

Retha Van Gent, Teacher



Retha Van Gent has been a career teacher for over 30 years. Retha graduated from Oregon State University with a Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education. She began her journey teaching in the 6th largest school district in Alaska, living in a cross-cultural environment with Native Eskimos in Southwest Alaska. She created a Yup'ik to English transitional grade at her school, which was adopted throughout the Lower Kuskokwim School District. Her dedication to students was an inspiration to many, and she was instrumental in encouraging many classified staff to become certified teachers.

Retha has been teaching at Kirkland Preschool for the last twelve years. One of the highlights of the school year is when Retha brings her personal artifacts from Alaska. She introduces village life and culture into the classroom and the children experience first-hand a way of life that hasn't changed in hundreds of years.

Retha and her husband Jim are the proud parents of two aspiring young men. Richard is beginning his graduate degree in Optometry School, and Andrew is in college pursuing his Diesel Mechanic certification. Retha enjoys reading, and is a member of a book club, which includes past and current teachers of the Preschool. She has also clocked hundreds of miles walking with her neighbors.

Retha is dedicated to ensuring a meaningful experience for her students at Kirkland Preschool. The opportunities for discovery are endless and the more your children play, explore and see for themselves, the more they will learn.