



# Rennie's River Elementary

## Monthly Newsletter



# September 2024



### Important Dates:

- September 4**  
First day of classes
- September 9-17**  
Registration/menu/  
ordering begins  
School Lunch  
Program
- September 19**  
Curriculum Night
- September 20**  
Terry Fox walk -  
dress accordingly
- September 23**  
School Council  
meeting
- September 25**  
Recycling Blitz
- School Lunch  
Program begins
- September 27**  
Orange Shirt Day
- September 30**  
Truth &  
Reconciliation Day -  
No school
- October 2 & 3**  
School picture day
- October 14**  
Thanksgiving Day  
Holiday

### Welcome Back!

We would like to welcome all new and returning students and staff to Rennie's River Elementary! We hope everyone had a very relaxing summer and we are looking forward to a great school year! We will be sending home an informational newsletter at the beginning of each month and we ask you to keep it handy as it will contain important information and upcoming dates. Our primary method of distribution will be via email. Therefore, it is very important that the email address on file for you is up to date. (Paper copies will still be provided upon request.) We are looking forward to another exciting year at Rennie's River Elementary and we are eager to work with you to ensure a sound educational experience for your child(ren). In addition, please follow us on Twitter; this is where we are able to send out quick notice of important information.

### Classroom teachers

Grade	Homeroom teacher
Kindergarten	Kelly Smith
Kindergarten	Kimberly Hurrell
Grade 1	Julie Young
Grade 1	Jennifer Thomas
Grade 2	Crystal Abbott
Grade 2	Nicole Street
Grade 2/3	Melissa Kenny
Grade 3	Amanda Rose
Grade 3	Johanna Murphy
Grade 4	Shane Porter
Grade 4	Chris Husk
Grade 5	Ashley Doody
Grade 5	Simone Combden
Grade 6 Eng	Joanne Hearn
Grade 6 ICF	Amanda Cooper

### Terry Fox Run

We will be participating in the Terry Fox run this year. On September 20, 2024 each class will participate in a class walk. If you wish to support the Terry Fox Foundation, please do so [here](#).

### Electronic Devices

Some students have cell phones, tablets and other electronic devices that they bring to school on a daily basis. In order to protect the safety and privacy of everyone in our building, students **are not permitted** to use their electronic devices to take pictures or videos and they **are not permitted** to engage in texting or calling during school hours. When such devices are used it will be with the permission of the classroom teacher and under strict supervision. If you need to contact your child during the school hours please call the office and we will be happy to assist you. If for any reason your child has to call home during the school day, he/she/they will be required to do so through the office. While we understand the various reasons students may require bringing their devices to school, we expect all students to adhere to our policy. Student and staff safety is of utmost importance. Please discuss this policy with your child about appropriate use of technology/social media. Families will have a technology contract sent home for signatures via Rycor. A copy of the policy can be found [here](#).





## Back To School

Rennie's River Elementary  
150 Elizabeth Ave  
St. John's, NL  
A1B 1S4



@RenniesRiver



[RR Website](#)

**Principal**  
Ms. Jennifer VokeyTobin

**Assistant Principal**  
Ms. Shannon Goldsworthy

**Guidance**  
Ms. Megan Ennis

Curriculum Night

Our curriculum night will be on September 19, 2024. More information will be communicated from your child’s teacher.

