



the WISE connection

Issue 21

September 2019

From the WISE Office

Dear WISE Families,

Welcome to the 2019/20 school year. Whether you are a returning family with a sense of the familiar rhythm or are just joining our WISE school community, we wish you ease in the transition as we collectively shake off holiday mode and prepare for our start to the school year. September always brings a sense of excitement as students come back to school with new haircuts, clothes, and attitudes. Along with the excitement of re-connecting with friends comes some trepidation as to what gifts and challenges will unfold within the scope of a year. With the graduation of the first Grade 9 class in 2019, I am increasingly conscious of how quickly these years of childhood fly by. I look forward to the Rose Ceremony with a renewed awareness of these developmental milestones and how important it is for students to be surrounded by a loving community of people: teachers, parents and staff who care deeply about who they are and who they are becoming.

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. Also, we should remind all of our children to cross the road safely or with the help of a sibling or adult. We greatly appreciate your support in keeping our arrival and departure areas safe for everyone.

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

On behalf of all the Administrative staff,
Keely Scott
Executive Administrator



Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton (WISE)

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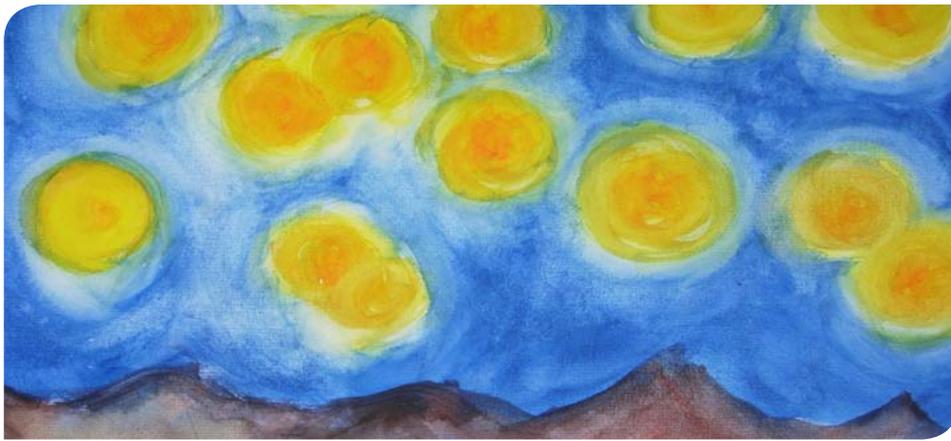
 **WISE Facebook Page:**
[Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton](https://www.facebook.com/WaldorfIndependentSchoolofEdmonton)

Facebook Parent Group:
[The WISE Parent Connection](#)
(Please contact parentpartnership@wese.ca to join our Facebook parent group)

Enchanted Garden Store Hours:
By Appointment: store@thewise.ca

Important Dates:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Sep 3 First Day of School; Rose Ceremony | Oct 3 Picture Day (K- Gr 9) |
| Sep 9 Bulk order opens | Oct 4 PD Day, no programming |
| Sep 9 First day of Rosebuds / Bluebells | Oct 8 Thanksgiving, no programming |
| Sep 10 First day of Daisies / Marigolds | Oct 14 Bulk order opens |
| Sep 11 First day of Wondergarden Nursery | Oct 19 Pumpkin Walk |
| Sep 11 Parent Orientation: Home Education Board | Oct 20 Bulk order closes |
| Sep 14 First day of Sunflowers | Oct 23 Picture Re-takes |
| Sep 15 Bulk order closes | Oct 25 Bulk order pickup |
| Sep 20 Bulk order pickup | Parent Coffee every Wednesday 8:30 am - 9:15 am in the WISE Gym. |
| Sep 25 The Lice Crew - Lice Check | Ottewell Artisan Farmers' Market every Thursday 4 pm - 7 pm in the WISE gymnasium. |
| Sep 27 Michaelmas Celebration | Adult Choir every Tuesday, 4 PM - 5 PM in the WISE music portable (beginning September 17th) |



Office Note

Should your child be absent from school, please let us know by 8:45 AM. 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

Michaelmas

“Midway between the northern hemisphere’s summer and winter solstices, the ancient festival of Michaelmas is celebrated. As summer’s warmth fades, and the cool crispness of autumn falls upon us, Mother Nature’s fruits and vegetables ripen for harvesting. Her gifts help sustain us through the dark cold days of winter and remind us to summon our own gifts and inner strength to help balance our internal light with the darkness of the season.

Stories of good versus evil or light versus dark are often told to illuminate the

balance of light and dark that we all must strive towards mastering. One favourite Michaelmas story is that of St. George taming the dragon with the sword of justice and courage given to him by the Archangel St. Michael.

A celebration of strength and courage, of facing dragons both internal and external, Michaelmas is a great time to ponder our own inner dragons and to cultivate the courage and strength necessary for self-development.”

