

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

Alberta Education Minister Visits MECCS

Alberta's new Minister of Education Adriana LaGrange recently spent an afternoon at MECCS touring the school and meeting students and staff.

Premier Jason Kenney appointed Minister LaGrange to cabinet after the United Conservative Party won the April 2019 election.

Prior to her role in the provincial government, the Minister served as a trustee for Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools for 11 years. With that background and having seven children of her own as well as three grandchildren, she certainly understands the unique needs of students, teachers and parents. We were pleased to hear her thoughts on and support for school choice and charter schools.

The Minister was joined by her colleague Mark Smith, who is the MLA for Drayton Valley-Devon (the riding where the school is based). Others in her group included Assistant Deputy Minister of Education Michael Walter, Alberta Education Field Services Manager Maurice Trottier and the Minister's Chief of Staff Nicole Williams.



Alberta Minister of Education Adriana LaGrange, MECCS teacher Maxine Hildebrandt and Drayton Valley-Devon MLA Mark Smith.



Clockwise from above:

1. *Our grade 5-6 class with Alberta Minister of Education Adriana LaGrange and Drayton Valley-Devon MLA Mark Smith.*
2. *Minister LaGrange and MLA Mark Smith with MECCS staff.*
3. *APPLE Schools Executive Director Jenn Flynn with Minister LaGrange.*



As one of the original APPLE schools in Alberta, we were pleased to have Jenn Flynn, APPLE Executive Director, and Kathy Dekker, APPLE School Health Mentor, join us for the afternoon. The Minister was interested in learning more about the APPLE schools program.

(APPLE stands for A Project Promoting healthy Living for Everyone in schools.)

During the school tour, we were able to give the Education Minister some historical background on the successes we have had here at MECCS. We were also able to discuss important issues we currently face that need to be addressed for us to be sustainable in the future.

We realize, of course, that she couldn't make any promises until after the provincial budget is released but we are very satisfied that we have been heard and have had the chance to have her learn about us in person.

Thank you to our staff and students for helping make this such a good tour for the Minister and other guests.



Annual Trip to the Edmonton Corn Maze



Clockwise from top left:

- 1. Joanne Feltham-Bear, Hunter Oldfield, Jolissa Potts and Teanna Paskemin in the big rocker.*
- 2. An aerial view of this year's corn maze.*
- 3. Students and parent volunteers enjoying a hot dog lunch.*
- 4. Climbing the big haystack.*

Principal Erin Danforth uses the annual school trip to the Edmonton Corn Maze as a bonding experience for our returning students and staff with our new students and staff. This year, our busload of excited students arrived at the corn maze on a cool, cloudy day but the weather didn't stop anyone from having a great time.

We want to thank the parents and volunteers who helped make the day a success by supervising, joining in the maze walk and helping with the hot dog lunch. Millie House, Janadine House, Michael Cardinal, Brenda and Garwin Baynes, Janelle Thomas and Christine Alexis, you turned a cold day into warm memories.

The exact details of how the maze is created are a trade secret. The whole field is planted in the spring, and then when the corn gets to be about six feet tall the design is cut into the field. Then the corn continues to grow over the summer. This year's maze design is an amazing aerial view as well as a challenging maze. Though the correct pathways can be walked in under 30 minutes, most directionally challenged visitors—adults and children alike—will require about an hour to travel



through the maze. It's more than five kilometres of twists and turns, with 85 decision points.

The 2019 design is a tribute to Dr. Patchup and the Stollery Children's Hospital. The folks who run the Edmonton Corn Maze say they are excited to be highlighting the great work that takes place in the Stollery every day.

The #Stollerybackyard is a campaign that educates Albertans on the many ways Stollery care has a positive impact in our communities. Families from across the province have countless stories about how grateful they are to have the Stollery Children's Hospital so close to home.

There is much more than the corn maze for students to try. The two giant bouncy pillows were especially popular with the younger students. The giant haystack saw every student and most staff climb the easy staircase of bales for a view from the top. By going as a group, we also got to use the fire pits and picnic area for our hot dog lunch.

One of the questions that students ask is whether you can eat the corn. You could, but it would not taste very good and the folks who run the corn maze don't recommend it. The variety of corn that they grow is a cow grazing variety. Most of the energy goes into growing the plant tall and the cobs are really bitter and mealy.

Treaty Six Cross Country Meet at MECCS

MECCS teacher and coach Dylan Boxall hosted a successful Treaty Six Cross Country Meet. This is the second year that he was able to use our natural surroundings as the site for these races. He was able to create a varied terrain course that challenged all of the student runners.

Students from Maskêkosak Kiskinomâtowikamik School from Enoch Cree Nation, Sunchild First Nation School, Paul Band First Nation School, Kisipatnahk School from Louis Bull Reserve and Kipohtakaw School from Alexander First Nation participated along with our students.

We want to thank MECCS staff and parent and student volunteers for making the day a success. It certainly encouraged our students to do their best when the rest of the school is out there cheering them on.

Congratulations to all MECCS students who participated. We want to commend the following students who placed in the top three for their age group: Ollyn Baynes (first place), Elias Yellowhead, Azarielle Kimiksana and Azarie Rain (second place), Tyrell Houle and Drake Bird (third place).



Ethan Bull, Tyrell Houle, Ollyn Baynes, Leland Hunter, Azarie Rain and Tristen Lafleche display their cross-country ribbons.

Left to right:

- 1. Azarielle Kimiksana with her first-place ribbon.*
- 2. Ollyn Baynes with his first-place ribbon and Tyrell Houle with his third-place ribbon.*
- 3. Azarie Rain with her second-place ribbon.*

