



the WISE connection

Issue 11

September 2018



From the WISE Office

Dear WISE Families,

As Waldorf parents, we know that summer is a treasured time. And as summer reaches its zenith we change gears and join together at school. We will continue to enjoy this beauty and harvest with our friends, old and new, and make space for the coming fall.

While returning to school can be an exciting time, the adjustment for our families can also be stressful. Our sincerest wish for you is that the transition, from the wild brightness of your holidays to the industrious work of Autumn, be both joyful and gentle.

We look forward to seeing all of your shining faces and marveling at just how much the children have grown.

With warmth and gratitude,

The WISE Admin Team 🌱

Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton (WISE)

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🌐 **Website:**
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@ **Email:**
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f **WISE Facebook Page:**
Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton

Facebook Parent Group:
The WISE Parent Connection

(Please contact communication@wese.ca to join our Facebook parent group)

Enchanted Garden Store Hours:

Monday: 2:50 - 3:15 pm

Wednesday/Thursday: 8:30 - 9:30 am

Or by appt: store@thewise.ca

Important Dates:

Sep 4 First Day of School;
Rose Ceremony

Sep 10 Bulk order opens

Sep 10 First day of Rosebuds
Home Arts Enrichment

Sep 11 First day of Daisies / Marigolds

Sep 12 First day of Wondergarden
Nursery

Sep 13 First day of Bluebells

Sep 16 Bulk order closes

Sep 21 Bulk order pickup

Sep 24 PD Day, no programming

Sep 28 Michaelmas Celebration

Oct 5 Picture day (K - Gr 9)

Oct 8 Thanksgiving, no programming

Oct 8 Bulk order opens

Oct 13 Work Bee

Oct 14 Bulk order closes

Oct 19 Bulk order pickup

Oct 20 Pumpkin Walk

Oct 26-27 Casino Fundraiser

Parent Coffee every Wednesday at 8:30 am - 9:15 am in the WISE Gym.



Office Notes



Welcome Back

Classes will begin on Tuesday, September 4th, 2018. Families and friends are invited to attend our Rose Ceremony to welcome the newest Class 1 students. We will gather in the back playground at 8:30 am.

Please be sure to complete all the requisite forms and permission slips for your child by the first day of school. These forms include the Walking Field Trip, Authorized Release and Healing Basket forms.

Those children in Grades 4 and up, who plan to go home for lunch or walk home at the end of the day, will require a completed Unauthorized Release.

If you're needing a paper version, we will have lots at your Parent Orientation evenings, or stop by the office for assistance. Completed forms can be submitted to your child's Class Teacher.

With the excitement of the new school year, please take extra care during drop off and pick up times. We would like to remind all parents and guardians to drive slowly in the school parking lot and adjacent roads. We encourage families to use the parking lot as a ride through zone, instead of parking on 96A ave. Any children crossing the road may need extra support from a sibling or adult. We greatly appreciate your support in keeping our arrival and departure areas safe for everyone.

Should your child will be absent from school please let us know by 8:45am. You can do this by emailing: absences@thewise.ca, or by phone at **780-466-3312**. If we haven't heard from you, we will call to ensure your child is well. 🍏

WISE Events

Rose Ceremony

We will begin our school year with a Rose Ceremony welcoming our new Class One students, as they rise from Kinder and into the grades.

While it is not mandatory to attend, all parents and siblings of class one are welcome to join us for this special time.

Below are some details for your reference:

* Please drop off Class 1 students in the kindergarten yard*
8:25 am – The Kindergarten teachers and Class One teachers will greet the children in the kindergarten yard.
8:40 am – Rose Ceremony begins

* Parents and children can gather by the outdoor playground. The ceremony should take 15-20 minutes. Parents are welcome to take photographs after the ceremony.* 🍏

Michaelmas Festival

The School's festival round of the year begins with Michaelmas on Friday, September 28th!

