

From the WISE Office

Dear WISE Families,

We are approaching an important milestone in the school year. As parents we can congratulate each other for having made it this far and are invited to look back on the incredible growth our children (and even us, as adults) have experienced this year. This mid-point in the school year is marked with a number of festivals and observances that mark the importance of reflecting during these darkest days of winter.

The school was bustling with activity and filled with joy and wonder at this year's Winter Fair. We hope that your family was able to join us this year~ It was a success in every measure. This annual festival and fundraiser is an opportunity to open our school and invite a wider community to participate in a magical experience for our children. It would not be possible without your support, the countless volunteers, and the tireless efforts and vision of our Festivals Committee. Thank you!

Our upcoming Advent Spiral is a time for our children to slow down and share in the reflection and stillness of the season. And our Winter concert will be a time to gather and share in the joy and reverence of the upcoming holidays.

We wish you and your family holidays filled with good cheer and friends.

With gratitude and blessings over this year and next,
The WISE Admin Team 🍀



Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton (WISE)

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WISE Facebook Page:
[Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton](https://www.facebook.com/WaldorfIndependentSchoolofEdmonton)

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:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Nov 30 Winter Fair Set Up, No School | Jan 7 Classes resume, including Rosebuds and Home AE |
| Nov 30 Candlelight Market | Jan 7 Bulk Order opens |
| Dec 1 Winter Fair | Jan 8 Daisies and Marigolds begin |
| Dec 3 First week of Advent - Advent Spiral | Jan 9 Nursery resumes |
| Dec 3 Last Day of Rosebuds | Jan 10 Bluebells begins |
| Dec 4 Last Day of Daisies and Marigolds | Jan 10 Ottewell Artisan Farmers' Market |
| Dec 6 Last Day of Bluebells | Jan 13 Bulk Order closes |
| Dec 6 Handwork Circle | Jan 17 Ottewell Artisan Farmers' Market |
| Dec 6 Ottewell Artisan Farmers' Market | Jan 18 Bulk Order pick up |
| Dec 10 Second Week of Advent | Jan 20 Work Bee |
| Dec 13 Ottewell Artisan Farmers' Market | Jan 24 Ottewell Artisan Farmers' Market |
| Dec 14 Winter Concert | Jan 28 PD Day, no programming |
| Dec 17 Third Week of Advent | Jan 31 Candlemas La Chandeleur (K-Grades) |
| Dec 20 Handwork Circle | Jan 31 Ottewell Artisan Farmers' Market |
| Dec 21 Noon Dismissal (Gr 1-9 only) | |
| Dec 24 - Jan 4 No Programming, WISE Winter Break | Parent Coffee every Wednesday
8:30 am - 9:15 am in the WISE Gym |

Office Notes

WISE Winter Break

Monday December 24th - January 4th

We will be closed for all programming during this time. 🌱

WISE PD Day

January 28th, 2019

WISE will be closed for a Professional Development day and there will be no Rosebuds, Home Arts Enrichment, Kindergarten or grades programming. 🌱

WISE Events

Winter Concert

Please join us for our Winter Concert on Friday December 14th, at 6:30pm. You will see performances from all Classes, 1 through to 9. The children are excited to share the gift of music with you! Choir, Recorder, Ukulele and BAND pieces will delight your ears.

The Winter Concert cost is by donation, with all funds raised going toward the music program (instrument repairs, field trips and funds towards the perfect venue for our Spring Concert in 2019!).

Yours sincerely,
Kirsten Elliott
Music Enrichment & Band Director at the WISE. 🌱

Community Building

Fundscrip!

*****Friday, December 7th 2018 is the next order deadline*****

Quick Overview: Fundscrip is a very successful program for charities to raise funds without asking people to spend more money, but use their purchasing power to generate funds!

Order \$25 or \$50 or \$100 'gift' cards and receive the same value at the checkout!

There are hundreds of retailers to choose from.

1. Get the forms online, through the attachment, or at the WISE office
2. Fill out how many cards you need for the month and the value you want. i.e. 2 x \$50 Superstore cards. Budget!
3. Pay with Debit, Cheque, or EMT/EFT
4. You will be emailed within a week or two for pick up! Check out the Farmers Market table on Thursday for your order, or in school office on Friday

WISE will have some cards for sale on the spot, at the Ottewell Artisan Farmers' Market. The Market is held in the WISE gymnasium Thursdays from 4pm-7pm. Way to go Farmers' Market Committee & supporters!