- Excerpt from Waldorf Publications Newsletter



This year, we will celebrate Michaelmas on September 27th during school hours. After a short assembly, the grades children will ask for courage for something in their lives and run an obstacle course in the back playground. A feast of dragon bread and red juice will finish the celebration. 🌱



Welcome

Elise Barber

Early Childhood Education Teacher:



Ms Elise comes with a wealth of experience teaching young children, including a master's in elementary music education and a BEd in secondary music education. Elise has been teaching music

and working as a class teacher with ECSD for over seven years. Elise has two small children of her own, ages three and one. For the last couple of years, Elise has been teaching groups of young children and parents privately as a licensed Musikgarten instructor. She also developed and taught a beginner balance bike curriculum, classes with a focus on positive support, safety, and skills building for families.

Elise had an awareness and love of Waldorf education for years before finally making her way home to the WISE community. Elise is looking forward to being a part of a broader community with shared values. Her accumulated experience and interests have led her to discover Waldorf education as a philosophical and practical fit of arts skills, as well as a love of little ones and education that is inspired by simple rhythms, storytelling, songs and outdoor play. Elise is thrilled to be working as a parent and child teacher at WISE this year, and feels honored to be a part of this crucial developmental period for so many families. 🌱

Chantelle Blair

Class One Teacher:



Ms Blair is excited to be joining grade one at the WISE this year. She has always been drawn to children, and being the oldest sister meant leading and caring for her younger sisters in a way that allowed

her to learn how to become a teacher at a young age. Her desire to work with children stems from the enjoyment, laughter, and wonder that she feels while being around them.

She has a Bachelor of Kinesiology and a Bachelor of Education, which has allowed her to become a physical education specialist. Physical activity and movement have been a huge part of her identity since she started in her first ballet class at four years old. Some of her specialties are ballet (and various dance styles), track and field, and volleyball. Growing up on a farm with plenty of animals, the outdoors has always been an important aspect of her life. Whether it is urban nature, parks, or the rural outdoors and mountains, the integration of nature into her life is essential, and she looks forward to integrating nature into student's learning.

Some of her teaching experiences include working as a substitute teacher for both Edmonton Public Schools and Elk Island Public Schools, working as a grade one classroom volunteer for over two years, teaching language instruction to newcomers of Canada, working as a children's program instructor for the City of Edmonton, working as a yoga and dance instructor, as well as coaching and teaching a variety of sports.

The arts, movement, and culture are integral to her everyday life and are aspects she very much looks forward to including in the classroom. 🌱

Elizabeth Howard

Class Four Teacher:



Ms Howard is excited to be joining the WISE community. She recently graduated from the University of Calgary with an Education Degree specializing in Elementary - Visual Fine Arts. She truly appreciates

the unique programming that Waldorf Education and WISE offers, with its focus on celebrating and nurturing the development of the whole child.

Prior to obtaining her Education degree, she had the opportunity to work in diverse fields. She spent much of her childhood in Edmonton, and gained a degree in Earth Science with a minor in Art & Design from the University of Alberta. Over the last few years, she had the opportunity to live and travel internationally. This includes a year of teaching English as a second language to children in Seoul, South Korea, as well as working as a professional geoscientist in Alberta. After exploring different possibilities, she feels that her calling is in education. More recently, she has had wonderful experiences working in an educational capacity including: Educational Interpreter at Fort Edmonton; STEM camp leader at Telus Spark in Calgary; and as a Physics 101 summer camp instructor at the University of Calgary. She has also volunteered with literacy and numeracy programs in Calgary, notably the Calgary Public Library's Math Quest Program and Calgary Reads.

In terms of personal interest, she enjoys the outdoors and artistic expression. 🌱

Community Building



Elevate WISE

More than 5 years ago, the WISE began our first fundraising campaign with the goal of buying our school. An unexpected eviction in 2015 had sent us on a journey to achieve the freedom and safety of being our own landlords. We begin this current school year as owners of our own property (AMAZING!) and we want to thank absolutely every single one of the people who helped us achieve this dream. Thank YOU!

As we move into the present we have created together, let us hold the vision of a near future beyond our portable classrooms, with a re-envisioned two-storey front addition to our current building, containing 6 classrooms. Our Elevate WISE campaign is designed to raise funds for this future while caring for our present. We hope that when you see events or notes from the Elevate WISE campaign, you will hold in your mind the vision of the future we are building together and help in any way you can.

Netta Johnson/Eoin Murray

Parent Study Group

This fall, the parent study group will be studying Dr. Steiner's lecture series Rosicrucian Wisdom – An Introduction. Topics covered range from “The Constitution of the Human Being” through “The Technique of Karma” and “The Law of Destiny” to “Planetary Evolution” and “The Future of Humanity”.

