

Treasures Family Newsletter

October 2026

Welcome
to Fall - It's
going to be a
great month!



Important Dates

Oct 2	EEP/Jr-Sr High <i>ATTEND</i>	Oct 16	EEP/Jr-Sr High <i>ATTEND</i>
Oct 8	Non-Instructional Day <i>No Classes, No SSP</i>	Oct 23	EEP/Jr-Sr High <i>OFF</i>
Oct 9	Non-Instructional Day <i>No Classes, No SSP</i>	Oct 29	Family Night <i>(6pm-7:30pm)</i>
Oct 12	Thanksgiving <i>Schools Closed</i>	Oct 30	EEP/Jr-Sr High <i>ATTEND</i>

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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 the routines of a new school year. We experienced a number of changes to our bus routes throughout the first month, and we are pleased that things have now settled into a more regular routine.

We are very fortunate to have an outstanding transportation team, a fleet of 48 buses, and an amazing group of dedicated bus drivers who safely transport children and students each day. Thank you for helping us keep things running smoothly by letting us know of any changes that may affect your child's transportation.

Helping Kids Soar Charity Gala – March 11, 2027

“Wheels on the Bus – Building Our Fleet for the Future”

We are excited to announce Renfrew's **28th Annual Helping Kids Soar Charity Gala!**

What began 28 years ago as a small event that raised \$15,000 has grown into an incredible evening of community and generosity. We are currently preparing our sponsorship materials and will soon be reaching out to families and friends of Renfrew with opportunities to support the gala through sponsorships and auction item donations.

Did you know that Renfrew is a not-for-profit organization? Fundraising plays an important role in helping us provide the specialized environments, equipment and resources that enhance the programs and services we offer. Specialty spaces such as our Mind and Movement Rooms, Greenhouses and Multi-Sensory Rooms, as well as specialized equipment, assistive technology, buses and capital projects, have all been made possible through the generosity of our community.

This year, our gala will focus on **building our bus fleet for the future** as we prepare for the opening of the **Three Sisters Centre**. With the growth of our school programs, we anticipate needing to add **seven new buses** to our fleet.

Transportation has always been an important part of how Renfrew supports families. Our goal is to ensure we can continue providing reliable transportation as we welcome more children and students in the years ahead.

We look forward to sharing more about the gala and how you can get involved!



Kim LaCourse
Executive Director - School Operations



Nicki Wilson
Executive Director - Community Services

Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Please watch for upcoming information about PAC meetings at your child's school location. The Parent Advisory Council is a wonderful way to become involved in your child's school community, meet other Renfrew parents and share ideas.

We encourage you to consider joining! Please speak with the Manager at your child's school site if you would like more information.

Family Night – October 29, 2026

We are excited to host our first **Family Night** of the school year on October 29!

This fun-filled evening is a great opportunity for families to spend time together, connect with other Renfrew families and enjoy our school community. More information will be sent home in the coming weeks by your child's teacher.



Did You Know...

There is a lot happening at Renfrew beyond your child's classroom!

- ▶ Renfrew offers a wide range of programs and services for children and families within our schools and throughout the broader community.
- ▶ We operate Preschool Programs at our four school sites, serving nearly **400 children**.
- ▶ We currently provide **153 placements** in our Elementary, Junior High and Senior High programs at the Janice McTighe and Thomas W. Buchanan Centres.
- ▶ Our specialized programs and services support children with a range of needs, including Motor Disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorders. Our work also includes the Wellness Empowerment Program and partnerships with the Stoney Nakoda and Tsuut'ina Nations.
- ▶ Our Community Services team continues to provide support to students in community and independent schools.
- ▶ Our Assessment and Therapy Services team provides assessment, consultation and intervention services to children and families throughout the community.

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

Our Doors Are Always Open

Strong partnerships with families are an important part of what we do at Renfrew. We know that every family has different needs and schedules, and we are happy to connect either virtually or in person—whatever works best for you.

If you have a question, concern or simply want to connect, please reach out to your child's teacher or school Manager. We value your input and appreciate the opportunity to work together in support of your child.

Thank You for Being Part of Renfrew!

Renfrew is proud to be home to talented and dedicated teams who are passionate about supporting children, students and families. From the first step onto the school bus, through the school day and beyond, our staff share a commitment to helping every child learn, grow and thrive.

As we celebrate our **52nd year of serving children and families**, we remain committed to providing exemplary programs and services while continuing to grow and evolve to meet the needs of our community.

Thank you for your continued trust, support and partnership. We are looking forward to another wonderful year filled with learning, laughter, new experiences and many reasons to celebrate.

Our doors are always open—we look forward to connecting with you throughout the year!