Thank you, WISE Fundraising Committee

<https://www.fundscrip.com/home>

Payment Options:

- **Debit** at the market or during school hours in the WISE office.
- **Cheques** must be made out to: Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton or WESE
- **EMT Procedure:**

Email: accounts@thewise.ca

Write Fundraising Fundscrip with your Family Name in the EMT message box

Question: We love

Answer is WESE

The WISE code is KFDQTD (for online orders only)

*online payments have a reduced donation due to credit card processing fees. Still a great option though for family and friends out of town who want to support the WISE

Thank you! 🌱

Community Building cont'd

The Enchanted Garden Store at the WISE

The school store is a volunteer-run community store and provides parents, caregivers, and friends with Waldorf inspired toys, books, supplies, and crafts. Timeless and unique, the items foster open-ended play and discovery through the senses. We carry educational materials, such as beeswax for molding, block and stick beeswax crayons, natural and sustainable pencil crayons, watercolor supplies, Waldorf dolls, kite paper, felt, yarn, knitting supplies and more. The book selections feature many of Steiner's works and Waldorf educators. If you are looking for a particular book or toys, we can help!

Email the store@thewise.ca for any questions or to book an appointment outside of store hours.

Store hours are:

Monday afternoon 2:50-3:10

Wednesday mornings 8:30-9:30

Friday mornings 8:30-9am

We accept debit, cash, cheque, and EMT.

Thank you for supporting the WISE,
Volunteers at The Enchanted Garden. 🌱



THANK YOU!

WISE would like to extend a big thank you to our exceptional maintenance volunteers Dave Brettelle and Tim Burnham who designed and built our Jr High and portable boardwalk and lay the traction covering despite all efforts by weather ice/rain/snow to impeded their efforts. Thank you for your time and innovative solutions for our growing school! 🌱

Highlight of the Class

Class 3

Julia Deakin (Class 3 Teacher)

Eighteen... This is not just a number in Class Three, but a number that represents how many unique, brilliant, curious learners we are lucky to have in our class.

You may have noticed us. What you may have noticed is that some of us may be going through the 9 year change, each individually in very diverse ways and all at different times. It is such a mutually beautiful and challenging time, and so I hope to share with you some of our moments to help you understand us deeper!

We began the school year by exploring deep into stories of the Old Testament, growing our perspectives to understand that there is a larger picture of the world around us and narratives of how it came to be. We expressed our learning very artistically by painting each day from the "7 Days of Creation", which also gave us outlets to share our unique ideas from the stories as well.

In Class Three, we have thoroughly enjoyed taking time to prepare a variety of edibles based on the seasonal harvest. We even made menus of our recipes and hosted a Harvest Feast for our families to come taste our creations! We were overwhelmed with happiness to have each and every family at the feast to support our efforts. From the evening's tastings, we certainly learned of some changes for the next time we make these recipes... like more seasoning for soup!

After the Old Testament, we moved into a block on Pioneers, Farming and Sustainability and truly spent this time getting to know past ways of life and the importance of saving our food safely. The students were wonderfully curious about comparisons

of Indigenous and Early Settler communities, and how they influenced one another. As we explored various crops and preservation methods, we were so thankful to have one of our lovely parents come in to teach us how to pickle carrots. This was very meaningful to us to have made our own jar to take home, waiting patiently and eagerly for them to be ready to eat. We travelled to the John Walter Museum to really put our learning to the test when we had to make our own butter, dip candles, bake scones and try to build wooden homes - all in the life of the pioneer!

The most marvellous revelation occurred when we began our most recent block: We love arithmetic in Class Three! There is rarely a day that has gone by during this block that I have not had a student ask me if they can take extra math work home with them. I even made the mistake of jokingly commenting that they could not possibly want to have math homework, and then began the harmonious chant roaring from all walls of the classroom: "We want math! We want homework!"

Class Three are eighteen magnificent, heartwarming, individually-minded students. But, it is clear that together we are one harmonious class family. 🌱



Annual General Meeting

The WESE Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on November 19 at the WISE. I would like to say thank you to all those that were able to attend and the many volunteers that came to help set-up or participate. I would also like to offer a special thank-you to Fatima Merchant, Janelle Burnham, Dana Bretelle, Jem Engelmann and Erin McCormack for organizing the entire event and to Julie Yerex, who chaired the meeting.

