

Treasures Family Newsletter

December 2025



Please Join Us

MARCH 12, 2026

**HELPING KIDS SOAR GALA
BUILDING OUR FUTURE**

BMO Centre

Stampede Park, 20 Round Up Way SE

5:30 pm: Cocktails & Auction Viewing

7:00 pm: Dinner & Program

Dress: Semiformal



THE THREE SISTERS CENTRE

Important Dates

Dec 2	Giving Tuesday	www.givingtuesday.ca
Dec 5	EEP/Jr High	OFF
Dec 12	EEP/Jr High	ATTEND
Dec 18	Last Day of Classes/SSP	
Dec 19	Non-Instructional Day	No Classes, No SSP
Dec 22	Winter Break begins	
Dec 25	Christmas Day	Schools Closed
Dec 26	Boxing Day	Schools Closed

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Executive Message

News from the Executive Team

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!

At this special time of year, we pause to reflect, share, and celebrate the traditions that make this season so meaningful. At Renfrew, we are incredibly fortunate to spend our days with remarkable children and their families. We are also grateful for our dedicated Renfrew teams, along with generous parent volunteers, Board Members, and committee members who share their time and talents to support our Parent Advisory Councils, fundraising initiatives, and school events.

From our Renfrew family to yours, we wish you a safe, restful, and festive holiday season.



Kim LaCourse
Executive Director - School Operations



Nicki Wilson
Executive Director - Community Services



Charity Gala

With Renfrew's Charity Gala just three months away, we need your help! This is a major fundraiser for Renfrew, and this year's proceeds will support the building of our Three Sisters Centre in Bears paw.

There are many ways to contribute:

- ▶ Donate a silent auction item
- ▶ Make a cash donation
- ▶ Purchase a ticket to attend
- ▶ Connect us with a potential sponsor

Ticket information can be accessed through the link below.

At the back of Treasures, you will find everything you need to donate a silent auction item (including our Amazon wish list), along with contact information. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Givergy Fundraising Website:

[Helping Kids SOAR Gala – Building Our Future](#)

Amazon Wishlist

As we prepare for our 27th Annual Gala, we're putting together an exciting silent auction to help raise funds that directly support our students and programs.

This year, we've created an **Amazon Wishlist** for anyone who may wish to contribute an item to the auction. We've included a wide range of price points to make participation accessible for all families - and of course, this is completely optional.

If you'd like to help, you can browse the wishlist here:

https://www.amazon.ca/hz/wishlist/ls/1Q4HJUA4SJWK0?ref=wl_share

We've also included an Item Information Sheet at the end of this newsletter. If you choose to purchase something from the wishlist, we kindly ask that you fill out the sheet and send it to jcassidy@renfreweducation.org. This helps us track donations and prepare the auction items properly.

Thank you so much for your support, your generosity, and for being such an important part of our community.

Warmly,

The Renfrew Team





Holiday Helping Project

The annual Holiday Helping Project has just a few days left in the campaign. This initiative raises funds to support Renfrew families, and we know that more families are in need this season than in past years. If you are able, please consider donating—your contribution truly makes a difference in the lives of the children and families at Renfrew.

United Way Donations

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to families who directed their United Way donations to Renfrew Educational Services. We are especially appreciative of the many Calgary businesses that match employee donations, which increases the support Renfrew receives. In addition, some businesses recognize employee volunteer efforts by donating based on volunteer hours spent at their children's schools. We are grateful for your continued generosity and support.

Winter Festival Celebrations

Classrooms and sites will be planning special winter celebrations in the coming weeks. Please watch for information from your child's teacher regarding any upcoming events.

Thank You

Parents, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your continued support and for entrusting your children to our care. Our doors are always open, and we are happy to meet with families at any time. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions, concerns, or would like to connect.

Warmest holiday wishes,

Kim & Nicki

Kim LaCourse

Executive Director - School Operations

T 587.713.4762 F 403.291.2499

kimlacourse@renfreweducation.org

Nicki Wilson

Executive Director - Community Services

T 587.507.4872

nickiwilson@renfreweducation.org



Registration for the 2026–2027 School Year

Our registration process for returning families will begin within the next few weeks. You will be contacted by the Manager at your child's site with online access to the registration package. Internal registration will be offered to returning families before registration opens to the broader community.

If you have any questions or need support completing your online registration, please contact your site Manager.

Word of mouth is often the best referral, and technology plays a big role too. If you're willing, we invite you to share your experience with friends and family who may be looking for specialized programs. Please take a few minutes to leave us a Google review using this link: [Google Review](#) (You can also right-click and select "copy hyperlink," then paste it into your browser's address bar.)





