

# 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**

**Box 11, Site 504, RR 5**

**Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1X5**

**780-702-7531 school office**

**780-340-1716 family liaison**

**Principal Erin Danforth - edanforth@meccs.org**

**Family Liaison Janet House - jhouse@meccs.org**

**School Secretary Raquel House - rhouse@meccs.org**

**MECCS is on Facebook!**



**Find driving directions and more at [www.meccs.org](http://www.meccs.org)**

## Students Choose Their Options at MECCS

We believe that students should have a say in what they study when they attend Mother Earth. We asked them what they would like to learn about. We then designed a series of options for them to choose from based on those student suggestions.

Would you like to have your children, grandchildren, and nieces and nephews attend a school with a friendly and personal environment like that?

Contact us to find out how to register for next year. Call 780-702-7531 and ask for Principal Erin Danforth or Family Liaison Janet House. They will explain everything we do and how you and the children in your family can be part of it next year.

One of the more popular option choices is golf. Our Maintenance Director Dale LeMoignan offers golf instruction on Tuesday afternoons.

How many schools can say they have a licensed golf professional right there in the building? Dale has been a



*From left to right: Autumn Alexis, Alexy Rain-Kootenay, Danielle Mackinaw and Crystal Thomas take turns practising their golf skills.*

member of the Canadian Golf Teachers Federation since 2005. He holds certification as an instructor in both Canada and the US. He enjoys working with people to introduce them to the game he loves.



Above: Golf option instructor Dale LeMoignan teaching (from left to right) Amber Anderson, Autumn Alexis and Alexy Rain-Kootenay.

Below: Amber Anderson teeing up at the indoor driving cage.

ALL GOLF PHOTOS BY ED WITTCHEN

We have bought the equipment needed to teach golf indoors, including five putting surfaces, an indoor driving cage with tee box mats, and enough putters, drivers and clubs for the class. We have both right- and left-handed sets. history When they finish the class, students will understand the skills, history and rules of golf.



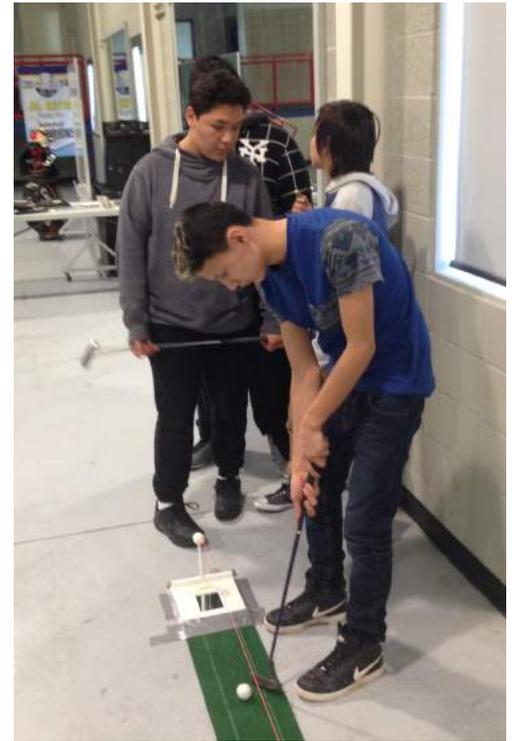
### Basics of Golf

This includes learning the rules and playing within guidelines to make sure everyone enjoys the experience.

1. Golf course etiquette
  - respect for other players
  - respect for and care of the golf course grounds and equipment
  - tee to green: how to safely proceed and play through the course
2. Getting to know your clubs: learning distances and degrees
3. Managing your game: focus on each shot and hole individually
4. Understanding the scorecard: hole distance, handicap, course layout
5. Care of personal golf equipment: cleaning, safety, management
6. Emphasis on having fun while learning

### Indoor/Driving Range Instruction

1. Ball position, grip, posture/stance
2. How to swing a club: driver, iron, putter
3. Driving, chipping, putting: drills, distance, accuracy



*From left to right: Storm Mackinaw attempting a putt; golf option instructor Dale LeMoignan demonstrating a putting technique to Jerry Saulteaux-Lightning, Jr.; Trevez Bird, Shawn Bird, Jerry Saulteaux-Lightning, Jr., and TJ Paskemin practising on an indoor putting surface.*

### **Virtual and On-course Play**

These outings are planned for fun. They take what students have learned, in class and indoors, to an on-course situation. By the time they go on these outings, students should have a good understanding of the rules and basics of play.

It is a given that students will learn at different rates. Dale will allow for this as we go along so that all students get the full benefit of the classes.

### **Friday Student Choice Options**

To give our middle school-aged students (grades 5 to 9) a taste of what options can offer, we have created a pilot program to introduce them to a variety of courses that are interesting to them. So far, their feedback has been very positive.

### **Introduction to Cosmetology**

Elaine Boe is a teaching assistant at MECCS. She is also a licensed hair dresser. Elaine owned a beauty school in Prince George before moving to Spruce Grove. Elaine has been at MECCS since 2008.

Raquel House is a Paul First Nation community member who graduated from Memorial Composite High School in 2012. She has been working at MECCS as our school secretary since September 2014. Raquel completed her study of esthetics at Evelyne Charles Academy in Edmonton before starting work here at MECCS.

Elaine and Raquel are both excited to share their passion for and knowledge about health, beauty and self-care with our students.

*From left to right: Autumn Alexis, River Rain-Kootenay, Zaida McLean, Shannen Bird, Tyrrel Bigchild and cosmetology instructor Elaine Boe. PHOTO BY ERIN DANFORTH*





*From left to right: Autumn Alexis, Katerie Bull, Amber Anderson, River Rain-Kootenay, Zaida McLean, Shannen Bird and Tyrrell Bigchild having a lot of fun in the Introduction to Cosmetology option.*

### **Advanced Techniques in Art**

Victor Tang has always enjoyed incorporating art into his classroom. With just a little extra time, he is now able to help his small but dedicated group of art option students delve deeper into some of the more challenging art techniques. Students have the opportunity to explore different styles of art and use different materials and techniques.

### **Food Preparation and Safety**

It's not a secret that the foods option is a favourite! Kathy Mawer, our cook at MECCS, opens up her kitchen to a small group of students who are keen to learn about food preparation.

Our foods class has prepared marinades for lunch and deserts like butter tarts and cookies. They are also working on planning and preparing a whole meal for our entire school! So far their work has turned out delicious. We are really looking forward to seeing what they can do.

### **Sewing**

Sewing is a lifelong skill. Janet House, our school's Parent Liaison, is a prime example of someone who has put that skill to great use. Janet not only sews for her family, she also sews for our school and for the Paul First Nation community.

Her small group of students has selected practical, real-world projects that will let them build their skills and create something practical yet fun!



*Left: Zoey Bird, Nakoda Paul, Neil Adams, TJ Paskemin and Tannon Rain making something delicious in the food options class.*

*Top right: TJ Paskemin working hard in the MECCS kitchen.*

*Middle right: Jerry Saulteaux-Lightning, Jr., learning to create with cloth in Janet House's sewing option class.*

*Bottom right: Julia Potts carefully cutting out her material while following the outline of a pattern.*

**PHOTOS BY ERIN DANFORTH**