

# •Treasures Family Newsletter

January 2026



## 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

Jan 1	New Year's Day	<i>Schools Closed</i>
		<i>Winter Break</i>
Jan 2		<i>Winter Break</i>
Jan 5		<i>Classes/SSP Resume</i>
Jan 9		<i>EEP/Jr High OFF</i>
Jan 16		<i>EEP/Jr High ATTEND</i>
Jan 23		<i>Non-Instructional Day No Classes, No SSP</i>
Jan 30		<i>EEP/Jr High ATTEND</i>

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# Executive Message

## News from the Executive Team

### Happy New Year!

#### Welcome Back!

We would like to warmly welcome everyone back to school on **January 5, 2026**. We hope you and your family enjoyed a restful holiday season filled with special moments and cherished memories. 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

### Helping Kids SOAR Gala – We Need Your Help!

Our major fundraising charity gala, the **Helping Kids SOAR Gala**, will take place on **March 12, 2026**, and we are reaching out to our school community for support.



There are many ways you can help:

- ▶ Make a **cash donation** toward the purchase of silent auction items
- ▶ Purchase an item from our **Amazon Wish List**
- ▶ **Attend the gala** by purchasing a ticket
- ▶ **Connect us with a potential sponsor**

#### Cash Donations

Cash donations can be made by clicking here - [Donate](#) - or by going to the Gala page on our website and clicking the "**Donate Here**" link.

#### Hot Ticket items

While we have secured a few packages, we are currently seeking items for our "**Hot Ticket**" section. These items are typically unique, experience-based opportunities that create excitement and strong bidding. If you can support in any of the following ways, please contact: [jackicassidy@renfreweducation.org](mailto:jackicassidy@renfreweducation.org)

#### Ideas for Donation:

- ▶ Airline flights
- ▶ Destination accommodations (condos or vacation homes)
- ▶ Sporting events (e.g., box seats for Stampede, hockey games, Blue Jays games with accommodations, U.S. golfing experiences)
- ▶ Restaurant experiences (dinner for four or more)
- ▶ Wine for a year
- ▶ Golfing packages with accommodations
- ▶ In-home private chef experience
- ▶ Concert tickets
- ▶ Helicopter tour with accommodations
- ▶ Vineyard stay with wine tour
- ▶ Hunting package
- ▶ Progressive dinner
- ▶ Spring cleaning package
- ▶ House cleaning for a year

#### Purchasing Tickets to the Event

Ticket information can be accessed through the link below. This gala is a major fundraiser for Renfrew and proceeds this year will continue to support the construction of our new Legacy School - the Three Sisters Centre.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Givergy Fundraising Website:** [Helping Kids SOAR Gala – Building Our Future](#)

### Amazon Wishlist

As we prepare for our 27<sup>th</sup> 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: [Amazon Wishlist](#)

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](mailto: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



## Renfrew Educational Services Celebrates 52!

For 52 years, Renfrew Educational Services has continued to grow and adapt to meet the needs of families. What began as a one-room classroom has expanded into four schools, a robust **Community Services** department, and a comprehensive **Assessment and Therapy Services** department.

Renfrew is a **not-for-profit registered charity** operating as an independent school. As such, we must raise all funds required for capital projects, including:

- ▶ Building and expanding our schools
- ▶ Purchasing and maintaining our bus fleet
- ▶ Ongoing school improvements

The generous support of corporate partners, individual donors, families, staff, and the Renfrew Board of Directors plays a critical role in our success. We are deeply grateful for this continued commitment.

## Our Programs & Services

While many parents are familiar with our school programs, Renfrew offers a wide range of additional services across Calgary and surrounding areas. As parents, you are important ambassadors for new families and potential supporters, and we are proud of the impact our programs make.

Our school sites are thoughtfully located throughout Calgary. Each site offers a **Preschool Program**, and both the *Janice McTighe Centre* and the *Thomas W. Buchanan Centre* also provide **Elementary and Junior High programs for students with disabilities**.

### Specialized Programs:

- ▶ **Specialized Services Program (SSP):** A comprehensive program for children with Autism, including both onsite and home-based components. Spaces are limited.
- ▶ **Integrated Services for Motor Disabilities (ISMD):** Designed for children with motor disabilities such as Cerebral Palsy, with a strong focus on motor development.

Both programs are available within our preschool programs. If you are interested, please speak with the manager at your child's site.

## Community Services & Therapy Programs

Our **Community Services Department** supports students in Foothills School Division, Golden Hills School Division, and various Independent Schools.

Our **Assessment and Therapy Services Department** continues to expand, offering:

- ▶ Assessments
- ▶ Intervention services
- ▶ Counselling
- ▶ Low-incidence services
- ▶ Play therapy

These services are provided across Calgary and surrounding communities, including **Airdrie, Okotoks, Chestermere, and Canmore**, as well as **Tsuut'ina and Stoney Nakoda First Nations**.

