



Rennie's River Elementary

...Learning together with love & laughter

Monthly Newsletter

🌸 March 2023 🌸

Important Dates:

- March 7**
Support for Ukraine
- March 7-14**
School lunch menu opens for April orders
- March 8**
Optis System Opens
- March 13-17**
Education week
- March 13**
School Council meeting
- March 14**
Term 2 Reports released
- March 15**
Optis system closes at 12:00
- March 16**
Teacher/Family Conferences - dismissal at 11:05
- March 21**
World Down Syndrome Awareness Day
- March 22**
Ramadan begins
- March 24**
KinderStart - no school for Kindergarten
- March 29**
Recycling Blitz
- April 7-16**
Spring Holidays
- April 17**
School reopens



School Development Survey

Families are asked and strongly encouraged to complete the annual **School Development Survey**, which enables us to determine how we can target areas of growth as a school. We use this data to respond to our practices and discuss it in great depth. Many activities and teaching practices this year have been centered around last year's data. This is an opportunity to have your voice heard. The family survey is located [here](#). If you have more than one child at Rennie's River Elementary, please complete it in the context of your oldest child. We thank you in advance for your help with this.

Parking lot safety

The Kiss N Ride Lane allows for the safe drop off and pick-up of students who are driven to school and it keeps traffic flowing in a safe and orderly fashion. In order 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 leave the parking lot. Student safety is everyone's priority and patience is paramount.

Easter Holidays

Students will be dismissed for the Easter break on Thursday, April 6 at 1:20 pm. Please note that this is one hour earlier than our regular dismissal time. Classes resume on Monday, April 17. It will be Day 3 on our schedule.

Term 2 Reporting Period

Student progress reports will be distributed on Tuesday, March 14. In person Family/Teacher meetings are scheduled for Thursday, March 16, from **1:00 - 7:00 p.m.** Students will be dismissed at 11:05am on this day to facilitate those meetings. We will be using the online OPTIS system for the scheduling of appointments and have included instructions for the Optis system [here](#). The OPTIS system will open to parents/guardians on Wednesday, March 8

Upcoming Awareness Days

Rennie's River Elementary recognizes the value in promoting awareness days. Not only do awareness days provide our school community a chance to learn more about different conditions and various organizations but they also promote understanding, acceptance and support. Many times organizations create a fun challenge for these days as well. We want to show our support to the following three awareness events:

Support for Ukraine

The one year anniversary of the war against Ukraine has recently passed. To stand in solidarity with our Ukrainian families we will be wearing yellow and/or blue on Tuesday, March 7.

World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD) is March 21, 2023. On Tuesday, March 21, we are asking our students & their families to wear colorful, fun socks. This will help raise awareness and put some fun into the recognition! Down syndrome is a condition in which a person has an extra chromosome. Typically, a baby is born with 46 chromosomes. Babies with Down syndrome have an extra copy of one of these chromosomes; chromosome 21. A medical term for having an extra copy of a chromosome is 'trisomy.' Down syndrome is also referred to as Trisomy 21. This extra copy changes how the baby's body and brain develop, which can cause both mental and physical challenges for the baby.

World Autism Awareness Day is April 2, 2023. To help foster support and show kindness and acceptance in recognition of people with autism, and other neurodiverse individuals we will be having Neurodiversity celebration days. The schedule is below. During the week we will be spending some time in our classes

Principal
Ms. Jennifer
VokeyTobin

Assistant Principal
Ms. Shannon
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Guidance
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[RR Website](#)

at 9 a.m. and closes on Wednesday, March 15 at noon. If you have difficulty signing up for an interview with the OPTIS system, please contact your child's teacher. We encourage all parents / guardians to make a special effort to schedule an interview with your child's teacher. The website for OPTIS is [here](#).

Staff Appreciation

Thank you to everyone who recognized Staff Appreciation Week in any way! Thanks to our School Council for organizing the many gestures of thanks and delicious treats throughout the week. Your acts of kindness and expressions of thanks were appreciated!

