

MECCS

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

Mother Earth's Children's Charter School
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www.meccs.org



MECCS is on Facebook!

Principal: Erin Danforth
780-264-2362 (cell)
edanforth@meccs.org

Celebrating 21 Years of Success

Join the staff and students at MECCS in celebrating our upcoming 21st year of operation, and help us continue to be a place where students and staff alike can grow, learn and share what makes them unique.

There are so many good reasons why families would want to send their children to this amazing school with its wonderful staff and unique program.

Over the past two decades, hundreds of students and dozens of staff have passed through our doors. Many of our students have gone on to graduate from high school and create careers and families of their own, continuing to celebrate their individual gifts and talents. We are grateful to have been a part of each of their journeys.

At MECCS, we "grow great kids." We embrace the philosophy that we are preparing our students for a



MECCS teacher Maxine Hildebrandt at our outdoor classroom demonstrating how to make hide art.

greater role within society. We look beyond the physical walls of our school when developing opportunities for them to meet and learn from new people and experience new situations.

From 2021 to 2023, we completed phases 1, 2 and 3 of our all-weather culture camp/outdoor classroom *Oski Kisikaw Ena Mahkochih*. Its name is a combination of Cree and Stoney words that roughly translate to “new day for Mother Earth.”

We are excited that much of what we will do in this upcoming school year will reflect our efforts to further indigenize our program. Students will be able to experience many cultural activities as well as learning adventures in the outdoor shelter, fire pit, tipi, outdoor classroom areas and 3D archery course.

A major focus for us this year will be our partnerships with other schools from across the province. We will introduce Indigenous culture to our partner schools and learn about their schools and communities as well.

Our students will visit partner schools and then students from the partner schools will visit MECCS. Our students will lead the learning experiences for our guests under the direction of teacher Maxine Hildebrandt, who in 2018 received the Governor General’s History Award for Excellence in Teaching.

MECCS students will experience activities like making birchbark baskets, tanning hides, playing indoor and outdoor Indigenous games, target archery and ice fishing, all in small class size settings.

MECCS welcomes all students, from kindergarten to grade 9. We follow the Alberta provincial curriculum and there are no tuition fees to join the MECCS learning community. As well, our school provides a free breakfast and lunch program.

To register a child for the 2023–24 school year, contact principal Erin Danforth. You can reach Erin by email at edanforth@meccs.org or by cell phone at 780-264-2362.

Right, above: MECCS students building a shelter.

Right: NHL legend Bryan Trottier visiting our school.



Above: Elder Theresa Bird making bannock with our students and visitors from one of our partner schools.



Join the MECCS Team

*MECCS is currently seeking applications for a **School Bus Driver** and a **School Cook** for the 2023–24 school year.*

SCHOOL BUS DRIVER

This is an essential role that offers job security and a flexible schedule.

- Part-time hours, 4 to 6 hours a day
- Competitive wages
- Summers, weekends and holidays off

Job Description

As a School Bus Driver, you will work a split shift, driving approximately 2 hours in the morning and 2 hours in the afternoon. We offer additional pay for field trips and bus transfers.

Requirements

- Valid Class 2 Driver's Licence
- S Endorsement
- 5-year Driver's Abstract
- Clear criminal record and vulnerable sector checks

SCHOOL COOK

This is a 10-month position, with hours Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. As a School Cook, your duties will include preparing lunch and light breakfast for approximately 50 students and staff.

- Menu planning
- Food ordering and inventory control
- Maintaining cleanliness of the kitchen and equipment
- Other related duties

Qualifications

- Food safety certification
- Experience cooking for large numbers

Requirements

- Clear criminal record and vulnerable sector checks

*Please forward résumé to Anita LeMoignan, Secretary Treasurer
Mother Earth's Children's Charter School
Email: finance@meccs.org*



Mother Earth's Children's Charter School

School Calendar 2023-2024

Calendar Key	
	Holiday/No School
	Feast/Celebration
	Operational Day - No Students
Total	
187	Operational Days
178	Instructional Days
	Instructional Hours

Hours of instruction
 9:00-10:55
 11:10-12:10
 12:55-3:30
 5.5 Hours
 (950 required/year)

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
	6	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Monthly Details

- 31 School office opens
- 31 First day for staff

August Total

- 1 Operational
- 0 Instructional

September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					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

- 4 Labor Day
- 5 First day for students
- 22 Fall Feast
- 30 Nat'l Day Truth & Rec

September Total

- 20 Operational
- 19 Instructional

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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				

- 9 Thanksgiving
- 20 PD Day (TAAPCS Conf)

October Total

- 21 Operational
- 20 Instructional

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			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		

- 13-17 Fall Break
- 13-17 Matches Parkland

November Total

- 17 Operational
- 17 Instructional

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					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						

- 22 Feast
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 Boxing Day
- 27-29 Winter Break

December Total

- 16 Operational
- 16 Instructional

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	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			

Monthly Details

- 1 New Years Day
- 2-5 Winter Break

January Total

- 18 Operational
- 18 Instructional

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				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		

- 8-9 PD Day
- 16 PD Day
- 19 Family Day

February Total

- 20 Operational
- 17 Instructional

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					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						

- 15 Feast
- 22 PD Day
- 25-28 Spring Break
- 29 Good Friday

March Total

- 16 Operational
- 15 Instructional

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	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 Easter Monday

April Total

- 21 Operational
- 21 Instructional

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				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

- 17 PD Day
- 20 Victoria Day

May Total

- 22 Operational
- 21 Instructional

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						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						

- 14 Summer Celebration
- 21 Nat'l Indigenous Persons Day
- 20 Last Day - Students
- 21 Last Day - EA/Teacher

June Total

- 15 Operational
- 14 Instructional