



From the WISE Office

Dear WISE Families,

This winter of ours has been rife with extreme temperatures, from the warmest to the coldest of days. With this in mind, we are called to adapt and be prepared for any weather. Please ensure that your children are prepared for the day with warm outerwear, mittens and hats to be able to enjoy being outside. If the weather is too inclement we welcome children inside and will post notices on our doors advising parents.

Although spring feels far in the distance, we are looking ahead to the 2020-21 school year and are preparing for registration season at WISE. Families in grades 1-9 have received re-registration packages, please return them to the office by February 7th. Current kindergarten families will receive their packages at their parent teacher interviews. New registrations for our kindergarten, nursery, parent & tot and home education will be accepted starting March 7, 2020, at our annual Open House. More information will follow, but you are always welcome to speak with us in person if you have any questions.

Families who made charitable donations to WISE in 2019 can expect to receive a charitable donation receipt mailed out soon. Your support makes our programs and growth possible! Thank you!

Have a wonderful and well-earned winter break this month. These times of rest and rejuvenation are so important for our staff, families and children.

Warm winter blessings,
The WISE Admin Team

Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton (WISE)

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-  **Address:**
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-  **Website:**
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-  **Email:**
info@thewise.ca
(Melina) principal@thewise.ca
(K.C.) registrar@thewise.ca
(Keely) administrator@thewise.ca
(Alisa) volunteer@thewise.ca

-  **WISE Facebook Page:**
[Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton Facebook Parent Group](#)
[The WISE Parent Connection](#)
(Please contact parentpartnership@wese.ca to join our Facebook parent group)

Enchanted Garden Store Hours:
by appt: store@thewise.ca

Important Dates:

- | | |
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| Feb 1 Elevate WISE Grandparents Tea and Tour (2pm) | Mar 7 WISE Open House (1pm – 4pm) |
| Feb 8 Work Bee (11am - 4pm) | Mar 20 Bulk Order Pick Up |
| Feb 17-21 WISE Winter Break, no programming | Mar 21 Fundraising Event: Calling all Dungeon Masters |
| Feb 24-25 Parent/ Teacher Interviews, no Programming for Kinder and Grades | Mar 28 Fundraising Event: Pub Night |

Important Dates Continued:

Parent Coffee every Wednesday 8:30 am - 9:15 am in the WISE Gymnasium

Ottewell Artisan Farmers' Market every Thursday 4 pm - 7 pm in the WISE Gymnasium

WISE Adult Sports Night floor hockey every Tuesday 8 pm - 9 pm in the WISE Gymnasium



Office Notes

We Are Now on Instagram!

Follow us at:
[instagram.com/edmontonwaldorf](https://www.instagram.com/edmontonwaldorf) and get inspired by the exciting things happening at our school. 🌱



Community

Community Garden Survey

We are very excited about the upcoming gardening season. To help us prepare, the Community Garden Committee is interested in learning more about how you and your family would like to engage in the garden and food forest. If you haven't done so already, please complete this short survey by the end of February.

Survey Link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9KJSQRF>

If you have any questions, or would like to be involved with the community garden, please email us at communitygarden@wese.ca. 🌱



WISE Events



Parent Education - At the WISE

Given the winter deep-freeze, there was a remarkable turnout for Peter Murdock's talk 'Parenting with Compassion' at the school on January 16th. He guided us through three parenting principles of *Stepping Back*, *The Importance of Feelings*, and *Simplicity*, all while relating his personal story of raising two very different daughters with his wife. Thank you to all who made it happen, and to all who attended! 🍀

Calling All Dungeon Masters!

How would you like to support the school by gaming for a day? Spend your volunteer hours playing D&D and count it as a good deed for a good cause. March 21, 2020 we will be running a fundraiser introducing people (adults) to Dungeons and Dragons, and we need a bunch of DMs to run a 4-hour one-shot in the afternoon from 1- 5 pm. If you, or anyone in your life, could be arm-wrestled into a day leading some table-top role-play, please email Jem at fundraising@thewise.ca. Or send a message to the school's page on Facebook. 🍀