Sparkling Water Fundraiser

The Three Sisters Centre: Building Brighter Futures

This fundraising campaign supports the creation of Renfrew's new Three Sisters Centre — a purpose-built facility that will expand our specialized programming from ECS through Grade 12. This new space will allow us to serve students longer, support their growth at every stage, and continue delivering the life-changing programs that define Renfrew.



Support Renfrew with Refreshment!

This fundraiser features North Water — premium Canadian sparkling water sourced straight from the Rocky Mountains.

By purchasing, you're not just quenching your thirst — you're helping support Renfrew's programs and students.

Pricing:

- 6-Pack – \$18
- 12-Pack – \$36
- Flat of 24 – \$72

Every sip makes a difference — so stock up, stay hydrated, and support a great cause!



Scan QR code to place your order!

Or Visit <https://forms.gle/7jzn8EirCMjDqhKz5>

You don't need to place an order to support the TSC Capital Campaign

You can e-transfer a donation to foundationdonations@renfreweducation.org. When you e-transfer, please indicate that your donation is for the "TSC Capital Campaign". To receive a tax receipt, your donation must be \$20 or more and you must clearly indicate your **legal name, address and email address**

“Together for a Bright Future”

Paul Van Ginkel created this 48” X 72” oil painting for Renfrew. The original was sold at our Gala on March 13th 2025, however, the image is also available in limited edition canvas (36” X 54”) and paper prints (15” X 23”). All proceeds from these sales are donated to Renfrew.

What a beautiful and unique holiday gift!



Follow the link or scan the QR code for details: <https://paulvanginkel.com/product/together-for-a-bright-future-2/>



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.

THANK YOU! Holiday Helping Project 2025



Family Support would like to thank everyone for their generous contributions to the Holiday Helping Project this year! Your donations will be used to purchase gift cards for Renfrew families to brighten up their holiday season.

Holiday Support

2025 has been a challenging year and we recognize that many families may be struggling financially with the rising costs of living in Calgary. Do you need support to connect with holiday food or gifts this year? If so, please reach out to the Family Support Worker at your child's Renfrew location.



News from the Calgary Public Library

Wish Together, Grow Together this Winter

Experience the magic of winter at Calgary Public Library. Visit Central and Memorial Park libraries throughout December to enjoy seasonal fun including storytime with the Mayor, holiday performances, and winter-themed activities. Visit our website to find a winter activity for you and your family: calgarylibrary.ca/events-and-programs/events

What Was Your Favourite Book this Year?

Check out Calgary Public Library's 2025 Books of the Year, released in early December! This annual list of books includes titles for adults, teens, and children. Visit any of our 22 locations to let staff help you find a book, or visit our website to browse through our top picks: calgarylibrary.ca/books-of-the-year

Meet the Library's 2025 Musical Artist in Residence

"Who Cares" is a collective that was formed in 2020 between violinist Laura Reid and flautist Jiajia Li. By combining their technical training with a more unconventional style, Laura and Jiajia have embraced a unique approach to creating and sharing music. Along with being able to visit "Who Cares" during their office hours, you can enjoy their interactive community performances. Learn more about their music and residency: <https://www.calgarylibrary.ca/library-news/who-cares-about-creating-perfect-music>

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
587.287.5746
cfrancis@renfreweducation.org



Sarah Livingstone
Family Support Worker

Bowness Centre
587.287.5746
slivingstone@renfreweducation.org



Emily Stevenson
Family Support Worker

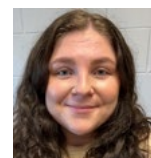
Child Development Centre
587.287.5746
estevenson@renfreweducation.org



Emily Voisey
Family Support Worker

Thomas W. Buchanan Centre
587.287.5746
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



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).

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

Thursday, January 15, 2026

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

Please register by **January 8, 2026** by emailing the
Family Support team at 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

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Parenting Tools & Visuals (Zoom)

Back by popular demand! Thank you to Kim Ralstin for an excellent Zoom session on the topic of visual strategies and other helpful parenting tools. Please join us as we build on this discussion and explore other positive behaviour strategies to support your parenting journey.

Wednesday, January 21, 2026
9:30am - 11:00am

Virtual meeting on Zoom

Please register by **January 14, 2026** by
emailing the Family Support team at
familysupport@renfreweducation.org

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

School Transition Session

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 our School Transition Session.

