

From the WISE Office



Dear WISE Families,

Our teachers and staff are ready to welcome everyone back for our winter term, and we sincerely hope you enjoyed time spent with loved ones and are feeling filled up, rested and renewed.

As we enter into the darkness of winter and that deep space, we reflect on our accomplishments, achievements, and challenges. We imagine and form the direction for the future. And perhaps most of all, we take a moment to dedicate ourselves to intentional gratitude.

May we preserve margins for magic and spaces for stillness.
 May we guard a pause for the sacred to speak and mystery to sing.
 -Author unknown

Warm blessings for this month and the whole of 2025,

The WISE Admin Team 

The WISE Charter School

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[The WISE Charter School of Edmonton](#)
- Facebook Parent Group:**
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The Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton and the Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton are located on Treaty 6 Territory, a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples including the Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway/Saulteaux/Anishinaabe, Inuit, and many others whose histories, languages and cultures continue to influence our vibrant communities.

Important Dates:

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| Dec 23-Jan 3 Winter Break, no Programming | Jan 27 PD Day, no Programming |
| Jan 4 First Day of Sunflowers, winter term | Feb 5 School Council Meeting |
| Jan 6 Classes resume (k-9), First day of Rosebuds, winter term | Feb 6 La Chandeleur |
| Jan 7 First Day of Daisies and Marigolds, winter term | Feb 8 Work-Bee |
| Jan 8 Nursery Resumes | Feb 17 Family Day, no programming |
| Jan 12 Bulk Order closes | Feb 18-21 Winter Break, no Programming |
| Jan 17 Bulk Order pickup | Feb 28 PD Day, no Programming |

Dressing For the Weather

Please ensure your child is prepared to spend portions of the day outside, especially with the snow!

Layers are very helpful. 🍃



Labelling All Items

Our lost and found is filling up!

Please label your child's belongings so that they may get back to you.

To reclaim lost items, look through the lost and found located in the east hallway just past the gymnasium. 🍃

Our School Sign

In mid-December, our brand-new WISE Charter School and Waldorf Education sign was installed. A thing of beauty, hand-built craftsmanship, and permanence, it stands as a tangible representation of our charter status, our sustainable future, and the journey that brought us here. Thoughtfully designed by Netta Johnson, one of the school's founders and visionaries, the sign reflects our strong foundation while looking ahead to the important work yet to come.

As the sign found its new home, everything seemed to align—the years of effort, the dedication of our little village, and the dreams we've nurtured together. More than just an object, this sign is a milestone—a celebration of what our community has built with heart and resilience. 🌱



Meet WESE Board of Directors

WESE Board President: Calvin Engen

Calvin Engen is a passionate leader dedicated to innovation and making meaningful contributions to businesses and communities. As the Chief Technology Officer and Managing Partner at F12.net, Calvin leads dynamic teams, oversees complex projects, and pioneers technological initiatives that drive growth and efficiency.

As President of the Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton, he is honored to champion the transformative power of Waldorf education. Calvin is deeply committed to fostering innovation, increasing awareness, and enhancing accessibility through early childhood education programs, while building a sustainable society that embodies the values of the Waldorf philosophy. Calvin's work, both professionally and within WESE, exemplifies his dedication to bridging technology, education, and community to create a lasting and meaningful impact. 🌱



WESE Board Director: Josh Thatcher

Josh Thatcher is a husband, father of three (send coffee!), and Waldorf enthusiast thanks to his brilliant wife who showed him the light over 15 years ago!

Josh's background is in the natural food world – everything from chef-ing to building businesses. When he's not up to his elbows in flour or spreadsheets, he loves playing music, climbing mountains, and embracing the joyful chaos of family life. 🌱



Meet WISE Board of Directors

WISE Board President: Steven Barnett

Steven Barnett has been an active WESE Member since 2008. He and his wife, Kellie, have two children who have grown up in our community; one who graduated from WISE in 2022, and one currently enrolled in class 4.

Throughout these years at the school, he has been an active board member, parent, and volunteer. He is extremely happy to serve on the Board again to continue the amazing growth this school has experienced so far. Steven strives to bring positivity and light to his work and relationships. 🌱



WISE Board Vice President: Sarah Freire-Gibb

After living primarily in Europe and South America since 2005, Sarah and her family moved to Edmonton in 2019. She has three children who have attended WISE (Anna, 2024 graduate; Elisa, grade 8; and Xavier, grade 4) and she appreciates the holistic education Waldorf offers her children.

Sarah works in access to information for the provincial government and has a master's degree in international relations and development. She enjoys working together with others in community settings and finding creative solutions to problems. 🌱



Bulk Order

This month is our **FINAL BULK ORDER**, so be sure to check your pantries to see what you need!

Place your order at: <https://foodclub.org/wise/login>

If you don't have an account, use that same [link](#) and request to have one created; we'd love to have you!

****Bulk order closes Sunday, January 12th, with pickup on Friday, January 17th from 3pm - 4pm in the school gym. ****

If you have any questions or would like to help sort orders on the 17th, please email bulkorders@thewise.ca.

Happy shopping! 🍋







(Art by Amanda Clark)

Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton (WESE)

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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.

