

# the WISE connection

Issue 44

JANUARY 2022



## From the WISE Office

Dear WISE Families,

A warm welcome to 2022! We sincerely hope you enjoyed time spent with loved ones and are feeling filled up, rested and renewed. As we wait for our winter term to resume for our grade programs, we are aware of the real-life examples we have of approaching challenges with resilience, adaptability, and empathy.

With the hope that we find our way back to our familiar rhythms and routines shortly, we would like to remind everyone to be mindful of the changeable weather. Please ensure your children have the appropriate clothing and outerwear to stay warm and dry to fully enjoy the winter. With any luck, the snow will continue for lots of winter play. At this time of year, we know to expect temperature extremes. When the temperature drops below -25°C (with windchill), we post notices on our doors and children will have recess inside.

We are doing our best to keep pathways clear of ice, but please take extra care on the sidewalks and in the parking lot.

Warm blessings for this month and the whole of 2022,

The WISE Admin Team

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[Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton](#)  
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[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:

**Jan 5** Nursery resumes

**Feb 18** PD Day, no programming

**Jan 10** Classes resume  
(Kinder – Grades);  
to be confirmed

**Feb 21-26** WISE Winter Break,  
no programming

**Jan 14** Bulk Order pick up  
(to be confirmed)

**JANUARY 2022** 1

## Meet WESE Board of Directors (pt 2 of 3)



### Vice President Julie King-Yerex

Julie King-Yerex has served on the WESE board for the last 10 years, helping to transform the non-profit board into the operator of a full-fledged Waldorf 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, two of whom attend the WISE and one WISE alumni. Outside of the board she manages a bookshop, does freelance editing, and spends as much time outside as possible. 🌱



### Treasurer Margot Bright

Margot and her family discovered the WISE in 2016 and are so grateful that they did. She has three children, all of which attend the school. She is currently co-chair of the Finance Committee and sits on the Communications Committee as well. Margot joined the board, as the Treasurer, in 2020. She continues to be inspired by her fellow board members and the Waldorf community. 🌱



## Meet WESE Board of Directors (cont'd)



### 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 decided to switch Ella (Grade 8) and Sheppard (Grade 5) to the WESE Homeschooling Board in September 2020. Erin is currently teaching four kids from her home in a very Waldorf way and is so grateful to be able to live the best-case scenario for her family. This is Erin's second term sitting on the WESE Board.



### Director (Faculty Representative) Sara Larsen

Sara has been part of the WISE community since 2017 when she began co-teaching a grade 3 class. The following year, Sara had the honour and blessing of taking on a class of her own. Sara welcomed her class into the first grade in 2018 and has been with them ever since. This year Sara is the Class 4 teacher, Elementary Division chair and also serves on the Faculty Council. Sara is grateful for the warm, welcoming and supportive community at the WISE, and can't wait to serve the board this year as a faculty representative. Sara loves to spend her free time oil painting and going on long nature walks.





### Winter Market & Maple Taffy Thank You

The Fair Committee would like to say a very heartfelt THANK YOU to the community for all the help and support our little Winter Market received. We were touched by all those who signed up early and in many cases for more than one shift. We had people come on Friday night and ask if there was anything that we needed filled for the next day. We had more clean-up help than we have ever had before. It was amazing.

The feelings of coming together, working together, celebrating together as a community felt wonderful and long overdue. Thank you for helping us hold this in a new and different way. We saw so many magical moments with the children on Friday night and Saturday. It was for those sparkly eyes that we worked so darn hard. To see their wonder and joy while hooking a big fish, or finding a sweet cookie, while dipping a candle with their best friend, while being brave enough to play some music in that big space; it was for all of those reasons the committee felt we needed to find a way to make this happen. We know it was different, and a lot of the hustle and bustle and running around with a gaggle of friends was really missing for some. We can't wait for that all to return.