We meet in the library of the school every second Monday and will, most likely, commence on October 7. If you wish to share with us, please contact me at gregmoore@shaw.ca. Book price is approximately \$25.00.

Greg Moore
WESE Board Member

Birthday Books to Support Our Library

Our school is starting a Birthday Book Tradition! On your child's birthday, you are invited to make a donation of a new or gently used book (or money to purchase a book on your child's behalf) to be included in our grade 2-9 school library. Books will have your child's name, birth month and date inscribed on a placard in the front of the book before being placed on the library shelves for students to borrow. For guidance on what books are currently on the Library's Most Wanted list, please check the list hanging on the community bulletin board by the office. This list offers guidance for what types of books are currently most needed. Please be mindful of our school's values surrounding media and age appropriateness when choosing a book.



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 one 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!



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.



Welcome from the Principal

Dear WISE Families,

My name is Melina Cartmell and I am thrilled to be embarking on my third year as Principal at the Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton. As many of you know, WISE has a vibrant and active network of parents, staff, educators, and wider community members who are dedicated to supporting the holistic growth of each individual student to reach their full potential. I have had the privilege of meeting many of you and am always humbled by the heart and gifts you bring to help this community thrive.

With our school's unique administrative structure, I know people are often curious about what aspects of the school fall under the scope of the Principal, and how I balance these duties with my dual role as a teacher in the school. The answer is multifaceted as leadership in the school is shared and encouraged, as we draw on the knowledge, gifts and expertise of all faculty.

First and foremost, students are truly at the heart of everything we do. I endeavor to support our teachers in a multitude of ways through their journey to provide quality instruction and learning experiences for all students. We come together to provide this through a Waldorf approach because it is our shared vision that each child will be best prepared to meet the future through experiential and arts based learning that unites intellectual, emotional, and ethical development. Our teachers work committedly towards personal growth and learning to continually enhance their teaching practice. They go above and beyond; coaching athletics, hosting clubs, and developing authentic connections with students. I feel it is a gift to hold teaching duties in the school, as I truly believe it provides lived experience to contextualize the support and advocacy I am able to provide to our staff and believe we are all learners in this capacity.

This year, I will chair our Faculty Council, in addition to attending weekly Divisions meetings (focused Early Childhood, Elementary, and Junior High meetings). Faculty Council meets twice monthly with representation across the school, working through consensus to support the needs of teachers and their students throughout the school. We also work closely with administration to responsibly inform policy and procedures as well as professional development of teachers. We are so grateful to have Christina Tozer and the wisdom she shares for a final year in her role as past Faculty Chair, while she moves into a more focused mentorship role and towards fully embracing her retirement.

Much of my time is also dedicated to meeting the diverse learning needs of our students in collaboration with students, parents, teachers, and connecting with broader community supports. I am always glad to make time to meet with parents to find positive pathways and problem solve to ensure each student has the best possible school experience, and I open my door to you all. I work closely and collaboratively with our Executive Administrator, Registrar, Administrative Coordinator, and President of the WESE board to support the health and wellbeing of our school.

I look forward to getting to know all of you, especially those of you that are new to the school, and wish you the very best start to the new school year.

Sincerely,

Melina Cartmell
Principal & Class 5 Co-Teacher
principal@thewise.ca 🍀

Welcome from the WESE President

I want to extend a warm welcome to all of our parents, students, staff and teachers. I hope that you have had a restful break and found meaningful time to spend with your family and friends. While it is hard to accept that the summer is coming to an end, we have so many exciting things to look forward to as the WISE begins its 2019/2020 school year.

It was interesting for me to see so many WISE students throughout the summer. They all seem to have grown so much in physical size, capability and personality. It's exciting to think what our students will create this year and the adventures they will experience together. I look forward to our class plays, music concerts, sporting events and, most of all, the energy the students bring to our school.

Our school continues to grow and develop in such a wonderful way. This is our second year with a full complement of classes from Kindergarten to Grade 9, and each year our enrolment continues to rise. We have so many talented and committed returning teachers and a few new teachers

that are ready to greet your children and family. I have been working with our staff, teachers, principal and board of directors to get ready for this year and there is such a sense of strength and cohesion at the school.

Recently, we finalized the purchase of our school building and property. This is definitely a defining moment in the history of our school. We have a home. A home that provides security, stability, and a place to flourish and grow. Thank-you to everyone who has helped to make this possible. We are now finally able to move forward with enhancing our property and visioning the next phases of our school building.

I hope that you also find inspiration in our students and teachers and thoroughly enjoy the year ahead. I look forward to meeting new people and working with everyone to support the WISE.

Warm regards,
Tim Burnham 🍀

Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton (WESE)

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Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton



Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton



We encourage your comments, suggestions, and submissions to newsletter@thewise.ca. The deadline is the first of the month. Anything after the deadline will be considered for the following month. All submissions are subject to editing and approval.

Graphic design by Holly Boisvert