

# Thea Ramsfield

## Kindergarten Teacher

## Grade 6-9 French Teacher



Thea has been interested in Waldorf teachings for many years. She was first introduced to Rudolf Steiner's concepts while living in Istanbul (circa 2007), where she met a friend who attended the Monadnock school in Keene, New Hampshire. This friend was the most well rounded person Thea had ever met and when visiting her friend's home town, Thea was shown old main lesson books and taken to see her school. Thea's mind opened up to a resonance that she did not know was possible and she knew then that she wanted to be a part of the Waldorf world. After living in Québec for 4 years exploring art, language, and life, Thea dabbled in toy making and took some courses through La Grande Ourse in Montréal (a Waldorf supplies and toy store). As an artist and gardener, she spent those years developing her artistic practice and became acquainted with permaculture, slow living, and biodynamic farming.

After facilitating art workshops and trades with families in various Québécois communities, in 2012, Thea decided to return back to the prairies to her home in the Waskasoo valley. She stepped into a role as an educational assistant for the Red Deer Public Schools, working with a wide range of ages and abilities, primarily on a one-on-one basis. Thea cherished her time as an EA and it was formative in the way she sees the world, works with others, and has shaped her personal pedagogy.

A serendipitous thing happened when Thea came to observe some classes at the WISE in 2013, while looking into attending the Sacramento Waldorf teacher training school in California. The kindergarten teacher at the time told Thea that in order to teach at any Waldorf school in Alberta, she would need to have a conventional teaching degree, before seeking out Waldorf-specific training.

After some reflection, Thea did just that, obtaining her Bachelor of Education from the University of Alberta in April 2020. Thea's graduation was during the first peak of Covid. Prior to diving into her career, Thea decided that she needed to get her bearings, spending a year after graduation reconnecting with her personal art practice and love of nature. She feels very blessed to have had the opportunity to slow down, get the puppy of her dreams since she was 10, and observe the world around her with a new lens. Taking the time to deeply reflect on the type of educator she wanted to be helped her to root herself in her values. With both feet on the ground, she became part of the WISE in October of 2021 and is thrilled to be a part of this community. Every step of the way has felt very natural and fluid and she looks forward to what the future holds.