

# Treasures Family Newsletter

October 2025

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



## Important Dates

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	(6:00pm-7:30pm)
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			

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# Executive Message

## News from the Executive Team

### Our School Year is Off to a Great Start!

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we settle into new routines across our schools. We've experienced many busing changes over the past month, but we're happy to report that things have now settled into a more 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 of any changes that may affect your child's bus ride.



**Janice McTighe**  
Founder / Strategic Advisor



**Kim LaCourse**  
Executive Director - School Operations



**Nicki Wilson**  
Executive Director - Community Services

### Helping Kids Soar Charity Gala – March 12, 2026: “Building Our Future”

We are thrilled to announce our 27<sup>th</sup> annual gala! From humble beginnings - raising \$15,000 in our first year - to an incredible event that continues to grow thanks to your generous support. We are currently preparing our sponsorship materials and will soon be reaching out to families for support through sponsorships and auction item donations.

Did you know Renfrew is a not-for-profit organization? We rely on fundraising for many of our special projects. We do not receive government funding for capital expenses, which means our specialty rooms - such as Mind and Movement Rooms, Greenhouses, Multi-Sensory Rooms - along with Specialized Equipment, Assistive Technology, Buses, and school buildings, are all made possible through the generosity of individuals like you.



This year's gala will support our newest and most exciting initiative: the Legacy School, located in Bears paw, now named the **Three Sisters Centre**. To date, we have raised just over \$24 million toward our \$32 million goal. This purpose-built school will serve children from preschool to Grade 12 with disabilities, offering exceptional programs in an inspiring and thoughtfully designed environment.

### Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Please watch for upcoming information about PAC meetings at your child's school location. The Parent Advisory Council is a great way to get involved in your child's education and to connect with other Renfrew parents. We encourage you to consider joining! Feel free to speak with your location's Manager for more details.

### Family Night – October 23, 2025

We are excited to host our first Family Night of the year on October 23! This fun-filled event is a great opportunity for families to connect. More information will be sent home in the coming weeks by your child's teacher.

### Did You Know...

Renfrew offers a wide range of services for children and families both within our schools and in the broader community.

- ▶ We operate Preschool Programs at our four school sites, serving nearly 400 children.
- ▶ We provide 150 placements in our Elementary, Junior High, and Senior High programs, which run out of the Janice McTighe and Thomas W. Buchanan Centres.
- ▶ Our specialized programs and services support children with Motor Disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorders, and include the Wellness Empowerment Program, as well as partnerships with the Stoney Nakoda and Tsuut'ina Nations.
- ▶ Our Community Services department continues to provide support to students in both community and Independent Schools.
- ▶ Our Assessment and Therapy Services department offers assessment and intervention throughout the community.

If you're interested in learning more about any of these services, please speak with the Manager at your child's school site.

## Open-Door Policy

At Renfrew, we are committed to maintaining an open-door policy. We understand that many families appreciate the flexibility of virtual meetings, so we are happy to connect either virtually or in-person—whatever works best for you. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or the school Manager with any questions or concerns.

## Thank You

Renfrew is proud to be home to talented and dedicated teams who are passionate about supporting children and families. From the first step on the school bus to the classroom and beyond, our staff is committed to doing what's best for your child.

We are now in our 52<sup>nd</sup> year of serving children and families and remain dedicated to providing exemplary programs and services. We look forward to another amazing year of fun, learning, and growth.

Our doors are always open. Please feel free to contact us at any time!

### Janice McTighe

Founder / Strategic Advisor

T 403.219.5388 F 403.291.2499

[janicemctighe@renfreweducation.org](mailto:janicemctighe@renfreweducation.org)

### Kim LaCourse

Executive Director - School Operations

T 403.219.5386 F 403.291.2499

[kimlcourse@renfreweducation.org](mailto:kimlcourse@renfreweducation.org)

### Nicki Wilson

Executive Director - Community Services

T 403.291.5038 ext. 1643

[nickiwilson@renfreweducation.org](mailto: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](mailto:JackiCassidy@renfreweducation.org)

[www.renfreweducation.org](http://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, neighbourhood and community. Every Renfrew school location has a Family Support Worker.



### Mark Your Calendars!

#### Holiday Helping Project 2025

We are pleased to announce that the Holiday Helping Project will begin **November 3!** The Holiday Helping Project is an annual program that provides assistance to Renfrew families during the winter holiday season.

From November 3 to November 28, 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.



CALGARY  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

## News from the Calgary Public Library

### Get Ready for the Municipal Election

Election Day in Calgary is Monday, October 20 and the Library is here to make sure you have the details you need to feel informed and engaged. The Library is offering programs and resources to help Calgarians learn about the issues and consider who to vote for as Mayor, councillors, and school board trustees. Find information on our programs and the details that will help you prepare before you cast your vote: <https://www.calgarylibrary.ca/connect/civic-engagement-and-elections>

### Library Program Registration Begins October 14

There are ways for everyone to connect and grow at the Library. There are programs that will enhance learning like Math Quest and Reading Buddies and programs that will spark creativity like Teens Create. There are also programs that will help you build practical skills like Canadian Banking for Newcomers. Registration for Baby Rhyme Time begins on October 14 and registration for all other programs begins on October 15. View Library programs: <https://www.calgarylibrary.ca/events-and-programs/programs>

### A Day in the Life of a Library Delivery Driver

Have you ever wondered how books and materials move around the Library system? Watch A Day in the Life of a Delivery Driver and get a glimpse of what it's like to be part of this important team at the Library. Before you watch, take a guess of how many boxes each Delivery Driver moves in a day. Spoiler: it's a lot! Watch on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JemX9QIM96Q>

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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](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 Mogg**  
Family Support Worker

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



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).

