Rennie's River Elementary

...Learning together with love & laughter

Monthly Newsletter

December 2021

Important Dates:

December 1
OPTIS closes at 12:00

December 2
Family/teacher conferences - early dismissal at 11:05

December 8
School Lunch menu opens for January

December 13
Picture retake day

December 14
School Lunch menu closes for January

COVID Immunizations

December 17
Last day for School lunch

December 22
School closes at 12:30 p.m. for the Christmas break

January 4
Classes resume



Rennie's River Elementary

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

@RenniesRiver

RR Website

Christmas Holidays

School will close for the Christmas break on Wednesday, December 22. On that day, students will arrive at regular time and will be dismissed at 12:30 p.m. School will reopen at regular time on Tuesday, January 4, 2021. It will be Day 5 on the schedule.

Report Card Conferences

All families are invited to connect with homeroom teachers during our interview sessions scheduled for December 2. Children need to know that we all care about the quality of education they receive. When we all work together, everyone benefits. Please sign up for an appointment using our OPTIS system or contact your child's teacher.

Recycling

Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverage containers can add up over the holidays. Don't let them go to waste - consider donating them to our school. Through the Get Matched! School Recycling Program, each container can earn 10-20 cents for our school!

To help clear out your holiday recycling, our next Recycling Blitz will be held the morning of **Wednesday, Jan 5th** (there will be no recycling date in December).

We accept plastic, glass, aluminum, steel, tetra and gable containers, including those used for juice, water, pop, beer, wine, liquor, spirits and even egg nog!

* We don't accept milk cartons or domestic (brown) beer bottles. Beer bottles can be dropped off at the Depot however and credit will be given to RRE. For a full list of what's accepted and info on how to properly prepare containers, visit www.greendepot.ca

COVID Vaccinations

Public Health will be offering COVID-19 vaccines in school to students in grades kindergarten to grade six. Public Health nurses will be at Rennie's River Elem to distribute COVID vaccinations on December 14. COVID-19 vaccine consent

Parking Lot Safety

In an effort to maximize efficiency and safety in our parking lot, please keep the following in mind:

- **Please use our drop off location at the top of the playground beside the parking lot**. Many parents are dropping their child off directly in front of the student entrance. This is a concern as the road is not wide enough to be stopping here. This practice impedes traffic and is a safety concern for our students.
- Students are encouraged to exit cars from the drop off point using the right side of their car(closest to the school) so that they don't have to walk behind or in front of vehicles.

We truly appreciate your attention to this matter - Safety is everyone's priority!

Remembrance Day Assembly

Thank you to our students in Grade 5 & 6 for a very moving virtual assembly to commemorate Remembrance Day. The respect and reverence demonstrated by all students was commendable. Special thanks to our staff for their work in preparing students for this assembly.

Thank You

Our school community truly is the best! Thank you to everyone who participated in our Chapter's Night Fundraiser. Over $5000 was purchased which provided our students with a gift card for over $1000 worth of new books. Amazing! We will provide pictures when the books arrive.

Our clothing order was also a great success. We can't wait to see our students proudly wearing their Rennie's River gear. We have ordered extra items and will be drawing names to distribute to some lucky students!

Thank you to a special family who wish to remain anonymous. They very kindly

Principal
Ms. Jennifer Vokey

Assistant Principal
Ms. Gail Dyke

Guidance
Ms. Megan Ennis

forms were sent home with students on Friday, November 26. If you wish to have your child(ren) vaccinated at school please return your COVID-19 vaccination consent form to the school by December 3 (please note the change from a previous email where we requested a return date by Dec 8. Public Health needs the forms earlier than we anticipated. Our apologies if this causes any confusion). Your child cannot be immunized in school without a fully completed and signed consent form. If your child has received a COVID-19 vaccine in a public clinic or has an appointment at a public clinic, please do not complete the consent form.

Parents/guardians will be permitted to enter the school to support their child during immunization. Parents who wish to accompany their child will be required to wear a mask but do not have to show proof of vaccination. Please call the school at 754-2690 to arrange your appointment time to accompany your child.

To help this day go as smoothly as possible please dress your child in a short sleeve shirt that can be moved up and over the shoulder joint, e.g. stretchy fabric. If you are concerned that your child may be cold, a cardigan or zip up hoodie that can easily be removed is a suggestion to remedy this concern.

Children aged 5 years to 11 years of age will require a second dose in eight weeks. Further information regarding when and where to receive your second dose will be available soon. Please check the Government of NL website for updates. An after-vaccination form will be given to students once they are vaccinated. This form will provide information on possible side effects and vaccine documentation. There will be a contact number if there are questions or concerns related to the vaccine or side effects.

If your child is anxious about getting their needle we have included a resource to help - click **here**.

Covid Reminders

- Students travelling by bus must wear a mask. Please ensure each student has their mask when you complete the daily screening questionnaire at home
- The daily screening questionnaire is located here
- If students exhibit symptoms as noted in the questionnaire, they must be 24 hours symptom free before returning to school
- Please contact Public Health at 811 for any Covid related questions
- We kindly ask parents/guardians to wait outside our building when

donated 2 Rennie's River shirts for students in our building. We appreciate your support.

After school care

MAX After School is still accepting registrations! Try a free week trial or register between November 15th to January 5th and receive $300 in MAX bucks! For more information visit us at https://yourmax.ca/families/after-school-program/

Farewell, Thank You & Welcome

We would like to wish a fond farewell to our teaching intern, Ms. Hammond in Ms. Hickey's class. Thank you for your contribution to our school and we wish you the best of luck in your teaching career.

