



Rennie's River Elementary

...Learning together with love & laughter

Monthly Newsletter



October 2024

Important Dates:

Sept 27

Orange Shirt day
NDTR

October 2

Kids Eat Smart
walk to school for
breakfast

October 2-3

Picture day

October 6 - 12

Fire Safety Week

October 14

Thanksgiving Day
Holiday

October 7-15

The school lunch
menu is open for
November orders

October 18

Take Me Outside
day - please dress
your child according
to the weather

October 28

School council
meeting

October 30

Recycling blitz

November 1

Professional
learning day -
No school

November 11

Remembrance Day
holiday - no school
for students

November 18

Professional
learning day -



Happy Thanksgiving

The students and staff of Rennie's River Elementary would like to wish our entire school community a very happy Thanksgiving. We hope that you are able to spend the holiday with your family and friends. We are thankful for the wonderful place in which we live, our fantastic school community and for the many blessings we enjoy each day.



If you are able to donate a non-perishable food item(s) or grocery store/Walmart gift card, we will pass it along. To support our Rennie's families as best as we can, all food and gift cards donated will be distributed to families within our school community. Please send in items between October 1-10.

If you are in need of food support please reach out to our administration and we will provide any items that we are able during this food drive. Items provided will depend on donations.

School Council

Our first School Council meeting of the year took place on September 23. The members of this year's council are Amanda Tzenov, Ann Blackmore, Melanie Cole, Catherine Abbott, Justin Taylor, Kimberly Hurrell, Shannon Goldsworthy, and Jennifer Vokey Tobin. Voting forms went home yesterday to the oldest and only children in our school. Our additional parent and community representative will be announced on October 2. School Council meetings take place on the last Monday of each month. Minutes of each month's meetings can be found on the school website:

<https://renniesriverelementary.nlesd.ca/about/school-council>

Allergies

We have the following allergies at our school and remind you of the importance of not sending food containing those items: Peanuts / Tree Nuts (almonds, pecans, cashews, walnuts...) / Shellfish. Also, WOW butter and other

Dismissal Calls

Please make every effort to let your child's teacher know about changes to dismissal arrangements as soon as you are aware of them. It is not always possible to get the messages to the teachers if you call the office after 12 p.m. The office is a busy place at the end of the day and we could easily not get your message to the appropriate people. Please have all arrangements made with your children before they leave for school.

Water Bottles & Cutlery

We have many students coming to the office daily having forgotten water bottles, spoons, and forks at home. Please help your child remember these items before they leave in the morning.

On a similar note we accept donations of disposable cups, forks and spoons at the office. If you'd like to send in any of these items throughout the year we would be very grateful. **In addition, if anyone has any old pots, baking sheets, plastic bowls, cooking utensils at home that are getting rid of, we'd love to have them for our outside mud kitchen.**

Parent Connection Committee

At Rennie's River Elementary, we pride ourselves on continually working towards a safe and inclusive school environment. We appreciate our school's diversity and want to continue recognizing all of our students, and their families represented. We are looking for a parent committee to help us align with these values. The purpose would be for parents to remind us of special dates and celebrations from various religions, areas where we could improve, and how we can continue to represent all of our student population. This committee would meet 3 times during the school year. If you can help us create these connections and continue to please contact jennifervokeytobin@nlesd.ca.

"Unless you are consciously being inclusive, you are being exclusive" Hasan Hai.

Looking for Coaches

Are you looking for something to do with all of your spare time? 😊 Our grade 5 and 6



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Elementary
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@RenniesRiver



RRE

[Website](#)

Principal
Ms. Jennifer Vokey

Assistant Principal
Ms. Shannon
Goldsworthy

Guidance
Ms. Megan Ennis

soy butter products are not permitted. Please click [here](#) to learn more about allergies.

****A REMINDER WE ARE A SCENT FREE SCHOOL****

Halloween Information

On October 31, we will be celebrating Halloween. We kindly ask that students bring their costumes with them in the morning and change them at lunchtime. This will help ensure a full morning of learning before our celebrations. If you wish to take your child home at lunch to help them get ready with their costume please let your child's teacher know in advance. Due to allergy concerns, we are asking all students to bring an individual allergen-free party snack for classroom-based Halloween festivities. **Parents are asked not to provide treats/snacks for the whole class.** If your child's costume comes with weapon props please keep the props at home; weapon props are not permitted in school. If students do not have a costume they are invited to dress in fall colors of orange and/or black. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Kids Eat Smart

On October 2, we will be supporting a Kids Eat Smart (KES) initiative. KES challenged our students to be more active by walking, biking, or skipping to school. It is through this program that we have our daily breakfast club. Every \$1 raised provides breakfast for a child. All monies raised go directly to the students of Rennie's River Elementary. You can donate here: [Kids Eat Smart](#) and choose Rennie's River Elem in the donation drop down menu under 'fund'. We are very appreciative of the support we receive during this event.