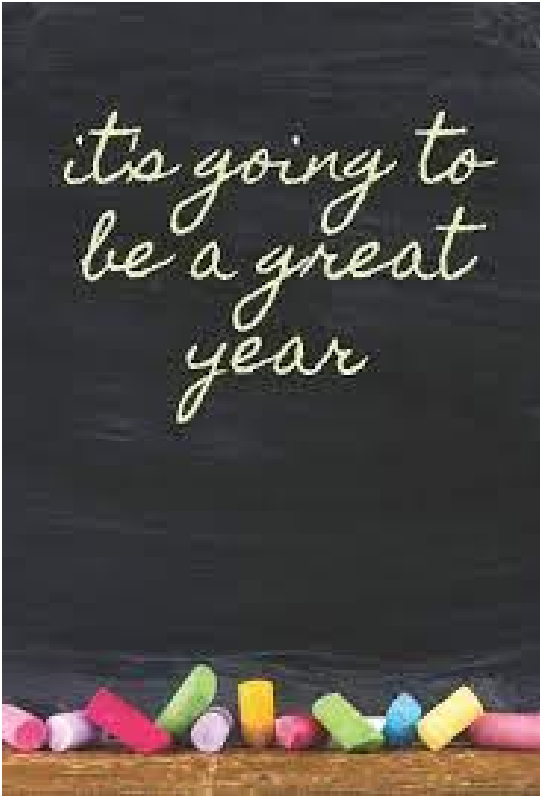
Daily Schedule

8:05 a.m.	Doors Open
8:20 a.m.	Classes begin
10:20 - 10:35 a.m.	Recess
12:05 - 12:50 p.m.	Lunch
2:20 p.m.	Dismissal

**Kindergarten students will have a delayed start on the first day of school ONLY. They will begin their day at 9:30am on September 4.**


Allergies

Please note that 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, cashew, walnuts...) egg sandwiches & Shellfish. Also, WOW butter and other soy butter products are not permitted. If your child has an allergy please let the classroom teacher know as soon as possible to ensure everyone’s safety. **PLEASE remember we are a SCENT FREE SCHOOL.**



School Lunch

The School Lunch Association aims to serve students a hot, nutritious lunch regardless of a family's financial situation. Families can sign up for this service online. Every year, registration is necessary for a child to take part in the school lunch program. Parents/guardians are required to generate a new login and password annually. Please note that School Lunch will begin on September 25. Registration and menu ordering must be completed online. Ordering will open on September 9 and close on September 17. We remind you of the importance of submitting menu orders by the deadline and regret that we are unable to help with late orders. To register and order, you will need to contact the School Lunch Association directly <https://schoollunch.ca/contact/> or by telephone at 754-5323.



**School Lunch Association Calendar 2024 - 2025**  
Meal Payment \$5.00 per day  
Charity Business #13591 2319 RR0001  
Payments for meals are not donations, consequently, under the regulation of the Federal Government Charities Act, income tax receipts cannot be issued.

Register and Order lunch online [www.schoollunch.ca](https://schoollunch.ca)

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Menu Ordering Opens

No Lunch Service

Statutory Holidays

Last Serving Day

Menu Ordering Deadline

School Lunch PD Day

**REGISTRATION AND LUNCH ORDERS OPEN SEPT 9th**  
**First day of service September 25th, 2024**  
School Lunch Association email: [sla@schoollunch.ca](mailto:sla@schoollunch.ca)  
phone: 754-5323 Ext 221  
425 Topsail Road, St. John's, NL A1E 5N7

Visa or Mastercard, Visa Debit or Mastercard Debit, EMAIL TRANSFER (EMT) to [orders@schoollunch.ca](mailto:orders@schoollunch.ca)

Busing

All students will be eligible for bussing this school year. As expected, there will be a significant increase in buses on our school parking lot, which may require extra monitoring to ensure student safety. **Parents are strongly encouraged to avail of the bussing service for both their own convenience and to reduce congestion on our school parking lot.** If your child will not be availing of the bus, please contact [Ms. VokeyTobin](#) so that they can be removed from the bus seating assignments. If your situation changes in the future and you need your child’s seat reassigned, we can do that for you.



**Bus Route Information** Clicking this link will provide you with our current bus runs and routes. Please ensure you know the time and bus stop assigned for your child prior to the first day of school.

- If you are still unsure of your child’s bus stop and/or time, you can log into the bus portal. [Parent Portal Login](#). If you have not already created an account (and wish to do so) you can go in, create an account and add your child(ren) to the account at the above link as well. You will need the following information in order to add your child:
1. Student Number\*\* We will be sending out an additional email today to provide you with your child’s student number.
  2. Student Date of Birth
  3. School
  4. Grade

Volunteers

We are actively seeking parent/guardian volunteers to help with our morning Breakfast Club program. If

you are interested, contact the main office at 754-2690.