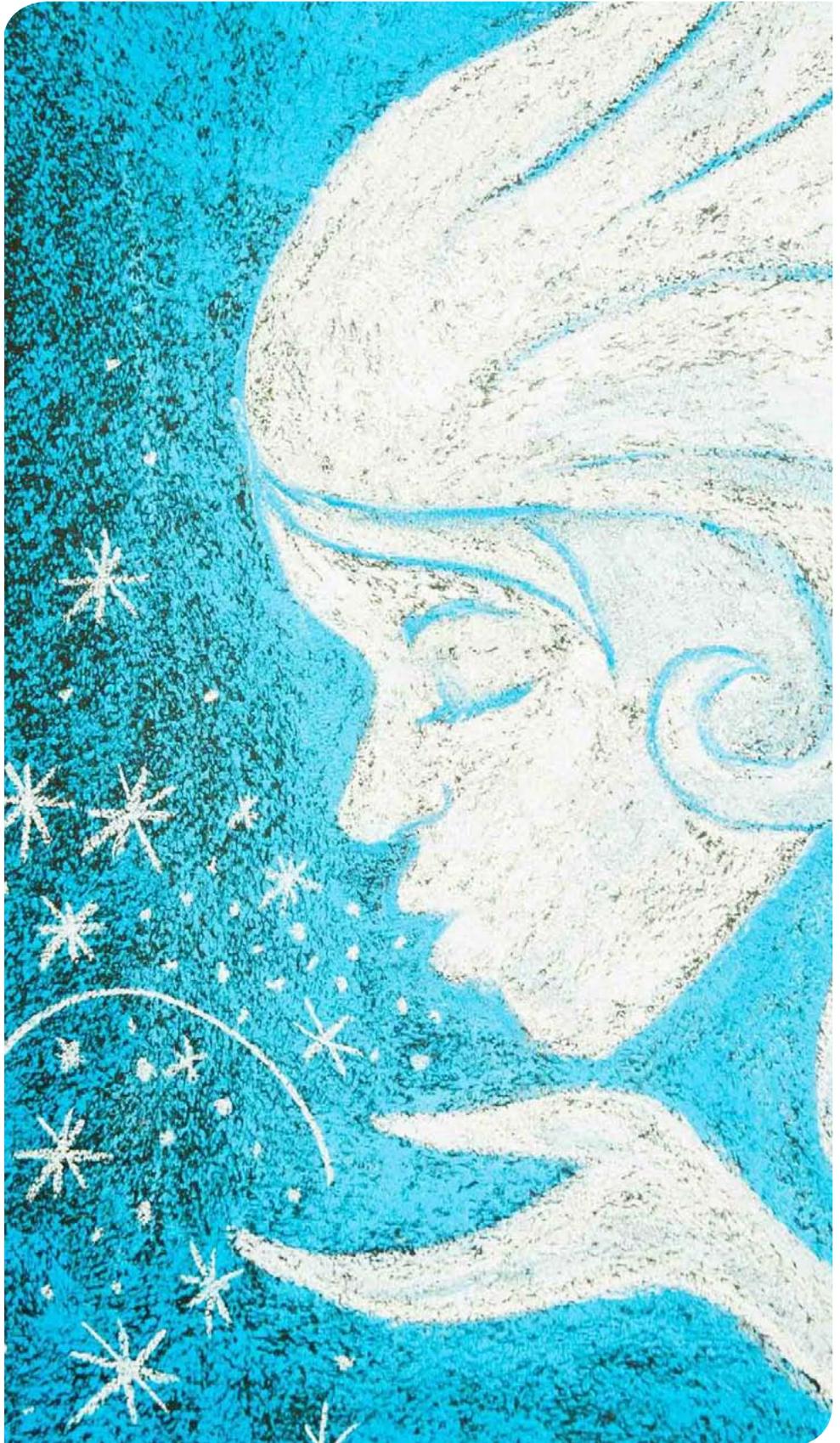
The AGM included committee reports, review of financials and a vote on the new Board of Directors. However, more importantly it was an evening where the members of WESE and the community could come together and celebrate what has been achieved thus far and share the vision of the next several years.

The WESE Board of Directors for 2018/19 are as follows:

President: Tim Burnham
Vice President: Julie Yerex
Vice President: Jane Huang
Treasurer: Vanessa Bodnar
Secretary: Diana Tayler
Executive Director: Netta Johnson
Executive Director: Tatiana Peet
Director: Greg Moore
Director: Eoin Murray
Director: Benjamin Desnoyers
Director: Jem Engelmann
Director: Alysya Vaughan
Member-at-Large: Sydney Lee
Member-at-Large: Lisa Tose

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the significant contributions to WESE that outgoing board members Eva Niven, Tara Rout, Merry Yoon, Raf Bustamante, Amy Michaud-Chabot and Jacquie Yuzwenko have made and thank them all for their service and dedication.

Tim Burnham 🍀



Meet WESE Board Directors

President Tim Burnham



Tim Burnham is a new president on the board after two years serving as the chair of the site development committee. This time also included one year serving on the board executive.

Tim has spent many hours at the school organizing maintenance projects, building portable classrooms and coordinating work bees with the maintenance and playground committees. During this time he has worked with many volunteers, staff and parents. He has been a key part of the plan to purchase the school property and build a new facility. These experiences will serve him well as the WISE school moves forward with the next phase of growth.

