



the WISE connection

Issue 35 | MARCH 2021



From the WISE Office

Dear WISE Families,

This winter has been a beautiful prairie-skied northern season, and the prospect of moderate temperatures allows for outdoor play and adventure at the WISE. As we head towards the spring equinox, the lingering light in the evening and earlier sunrises lift the spirits and shifts the feeling, thinking, and willing life from inner retrospection to a more expansive impulse and promise of spring renewal.

We loved reaching out to families at our virtual WISE Open House on February 27th. Although different from other years, we connected with prospective families and shared insights into Waldorf pedagogy, and how the curriculum and approach support the whole child developmentally from early childhood through to our emerging youth. Our virtual tour is still up on our website, and in-person tours (following all Covid protocols) are available should you know of families interested in learning more about our school.

Before we know it, we will be trading snow pants for splash pants and wondering when the mud will end.

Until then, wishing you blessings on the warm winds of spring,

The WISE Admin Team

Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton (WISE)

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 **WISE Facebook Page:**
[Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton Facebook Parent Group:](#)
[The WISE Parent Connection](#)

The Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton respectfully acknowledges that we are located in Amiskwacîwâskahikan, 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/ Saulteaux/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:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Mar 2 WISE Grades Registration opens for new families | Mar 29- Apr 1 Spring Break, No Programming |
| Mar 7 Bulk Order Closes | Apr 5 Easter Monday, No Programming |
| Mar 9 Parent and Child Spring session begins | Apr 30 No school for Kinder, Half day for Grades |
| Mar 12 Bulk Order Pick Up | Apr 30 – May 1 Gateways |
| Mar 19 Skills Assessments Grades 1-9 | |
| Mar 25- 26 Parent Teacher Conferences, No Programming for Kinder and Grades | |

Office Notes

Bulk Order

The bulk order is back, ready to stock your empty shelves. The order is open now at foodclub.org/wise/ and will close at 10 pm on Sunday, March 7th. Pickup will be between 3:00 - 4:30 pm on Friday, March 12th. There is no order in April, so get what you'll need until May! 🌿



CLASSROOMS

- Entrance
- Main Hallway
- Wondergarten
- Kindergarten
- Hallway to Class 1 and 2
- Class 1
- Classrooms
- Outdoor Spaces
- Location
- Donate
- Instructions



2021/22 School Year

Have you checked out our [Virtual Tour](#) yet? (It's accessible on desktops, not on phones.) It gives a great inside view of our beautiful classrooms, along with interactive gallery buttons for audio and main lesson book samples. You are invited to share the link with friends and family who haven't had a chance to experience it in-person.

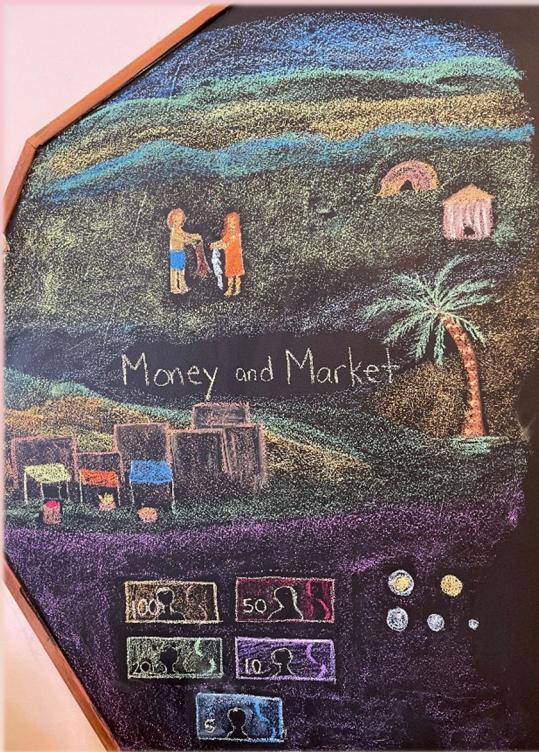
Registration is open for all programs as of March 2nd. Please contact registrar@thewise.ca or call the office for more information. 🌿