Thank you, as well, to Whitney Edwards who has just finished a 3 month replacement on our staff as a Teaching & Learning Assistant. We enjoyed having you on staff and wish you the best of luck in your future endeavours. Welcome back to Ms. Marta Evstigneev who is returning to her TLA position after completing Education leave.

Message from Ms. Lehr's class

Ms. Lehr's grade 5/6 class is completing a social justice Deep Learning awareness project in our school. They are learning about the impact of what it means to be a good citizen and how to demonstrate character. As a means to help, they are holding a donation drive for a local animal shelter. Please read the student written newsletter article below:

SPCA Donation Drive

Ms.Lehr's 5% class is having a donation drive for the SPCA and the SPCA thrift store. Donations will be accepted until Jan. 19, 2022, and can be brought to school and delivered to Ms.Lehr's 5% classroom, Rm.307. (Please drop off cleaning supplies to the office) We are accepting donations for the SPCA of:

- *blankets /towels*
- *laundry detergent/bleach*
- *Costco dry cat and dog food(chicken and rice flavour)*
- *leashes*
- *Vileda mop heads*
- *disposable gloves/multipurpose cleaner/disinfectant wipes*
- *cat and dog toys that can be washed/disinfected*
- *pet friendly salt*
- *canned pumpkin*
- *wet cat and dog food*

We are also accepting donations for the SPCA Thriftstore of:

dropping off/picking up students.

Rennie's River Elementary presents:

Spirit Days 2021



Library Update from Ms. Coleman

November has been a busy month in the LLC. Ms. Duke and I have been working hard creating deep learning blocks for students. Grade 5s completed a project on Canada's Food Guide. They learned about making healthy choices, mindful eating and local farming. To end off the project, students selected recipes for a class cafe. They called it "Craving Cafe". The menu was made up of a creamy smoothie, vegetable soup, mini tacos, fruit kabobs with maple cinnamon yogurt dip as well as carrot muffins with cream cheese icing. They did a fabulous job learning different kitchen skills as they prepared these recipes. The cafe was a huge success and the students had a great time! Ms. Fitzgerald's class is in the process of completing their deep learning block. They are creating their own toys using their knowledge of simple machines. It has been going very well! We can't wait to try out their games.

Book exchange has been ongoing this month. A friendly reminder to families that all library books are due back to the school by December 7th.

Make sure to check back next month for more updates! Can't wait that long? Follow ms_hcoleman on Twitter.

Student Spotlight

Ms. Hickey and Ms. Rose's grade one classes have had some very busy and exciting afternoons working on their Learning Blocks. During Learning Blocks, students build on many different skills that cover a wide range of outcomes from the NL curriculum. This hands-on, inquiry based approach has our grade ones

- *Usedclothes/books/toys/ puzzles/games/Jewelry*

**Please ensure items are clean, in working order and have all pieces.*
Thank you for your support!

Bus Seating

Please remind your child(ren) that they must stay in their assigned seats on the bus.

The Gift of Giving

The Holiday Season is upon us and we always do our best to help our families in need from our RRE community. If you would like to contribute or if you would like to reach out and be a recipient please contact Ms. Vokey-Tobin at: jennifervokeytobin@nlesd.ca & Ms. Dyke at gaildyke@nlesd.ca. Thank you for your kindness and generosity during this Holiday Season!

Parent Connection

Check out this month's resource from our Reading Specialist, Ms. Duke, for some rich literacy ideas for home. (Link)

Screen time and Young Children: Promoting Health and Development in a Digital World

As promised in our November Newsletter, we are including this resource to help our RRE families navigate this technological world. Below are 10 points to consider as your child is introduced to technology in the home.

Ten Questions to Consider Asking Families With Young Children

1. What kind of screens are in your home (e.g., TV, tablet, computer, smartphone)? Which does your child use?
2. Is watching TV or programs/movies on other devices a shared family activity and a common way to relax? How often is a screen on in the background although no one is really watching?
3. Does anyone in the family use screens during mealtimes?
4. What do you watch with your child? What does your child watch alone?
5. Do you encourage or discourage conversation with your child while you are using screens?
6. Do you ever watch adult/commercial programming with your child?
7. Does your child use screens while you do chores around the home? Often? Sometimes?
8. Are there any screen-based activities in your child's day care program? Do you know how much these are used?
9. Does your child use any kind of

excited and engaged in their learning. Sometimes we even take the learning blocks outside! Check out some of the pictures from their most recent block structures where students were showing what they know about the four seasons, creating their own healthy plates, following directions for their guided turkey drawings, responding to art, seeing what they could build by using only one cup of legos and so much more...





screen before bedtime? How long before bedtime? Is there a TV or computer in your child's bedroom? Does your child take mobile devices into the bedroom?

10. Does your family have rules or guidelines for screen use that everyone understands and shares?

Information for parents is available at www.caringforkids.cps.ca The above resource was an excerpt from an article found here. Please feel free to contact Ms. Vokey Tobin if you have any questions or concerns surrounding technology and/or devices.



















On behalf of the students, teachers, staff and administration of Rennie's River Elementary, we would like to wish you and your family a wonderful holiday break and a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year. May the peace and joy of this holiday season remain with you all year long.

School Development PL

Many thanks to our families who participated and answered the two questions on learning prior to our school Development Professional Learning day. We used your answers as a springboard for staff discussion. We were so happy to see so many parents & guardians have similar thoughts to our staff regarding what learning is and what it looks like. We strive to have our students be active learners while engaged in many different activities in various learning environments.