Highlight of the Class

A Walk in the Past with Class 5

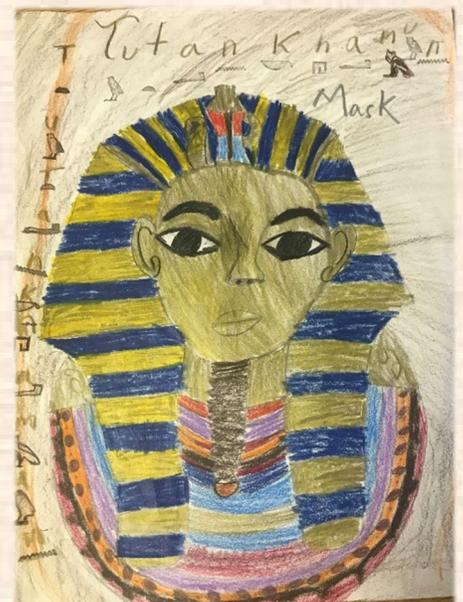
What was it like to live in the fertile valley of the river Nile 6000 years ago with vast expanses of desert just beyond this paradise? How did people turn a reed into papyrus? How did the ancient gods bring forth writing in the form of hieroglyphs? How did these ancient people cut, and transport stones weighing 2.5 tons with incredible precision and build grand pyramids?

Often, when people think of ancient Egypt, it conjures images of rituals surrounding death, mummies, and pyramids. However, to truly understand why such incredible architecture and relics of this great civilization were created, class 5 immersed ourselves in the mythology of Ancient Egypt. One might mistakenly assume that Egyptians had a fascination with death when truly, it was quite the opposite. They had such a great love for life, they had a great deal of respect, thought, and care for how they lived their lives and ensuring a smooth transition to the afterlife where they might continue to enjoy the wonders of existence.

Students in class five chose a topic of interest as it relates to ancient Egypt and delved into a research project. Through the process of learning about mythologies and learning about important aspects of ancient civilization, students in this class developed a superb understanding of the particular social, historical and cultural contexts in which ancient Egyptians lived. They also developed a wonderful understanding of the close relationship between history and geography paving the way for our historical study of Canada and North America. Mostly, the students continue to deepen their understanding of different perspectives and diverse ways of viewing life and relationships with ourselves and others.

We are looking forward to the many new things we will learn as we look forward to Greek mythology next!

Melina Cartmell 



Meet the WESE Board (Part 3 of 3)

Director – Erin McCormack

Erin's family fell in love with the WISE in 2015, and they have been making the commute back and forth from Beaumont ever since. Before her children were in school full time, she accumulated 200+ hours a year volunteering at the WISE. In 2018, she took the opportunity to go back to university to become a Funeral Director. Erin had always known there would be a time when she would apply to be a board member, but she hadn't felt as though she could commit to the full term. This year, things fell into place, and she is excited and ready to get to work! As a board director, she will be the Ottewell Artisan Farmers Market Liaison this year.



Director – Eoin Murray

Eoin Murray has worked in the non-profit and government sector for over twenty years throughout Europe, the Middle East and Canada. His primary focus is on political communications, fund development and advocacy with specialties in international law, women's rights and social justice. He moved to Edmonton in 2013 with his wife Natalie and two boys at the WISE: Tom (Grade 5) and Hugo (Grade 2).



Director (Faculty Representative) – Kirsten Elliott

Kirsten Elliott is a lover of community connection, music, bikes and nature. She has worked at the WISE since 2012, first as the Homeschool Enrichment teacher, then as an Aide in Wondergarden, and now as Music Enrichment Teacher and Band Director. She also serves as the Elementary Division Chair.

Her journey with the school began in 2009 as a parent. Her two children currently attend the WISE in Grades 4 and 8. Kirsten developed the music program at the WISE, which includes choir and various recorder playing for all Grades, Ukulele for Grades 3 and up, and Concert Band for Grades 5-9.



Member-at-Large – Matt Ziprick

Matt is excited to begin serving on the board. He and his wife, Claire, have four kids, and this is their second year to be blessed by being at the WISE. Their family enjoys zoos, waterslides, camping and arguing over Ticket to Ride. Matt grew up in Louisiana until he was 13, when his family moved to the Edmonton area. He quickly lost his Southern drawl and discovered “eh” wasn’t the first letter in the alphabet.

Matt graduated from the University of Alberta in Commerce. He then studied at Concordia Lutheran Seminary. He has been a pastor of a wonderful community for 17 years. This community is active in Syrian refugee sponsorship, was instrumental in building a school in Kenya (and supporting the needs of kids), provides sports programs for community kids and is excited to discover the joys of being a good neighbour. Matt values hearing the voices and stories of others and helping them tell their story.



Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton (WESE)

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WESE Facebook Group:
 [Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton](https://www.facebook.com/WaldorfEducationSocietyofEdmonton)



Waldorf Education Society of
Edmonton

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