WISE Events



Many thanks to Mme Moquin and to our volunteers who made La Chandeleur a reality this year. Creative thinking allowed our students to have the celebration split over two days, and enjoy the crêpes delivered directly to their classrooms. 🍽

Despite the Class Three Market being restricted to only class three students this year, the children were able to showcase their hard work and raise money for the Edmonton Humane Society. Thank you to Ms. Larsen and all the parents for their support of this exciting WISE class three tradition. 🌟



Elevate WISE

Thank you to everyone who attended the 'Build Our Castle' launch event. We had almost half the school community sign up to hear plans to build our new six-classroom addition, developing a purpose-built Waldorf school for our children and community. If you missed it, you are invited to view most of the recording here <http://bit.ly/CASTLERECORDING> (password is R%7HH6h3). The recording missed the introduction, including the staff doing a round of 'Peace Bless This House' and our treaty acknowledgement, but still includes Sasha Rybalko (class 6) performing so beautifully on the piano and information about this magical journey we are starting together and how we will get there!

We now have 30 generous donors giving monthly and were heartened to receive 13 new donations in the few days immediately following the event - 8 new monthly gifts and 5 annual gifts. Thank you so much to each and every one of you for making these gifts and putting us on the path to build our castle! We have yet to process re-registration pack donation forms, and are confident of a strong response from our parent community - we will be excited to update and share about new donors in April's newsletter.

We know it will take our whole community to make this dream castle a reality! Thank you to all who have made your gift already; if you have not had a chance to do so, it is easy to give your gift here <http://bit.ly/GIVEMONTHLY>.

In appreciation,

Your WISE Fundraising Committee - Eóin, Netta and Chad



Community Building cont'd

Waldorf-Ottewell Community Garden Is Welcoming New Members

The community garden and food forest located at our school is an inclusive garden - open to everyone at no cost, even if you live outside of Ottewell. We believe it is important that our children learn about where their food comes from and experience growing their own food. Our children and teachers share over 30 garden beds and 100 fruit trees and shrubs with the public, and we are intending on building a four-season greenhouse.

We welcome beginner and seasoned gardeners to work collectively so we can exchange knowledge and cultivate community. We would love to see more of our Waldorf families coming to the garden during the summer so that the children can see how the garden changes over a full growing season. We are stewards of the land and employ sustainable gardening methods.

We are currently seeking new members for roles including administering, fundraising, planting, weeding, watering, and harvesting. Whether you can give a lot of time or just a little, we welcome all interested individuals and families to share in the harvest. Many hands make for light work, and a few hours can have great impact - these volunteer hours count towards your school volunteer time donation. Please email communitygarden@wese.ca with how you would like to participate, and join our Facebook Group to stay informed about events and workshops. 🌱



Gateways

Save the date! Our favourite parent and community education event returns virtually this year on April 30th and May 1st. Betty Staley will be the keynote speaker on Friday night (for more information on Betty, see <https://bettykstaley.com/>). Saturday morning will have a morning talk and a choice of workshops. The cost will be \$45 to attend, which will come with a special welcome basket with workshop supplies. Watch your inbox and the April newsletter for more information. 🌱



Community Building cont'd

Childcare offered by WISE Community Members

Looking for childcare? Here are two community members able to help. If you can also provide childcare and would like to have your information shared in a future newsletter, please send details to newsletter@thewise.ca (we share this information as a service to our families, as out-of-school childcare is not offered by the WISE).

