RENFREW EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
HELPING KIDS SOAR

Treasures Family Newsletter

November 2026



Important Dates

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*

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Executive Message

News from the Executive Team



Kim LaCourse
Executive Director - School Operations



Nicki Wilson
Executive Director - Community Services

Adventures at School!

As we settle into another exciting school year, it has been wonderful to see our children and students finding their routines, building connections and embracing all the adventures that each new school day brings. The transition into a new year is a big step for everyone, and we are so grateful for your patience, flexibility and support as our school communities settle into their familiar rhythms.

A quick reminder that bus routes may occasionally need to be adjusted as families move, childcare arrangements change or transportation needs evolve. Our transportation team continues to work hard behind the scenes to accommodate these changes and ensure safe, reliable and smooth transportation for everyone. Thank you for your continued understanding!



Three Sisters Centre – An Exciting New Chapter!

Exciting progress continues at the Three Sisters Centre! We are thrilled to share that construction is now 74% complete, and the project remains on track for opening in the 2027–2028 school year.

With construction projected to wrap up in Spring 2027, Renfrew will move into its new home over the summer, allowing time to prepare the facility to welcome its first students.

The Three Sisters Centre represents an exciting new chapter for Renfrew. Beginning in the 2027–2028 school year, the centre will expand our ability to serve children from ECS through Grade 12, creating new opportunities for learning, growth and connection for the children and families we support.

We look forward to sharing more updates as we get closer to this exciting milestone!



28th Annual Helping Kids Soar Charity Gala

"Wheels on the Bus – Building Our Fleet for the Future"

The countdown is on! Planning for our 28th Annual Helping Kids Soar Charity Gala is well underway, and we are looking forward to another memorable evening in support of Renfrew.

This year's theme, "Wheels on the Bus – Building Our Fleet for the Future," highlights an important goal: raising funds to purchase seven new buses to support the opening of the Three Sisters Centre and help ensure our children have access to safe and reliable transportation.

We need your help to make this year's Gala a tremendous success! We are looking for community partners, sponsors and guests to help us fill every seat and make a meaningful difference.

There are many ways to support the event:

- Become an event sponsor or purchase a table.
- Make a financial donation.
- Contribute an item or experience to our silent or live auctions.
- Help spread the word by connecting us with businesses and organizations in our community.

Every contribution brings us one step closer to our goal and helps create opportunities for the children and families we serve.

Interested in supporting the Gala or making a connection with a potential sponsor? Please contact Janice McTighe at janicemctighe@renfreweducation.org. We would love to hear from you!

Family Night – Making Memories Together!

What a wonderful time we had at our recent Family Night events across all our school locations! It was fantastic to see so many families come together to celebrate, connect and enjoy an evening filled with Halloween fun.

From pumpkin decorating and creative crafts to exploring the spooky house, there was something for everyone to enjoy! Most importantly, these evenings provided a wonderful opportunity to strengthen connections within our school communities and create special memories together.

A heartfelt thank-you to all the families, staff and volunteers who helped make these events such a success. We love seeing our Renfrew community come together!











Parent Councils – Your Voice Makes a Difference!

Our Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) are getting ready for another exciting school year! These dedicated parent groups play an important role in bringing families together, sharing ideas and creating opportunities that enhance our students' school experiences.

From planning special activities and celebrations to organizing fundraising initiatives, PACs help make our school communities even more vibrant and connected.

Many of our PAC meetings are held virtually, making it easier than ever to participate and share your ideas. Whether you have a little time or a lot to give, your involvement is always appreciated!

Interested in getting involved? Please connect with the manager at your school location to learn more about upcoming meetings and opportunities to participate.

Thank You for Being Part of Our Renfrew Community!

At Renfrew, strong relationships with families are at the heart of everything we do. Your questions, ideas, feedback and involvement help us continue to grow and provide the best possible experiences for our children and students.

