



From the WISE Office

Dear WISE Families,

As we begin 2021, we reaffirm the importance of the health, safety and well-being of our students, staff and community. While we adapt to different methods of learning, we know that leaning on each other is as important as ever. We are ever grateful for our community, and for the support you have given us this school year. We hope the break provided you with time to relax and recharge, and we are so happy to welcome students to the winter term.

While we find our way back to our familiar rhythms and routines, we would like to remind everyone to be mindful of the changeable weather. When taking your children to school, please ensure they have the appropriate clothing and outerwear to stay warm and dry to fully enjoy the winter. With any luck, we will have lots of snow for outdoor winter play with family and with classmates. In the event of temperatures dropping below -25°C (including windchill), the school will post notices on our doors and children will have recess inside. We will only be making accommodations for those junior high students who arrive by bus to enter the school and go directly to their class before their staggered entry hand washing time (if they are unable to arrive within their arrival window in -25°C temperatures).

While we are doing our best to keep pathways clear of snow and ice, there can still be some slippery surfaces around the school. Please take extra care on the sidewalks and parking lot.

Warm blessings for this month and the whole of 2021,
The WISE Admin Team 🍀

Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton (WISE)

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[Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton](#)
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The Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton respectfully acknowledges that we are located in Amiskwaciwâskahikan, or so-called Edmonton, on Treaty 6 territory. The land that the Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton sits on was once Métis scrip land. Scrip was given to Métis people in exchange for their land rights. The land of Treaty 6 territory was once a gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples, including the Cree, Blackfoot, Metis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway/ Sauteaux/Anishinaabe, Inuit, and many others whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant communities. Our faculty, staff, board, and school community commit to working toward reconciliation and decolonization.

Important Dates:

- Jan 4** Classes resume online (Kinder – Grades)
- Jan 7** Bulk Order opens
- Jan 12** In-School classes resume (Kinder – Grades)
- Jan 13** Nursery resumes

- Jan 15** Bulk Order pick up
- Jan 29** PD Day, no programming
- Feb 3** Virtual Launch Party
- Feb 15-19** WISE Winter Break, no programming

Meet the WESE Board of Directors

We continue our feature of this year's WESE Board of Directors - meet the last of the team in February!

Vice President - Julie Yerex

Julie Yerex has served on the WESE board for the last ten 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 has sat on every committee during her time on the board, but her biggest achievements have been the transformation of the school store, starting an evening Handwork Group for parents, the spearheading of the annual Gateways Conference and, most recently, the formation of the Social Justice Committee and reconciliation and decolonization work at the board level. 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. She has three children attending the WISE, and outside of her work at the school she attends university, edits books, spends a lot of time in the forest and devotes her heart to her latest project, Folklore for Resistance. She is currently serving her third term as Vice President. 🌱



Secretary - Diana Tayler

Diana Tayler became a member of the WISE community in 2014 when her twins were 15 months old, and she has never looked back. Her family returned to Edmonton from a three year stay in Ottawa in 2018, and she has served as Secretary of the Board since that time. Diana is a harpist, composer and choral singer with a background in Slavic Linguistics, and is completing a Master of Music degree with a specialization in Composition at the University of Alberta. Diana's music is inspired by nature, as well as by the challenges and beauty of humanity in our present day. The Taylers enjoy spending time going for forest walks and making music together as a family. 🌱



Director - Erin McCormack

Erin's family fell in love with the WISE in 2015 and made the commute back and forth from Beaumont for 5 years. With Covid-19, Erin and Roman have decided to switch their two children to the WESE Homeschooling Board. She was able to find an amazing Waldorf teacher in Beaumont to teach Ella and Sheppard from her home. Erin is so grateful to be able to live the best-case scenario for her family. This is Erin's second year sitting on the WESE Board. 🌱



Meet the WESE Board of Directors cont'd

Executive Director - Netta Johnson

Netta Johnson has been on the WESE board since 2002, and was one of the founding members of the Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton. After attending Waldorf School in Edmonton in the 80s, and discovering how formative her experience with Waldorf Education was, Netta was drawn to helping to re-establish a Waldorf school in Edmonton. Joining WESE in 2002 as the Treasurer, she has held nearly every position on the board since then, including Secretary, Secretary-Treasurer, Director, President and Vice-President. At the moment, Netta sits on various staff and board committees, and co-chairs the Fundraising, Finance and Gateways Committees. In her other life, Netta is a Publisher at Stonehouse Publishing, a new Literary Publisher in Edmonton, and also sits on the board of the Book Publishers Association of Alberta. She has two children, Oliver, who graduated from the WISE in 2020, and Eloise, who still attends the WISE. 🌱



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 Homeschool Enrichment teacher, then as an Aide in Wondergarden and now as Music Enrichment Teacher and Band Director. Her journey with the school began in 2009 as a parent. Her two children attend the school now, in Grades 5 and 9. She currently teaches the Music Program that she has developed 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 through 9. She is also the Elementary Division Chair at the school. 🌱



Winter Market WISE Fundraiser Update

From the beginning of the year, our practical arts & woodwork teacher, Justine Pavelich, shared the philosophy of provision from the earth. The students reflected on the abundant multiplication that comes from a tiny seed. In this spirit, Justine invited the students to make some items to keep and some to contribute, allowing the seed to leave their hand and multiply it's blessing. The Winter Wares Market was an opportunity for the students to contribute their beautiful handwork to a fundraiser for the WISE, as a way to support the education they love and value. It was also an opportunity for our community to view and appreciate the beautiful work the students are so proud of.

Thank you to our WISE community for participating in our 24 hour silent auction in December. Beautiful works crafted by students in classes five through nine, as well as some special faculty-made items, were able to raise approximately \$1,300 for our school's programming. These funds will go towards ongoing accessibility and programming support. Special thanks to Ms Pavelich, KC and Claire for making this event a reality. 🌱



Fundraising cont'd

Ongoing Fundraisers

- **Mabel's Labels Fundraiser** Available anytime of the year:
 1. Go to https://mabelslabels.ca/en_CA/fundraising/support/
 2. In the search box enter Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton
(Search on a part of the name may be incomplete!)
 3. Order items! 🍀
- **Warmth and Weather** You can now order **all year long shipping directly to your household** using the link <https://warmthandweather.ca?ref:wese> 🍀



Elevate WISE: Build Our Castle Campaign

Save the date for a Virtual Launch Party Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 8:00 pm.
Learn about the next steps in building our new classroom addition.

P.S. We'll have music and entertainment too! 🍀



Highlights of the Month

Festivals

December is usually bustling with festivals here at the WISE. Although we dearly missed our Winter Fair, some traditions remained. St. Nicholas was still able to bring oranges to the students in the younger grades, and class two hummed down the halls as they delivered buns for Santa Lucia.

We began it all with the first week of Advent and our Advent Spiral. As students took turns walking the spiral with their class cohorts, the smaller groups only amplified the feeling of reverence. Our wonderful harpist, Diana Tayler, filled the gym and school with beautiful music for the day, and the smell of beeswax drifted down the hallways. Our walk through the evergreen spiral reminds us of the ability of one small flame to dispel the darkness around us, and that our spirits shining together create a powerful light. 🌱



Early Childhood Playgrounds

Our two Early Childhood areas received some wonderful new wooden items to spark imagination and creative play. Although we will have to wait until spring to install some things, our youngest WESE members are already putting what we could place to good use. Thank you to everyone who helped unload the truck and set up the equipment. 🌱



Highlights of the Month cont'd

Photo for: Early Childhood Playground



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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.