My name is Katie, I am a parent at the school with one 5-year-old son, and we live in the Bonnie Doon area. We are looking to invite up to three friends to join us for the summer break. While we may consider full-time for the right family, our preference is part-time. We can also consider offering casual / before-and-after school care in the interim, especially for children that will be joining us for the summer. We will offer:

Structured daily flow

Daily outside time

Peaceful and Respectful Environment

Fun adventures and outings

Real Food (gluten-free) Menu

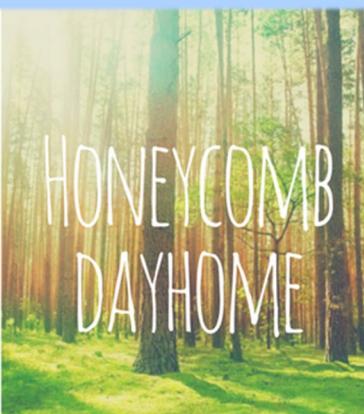
Lots of creative activities and free play

Please call (780) 238-1986 for more information.



Honeycomb Day Home is an accredited day home a couple of minutes from the WISE that has spaces available for children at least four years old. Subsidy is available. I am a WISE parent and have over 10 years experience working with children and serving our community. Please call or text (780) 240-5539 or visit: [Honeycomb Day Home](#) on Facebook for more information.

Mariya Petkova



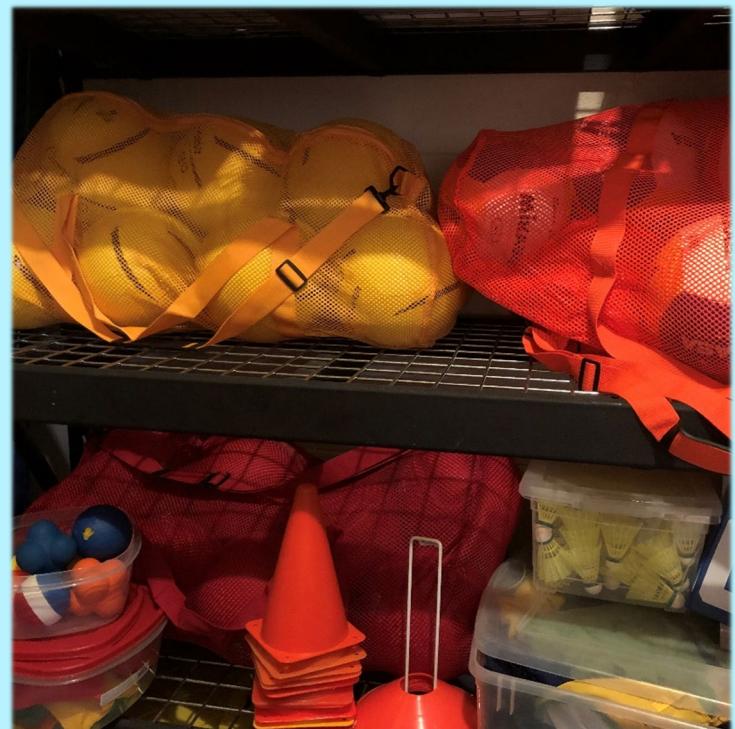
Highlights of the Month

Junior High Athletics

Year after year, the WISE has been slowly developing its capacity for athletics and enhancing our sports programming. Expanding on last year's well-used new outdoor basketball court and Junior High Soccer, Badminton and Track and Field seasons of play, the WISE has invested in new sports equipment. We also received basketball class sets graciously donated to the school to support our developing athletics program in junior high and games and movement skills in grades 1-3 and 4-6.

Along with new equipment, our faculty members have stepped forward to support Athletics at the WISE. Ms. Larsen (Class 3 teacher) began a well attended basketball club for the grade 8 & 9 cohort each Wednesday after school (unfortunately put on hiatus due to Covid cohort restrictions), and Ms. Burak (Class 9 teacher / JH Athletics coordinator) began a 3 x/week intramural schedule for Grades 7, 8 and 9.

Our new equipment and storage organization will go a long way to support skills building, health and leadership opportunities for all of our students at the WISE for years to come. Although our regular junior high inter-school games have been suspended this year due to Covid, we are so thankful to Ms. Larsen, Ms. Burak and all of the faculty who have collaborated in planning and organizing games and sports skills at the WISE during this challenging year. A heartfelt thank you to our generous donors who continue to make sports a reality at the WISE! 🌿





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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