Kim & Nicki

Kim LaCourse

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T 587.713.4762 F 403.291.2499
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Nicki Wilson

Executive Director - Community Services
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We did it! The official parliamentary petition is live. Please sign it today.

Jen Ball
Calgary, Canada

Aug 25, 2026

When I started this petition, I was a mom looking for answers after what happened with Parker. What came back was something I didn't expect: thousands of you, from every corner of Canada, saying this matters to you too.

Today, I'm asking you to take one more step.

The official House of Commons e-petition is now live — sponsored by MP Mike Lake — and it's the one that counts for a formal government response.

Sign e-7703 here: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/petitions/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-7703>

It opened yesterday and already has over 2,100 signatures. It closes December 22, 2026, so we have time to do this right, but there's no reason to wait.

Why does the parliamentary petition matter?

A [Change.org](https://www.change.org) petition shows public support, and yours has done exactly that. But only a certified House of Commons e-petition can require the Government of Canada to formally respond. That's the next level of pressure, and we need it.

What's different about signing it?

It takes a couple of extra minutes compared to [Change.org](https://www.change.org). You'll need to provide your phone number and confirm that you're a Canadian citizen or resident. That's it. Every signature that goes through is validated and counted on the official record.

What are we asking for?

The petition calls on the Government of Canada to bring provinces, territories, law enforcement, autism and disability organizations, and families together to develop shared national standards for a vulnerable missing persons alert. For people with autism, non-speaking individuals, and people with intellectual or developmental disabilities who wander or go missing. Not just a law on paper. Real standards, real training, real awareness.

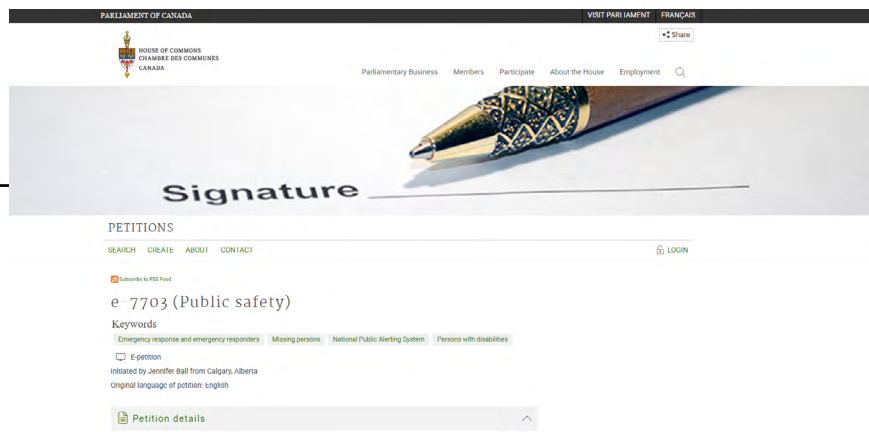
Please sign, and please share this update with everyone who supported this petition. Let's show Ottawa what 40,000 Canadian voices looks like.

Thank you for being part of this from the beginning.

Jennifer Ball

Founder, Indigo Alert Canada

indigoalertcanada.com



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.

Do You Have a Child in their Grade 6 Year of School?

Great news! Every grade six student in Calgary is eligible to receive a free 13-month membership to the YMCA, thanks to the generous support of the Calgary Flames Foundation.



What's included in the Grade 6 Program?

- ▶ A free YMCA membership for the Grade 6 school year
- ▶ Access to all YMCA locations Flames Friday activities, intramurals, weekly fitness classes, game nights and other programming
- ▶ Grade 6 city-wide tournaments and special events
- ▶ All the great benefits that come from being a YMCA member, including discounts up to 25% on programs and day camps
- ▶ One free guest admission every month

For more information, visit [Calgary Flames Grade 6 YMCA Membership | YMCA Calgary](#)

Do You Have a Child in their Grade 7 Year of School?

Great news! The Telus Spark Science Centre is offering a free 1-year pass for Grade 7 students who live in Calgary and surrounding areas.



Sign up for the free Purple Galaxy Pass online here: [Free Science Pass for Grade 7 | Purple Galaxy Pass – TELUS Spark](#)

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 Pardy
Family Support Worker

Thomas W. Buchanan Centre
587.287.5746
epardy@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 15, 2026

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 free tickets to the Telus Spark Science Centre. If you are interested in exploring this incredible facility with other Renfrew families, please join us!

- **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.

Please register by **October 8, 2026**
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

KidzGo

www.kidzgoplay.ca/ 688 Heritage Dr SE #100, Calgary

Thursday, October 22, 2026

4:30 - 7:00pm



Join us at KidzGo for an evening of indoor play! KidzGo offers a variety of fun activities ranging from a race track, giant slides, large building blocks, and more. Siblings are welcome. You can stay as long as you wish; closing time is 7:00 pm. Renfrew will pay your admission!