Michael beckons us to find the spirit to come alive through the dying year. The flashing meteor showers are said to be the sword he wields for us; each falling star is made of iron – the iron we need to strengthen the resolution of the heart. The seed thoughts of the summer can be harvested now as deeds – to find their place in the world among the people, to generate a life of their own that goes on into the future.

At WISE we will celebrate Michaelmas by gathering at 1:55 pm on Friday, September 29th in the gymnasium. After a short assembly, the grades children will go back to their classes and a group of parent volunteers will help set up an obstacle course. The children will then emerge outside, to ask for courage for something in their lives, and to run the obstacle course.

Every grades class will require dragon bread and red juice (no food colouring please), so please contact your class rep if you are interested in baking/providing.

Please email pam@thewise.ca if you would like to help set up the obstacle course or be a fire-tender. 🍏

Welcome



**Class 1 Teacher:
Sara Larsen**

Hello WISE families!

My name is Sara Larsen and I'm thrilled to be part of the Waldorf team this coming school year, as the Class One Teacher. I have spent this last spring co-teaching in Class Three, and have fallen in love with the ways of Waldorf teaching, especially the school's focus on enrichment through the arts, music, and building authentic relationships with one another, nature, and our surroundings.

I obtained my Bachelor of Education degree in 2016 and have since worked as a children's programmer for the Edmonton Public Library, and began my Waldorf journey in the spring of this year.

In my free time, more than anything, I love spending time with my family, which includes my parents, two sisters, and my niece. I visit them often in Devon, my hometown. While I am out there, I love to soak up the beauty of the river valley, visit with old friends, and paint in my parent's beautiful yard—it's the perfect backdrop!

This July I travelled to the Toronto Waldorf School/Rudolf Steiner Centre to attend intensive training, which prepared me specifically for teaching Class One. It was a wonderful trip of warm weather, good food, community support, and of course a lot of rich learning and professional development.

This August, I travelled with my partner to Newfoundland to meet his extended family, explore the peninsula, and experience all that the east coast has to offer.

I am humbled and honored to be a part of the teaching staff at WISE, and cannot wait to continue my Waldorf journey with you and your children at my side. I look forward to meeting you soon!

-Sara Larsen 🌱



**Class 2 Teacher:
Jared Riley**

Jared is very excited to move back to the prairies after several years away! He grew up on a dairy farm in southern Saskatchewan and moved with his family to Alberta when he was in junior high. Jared spent the next couple of years traveling in Alaska, walking across Spain, living in New York City, riding a tiny 1972 motorcycle through the US with his wife, and living in Vancouver. During this time, he also worked seasonally in the Rockies for Parks Canada (in Waterton Lakes National Park). It was there that he realized that sharing his curiosity about the world with children is what he wanted to do in his career. Sharing in the wonder experienced by young children is a great joy for Jared.

While in Vancouver, he pursued a myriad of volunteer opportunities in both social services and youth programs. All of this culminated with obtaining his Bachelor of Education from the University of British Columbia, with a focus on Kindergarten to Grade 3.

Jared is an avid all-weather cyclist, a great lover of the outdoors, and a student of the classical guitar. In his free time, Jared enjoys bicycle trips, canoeing, camping, and hiking, and he and his wife have been taking swing-dancing lessons (lindy hop). He and his wife have just moved into a new (to them!) house in Old Strathcona and are eagerly planning their first garden together.

Jared visited the WISE in May and was immediately excited about the community. He felt welcome and at home in an environment that valued appreciation of nature and the arts, and that didn't focus on technology in early years. He plans to bring more skills-based activities to the classroom—an aspect of The WISE's mission that particularly inspires him. Above all else, Jared has an intense love of life-long learning and he seeks to encourage confidence and a passion for learning in his students. As an educator he strives to encourage stewardship and curiosity in students while providing them with the tools (academic and emotional) they need as they continue their studies. He hopes to bring to education a passion for facilitating exploration of nature, experience working with diverse populations, an appreciation of arts and literature, a scientific curiosity, and an enthusiasm for a variety of teaching techniques. He is as excited about hands-on activities as he is about quiet reflection, and he strives to encourage students as they navigate their own self-development.