A HUGE THANK YOU is extended to our breakfast club (angels!) volunteers from last year. We are so appreciative! ❤️

Student Absences / Lateness

While we understand that children become sick from time to time and need to stay home for their well being, as well as the wellbeing and safety of our school community. We do ask that you consider the graphic below. Attendance is very important for your child's academic and social well being. **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.

### ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Missing a day of school here and there may not seem like much, but absences add up!

When a student misses 2 days a month..	When a student misses 4 days a month..
They will miss <b>20 DAYS</b> a year.	They will miss <b>40 DAYS</b> a year.
They will miss <b>30 HOURS</b> of math over the school year.	They will miss <b>60 HOURS</b> of math over the school year.
They will miss <b>60 HOURS</b> of reading & writing over the school year.	They will miss <b>120 HOURS</b> of reading & writing over the school year.
They will miss over <b>1 YEAR</b> of school by graduation.	They will miss over <b>2 YEARS</b> of school by graduation.

Outside Play

The staff at Rennie's River are committed to incorporating outside play as often as possible. We will be having outdoor lunch playtime for Grade 1-6 students as often as the weather permits. Kindergarten - Grade 3 students will also spend scheduled time outdoors as their programming includes play based learning. We believe a large part of learning is engaging in exploration, adventure and play while enjoying the fresh air of the outdoors! To help this run smoothly, please ensure your child is dressed for the weather each and every day!

School Photos

School photos are scheduled to take place on October 2 & 3.

Lost and Found

Each year hundreds of dollars worth of clothing are left behind leaving us no choice but to donate them

Please take time over the weekend to familiarize yourself with the route information in preparation for next week. Bus routes are also posted to our website. Please note that seats are not assigned on this portal. **Students will be given a seat number on the first day of school and are expected to use that assigned seat for the remainder of the year.**

Courtesy Bus Seats

A courtesy seat is a seat on a bus route for a student who has not been assigned to this route based on his/her civic address i.e. not eligible for student transportation on that route. You can find the policy by clicking this link: [Courtesy Seat Policy](#)

If you are requesting courtesy bussing there is a form on the last page of the policy document. Please fill out the request form and send it with your child to his/her teacher on or before September 22. We will begin approving courtesy bus seats and communicate the approved or not approved form to you as soon as we are able to process the forms. If you have any further questions around busing please contact Ms. Vokey by email [jennifervokeytobin@nlesd.ca](mailto:jennifervokeytobin@nlesd.ca).

After School Program at RRE

### Achieva

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

*Rennies River Elementary*

*We are in your School !*

KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 4  
FULL & PART-TIME OPTIONS  
HOMEWORK  
FRENCH, STEM, ART, PHYS.ED ACTIVITIES & MORE !

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:  
(709) 237-8393 OR (709) 746-8393  
OR EMAIL: [INFO@ACHIEVEDUCATION.CA](mailto:INFO@ACHIEVEDUCATION.CA)

Phys. Ed

We recommend that children leave a pair of sneakers at school for Phys. Ed. Students are not permitted to wear outside footwear while in the gym. Please ensure that sneakers do not have black soles which leave marks.

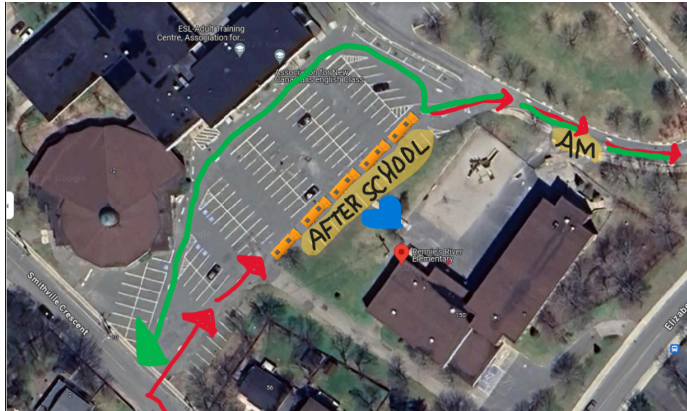
Upcoming Holidays

We will be closed for Truth & Reconciliation Day on Monday, September 30. When we return on Tuesday, October 1, it will be day 6. Monday, October 14, we will be closed due to the



at the end of every month. Lost items are on display in the main hallway and reminders are provided for students. **Please take some time to put names on all belongings.** If your child’s items are marked with a permanent marker we can easily return them.

