



the WISE connection

Issue 43 | DECEMBER 2021



From the WISE Office

Dear WISE Families,

We are approaching an important milestone in the school year. The end of 2021 gives us all an opportunity to look back and see how far we have come, and an opportunity to rest and recharge.

Our winter season began this week with Advent, where our students and staff walked the advent spiral and reflected upon the light within. We are looking forward to our upcoming Winter Market as another opportunity to connect with our community and make wonderful memories with our children.

The first snowfall brought hours of new kinds of play to our outside time, and we eagerly anticipate the next one to recover our hills.

We wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.

With gratitude and blessings over this year and next,

The WISE Admin Team 🌱

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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:

- Dec 2** Online Talk: Kim John Payne
- Dec 3** No Programming, Candlelight Market
- Dec 4** Winter Market
- Dec 5** Bulk Order closes
- Dec 7** Last day of Daisies
- Dec 10** Last day of Nursery
- Dec 10** Bulk Order pick up
- Dec 11** Last day of Kinder

- Dec 17** Noon Dismissal (Grades), no programming for Kinder
- Dec 20-Jan 3** WISE Winter Break, no programming
- Jan 4** Classes Resume (Nursery, Kinder, Grades)
- Jan 9** Bulk Order closes
- Jan 14** Bulk Order pick up

Bulk Order Returns!

December Bulk Order

Due to the cancellation of November's Bulk Order due to the flooding in BC, we are running one this month! Delivery from British Columbia has resumed, so we are taking advantage of this opportunity. The order is open now, and will close December 5th for pickup Friday, December 10th. If you had something in November's cancelled order, you will need to order it again (you can check what was on your list in the "archived" invoices).

<https://foodclub.org/wise/login>



Community Connection

The WISE Parent Connection

Are you on Facebook?

Just a reminder that you're welcome to join [The WISE Parent Connection private group](#).

It's a place to ask questions, get reminded of events, and another place to connect with our community.

On Instagram? So are we!

Please follow us [@edmontonwaldorf](#).



Advent Spiral

Thank you to our team of volunteers who procured boughs, cored apples, and set up our spiral for our yearly tradition. A special thank you to harpist Diana Tayler, whose beautiful music brings such reverence as we walk the spiral. 🍏



(Photo Credit: Janelle Burnham)

We are excited to welcome [Kim John Payne](#) to this joint virtual event with the Calgary Waldorf School, where we can learn with one of the world's leading Waldorf educators.

HOW TO HAVE DEVICES NOT BE DIVISIVE FOR OUR FAMILY AND CLASSROOM:

Date: **Thursday, December 2nd**

Time: **7:00pm - 8:30pm on Zoom**

Cost: **CWS & WESE Community \$12**

General Public \$15 plus fees;

Tickets available [here](#).



Not Anti-Screen, rather Pro-Connection to Nature and People

- How to maintain loving limits, warm, firm and calm discipline and strong family connections in a world where increasingly “screens are supreme”.
- How to build focus, grit and good judgment so that our kids do not become overwhelmed with media-driven images but can shape their own self-esteem, hopes and dreams.
- How to encourage respect when negative images of adults pervade pop culture.
- Fitting in with friends. “Won’t my kids be disadvantaged if I limit screen media?”
- Aloneness vs. Loneliness. Helping kids know the difference.
- The alluring world of no boundaries that screen use develops and how this makes discipline and guidance difficult.
- Virtuous VS. Virtual. Building real and enduring relationships with people who will “be there” for you when times get tough. 🍀



Darker days made donor hearts shine bright!

Between Martinmas and Giving Tuesday, we asked our wider school community to spread the light by making a monthly donation to help us build our new school castle.

So many people, from near and far, offered their support to our school during this precious time.

We lit the Giving Path in celebration of the warmth each donor brings to all of our lives.

We are so grateful for each gift and the support it represents for our school. We hope all our donors enjoy the ice lanterns made in your honour as a token of appreciation.