Thursday, January 15, 2026
6:30pm - 8:00pm

Virtual meeting on Zoom

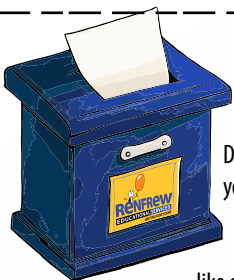
Please register by **January 8, 2026** by
emailing the Family Support team at
familysupport@renfreweducation.org

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

Important Dates

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 <div>Giving Tuesday www.givingtuesday.ca</div>	3	4	5 <div>EEP/Jr High OFF</div>	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 <div>EEP/Jr High ATTEND</div>	13
14	15	16	17	18 <div>Last Day of Classes/SSP</div>	19 <div>Non-Instructional Day No Classes, No SSP</div>	20
21	22 <div>Winter Break</div>	23 <div>Winter Break</div>	24 <div>Winter Break</div>	25 <div>Christmas Day Schools Closed</div> <div>Winter Break</div>	26 <div>Boxing Day Schools Closed</div> <div>Winter Break</div>	27
28	29 <div>Winter Break</div>	30 <div>Winter Break</div>	31 <div>Winter Break</div>			
<div>Next Month:</div> <div><div><div>Jan 1</div><div>New Year's Day Schools Closed</div><div>Winter Break</div></div><div><div>Jan 2</div><div>Winter Break</div></div><div><div>Jan 5</div><div>Classes/SSP Resume</div></div><div><div>Jan 9</div><div>EEP/Jr High OFF</div></div><div><div>Jan 16</div><div>EEP/Jr High ATTEND</div></div><div><div>Jan 23</div><div>Non-Instructional Day No Classes, No SSP</div></div><div><div>Jan 30</div><div>EEP/Jr High ATTEND</div></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: _____



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 23, 2026

Event Information:

Renfrew Educational Services Foundation
27th Annual Gala: "Building Our Future"
March 12th, 2026
BMO Centre – Stampede Park

Forward Item and Form To:

27th Annual Charity Gala
Renfrew Educational Services Foundation
2050 – 21 Street NE
Calgary, Alberta, T2E 6S5

Enquiries:

Jacki Cassidy
T 587.287.5746
F 403.291.2499

Office Use Only: Item # _____

Charitable Registration No. 777625492 RR0001



HELPING KIDS SOAR GALA BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Thursday, March 12, 2026

At Renfrew Educational Services, we believe every child deserves the chance to reach their full potential. For more than 50 years, Renfrew has been a leader in delivering specialized programs for children with disabilities — providing not only education, but also therapies, technology, and the wrap-around supports that help children thrive.

To meet the urgent needs of families, we have launched a Capital Campaign to expand our programs into Junior and Senior High School. With the creation of the **Three Sisters Centre**, our new flagship school, students will be able to continue their learning journey at Renfrew all the way through Grade 12. We are now within reach of our goal — having raised over **\$24 million** of our **\$32 million construction target** — and your support can help us cross the finish line.

One of the cornerstones of our fundraising success is the **Renfrew Annual Charity Gala**, recognized as one of Calgary's premier fundraising events. Over the past 26 years, this Gala has raised close to \$10 million in support of new schools, buses, specialized learning spaces, adaptive equipment, and programs that change lives.

On **Thursday, March 12, 2026**, we are proud to host our **27th Annual Gala – Building Our Future** at the **BMO Centre at Stampede Park**.

We invite you to join us **as a sponsor of this milestone event**. Your partnership will directly support the creation of the **Three Sisters Centre**, ensuring that children with disabilities—and their families—have access to the opportunities, supports, and hope they deserve.

For Sponsorship Opportunities:

Janice McTighe

Founder & Strategic Advisor

janicemctighe@renfreweducation.org

403.973.2278

For Tickets & Event Info:

www.renfreweducation.org

For Auction Donations or Questions:

Jacki Cassidy

Event Manager

jackicassidy@renfreweducation.org

On behalf of the children, families, and staff of Renfrew Educational Services, thank you for your past generosity. We hope you will stand with us this year in building the future—as together, we help every child **SOAR to Grade 12**.

Jim Reid

Chairman, Foundation Board of Directors



HELPING KIDS SOAR GALA

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Sponsorship Opportunities

Event Sponsor

\$ 5 0 k

- 20 Gala Guests: Preferred Seating and Wine
- Prominent Logo/Name Placement on interactive bidding technology
- Prominent Logo/Name Placement on Print, Digital, & Online Event Materials
- Recognition from the Podium
- First right of refusal to be “Event Sponsor” for following year’s Gala

Platinum Sponsors

\$ 2 5 k

- 16 Gala Guests: Preferred Seating and Wine
- Prominent Logo/Name Placement on interactive bidding technology
- Prominent Logo/Name Placement on Print, Digital, & Online Event Materials
- Recognition from the Podium

Gold Sponsors

\$ 1 2 k

- 10 Gala Guests: Preferred Seating and Wine
- Prominent Logo/Name Placement on Print, Digital, & Online Event Materials
- Recognition from the Podium

Silver Sponsors

\$ 7 k

- 10 Gala Guests
- Prominent Logo/Name Placement on Print, Digital, & Online Event Materials

For Sponsorship Opportunities, Please Contact:
Janice McTighe, Founder and Strategic Advisor
(403) 973-2278 | JaniceMctighe@renfreweducation.org