School Lunch

November School Lunch ordering is open from October 7 - 15. Please ensure your children know if they are on School Lunch for a particular day. This will help alleviate a lot of confusion. Also, please note that each child's tray will contain all items that are available on a particular day. By doing this, we hope to increase the efficiency of distributing meals. Menu ordering must be completed online. We remind you of the importance of submitting menu orders by the deadline and regret that we are unable to help with late orders. You will need to contact the School Lunch Association directly by clicking [here](#), or by telephone at 754-5323.

Closeout PL Days

Rennie's River has 2 scheduled Professional Learning days on November 1 and 18. There will be no school for students on these dates.

Student Absences / Lateness

boys basketball program cannot happen without your help. We are looking for coaches for our boys grade 6 and grade 5 teams. If you have an interest in coaching or know someone who does, please contact Ms. Tulk dawntulk@nlesd.ca as soon as possible. All coaches will be required to complete a vulnerable sector check. Our teams are looking forward to hitting the courts!

Orange Shirt Day

September 30 marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (NDTR), a day of deep reflection and learning about the painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools in Canada. This day honours the survivors, their families, and communities, and it also commemorates the children who never returned. At Rennie's River Elem, we wear orange on this day to show our support, understanding and reflection and we ask that our community do the same. To further your understanding and involvement, visit the Government of Canada's webpage dedicated to Truth and Reconciliation [here](#). You can find valuable learning resources, information on events, and ways to engage in the reconciliation process.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters - Prism

PRISM (Pride, Respect, Identity, Safety, Mentoring) is a new program at Big Brothers Big Sisters, specifically designed to support 2SLGBTQIA+ youth by matching them with a 2SLGBTQIA+ adult mentor. Our goal is to provide these young individuals with positive role models who can offer guidance, support, and understanding in a safe and affirming environment. We believe that mentorship can play a crucial role in helping 2SLGBTQIA+ youth navigate the unique challenges they may face and in fostering their sense of pride and identity.

Are you a 2SLGBTQIA+ young person or caregiver of a 2SLGBTQIA+ young person looking for support and guidance? The PRISM program is now accepting applications for mentees (ages 8-17)! For more information, please contact Rachael at rachael.pope@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca or call our office 709-368-5437. Additional information can be found on PrismMentoring.ca.

Take this opportunity to connect with a mentor who understands and supports you!

Jamarama

Jamarama is back on Friday, October 25. Let's have the biggest, coolest PJ party ever across Newfoundland and Labrador! Wear your pajamas to school or work in support of the Janeway. Taking part in Jamarama is easy! Simply wear your pajamas to school! Wearing pajamas is a sign of solidarity and support for the brave kids at the Janeway Hospital who don't get to change out of their PJs. If you wish to give online the link is:

If your child is absent, please inform the **homeroom teacher through email**. We appeal to you to establish solid routines for students at the beginning of the school year and to stress the importance of attending school, being on time, and being ready for class. If you keep your child home based on your answers to the questionnaire, please contact 811 for further directions. Your attention to this has been superb so far.

Recycling

We continue to seek donations with our recycling program. On the Last Wednesday of each month, we have a schoolwide recycling blitz. **Our next Recycling Blitz will take place on October 30 with prizes for students.** Donors can also bring recycling to the Green Depot on 92 Elizabeth Ave. Tell the cashiers that you are donating the amount to Rennie's River Elementary or enter the school's phone number for the donation to be added to our school account (7542690).

Mental Health

As the school year kicks off, it's crucial to prioritize mental health and wellness to ensure a smooth transition back into routine. We encourage students to establish a balanced daily routine that includes time for homework, extracurricular activities, and relaxation. We continue to promote the importance of maintaining open communication with trusted adults about any academic or social pressures they may be experiencing. Please remember that it's okay to seek help from school counselors or mental health professionals if someone feels overwhelmed. Engaging in regular physical activity, maintaining a healthy diet, and ensuring adequate sleep are also essential for sustaining mental and emotional well-being throughout the school year.

<https://janewayfoundation.nf.ca/ways-to-give/online-donations/jamarama-2/>

Fire Safety Week

This year, Fire Safety Week runs from Sunday, October 6 to Saturday, October 12. We will be sounding our fire bell and going over evacuation procedures with students. We encourage families to check the batteries in their smoke detectors and prepare escape plans in the event of a house fire.

Legal Custody

If you have a legal custody agreement in place please ensure your child's teacher knows about this and forward a copy of the custody agreement to the office.

Dropoff/Pick-up Procedures

The morning Kiss 'N Ride Lane allows for the safe drop-off of students who are driven to school and it keeps traffic flowing in a safe and orderly fashion. It is a huge success! For it to work properly, we need to remember a few points. Children are very excited and tend to run without any thought of safety, even when they are accompanied by an adult. Therefore, everyone should assume that a child will run in front of your car as you enter or leave the parking lot. Student safety is everyone's priority.

After school, our teachers have a designated spot to bring their classes. Once there they can orderly view the surroundings and check to ensure that each child has a parent/guardian waiting for them. Please continue to remain on the periphery of the playground area so our staff have the adequate space needed to continue this safe practice. We thank you in advance for your patience. It takes some time to ensure all students have been dismissed as safely as possible.