Tim, his spouse Janelle and family are originally from Ontario and moved to Edmonton in 2012. He has four children that are all attending the WISE and is very committed to Waldorf education.

Outside of WESE he is an executive at an engineering and construction company. Tim is a professional engineer, project manager and vice president of operations. 🌱

Vice President Julie Yelx



Julie Yelx served on the WESE board for 8 years, helping to transform the non-profit board into the operator of a full-fledged Waldorf school. During that period, her work,

commitment, judgment, and support were pivotal to the growth and success of our school. Julie began by developing the school store and then turned her focus to supporting the growth of our fledgling community. Julie facilitated Handwork evenings in the school, where new parents could come and get to know each other. She also was pivotal in organizing group trips to the Calgary Gateways conferences, which saw 20-30 staff/parents traveling to Calgary together in 2011-14. Julie spearheaded the creation of our own Edmonton Gateways Conference in 2013, which has greatly enhanced the community life of our school. Julie has been a part of all major decisions of the school since she joined the board, consistently supporting and guiding the work of the board and the board executive.

After taking a year off, Julie is happy to be returning to the board as Vice President. Her three children have attended Waldorf programs since early childhood, and have been students at the WISE since its inception. Outside of her work at the school, Julie is a full-time university student, a freelance editor and proofreader, sits as Treasurer on a literary distribution board, and is the co-founder of Stonehouse Publishing. She is a staunch enthusiast of folklore, forests, and knitting. 🌱

Vice President Jane Huang



Jane Huang joined the WESE board in 2016. Her two children have attended WISE since 2012 and she strongly believes in the Waldorf philosophy of teaching the whole child.

With her tech skills, she is chairing the communication committee and also sits on other committees.

Outside of her family duty, Jane Huang is an occupational therapist with more than 15 years experience working with seniors, adults and children. 🌱

Director Benjamin Desnoyers



Benji is proud father to his two boys. He has been a Waldorf papa for four years, loving each year more than the last. Locally grown in Edmonton, Benji became an electrician right

out of high school. After many career changes, he now works as an instructor at NAIT. His passion for teaching doesn't end in the classroom. Benji enjoyed coaching and mentoring apprentices, usually more than actually working.

With nearly 2 decades of electrical experience, Benji is enthusiastic about the ongoing maintenance of our lovely community centre. He feels it is extremely fulfilling to invest time into a community that loves as much as the WISE. 🌱

Secretary Diana Tayler



Diana is mom of twins in kindergarten. Their family relocated back to Edmonton this fall after spending 3 years in Ottawa. Out east, Diana was very active in the

Waldorf community, volunteering at the school as Godmother (Class Rep), sitting on committees, and attending Waldorf conferences and workshops.

Diana is a musician (harpist) and loves to play the harp at the school when requested. Diana holds a Bachelor of Arts in Russian Literature and Music and a Master of Arts from the University of Alberta. 🌱

Director Tatiana Peet



Tatiana Peet has been a proud Waldorf parent since 2012 and an alumni of the Parkallen Waldorf School which she attended in the eighties in Edmonton.

Tatiana works as a

psychotherapist, university instructor, and Expressive Arts facilitator. She has served on various professional committees and has Chaired a Master's-level Art Therapy program in the past. She has been serving on the HR Committee for the past year. Tatiana and her husband Chris have also organized and hosted Anthroposophy study groups. Tatiana is passionate about Waldorf education and is immensely grateful for WISE. She is delighted to have been nominated to serve on the Board 🌱

Director Jem Engelman



Growing up overseas and attending a new school every year presented unique set of challenges, which has come full circle in life and has strengthened her passion and love

for Waldorf education, Anthroposophy, and the works of Weston A Price. She worked at a grassroots NGO charity in Calgary for 8 years as an adolescent addiction counselor, while attending University. Currently she has a private practice as a stress/tension/trauma informed care somatic worker (T.R.E.).

After her first child was born, she became the volunteer chapter leader of the Weston A Price Foundation, a group focused on traditional nutrient dense foods and preservation of traditional knowledge and systems of healing and health.

She also served as the President of Red Deer's Waldorf School Initiative for 5 years, organized and led festivals, fundraisers, weekly early childhood playgroups, created a homeschooling cooperative, hosted parent book study and health talks focused on works of Dr. Tomas Cowan, and ran the group's store.

After homeschooling with Waldorf curriculum, her family decided to move to Edmonton to attend WISE. She will continue to do the personal work to hear and feel the school's spirit and serve the membership this term and for the many students yet to come. 🌱

Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton (WESE)



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WESE Facebook Group:
Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton



Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton