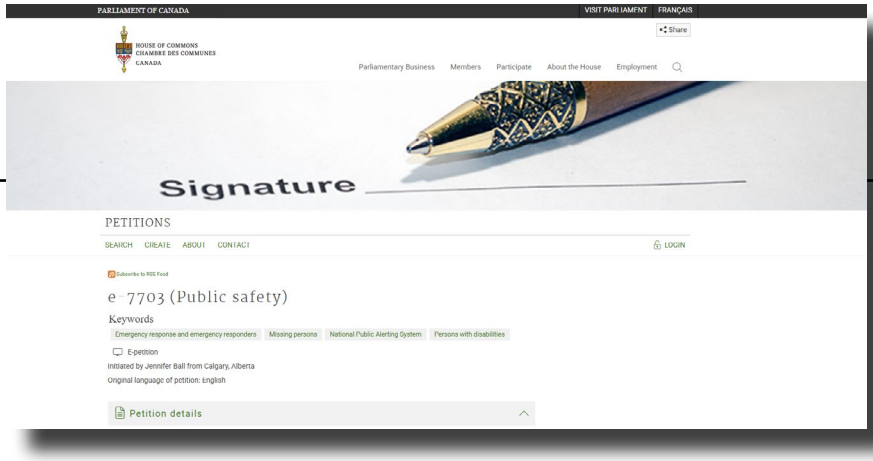
Please remember that our doors are always open. We welcome opportunities to connect with families and are always available to meet, listen and work together.

Thank you for being an important part of our Renfrew community. We look forward to all the adventures, milestones and memories still to come!

Kim & Nicki

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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 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. 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.

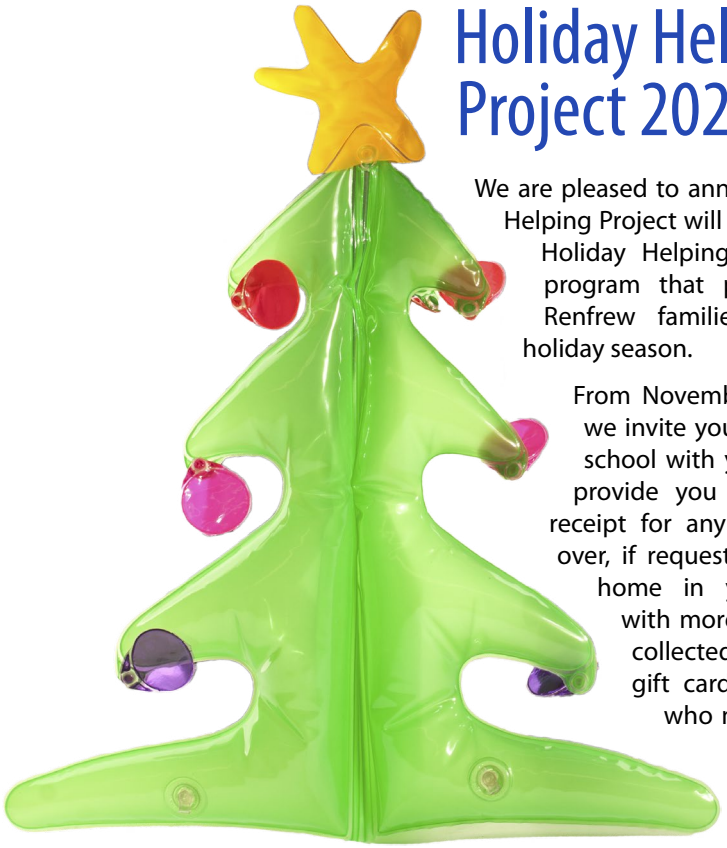
Jennifer Ball
Founder, Indigo Alert Canada
indigoalertcanada.com

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, neighbourhood and community. Every Renfrew school location has a Family Support Worker.



Holiday Helping Project 2026

We are pleased to announce that the Holiday Helping Project will begin November 2! The Holiday Helping Project is an annual program that provides assistance to Renfrew families during the winter holiday season.