Adults must come with a child, and children must come with an adult. No outside food is allowed, and socks or slippers must be worn inside.

Please register by **October 15, 2026**
by emailing the Family Support team at
familysupport@renfreweducation.org

When registering, it is important to include the following information:

- Your name and the name of your Renfrew child
- The Renfrew location that your child attends
- How many people are attending this event
- The ages of all people attending the event
- If you are bringing a support aide

News from the Calgary Public Library



Kids' Bouchercon 2026

Central Library, October 24, 10am – 4pm

Enjoy a fun-filled day of learning from your favourite children's mystery writers. Learn about code cracking, cryptid hunting, how to write whodunnits, and more. There will be a keynote presentation by Kevin Sands, author of Blackthorn Key and Thieves of Shadow.

Register on our website:

calgarylibrary.ca/kids-bouchercon-2026

Family Storytime

Bring your little ones to the Library for stories, songs, and finger plays the whole family will enjoy.

View all times and locations for Family Storytime on our website:

calgarylibrary.ca/family-storytime

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 October 28th.

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

*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)

Please register by **October 21, 2026** by emailing the Family Support team at familysupport@renfreweducation.org

- ▶ 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

Wednesday, November 4, 2026

Time: 9:30 am - 11 am

Virtual meeting on 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!

Please register by **October 28, 2026** by emailing the Family Support team at familysupport@renfreweducation.org

- ▶ Please include your full name, your child's name and the Renfrew location your child attends.

Coming Soon!

November 10, 2026, 6:30pm

Mark your calendars for an evening information session with Inclusion Canada! This online Zoom session will share information about federal disability benefits, including the Disability Tax Credit (DTC).

For more information

Email Family Support at

familysupport@renfreweducation.org

School Transition Sessions

Thursday, October 22, 2026

9:30 – 11:00am

ZOOM online meeting

Register by **October 15**

by emailing Family Support at

familysupport@renfreweducation.org

- ▶ Please include your name, your child's name, and Renfrew location in your email.

Thursday, November 5, 2026

1:30 – 3:00pm

ZOOM online meeting

Register by **October 30**

by emailing Family Support at

familysupport@renfreweducation.org

- ▶ Please include your name, your child's name, and Renfrew location in your email.

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

6:30 – 8:00pm

ZOOM online meeting

Register by **November 11**

by emailing Family Support at

familysupport@renfreweducation.org

- ▶ Please include your name, your child's name, and Renfrew location in your email.

A Word About Renfrew's Elementary Education Program and Junior & Senior High Program

Renfrew's Elementary Education Program and Junior & Senior High Program offers children with severe needs a safe environment in which to grow and develop their excitement for learning. Teachers modify program expectations to meet the individual areas of growth for each student. Following best practices, teachers use a variety of resources including the Alberta Education Curriculum/Program of Studies.

Renfrew has 3 school locations that offer the Elementary Education Program. This includes Renfrew's Janice McTighe Centre (JMC), the Thomas W. Buchanan Centre (TBC), and the new Three Sisters Centre (TSC). Starting in September 2027, Renfrew's Junior & Senior High Program will be offered exclusively at our new Three Sisters Centre (TSC) in Bears paw.

Families that are interested in one of these programs will be considered for a spot. Spots are limited and placement at a Renfrew school is not guaranteed. Please attend one of the above School Transition Sessions for more information about this process. This session will also include important information about how to express interest in a Renfrew school placement and what to expect in terms of the placement timeline, schools fees, and bus transportation.

Private Assessment & Therapy Services

Affordable Counselling

Affordable Counselling services for clients aged 4 to 55 years.

- ▶ Available at any of Renfrew's locations
- ▶ \$65 per session
- ▶ Sessions will be with a PhD or Masters Student Counsellor under the supervision of a Registered Psychologist

Models used:

- ▶ Cognitive Behavioural Therapy
- ▶ Acceptance and Commitment Therapy
- ▶ Person-Centred Therapy
- ▶ Indigenous Focusing Techniques
- ▶ Play Therapy Techniques



Contact Us

Find out more about our services and rates.

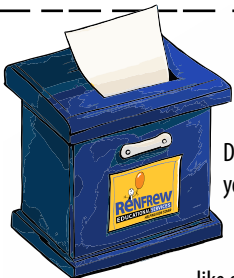
587.287.5746 and press "9"
renfrew@renfreweducation.org
www.renfreweducation.org



Important Dates

October 2026

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



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: _____