

# MECCS

*A newsletter for Mother Earth's Children's Charter School to share its successful traditional and innovative programming.*

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**MECCS is on Facebook!**



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## School Support Staff: Partners in Success

In this issue of our school's newsletter, we are featuring some of our fantastic support staff, in their own words.

### **Lorraine Regamey**

I am a half-Cree, half-Stoney woman and a member of the Paul First Nation. I attended Gooderham School in kindergarten and grade 1, then Duffield School from grade 2 to 9, and grade 10 at Stony Plain Memorial Composite High School. I received a diploma in Early Childhood Development in 1989 from Grant MacEwan Community College.

I am married to Terry Regamey, who is a MECCS board member. Together we have 12 children and 27 grandchildren. Three of my own children have attended MECCS and all have graduated from Memorial Composite High School. My grandchildren are currently attending school at MECCS and are thriving happily in their classes.



*Lorraine Regamey working with some of her students at MECCS.*

Some of my favourite memories at MECCS are the potluck feasts, the All Nations Track and Field (Foote Field), the Treaty 6 Volleyball Tournament, and the MECCS annual pow wow, princess pageants and little warriors contest.

My reason for wanting to become a teacher assistant and work with children is to make a difference in their education. I recommend MECCS to parents and students because at MECCS we are more than just a school. We are family and truly care about the success and education of our students and their families.

### **Elaine Boe**

I took my grade schooling in Morinville, Alberta. I then took my hairdressing course at NAIT. After working in the hairdressing profession for some time, and working as a teacher's aide in the Stony Plain High School Cosmetology department for over three years, I went to the University of Alberta to obtain my teaching degree in the Vocational Education program, specifically Cosmetology. I attended for two years, but did not complete it due to financial constraints. During these two years, I also worked as a stylist four nights a week.



*Elaine Boe*

Why did I become a teacher's aide? I have always enjoyed helping others, especially those who are really struggling, as I have had many struggles in life and know how much help is appreciated.

Why am I at Mother Earth? I feel like I am drawn here for reasons I can't explain. I suppose it's because a lot of children need help and I am ready to help them if I can. We also have a great group of staff here: non-judgmental, friendly and passionate about their children. Sometimes they need help too.

I have many favourite memories of the school. I will just touch on a few: the Christmas concerts, the feasts, the pow wows, and the professional development days where we come together as a group and discuss teaching and discipline strategies. I might mention here that Martha

Kaufeld made a huge impression on me. I have referred to her book on several occasions. I will end my trip down memory lane by saying that the Youth At Risk conferences in Calgary were also a highlight. I brought many ideas back from those conferences and also received a lot of inspiration from them.

**We have a great staff here:  
non-judgmental, friendly  
and passionate about  
the children.**

I recommend this school to parents because their children will be well looked after and taught by staff who are patient, tolerant, conscientious and caring. With our staff, there is also the firmness that is required with children, but when it is administered it is done with fairness and in a way that the children maintain their self-respect and dignity. I recommend this school to students because they can feel safe here. The staff is very understanding of family issues and other issues students might have.

If students are having difficulties academically, all they have to do is ask for help and someone will help them as soon as they can. Students should know that we have some very interesting options classes to offer. They are safe here; if they are being bullied or picked on, let an adult know. It will be dealt with in a direct, discreet, firm and fair manner.

### **Dale LeMoignan**

I am the Maintenance Director. I attended school in Perryville, Alberta. I completed my formal schooling in Edmonton, where I went to NAIT and completed Journeyman Auto Body Mechanic, Effective Estimating and Welding.

I am also a Government of Alberta Propane Instructor. In addition, I am a Canadian Golf Teachers Federation Certified Golf Teaching Professional.

I have been married to Anita for 45 years. We have two grown daughters and four grandchildren: two girls, two boys. Our children live nearby and we are able to spend a lot of time with them, watching our grandchildren grow up.

I have always had a talent for mechanics and a love of cars, which led me to start a business repairing and customizing Corvettes for the better part of 25 years. Throughout the years, I learned to be a jack of all trades to save my company money. This translated into repairs around our home as well. I have learned there isn't much I can't figure out how to repair.