**Friday, November 21, 2025**

Morning Group: 9:15am

Please register by **October 2, 2025** by emailing the Family Support team at [familysupport@renfreweducation.org](mailto:familysupport@renfreweducation.org)

**Wednesday, December 10, 2025**

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

Please register by **December 3, 2025** by emailing the Family Support team at [familysupport@renfreweducation.org](mailto:familysupport@renfreweducation.org)

### Registration is Limited

**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](mailto:familysupport@renfreweducation.org)



## Information Sessions

### 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 (DTC), or if you have questions about opening 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 your child has been approved for the Disability Tax Credit and you are ready to proceed with opening an RDSP with Steven, you are welcome to bring your SIN card and Driver's License to get the paperwork started on November 5th.

**Wednesday, November 5, 2025**

*In-person at Renfrew's Janice McTighe Centre  
(2050 21 Street NE)*

**Times:** Meetings will be held every half hour from 10:00am until 2:00pm (10:00am, 10:30am, 11:00am, 11:30am, 12:00pm, 12:30pm, 1:00pm, and 1:30pm)

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Please register by **October 29, 2025** by  
emailing the Family Support team at  
[familysupport@renfreweducation.org](mailto:familysupport@renfreweducation.org)  
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- ▶ When you register, please indicate your first and second choices for meeting times. Each meeting will be 30 minutes long.

### Introduction to Parenting Tools & Visuals (Zoom)

Parenting is hard but you are not alone! Join us as we learn about some of the tips and tricks we can try on our parenting journey. Kim Ralstin, Renfrew manager, will join us to demonstrate some of the tools that Renfrew staff use every day to support our unique student population. This includes using developmentally appropriate expectations, visual schedules, timers, first/then cards, positive reinforcement and more!

**Tuesday, November 25th  
9:30am - 11:00am**

*Virtual meeting on Zoom*

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Please register by **November 18, 2025** by  
emailing the Family Support team at  
[familysupport@renfreweducation.org](mailto:familysupport@renfreweducation.org)  
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- ▶ When you register, please include your full name, your child's name and the Renfrew location your child attends.

### School Transition Sessions

Are you wondering where your child 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 one of our School Transition Sessions.

**Wednesday, October 22, 2025  
9:30am - 11:00am**

*Virtual meeting on Zoom*

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Please register by **October 15, 2025** by  
emailing the Family Support team at  
[familysupport@renfreweducation.org](mailto:familysupport@renfreweducation.org)  
.....

- ▶ When you register, please include your full name, your child's name and the Renfrew location your child attends.

**Thursday, November 6, 2025  
1:30pm - 3:00pm**

*Virtual meeting on Zoom*

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Please register by **October 30, 2025** by  
emailing the Family Support team at  
[familysupport@renfreweducation.org](mailto:familysupport@renfreweducation.org)  
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- ▶ When you register, please include your full name, your child's name and the Renfrew location your child attends.

**Wednesday, November 19, 2025  
6:30pm - 8:00pm**

*Virtual meeting on Zoom*

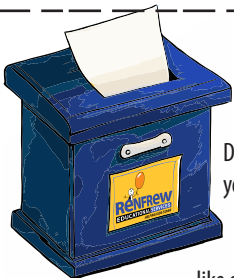
.....  
Please register by **November 12, 2025** by  
emailing the Family Support team at  
[familysupport@renfreweducation.org](mailto:familysupport@renfreweducation.org)  
.....

- ▶ When you register, please include your full name, your child's name and the Renfrew location your child attends.

# Important Dates

## October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 School Picture Day TBC	2 School Picture Day TBC	3 EEP/Jr High OFF	4
5	6 School Picture Day CDC	7	8	9 Non-Instructional Day No Classes, No SSP	10 Non-Instructional Day No Classes, No SSP	11
12	13 Thanksgiving Day Schools Closed	14	15	16	17 EEP/Jr High ATTEND	18
19	20	21	22	23 Family Night (6:00pm-7:30pm)	24 EEP/Jr High OFF	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 EEP/Jr High ATTEND Halloween	
<b>Next Month:</b> <div> <div>Nov 7 EEP/Jr High OFF</div> <div>Nov 11 Remembrance Day Schools Closed</div> <div>Nov 14 EEP/Jr High ATTEND</div> <div>Nov 20 Parent/Teacher Conferences EVENING</div> </div> <div> <div>Nov 21 Non-Instructional Day No Classes, No SSP</div> <div>Parent/Teacher Conferences DAY</div> <div>Nov 28 EEP/Jr High ATTEND</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?

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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: \_\_\_\_\_