Jared is very excited to be a part of the Waldorf community, and is looking forward to meeting each of his grade-two students and their families. 🌱

Welcome Cont'd



**Class 3 Teacher:
Julia Deakin**

Dear WISE families,

My name is Julia Deakin, and I will be taking on Class 3 this year! I received my BEd and BA in Ontario in a concurrent education degree program through Nipissing University and Wilfrid Laurier University. This school year will be my first year of teaching. I have been a student teacher in classes K - 6, and volunteered internationally teaching in the Amazon of Ecuador. I have led summer camps, taught at an Outdoor Education Centre and have coached youth basketball for many years.

Even though I am just starting down this teaching path of Waldorf education, I feel very excited and personally aligned with the pedagogy. In July I attended the "Art of Teaching: Grade 3" weeklong preparatory course at the Rudolph Steiner Centre of Toronto. I am so looking forward to teaching at the WISE because of the way Waldorf education engages students in their learning and development. Using their bodies, their voices, various learning instruments and the natural environment given to them, students can truly make their experience relevant and find a sense of purpose. I believe it is critical to engage the whole child: body, mind, and spirit to fully experience what it is they are taking part in. I am very excited to work with the Waldorf community to allow each individual to warmly feel included and experience their potential.

My personal philosophy of education revolves around the idea that each student is a unique individual who carries with them a very diverse set of needs, strengths, and most importantly, potential. It is one of my most desired goals as an educator to be able to help students nurture their full potential and find their place as a contributing member of the community.

In my free time, you will likely find me outside enjoying camping, canoeing, hiking, biking, backpacking, skiing, rock climbing ... you name it, embracing the environment and all it has to offer us! As a sports fan, I love to participate in a game whenever possible. I look forward to sharing my gifts as a teacher/coach and avid outdoors-woman with the children and inspiring each other to grow.

I am so excited to meet all of you, and believe that together we can make this a wonderful year for everyone in the community! 🌱



**Class 8/9 Teacher:
Sophia Burak**

My name is Sophia Burak and I am excited to be teaching grade 8 and 9 Main lesson blocks in science and math. In addition to an education degree, I have completed a bachelor of science in conservation biology. I have been teaching for the past two years and I love to share my fascination with animal life with my students. When I travel I'm always looking for wildlife of all sizes. My other joy when I travel is learning history. I loved a recent course I took on the history of science and I hope to incorporate stories from history into my science lessons.

The storytelling aspect of the Waldorf curriculum was a big draw for me as well as the emphasis on drawing. I am excited to create beautiful diagrams for my students. Furthermore, the Waldorf curriculum allows me to teach more in depth and my small classes will give me the pleasure of building deeper relationships with my students. Regardless of the age or setting of my students I always strive to show that learning can be an end in itself and a little knowledge can unlock deeper layers to everyday things.

Of course, I'm not always teaching and when off duty I enjoy cooking/baking, reading, taking dance classes and learning new things. Some of my goals this year are to improve my German language skills and start practicing the piano daily.

I am very excited to be a part of the Waldorf community, and am looking forward to meeting each of the class eight and nine students and their families. 🌱

Community Building



From Site Development Committee

We are very excited this year to have two new portables. One of them will be used for Grade 6 and the other will be used for handworks and other specialty classes. These portables complete the space requirements for our growing middle school program until such time as we start to build more permanent classrooms. The portables were moved into place in the middle of August and are now being transformed into functional classrooms. This includes the connection of utilities, a lot of painting and many small renovation projects. The majority of this work is completed by parent volunteers and the site development committee. We would like to thank everyone involved for all their skilled work. 🍀



Community Garden

The community garden group continues to build up its membership and welcomes new members. The group will tend student plots during the summers and will integrate any new building of plots into the school program. Think of the community garden as one big extension of the kids' current gardening activities.

The group had several work bees during the summer and is currently building some new cedar planters/benches along the south wall of the school. If you know of any volunteers who want to get involved, ask them to email nora@wese.ca to get on the mailing list for meetings and activities. Everyone is welcome.