We also offer after-hours programming through our **Stepping Out on Saturdays (SOS) Respite Program**, which provides a Saturday program for children with disabilities aged 5–12.

This year alone, Renfrew is delivering services through **over 50 contracts**, supporting programs and services for **more than 10,000 children and students**.

## Registration

Ongoing registration continues for children currently enrolled at Renfrew. If you have not yet confirmed your child's return for next September, please contact the manager at your child's site as soon as possible.

## Thank You

Thank you sincerely for the many ways you support Renfrew and for trusting us with your children. Our doors are always open, and we are happy to meet with parents at any time.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

*Kim & Nicki*

### Kim LaCourse

Executive Director - School Operations  
**T** 587.713.4762 **F** 403.291.2499  
[kimlacourse@renfreweducation.org](mailto:kimlacourse@renfreweducation.org)

### Nicki Wilson

Executive Director - Community Services  
**T** 587.507.4872  
[nickiwilson@renfreweducation.org](mailto:nickiwilson@renfreweducation.org)





# 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 you order!**

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

**You dont need to place an order to support the TSC Capital Campaign**

You can e-transfer a donation to [foundationdonations@renfreweducation.org](mailto: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 13<sup>th</sup> 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.



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.



## 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).

**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](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

## 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 were used to support over 100 Renfrew families. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated!

*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](mailto:cfrancis@renfreweducation.org)



**Sarah Livingstone**  
Family Support Worker  
Bowness Centre  
587.287.5746  
[slivingstone@renfreweducation.org](mailto:slivingstone@renfreweducation.org)



**Emily Stevenson**  
Family Support Worker  
Child Development Centre  
587.287.5746  
[estevenson@renfreweducation.org](mailto:estevenson@renfreweducation.org)



**Emily Voisey**  
Family Support Worker  
Thomas W. Buchanan Centre  
587.287.5746  
[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)

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

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



## News from the Calgary Public Library

### Get Ready for Family Reading Pick

Family Literacy Day is January 27 and the Library is the place to be to celebrate a love of reading. Stay tuned as we reveal the 2026 Family Reading Pick later this month for you to share in a literary adventure in a fun way with your family. <https://www.calgarylibrary.ca/connect/students/parents-and-caregivers/family-reading-pick>

### Teen Study Tips

For teens looking to hit their goals in the new year, the Library is here to get you started. Our spaces, resources, and community can help build healthy habits. Read through our five study tips for teens: <https://www.calgarylibrary.ca/library-news/five-easy-study-tips-for-teens>

### Watch the "A Day in the Life of a Library Experience Assistant" Video

Who keeps our libraries organized, welcoming, and ready for every visitor? That's our amazing Library Experience Assistants. Whether they are shelving books, processing holds for patrons, or setting up a program room, our Library Experience Assistants help keep things moving. Watch this video to learn more about their work: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C31vB3Mioi0>



# Important Dates

## January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day Schools Closed Winter Break	2 Winter Break	3
4	5 Classes/SSP Resume	6	7	8	9 EEP/Jr High OFF	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 EEP/Jr High ATTEND	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Non-Instructional Day No Classes, No SSP	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 EEP/Jr High ATTEND	31
<b>Next Month:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feb 5 Progress Reports go home</li> <li>Feb 6 EEP/Jr High OFF</li> <li>Feb 11 Parent/Teacher Conferences EVENING</li> <li>Feb 12 Non-Instructional Day No Classes, No SSP</li> <li>Feb 13 Non-Instructional Day No Classes, No SSP</li> <li>Feb 16 Alberta Family Day Schools Closed</li> <li>Feb 20 EEP/Jr High ATTEND</li> <li>Feb 27 EEP/Jr High OFF</li> <li>Parent/Teacher Conferences DAY</li> </ul>						



### 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.

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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  
27<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala: "Building Our Future"  
March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
BMO Centre – Stampede Park

**Forward Item and Form To:**

27<sup>th</sup> 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



# 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](mailto:janicemctighe@renfreweducation.org)

403.973.2278

**For Tickets & Event Info:**

[www.renfreweducation.org](http://www.renfreweducation.org)

**For Auction Donations or Questions:**

**Jacki Cassidy**

*Event Manager*

[jackicassidy@renfreweducation.org](mailto: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

**\$ 50k**

#### Event Sponsor

- 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

**\$ 25k**

#### Platinum Sponsors

- 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

**\$ 12k**

#### Gold Sponsors

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

**\$ 7k**

#### Silver Sponsors

- 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](mailto:JaniceMctighe@renfreweducation.org)