes may be required. While we don't anticipate major disruptions, please know that the first couple of weeks may bring slight variations in pick-up and drop-off times.

To help keep routes running smoothly, please have your child ready five minutes before the scheduled pick-up time and be prepared at the stop five minutes before drop-off. Our buses run on tight schedules, and timeliness with loading and unloading helps ensure everyone arrives safely and on time.

Your child's safety is always our top priority, especially during bus transitions. Parents are required to accompany children to the bus for loading and be present at drop-off to receive them. Children will not be permitted to walk to or from the bus alone. Exceptions can be arranged for older students with parent and bus driver approval.

A friendly reminder: please do not send toys, food, or electronic devices on the bus. Each bus is equipped with a DVD player to provide entertainment during the ride. For more details, please review the Transportation Brochure provided by your driver.

We thank you for your patience and understanding as routes settle into a steady routine in these early weeks.



Janice McTighe
Founder / Strategic Advisor



Nicki Wilson
Executive Director - Community Services



Kim LaCourse
Executive Director - School Operations

Fundraising Highlights from the Summer

Renfrew was fortunate to be the recipient of two wonderful fundraising events this summer:

- August 14, 2025 – The Annual Magna Insurance Group Charity Golf Classic raised over \$100,000 for Renfrew's new school in Bears paw.



- August 25, 2025 – The Calgary Italian Open Golf Tournament raised \$75,000 toward the purchase of a new Italian Open school bus.



We are deeply grateful to Magna Insurance Group and the Calgary Italian Open for their generosity and commitment to Helping Kids Soar.

Parent Advisory Councils – Moving to a Hybrid Model

This year, each Renfrew location will host its own Parent Advisory Council (PAC) with monthly meetings. Councils will set their direction in collaboration with site Managers and teachers, creating a wonderful opportunity for parents to be involved in school life.

Each PAC will decide whether to hold meetings in person or virtually. Meeting dates will be shared in the next Treasures newsletter and by email.

Environmentally Friendly Practices

To reduce paper use, many of our important resources will be available online. The monthly newsletter, Family Handbook, school calendar, and classroom information can all be found under the Parent Resource tab on our website.

Please also check your email regularly for weekly classroom updates, announcements, and fundraising news from your child's teachers and our team.

Website

Our **Parent Lounge** page on our website has lots of resources and information for families. You can download a PDF of important dates for the year and read about other important information.

Reports

You can find the following reports on our website:

- ▶ Education Plan
- ▶ Annual Education Results Report

To access them, click on the **About** menu item near the top of our homepage, then click on **Publications** on the drop down menu. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Stay Connected

Follow us on social media and consider leaving a Google Review to share your family's experience. Your stories help others learn about our programs and the positive impact of Renfrew in the community. To leave a review, search Renfrew Educational Services on Google and click "Write a review."

Thank You

Welcome to a new school year at Renfrew! Our doors are always open, and we encourage you to reach out at any time.

Janice McTighe

Founder / Strategic Advisor

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Kim LaCourse

Executive Director - School Operations

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Nicki Wilson

Executive Director - Community Services

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nickiwilson@renfreweducation.org

Warmest Regards,

Janice, Kim & Nicki

Limited
Spots
Available!

Stepping Out on Saturdays (SOS) Respite Program

for children ages 5 - 12 years

Caring for a child with a disability is a full-time job - and every caregiver deserves time to rest, reset, and feel supported. Stepping Out on Saturdays is a weekend respite program that supports both kids and their caregivers that gives kids a safe, welcoming space to grow their confidence, build new skills, and connect with others.

Through play-based group sessions, we help children grow. The program operates with a **1:4 caretaker to child ratio**. The program is designed to provide thoughtful, structured support and children need to be able to manage within this ratio to participate.

What Kids Get:

- ▶ A safe, welcoming space to just be themselves
- ▶ Hands-on activities that build independence, communication, and social skills
- ▶ Predictable routines that help kids feel calm and confident
- ▶ Positive interactions with trained, compassionate staff
- ▶ A chance to make friends, try new things, and have fun

What Families Get:

- ▶ A few uninterrupted hours - to rest, run errands, or simply exhale
- ▶ Practical, personalized strategies that actually work at home
- ▶ A supportive team that gets it - no judgment, just help
- ▶ The reminder that you're doing great, and you don't have to do it all alone



Find out more about
services and rates

403.291.5038 ext.1396

JackiCassidy@renfreweducation.org

www.renfreweducation.org

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

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.

Connect with the Family Support Team!

In September, you will receive a package from Family Support. We encourage you to fill out this package and return it in your child's backpack in the envelope provided. This information enables us to serve you better and remain accountable to our funders.

This package includes:

1. Welcome note and brochure from your Family Support Worker
2. Needs Assessment Form
3. City of Calgary FCSS Survey

Did you know?