Future plans are to integrate all the gardens into a magnificent natural playground and food forest, with pollinating bees, beautiful walkways and rest areas around the portables. An indoor/outdoor classroom greenhouse and atrium on the south side of the school will be completed before the north side addition gets built. 🍀



Casino

Our next Casino is October 26 and 27! This major fundraiser pays for things like music, band and our playground. Please sign up here: <http://signup.com/go/oRZirdn> and support our school! There are 40 shifts to be filled. Sign up early to get the shift you want! Questions can be emailed to: leah.wm@gmail.com. 🍀



Parent Coffee Hour

Looking for great ways to connect with other parents? Want to learn about what is happening at the school? Or just want somewhere to spend a few moments sharing a laugh? Wednesday morning parent (and family) coffee is just the place! Join us in the gymnasium once a week just after morning drop off - we try to have the coffee ready by 8:30. 🍀

FundScrip

FundScrip Fundraiser

Canada's Leading Gift Card Fundraiser

FundScrip is a respected, Canada-wide fundraising program in which charities and non-profit groups (in other words, you!) are encouraged to pay for shopping (groceries, gas, home & garden, entertainment, restaurants) with gift cards bought from FundScrip.

How does it work?

It's dead simple. When you buy a gift card for \$100, you get to spend that \$100 at the retailer of your choice.

There are over 190 retailers in Canada to choose from, so you can continue to shop at exactly the same stores you usually shop at.

So, if you normally shop at Esso, you can buy a re-fillable FundScrip gift card for Esso. You buy the gift card for \$100 for gas and you spend that exact same \$100 on the gas you'd be buying anyways.

Same goes for Safeway, Canadian Tire, Staples, The Bay - to name a few. Please check out <http://www.fundscrip.com/> retailers for retailer list.

What does this actually mean?

Each time you buy something with your FundScrip card, you automatically donate to The Wise. Other than buying the gift card, there is no extra effort on your part to raise money for the school. Period.

What's the benefit to me?

We are hoping that, if this campaign is successful, there will be [almost] no other forms of small fundraising asked of you this year. Everyone wins!

There will be something on the list which you and your extended families and friends will find legitimately useful. I promise.

You can pay by cash or cheque (no credit or debit) at the monthly bulk order pick-up. Please email fundscrip@wese.ca to place your orders. 🍀



Horizon Bulk Order

Great deals, healthy organic options and a great way to support our school all wrapped into two words - Bulk Order! Everything from spices to school snacks to laundry detergent. Your friends and family are also welcome to join the order and the first order of the year is coming soon.

Place your order at: <https://foodclub.org/wise/login>

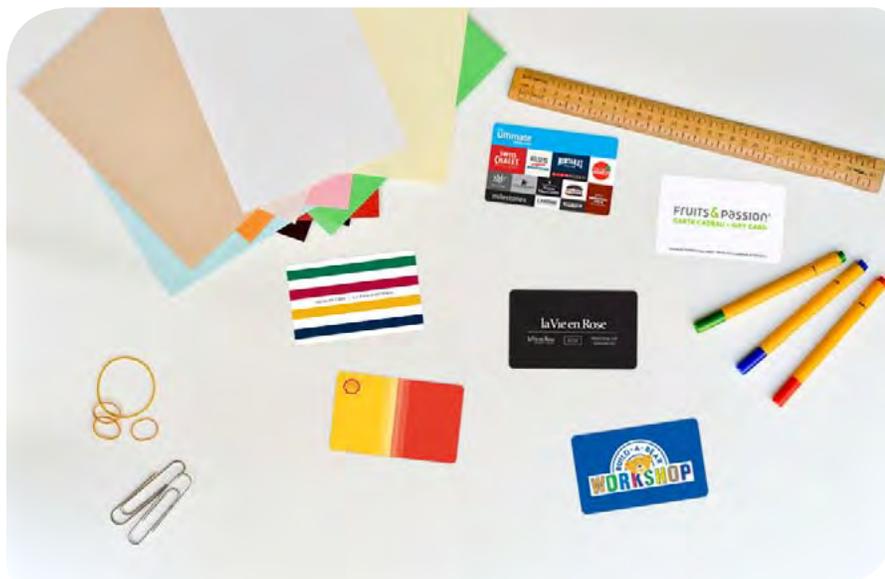
If you don't have an account, use that same link and request to have one created, we'd love to have you!

