



# Volunteer Profile: Laurie

What grades are your children in?

My children are now Connect alumni. I have triplets that just left grade 9 at Connect, I have a grade 12 Connect alumni, and an alumni in second year university.

What are your current personal, professional, and volunteer commitments?

Volunteering with high school, sports and community events, continued connection with Connect Charter as staff member and volunteer with various events as needed.

When did you first become a part of the school community?

2010 when my second son came to grade 4, my older son then joined grade 7.

What made you decide to volunteer with Connect Charter School?

I enjoy being involved with the school and students, and providing support to the teachers.

What do you consider the best part of volunteering at our school?

Getting to know the students in the school, a variety of teachers and parents, and being part of everything to help children and teachers.

What are some of the rewards?

Great experiences - camps, concerts, enjoying children, meeting other families. Mr. Sweet singing and playing guitar around the campfire is an absolute best reward.

Tell us about the volunteering you do at Connect Charter School.

Volunteer with: Band committee, library, outdoor education, office assistance, picture-days, school council events, executive member of Connect Parent Society, classroom events, Camp Sweet all grades, grade 6 winter camp, grade 9 farewell committee, grade 8 Jasper tour, grade 8 Writing-on-stone camp, grade 5 Ft. Steele, grade 7 Ft. Steele, lost and found, teacher appreciation lunch, SUTP fundraiser, worked fundraising casinos, family BBQ's, theatre trips.

What made these opportunities a great fit for you?

Working with children, flexibility of interests, enjoy school environment,

How much time did you put into these roles?

Every event required different amount time, and was managed as preferred. I personally volunteered a fair amount of time each week, but it was multiple events and covering multiple children!

How did you maintain such a strong commitment to volunteering within our community?

Volunteering is an important part of helping a successful school operate on so many levels. Smaller commitments are needed to help make daily curriculum events happen, and I want my children and others to experience those events. The overnight trips take a large amount of volunteer time in one session, but are an amazing learning experience for the children and provide significant relationship and life skills. The larger long-term commitments like PVA committee and School Council are important for the next level of school planning. It genuinely feels like you are making a difference.

What kind of volunteer opportunities do you hope to be a part of in the future?

Social opportunities for families and teachers at Connect, PVA planning and events, etc.

What would you tell someone who hasn't volunteered with Connect before but is thinking about it?

It's a great way to understand the school better - the teachers, the admin, the philosophies....and to assist your children with enriching their life and education experiences. Absolutely rewarding!

Bonus questions:

Tell us something about yourself that most people don't know about you?

I love basset hounds.

What's your favourite campfire song?

Favourite campfire song is a tie: "This Pretty Planet" and "Humpty Dumpty - Ain't That Funky Now!"

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***- LAURIE, CONNECT ALUMNI PARENT, FORMER VOLUNTEER, AND CURRENT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT EXTRAORDINAIRE***