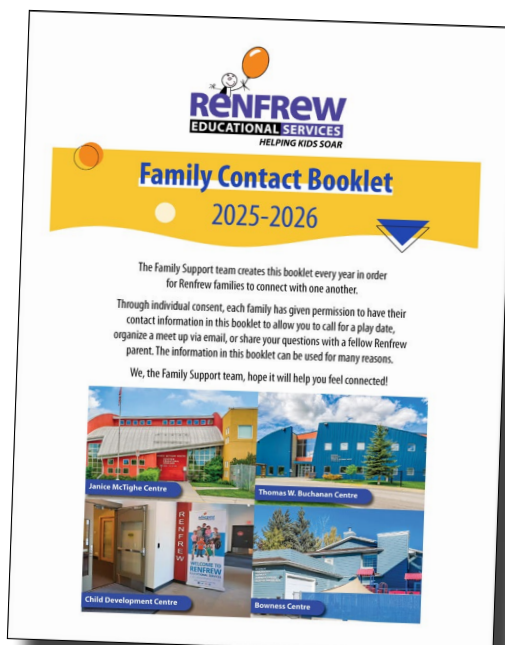
Did you know that you can request an interpreter to help with communication? Renfrew is proud to offer interpretation through our partnerships with the Calgary Immigrant Women's Association (CIWA), Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS), and Alberta Health Services (AHS) Language Line.

You can request an interpreter by calling or emailing the Family Support Worker at your Renfrew school.

What's new this year?

Family Support coordinates a **Family Contact Book** to help you connect with other Renfrew families! Instead of a paper form, you can be included in this book by filling out an online form! You will receive a link to this form by email. You can also click the following link and fill it out now:

Family Contact Book - Online Form



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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



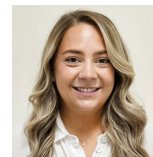
Sarah Livingstone
Family Support Worker

Bowness Centre
403.291.5038 ext. 1811
slivingstone@renfreweducation.org



Emily Stevenson
Family Support Worker

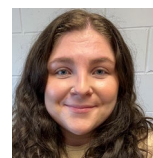
Child Development Centre
403.291.5038 ext. 1244
estevenson@renfreweducation.org



Emily Voisey
Family Support Worker

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

First Nations



Alexa Mogg
Family Support Worker

Big Horn Health Centre
Mini Thni / Stoney Health
(Morley)
amogg@renfreweducation.org



COFFEE & CHAT GROUP

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

220 St. George's Drive NE

Thursday, October 9, 2025

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.

- **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.
- **PARKING:** Please note that you will be required to pay for parking (\$12/day) if you choose to park in the Telus Spark parking lot. You can pay for parking at the machine located beside the front door or you can download the ParkPlus App and prepay for your parking session (Zone 8310).

Registration is Limited

Please register by **October 2, 2025** by emailing the Family Support team at familysupport@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

Greeting Cards for All Occasions!

Janice McTighe Centre (JMC), 2050 21 Street NE

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

Morning Group: 9:00 - 11:00am
OR

Afternoon Group: 1:00 - 3:00pm



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 and there will be light refreshments.

This is an adult-only event.

Please register by **October 22, 2025** by emailing the Family Support team at familysupport@renfreweducation.org

News from the Calgary Public Library



National Day for Truth And Reconciliation is September 30

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is an opportunity to reflect and learn from the intergenerational impacts of residential schools. At the Library, locations with Indigenous Placemaking will be open on September 30 from noon to 5:00 pm on September 30 with special programs and resources available. This includes Central, Crowfoot, Fish Creek, Forest Lawn, Judith Umbach, Saddletowne, Seton, Shawnessy, Signal Hill, and Village Square Libraries. For booklists, resources, and more information about National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, visit <https://www.calgarylibrary.ca/connect/indigenous-services>

Start Your School Year with the Library

It can be intimidating starting the school year, but the Library has resources that will keep students on track. SOLARO is a free digital resource that follows the Alberta curriculum and provides online access to the same information found in The Key study guides. Find course lessons, reviews, and practice tests for students in grades 3 to 12. Access SOLARO: <https://www.calgarylibrary.ca/read-learn-and-explore/digital-library/solaro>

Find StoryWalks® at a Park Near You

Sometimes it can feel like we are being transported to a new world when we are reading. Now with StoryWalks®, you can literally walk through the pages of a book. You'll find the pages of a storybook displayed along a path in seven Calgary parks, giving readers of all ages the chance to enjoy a book while taking a stroll. Learn more: <https://www.calgarylibrary.ca/library-news/walk-through-a-book-with-storywalks>

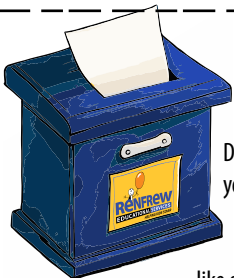
Important Dates

September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labour Day Schools Closed	2	3	4	5 EEP/Jr High OFF	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 EEP/Jr High ATTEND	13 Renfrew Family Day (10am-12pm)
14	15	16	17	18	19 Non-Instructional Day No Classes, No SSP	20
21	22 School Picture Day JMC	23 School Picture Day JMC	24 School Picture Day JMC	25 School Picture Day BOW	26 EEP/Jr High ATTEND	27
28	29	30 National Truth & Reconciliation Day Schools Closed				

Next Month:

Oct 1	School Picture Day TBC	Oct 13	Thanksgiving Day Schools Closed
Oct 2	School Picture Day TBC	Oct 17	EEP/Jr High ATTEND
Oct 3	EEP/Jr High OFF	Oct 23	Family Night (6:00 PM-7:30 PM)
Oct 6	School Picture Day CDC	Oct 24	EEP/Jr High OFF
Oct 9	Non-Instructional Day No Classes, No SSP	Oct 31	EEP/Jr High ATTEND
Oct 10	Non-Instructional Day No Classes, No SSP		



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: _____