From November 2 to November 27, 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.

Holiday Support

Please reach out to your Family Support Worker if you would like support this holiday season! There are many holiday programs accepting referrals. Family Support can help you find one that is a good fit for your family. However, these programs fill up quickly so please reach out as soon as possible!

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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



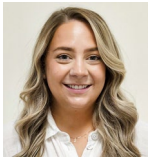
Cory Francis
Family Support Worker
Team Lead
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Family Support Worker
Bowness Centre
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Emily Stevenson
Family Support Worker
Child Development Centre
587.287.5746
estevenson@renfreweducation.org



Emily Pardy
Family Support Worker
Thomas W. Buchanan Centre
587.287.5746
epardy@renfreweducation.org

COFFEE & CHAT GROUPS

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.

Festive Greeting Cards!

Janice McTighe Centre (JMC) at 2050 21 Street NE

Tuesday, November 24, 2026
9:00 - 11:00am



Join us as we create festive 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. This is an **adult-only event** with light refreshments!

Please register by **November 17, 2026**
by emailing the Family Support team at
familysupport@renfreweducation.org

Holiday Movie Night at TBC

Thomas W. Buchanan Centre (TBC) at 75 Sunpark Drive SE

Thursday, December 3, 2026
6:15pm



Your family is invited to a fun movie night hosted by our Student Leaders at the Thomas W. Buchanan Centre! Join us on December 3rd to watch a family-friendly holiday movie. We will also have a special guest... Santa Claus! This is a great opportunity for your family to not only meet Santa, but to also mingle with other Renfrew families.

Our Student Leaders will be offering snack items for sale (debit, credit, or cash). All proceeds will go towards the Leaders Fund!

Please register by **November 26, 2026**
by emailing the Family Support team at
familysupport@renfreweducation.org

Telus Spark Science Centre

220 St. George's Drive NE

Wednesday, December 9, 2026
Morning Group: Meet at **9:15am**
Afternoon Group: Meet at **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 **December 2, 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



Information Session

Inclusion Canada

Tuesday, November 10, 2026
6:30pm

Virtual meeting on Zoom

Join us 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).

Please register by **November 3, 2026** by emailing the Family Support team at familysupport@renfreweducation.org

School Transition Sessions

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.

Wednesday, December 2, 2026
9:30 – 11:30am

ZOOM online meeting

Register by **November 25** 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 Bearspaw.

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.

News from the Calgary Public Library

CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Library's 2027 – 2030 Strategic Plan

Calgary Public Library has released a new Strategic Plan to help build a better tomorrow through stories. As we begin this next chapter, you — our community members — are at the centre. You'll notice that our Values, Commitments, and Service Mandates were created with all Calgarians in mind. Whether you have a little one who is learning to read using our board books or need support in finding a new job, the Library will be here for you.

To share and celebrate this new and exciting chapter, all Library locations will have special activations on Saturday, November 7. We hope to see you there to celebrate the future of libraries.

Learn About Learn to Read Resources

The Library offers many different resources to support all stages of learning how to read. From learning how to sound out words to wanting to build confidence reading novels, the Library can help. Not sure where to begin? Sign up for our Learn to Read email to receive information about programs, booklists, and resources:

calgarylibrary.ca/learning-to-read

Game on! Gaming Club

Multiple locations and dates

Ages: 9 – 12

Love playing games? Hang out, relax, and make new friends as we play fun video and tabletop games each week. Registration is not required. Learn more:

calgarylibrary.ca/game-on-gaming-club

RENFREW EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
HELPING KIDS SOAR

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

November 2026

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

Next Month:

Dec 1	**Giving Tuesday**
Dec 4	**EEP/Jr-Sr High** *OFF*
Dec 11	**EEP/Jr-Sr High** *ATTEND*
Dec 17	**Last Day of Classes/SSP**
Dec 18	**Non-Instructional Day** *No Classes, No SSP*
Dec 21	**Winter Break begins** *classes resume on January 4*



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: _____