A special thank you to Marie-Eve Pelchat, David Moreau, and Matthew Moreau (a wonderful alumni family) for coming in to lead our maple taffy team on December 17th. The smell of maple syrup filled the school, laughter filled the halls, and a little more magic of Winter Fairs gone by was had by all. 🎄



(Photo Credit: Janelle Burnham)



(Photo Credit: Joi Valencia)



### Learning about Anthroposophy

Wondering about Anthroposophy? Not sure where to get started? WESE Board member Greg Moore has suggestions on where to begin the journey:

If there is a specific topic to be looked at, then a particular book might be advised. However, if a general overview is desired, then possibly the best way to start is with a series of lectures rather than one of Dr. Rudolf Steiner's books. (There are 33 books and more than 6,000 lectures.)

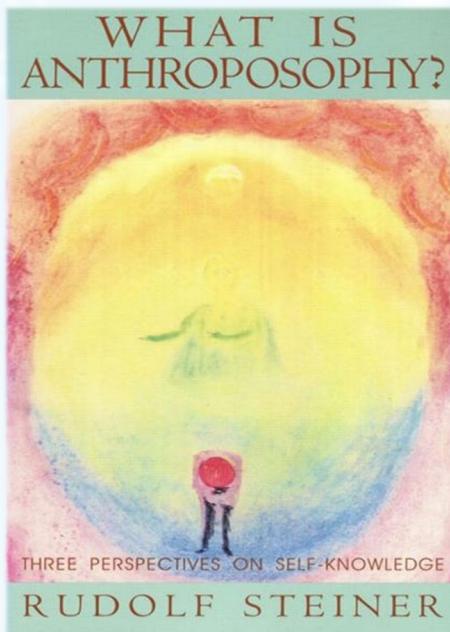
When I start with a new study group that is unfamiliar with anthroposophy, I use the series of lectures "Founding a Science of the Spirit". It is a great introduction to Dr. Steiner's worldview.

A possible level two series of lectures (if I may use this term) is "Rosicrucian Wisdom".

Most anthroposophists consider the five major books to be: *Intuitive Thinking as a Spiritual Path*, *An Outline of Occult Science*, *Knowledge of the Higher Worlds and Its Attainment*, *Theosophy*, and *Christianity as Mystical Fact*. These books do require some previous knowledge of anthroposophy to be best understood.

Here are further titles for consideration:

- What is Anthroposophy?
- Three Perspectives on Self – Knowledge (3 lectures)
- The Spiritual Foundation of Morality
- Francis of Assisi and the Christ Impulse (3 lectures)
- The Education of the Child and Early Lectures on Education (6 lectures)
- The Kingdom of Childhood (7 lectures)



The following are titles of lecture series for slightly more advanced reading:

- "Macrocosm and Microcosm" (11 lectures)
- "From Jesus to Christ" (10 lectures)
- "The Fifth Gospel" (13 lectures)
- "The Fall of the Spirits of Darkness" (14 lectures)

The last of this series of titles was the study group's read for last season and is extremely timely in addressing the issues that are unfolding these days.

This season, we are reading a series of fifteen lectures titled - "Eternal and Transient Elements in Human Life".

Greg is happy to connect if you have further questions on anthroposophy; he can be reached at [greg.moore@wese.ca](mailto:greg.moore@wese.ca).

## Message from the Board



The WESE Board conducts an annual survey of its members to gather insights into the current year and prioritize goals for the future. Alberta Education Assurance Measures (AEAM) survey results, Superintendent Leadership Quality Standards (SLQS), alongside internal school surveys, are reviewed annually to inform board priorities and strategic planning, which are then shared more broadly with the community in the winter newsletter.

The 2020-21 Board survey distilled into three goals over the next three years (2021- 2024):

1. Fundraising & forecasting: to sustainably support the Elevate WISE campaign for site expansion and growing annual operations.
2. FNMI education: Commit funding toward deepening the foundational knowledge of board, staff and students of FNMI teachings and legacy.
3. Communication and shared vision: Assess the current annual engagement schedule between WESE/WISE and community stakeholders of teachers, parents, guardians, community members and students, as part of the development of a clear and coherent shared vision for the school.





(Artist: Wendy Andrew)



**We encourage your comments, suggestions, and submissions to [newsletter@thewise.ca](mailto: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.**



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**WESE Facebook Group:**  
Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton



Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton