

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!



Find driving directions and more at www.meccs.org

The 2018 TransAlta Christmas at MECCS

In early November every student from kindergarten to grade 9 writes their letter to Santa. Those letters get forwarded on to Santa's Post Office at TransAlta headquarters in Calgary. Staff who want to take part are invited to pick a student's name and match it up with their Santa letter.

Staff then wrap and label all of the gifts, and early in the morning on the big day they load up a TransAlta truck and make the nearly four-hour drive up the highway to our school. This year Roman Cooney, retired VP of Communications for the company, made an excellent Santa.



Santa and his helper elves. This festive group was part of the TransAlta crew who helped to put on a merry Christmas celebration for students attending MECCS.



Left to right: Santa delivers beautiful Christmas presents to Emma Yellowbird, Gabriella Nelson and Lawrence (Poppy) Bird.



Left to right: Time for Jolissa Potts, Mariah Mustus-Bull and Cody Blake Jolicoeur to have their visits and presents from Santa.



Left: Amira Bird waves as she receives a gigantic gift from Santa.

Below: Santa and Nancee Bird share a happy moment together.





Above, from left to right: Santa makes a few more special deliveries to Azarielle Kimiksana, Francis Brown and Alec Bird. Below, from left to right: Anita LeMoignan, Ayasha Bull and Maxine Hildebrandt meet the jolly old elf himself.



Santa was joined by his elves, consisting of Business Analysts Erna Mazur, Heather Retzlaff and Laura Oosterbaan, and Indigenous Relations staff Cheryl McNeil and Amanda Sanregret. It is obvious by the smiles on their faces that this was truly a labour of love for all of them.

This special celebration first took place five years ago after a conversation between MECCS Principal Erin Danforth and TransAlta CEO Dawn Farrell about ways to support the students.

Santa's elves kicked things off with a Christmas carol. Everyone joined in singing "Santa Claus is Coming to Town." That is the signal for Santa to arrive and the presents to be handed out.

Santa took his time to address each student by their name and to talk about their wishes for Christmas. The students made us very proud, as they waited patiently for

all of the gifts to be given out before anyone started opening. Once that moment arrived, however, the room exploded with noise and joyous comments as students saw what they were getting. They loved the mitts and toques everyone got, and very excitedly showed each other and staff the other special presents that they received from Santa. Many of the younger children couldn't wait to hug Santa and the elves, and to thank them for the presents.

We can't thank Dawn Farrell and the entire TransAlta staff enough for making this possible for our students. It has become probably the favourite day of the year for students and staff. A huge thank you goes to Santa and his elves for once again giving their time to come visit in person and do this for us. We also want to recognize and thank Constable B. Young from the Thorsby RCMP detachment for taking time out of her busy schedule to help Santa's elves unpack the sleigh.



Mark Ehnes, Garrett Doll and Naomi Ethier wait for their turn.



"It's my turn now, right? Do you think Santa likes my hat?"



Above: Kookum Jane Callioux and Santa.



Above right: Azarius Rain enjoys his gifts.

Right: Ayasha Bull's smile tells you she's enjoying her gift.

Below: Adam Bull and Brennon Adams luck out with some Lego while Francis Brown tries out his new hockey stick.