Our bulk order window is a week long, from a designated Monday to Sunday. Pick-up is the following Friday, 3:00-4:30 pm, at the school gym.

Please check our yearly and monthly calendar for bulk order dates.

If you have any questions please email bulkorders@thewise.ca

Happy shopping! 🍀



Pedagogical Advisor

Christina Tozer

Many of you will already know that for the upcoming school year I have taken up the position at WISE of Pedagogical Advisor/Internal Mentorship Program. It's tricky to describe all aspects of this job as it is multifaceted and just when you think one task is complete, another aspect looms up, often thrusting you into another set of logistics or conversations. But, it is very much a leadership role where I move between administration and faculty and also hold and disseminate information between WISE and WESE.

Leadership does not imply a 'boss' role; with leadership you have to understand the value of people, be clear about what the vision is and how it can be achieved, and then bring people along with you because they want to advance the cause — they want to be with you.

Some of my specific tasks include

- offering pedagogical support to the WISE Faculty
- mentoring new teachers and ensuring all teachers have the pedagogical support they require
- visiting all classrooms to validate teachers' good work and give feedback to teachers (a mentor does not formally evaluate, but rather prepares and supports new teachers through the process of formal internal or external evaluation)
- chair and lead the Faculty Council and the Full Faculty meetings support the Division Meetings and the three Division Chairs
- oversee Parent Education

Leading some changes to the WISE faculty structure and meetings

WISE is now at a stage when we are moving into what is known in a Waldorf School as a Faculty Council (often called The College of Teachers). We are also replacing the large weekly Faculty meeting with Division Meetings. This means that the faculty as an entity (now over 25 strong) does not meet together as one body (except the last Thursday of the month) but teachers meet according to their Division. This means that the three divisions, which include ECE, Elementary grades (1-5) and Junior High or Middle School (6-9), each hold their own 'Division' meeting where they engage in child study, work on curriculum and program content through the study of pedagogy, study and discuss aspects of anthroposophy, and address questions and issues relevant to their division, or the school as a whole.

In addition WISE has now formed a "Faculty Council" that meets twice a month. This is open to all class teachers or specialist teachers who have worked in the School for one full year. This Faculty Council Group considers items and recommendations coming forward from the Divisions, and also as a whole council group reviews some aspects of school administration, which may come forward from committees, the Administrative Team and the WESE Board. Faculty Council may also make recommendations to the WESE board on such things as Professional Development/Teacher Education, Teacher Hiring, Codes of Conduct, Program content — to name a few areas. Essentially the Faculty Council represents the teachers and brings forward discussion related to pedagogical issues and initiates educational policy.

The Pedagogical Advisor is part of the Administration Team, and as such is in close liaison with the Executive Administrator, Principal and WESE President. The Pedagogical Advisor is therefore a close link between the Faculty and the Administration and oversees the clear flow of communication between the streams.

As you can see there are quite a few tasks and responsibilities but the Pedagogical Advisor can also delegate. I have a very supportive Faculty and Administrative Team around me which is now growing with expertise. Plus, I feel that I am in a very supportive surrounding community of parents. Please know that I am readily available should you have a Parent Education idea or need to talk over a pedagogical issue or concern: christina.tozer@thewise.ca

I look forward to taking up the challenges ahead this coming year.

NOTE:

Christina Tozer is on site all day on Wednesdays (9.30-5pm) and one additional afternoon a week, as well as specific times for meetings. In addition Christina is a virtual worker and prepares documents, agendas and other documents from her home based office. Please contact Christina should you require further information on aspects of pedagogy or Rudolf Steiner Education. 🌱

Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton (WESE)



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WESE Facebook Group:
Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton



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