My favourite memory of the school: I use a golf cart to get around the property. It carries my tools. One afternoon in my first year, I was working and left my cart parked beside the school. When I came to get a tool from my cart, one of the younger students was ready to drive it away. I had forgotten to take the key out. I asked the student not to play around the cart and sent her off to join her classmates. She wasn't happy but went off willingly, and I returned to my work. When I came back to the cart a little later, I found that she had left me a pile of snow on the seat. I still have a little laugh about this now and then.

It is a great opportunity to attend a small school dedicated to teaching First Nations culture. At MECCS, students have an opportunity not only to learn regular subjects, but also a variety of options related to their culture and language. We also offer various other options of interest to the students and the school provides nutritious breakfast and lunch daily. It is a safe environment with a staff of dedicated people.



*Dale LeMoignan*



*Anita LeMoignan*

### **Anita LeMoignan**

I am the Secretary-Treasurer and also look after Transportation. I learned and refined my accounting skills as I worked through the years. I spent 15 years with St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Schools, starting as an Accounts Payable Clerk and worked my way to Assistant to the Secretary-Treasurer and School Technical Liaison. I have a certificate from NAIT pertaining to local area networking (LAN) but learned the bulk of my IT knowledge on the job as well.

I was born and raised in Alberta in a small farming community called Minburn. It was a wonderful place to grow up and I have many lasting relationships with the friends I had while growing up. My father was a grain buyer and farmer; my mother was a homemaker and cooked for a survey crew (with a multitude of other talents). Dale and I have two beautiful, talented daughters and four amazing grandchildren: two girls and two boys that we adore and spend as much time with as possible.

Growing up, I loved school. My favourite subject in school was always math, so accounting seemed a logical choice of career. I began as a bookkeeper for my uncle's company before my children started school. It was a win-win job because I was able to work and my aunt watched my children. Once my girls started school I was fortunate to gain employment with the local school board. Being able to work in an education environment seemed like a dream job to me. I had left the education system for a period of time when a former co-worker informed me that MECCS was

looking for a Secretary-Treasurer. I had never heard of MECCS before, so I did some online research and felt that this might just be the place where I could return to education and do some good. That was six years ago and I have never regretted my choice.

I think my best memories of the school come from the hugs the children so freely share. It makes my day to get a smile and a hug from these wonderful little people. I was also extremely proud of the day we hosted the TAAPCS (Charter School Association) to see the members' interest and respect for the wonderful work being done in our school.

MECCS is not just a school. We are a small family of caring, committed people who want to educate and enhance the lives of the children we serve. The school is unique in many ways but, in my view, the most important factor is that each person here cares about these children. They go above and beyond to ensure their academic and personal success.

### **Yvonne House**

I am a member of the Paul First Nation. I grew up between Paul First Nation and Small Boy Camp.

I am a cook at the school. I help to make sure the children have a healthy breakfast and a nutritious lunch every day.

I jumped into cooking in the spring of 2014 when MECCS needed a school cook and I answered the call. My daughter was working with MECCS as school secretary at the time, and I had nieces and nephews attending, so it was a good fit.

My favourite memory of MECCS, is, of course, the pow wow. I also have a fond memory of a former student and his comments about “stinky cheese” (Parmesan cheese) in the cafeteria.

### **Janet House**

I am the school's Family Liaison, transportation coordinator, assistant cook, sewing instructor, Auntie, Kookum and much more.

I have been with MECCS since the beginning, and have been cooking and looking after the kids since then. From the humble kitchen in Wabamun where I prepared meals for the school on a four-burner stove to the new facility near Genesee, it's my job to make sure that every kid has enough to eat.

I was born in St. Laurent, Manitoba, and spent much of my life in the Edmonton area before settling in the Paul First Nation around 27 years ago. Most of my children attended MECCS and a few even ended up working for us.

I have been on a number of our student exchanges and love seeing the kids experience new parts of Canada. My favourite memory of MECCS is our yearly pow wow.

**We are a small family of caring, committed people who want to educate and enhance the lives of the children we serve.**



*Yvonne House*



*Janet House*