Parking Lot Safety



A reminder to our school community that our parking lot continues to follow a **one way direction** of traffic flow. Our kiss and ride stop is located on the top of the stairs to the playground (**Blue** heart). **Parents/Guardians are asked to use this location only as a drop off point for their child in the morning.** Once drop off has taken place, vehicles are then to proceed in a one directional flow toward Elizabeth Avenue or in a one directional flow around our parking lot (see **red** and **green** arrows). A reminder that vehicles are not permitted to stop near our student entrance for drop off purposes. A **yellow** area highlighted and marked ‘AM’ shows where the bus drops off our students in the morning. A map has been included for your reference. This picture shows where the buses will be parked in the afternoon. Parents are encouraged to be mindful of their speed when entering and exiting our parking lot and to ensure that they are not passing our buses. As we wish to ensure the safety of all of our students, parents are advised that there will be an increased police presence in our school parking lot. This will help us to ensure that proper traffic rules and procedures are being followed. Thank you for your assistance and for working with us to ensure the safety of our students.

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.

Thanksgiving Day Holiday. When students return to school on Tuesday, October 15 it will be Day 1 on the cycle.

2024-25 School Calendar

Please see the calendar below for important dates for the upcoming school year.

School Year Calendar 2024-2025				Schedule	
September	October	November	December	OFFICIAL	
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	190 Teaching Days 2 Administration Days 3 Statutory Holidays Statutory holidays to be confirmed.	

School Council Vacancy

We have 1 vacancy on our School Council for a community representative and 1 parent representative position. A community representative can also be a parent at the school. A description of this roles can be found at the following website: [A Handbook for School Councils](#) We strongly encourage you to consider putting your or a candidate’s name forward as a parent or community representative. We would love to have a council that is equally able to represent primary, elementary and minority groups. All input is needed and welcome. School council is a great way to volunteer your time in the community and act as a liaison between our parent population and the school staff. This is an exciting way to contribute to your child’s education and it betters the learning for all students at Rennie’s River Elementary. To submit a name for a parent or community representative, please complete the form below. Our next scheduled School Council meeting is Monday, Sept 23 at 6:00 p.m.

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, their families and having everyone 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 are able to help us create these connections and continue to be more aware please contact [jennifervokeytobin@nlschools.ca](mailto:jennifervokeytobin@nlschools.ca). If there is not enough interest to form this committee an alternative would be having your voice heard on our School Council.

“Unless you are consciously being inclusive, you are being exclusive” `Hasan Hai.



SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Rennie’s River Elementary in the NLSchools District is now accepting nominations for Parent and Community representatives on our School Council. To be eligible for community representative election, you can be the parent/guardian of a student for the school you wish to represent. Only parent/guardians can nominate and vote for parent/guardians.

Additional nomination forms may be picked up at the school. Nomination forms must be returned to the school secretary on or before Monday, September 16, 2024. By Friday, September 20, a list of candidates and details of the voting process will be sent to all parents/guardians. Voting will take place during the week of September 23 to September 27.

SCHOOL COUNCIL PARENT NOMINATION FORM

I, \_\_\_\_\_, (name of nominator) hereby nominate  
\_\_\_\_\_ (candidate’s name) for the position of

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE or  
PARENT REPRESENTATIVE  
(please circle which one is correct)

on the Rennie’s River Elementary School Council.

Proposer’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Ph. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Seconder’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Ph. No. \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby accept nomination as a candidate for the position  
(candidate’s name) of **PARENT REPRESENTATIVE** for the Rennie’s River Elementary School  
Council.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby accept nomination as a candidate for the position  
(candidate’s name) of **COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE** for the Rennie’s River Elementary School  
Council.