Lost & Found

Our 'found' table has been filled again with lost items. As we did last time, we will provide students with the opportunity to look through the items at school. Please have a look at the following pictures. If your child owns any of the clothing please have them retrieve it. Any unclaimed items will be donated at the end of next week.

Students in the Spotlight

February 24-26 Rennie's River hosted the Grade 5 Boys Basketball Provincials. It was a weekend of fantastic team work, wonderful volunteers, and great basketball! We are so proud of our Grade 4-5 boys for winning silver in tier 1. They played hard, had fun, and made us so proud! Special thanks to Ms. Tulk and Ms. Pelley for their hard work.



learning about Autism, ADHD, Dyspraxia & Dyslexia.

Neurodiversity Celebration Days

April 3-5



Rainbow Monday April 3

The rainbow infinity sign is the symbol for neurodiversity. The full spectrum of colors represents the diversity of the autism spectrum as well as the greater neurodiversity movement. **Wear red, orange, yellow, green, blue or purple.**

Magnificent mind Tuesday

Apr 4

Autism is a neurological variation, which means that the brains of autistic people work differently than the brains of allistic (non-autistic) people. Autism is called a spectrum disorder precisely because it is characterized by a broad range of symptoms and abilities. People with autism can be high-functioning, low-functioning, or somewhere in-between. They can be highly intelligent and verbal, or cognitively challenged and nonverbal.

Dyslexia is a learning disability in reading. People with dyslexia have trouble reading at a good pace and without mistakes. They may also have a hard time with reading comprehension, spelling, and writing. But these challenges aren't a problem with intelligence.

Dyspraxia, also known as developmental co-ordination disorder (DCD), is a common disorder that affects movement and co-ordination. Dyspraxia does not affect your intelligence. It can affect your co-ordination skills – such as tasks requiring balance, playing sports or learning to drive a car.

ADHD stands for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. It is a medical condition. A person with ADHD has differences in brain development and brain



Congratulations to our grade 6 boys and grade 5-6 girls who all participated in the Grade 6 Basketball Provincials March 3 - 5. They all played hard and made us very proud. And thank you to the coaches for without them these tournaments would not be possible!



A new initiative is 'perking up' our students and staff. The Comfy Cove Coffee Cart creates opportunities for our students to learn about responsibility and customer service.



activity that affect attention, the ability to sit still, and self-control.

Celebrate how amazing it is that our minds work so differently by wearing a fun hat.

Comfy Wednesday - Apr 5

Autistic people often have a variety of sensory sensitivities. Sensory processing difficulties are often seen alongside ADHD, Dyspraxia and Tourette's. Neurodivergent people are more likely to have sensory difficulties.

Dress up today in your most comfy clothes. Ideas could be sweatpants, sneakers, Pj's - whatever makes you comfortable! We will have as much natural light as possible and/or you can wear sunglasses.

If your child or family participates in these events, please take a picture and email us at jennifervokeytobin@nlesd.ca. We will post your picture on our Rennie's River Twitter account. Follow us at our Twitter handle @RenniesRiver for more notices and information within our school community.

Marble Mountain Ski Passes

We have 2 full day adult lift tickets for Marble Mountain. If you are interested in these passes, send your name along to jennifervokeytobin@nlesd.ca and your name will go into a draw for the passes.



Ramadan March 23 - April 20

March 23 marks the beginning of the holy season of Ramadan for our Muslim families. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims observe fasting and refrain from eating or drinking from dawn to dusk. They eat one meal before the daybreak and continue their fast till sunset.

Wish Muslims well during this season by saying "Ramadan Kareem," which translates into "Have a generous Ramadan," or "Ramadan Mubarak," which roughly translates into "Happy Ramadan." On the last day of Ramadan, which is Eid-al-fitr, the