If you have not yet had the chance to give, please do so through our school website -www.thewise.ca/donate/ -

even a \$5 per month gift can make a difference over time. 🍀



(Photo credit: Natalie O'Toole)



Winter Market

The Fairs Committee is working hard to reimagine our winter festival this year. As with our Pumpkin Walk, things will look different than usual, and we will still have some of the same old magic.

- This will be a market, not a fair. Vendors will be set up in the school gym, and we will operate at a maximum of 1/3rd capacity. All Covid protocols for markets will be followed.
- **Candlelight Market: Friday, December 3rd from 6pm - 9pm. Daytime market: Saturday, December 4th from noon- 4pm.** You will need to [reserve your shopping time](#) in advance to help us maintain our capacity to 1/3 of the fire code. Some favourite Winter Fair activities are coming back as vendor booths! Each child admission will get a trip through the Cookie Cave and the Fishing hole. Candle Dipping (complete with a kit to create a birch candle holder) will also be there as an optional item. Watch your email for upcoming vendor descriptions.
- **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!** Set up, clean up, and everything in between. Play a stringed instrument? We would love you to set the mood! Longing for the smell of beeswax or a front-row seat to the magic of the fishing hole? We have the perfect solution for you! We need a bevy of volunteers to bring our market into a reality, so please look at the [sign up](#) and help where you can.
- Due to our capacity restrictions, we unfortunately have to limit the Winter Market to WESE members.

Please join us at this year's Winter Market; it will be a spark of magic for our children, a great opportunity to find quality holiday gifts, and a time to connect as a community. 🍀



The WESE Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held virtually on November 17, 2021. I would like to say thank you to all those who were able to attend. The AGM included committee reports, review of financials and a vote on the new Board of Directors. More importantly, however, it was an evening wherein the members of the WESE community could celebrate what has been achieved thus far, as well as share the vision of the next several years.

The WESE Board of Directors for 2021/22 is as follows:

President: Tim Burnham

Vice-President: Julie King-Yerex

Vice-President: Sydney Lee

Treasurer: Margot Bright

Executive Director: Netta Johnson

Executive Director: Matt Ziprick

Director: Greg Moore

Director: Erin McCormack

Director: Jaime Lynch

Director (Faculty): Mary Conrod

Director (Faculty): Sara Larsen

Member-at-Large: Graham Lettner

Member-at-Large: Alejandra Sanchez



(Art by: Nicollete Harrison)

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the significant contributions to WESE that outgoing board members Eóin Murray, Carlos Friere, Kirsten Elliott and Pam McKinnon-Coco have made and thank them all for their service and dedication.

Tim Burnham 🍀

Meet WESE Board of Directors

This month begins our feature of this year's WESE Board of Directors - meet the rest of the team in the next two issues!

President - Tim Burnham

Tim Burnham is entering his fourth year as president of the board after three years serving as the chair of the site development committee. His time as a director 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 team that worked to purchase the school property. In his first years as president, Tim has been a strong advocate for building broader ties to the community through his support of the Ottewell Artisan Farmers Market and Ottewell Community Garden.

Tim, his spouse Janelle and family are originally from Ontario and moved to Edmonton in 2012. He has three children attending the WISE, a fourth that graduated in 2020 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 but most importantly his favourite Waldorf activities are watercolour painting and attempting to play the flute.



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.



Meet WESE Board of Directors

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 Finance and Gateways Committee. In her other life, Netta is a Publisher at Stonehouse Publishing, a new Literary Publisher in Edmonton, and is on the board of the Book Publishers Association of Alberta. She has two children, Oliver and Eloise, who attend or have graduated from the WISE.



Director - Greg Moore

Gregory (Greg) Moore was born in Calgary, Alberta, and has two sons, one daughter (with 7 years of Waldorf schooling) and three grandchildren. Greg has an English Major from the University of Alberta and Alberta Teaching Certificate. Greg has four years of teaching experience and thirty years of sales and sales management experience (twenty plus years in employee benefits). He is excited to host Anthroposophical book studies within our school and has been a member of the Anthroposophical Society in Canada for over twenty years.





(Artist: Wendy Andrew)

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Waldorf Education
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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
to editing and approval.**

