



# the WISE connection

Issue 75 | FEBRUARY 2025



## From the WISE Office

Dear WISE Families,

Though February can often make the hope of spring warmth feel far away, we are looking ahead to the 2025-26 school year and are preparing for re-registration and the new registration season at WISE. Word of mouth has been an essential key to promoting our school. If you know of families interested in a Waldorf school experience, please let them know about our **Junior High Open House on Monday, February 3rd** and our **K - Grade 6 Open House on Saturday, March 1st** and invite them to sign up for a school tour. If you are interested in what's next for either Elementary or JH programs, the open houses are a great way to speak with teachers and learn more about the offerings at the WISE.

From February 10th -14th, the whole school will focus on **Random Acts of Kindness** and how helping others can bolster our sense of well-being. We hope cultivating this inner warmth will have a positive effect during the "heart" of the cold winter weather. We look forward to the last hurrah for skating, sledding, and outdoor winter activities that enrich students' learning. Thank you for helping the students be prepared to be outside with appropriate winter layers, boots, mitts and hats. Have an excellent and well-earned winter break this month. These times of reflection, rest and rejuvenation are pivotal for our students and staff.

Warm winter blessings,

The WISE Admin Team 

### The WISE Charter School

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 **WISE Facebook Page:**  
[The WISE Charter School of Edmonton](#)

**Facebook Parent Group:**  
[The WISE Parent Connection](#)

 **WISE Instagram Page:**  
[waldorf\\_independet\\_yeg](#)

*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:

- Feb 3** Kindergarten - Grade 9 Registration opens for 2025-26
- Feb 5** School Council Meeting
- Feb 8** Work-Bee (Cancelled)
- Feb 13** La Chandeleur
- Feb 17** Family Day, no programming
- Feb 18-21** Winter Break, no programming
- Feb 28** No School for Kinder or Nursery, ½ day for Grades
- Mar 1** Open House, registration for 2025-26 WESE programs opens

- Mar 1** No Sunflowers
- Mar 14** Deadline for new applications
- Mar 17** Last Day of Rosebuds, Winter Term
- Mar 18** Last Day of Daisies & Marigolds, Winter Term
- Mar 22** Last Day of Sunflowers, Winter Term
- March 24-25** Parent/Teacher Conferences
- March 26-28** Last Day of Sunflowers,
- Mar 31** First Day of Rosebuds, Spring Term

### Registration for 2025-26

Re-registration packages for rising Grades 1-8 were given to students to bring home at the end of January and are due back by February 14, 2025. If you did not receive a package or haven't spoken with the principal, please reach out to the office.

New application forms for Kindergarten - Grade 9 will be available on our website on February 3rd and are due by March 14.

Registrations for next year's Parent-Child and Nursery programs will be accepted starting at our Open House on March 1st. 🍀



## WISE School Council and Board

### The WISE School Council

Date/Time: Wednesday, February 5, @ 7 p.m.

Location: Hybrid (come to the school or join via the Zoom link below)

We would love to have you join us at our next meeting! Together, we'll work on strategies to support and enhance student learning, while also discussing exciting fundraising opportunities for our students.

And yes, there will be snacks, fun, and plenty of chances to connect with other parents in our school community. It's a great way to get involved and make a difference! Open to all parents and guardians of WISE Charter School students.

Details to attend via [Zoom](#)  
Meeting ID: 872 5756 7216  
Passcode: 839762

We hope to see you there! 🍀



### Gateways

Mark Your Calendars! Our beloved Gateways Conference returns May 2-3, 2025.

This year's keynote is "Building Strong Communities" with Simone Shurney of the Detroit Waldorf School.

More information on Simone as well as the exciting workshops to choose from will be in April's newsletter. 🍀



### "La Chandeleur"

Dear WISE families,

Bonjour!

At the WISE, we have a wonderful tradition of celebrating "La Chandeleur" (see the history of the festival below). We are delighted that Class 5 students will be able to host the event in person on Thursday, February 13th 2025.

Classes 1-9 will come to the gym where Class 5 students will be leading them in song before serving them a crêpe and toppings.

A vegan (egg free/dairy free) / gluten free crêpe will be offered to students with food allergies or sensitivities. Parents of children with severe allergies may opt to send a snack for their child to enjoy.

Merci Beaucoup!

The Wise Administration and Mme. Jen 🍀



### Brief History of "La Chandeleur"

This festival began in ancient times as a Celebration of Lights and of the Celtic goddess Brigit. During Christian times, in France, La Chandeleur took its name from the blessing of the candles on this day for use in the church throughout the coming year. Early February was also marked by the start of winter seed-time. Surplus flour was then used without too much risk of shortage and "les crêpes" were made as a symbol of prosperity for the coming year.

In modern times, La Chandeleur is, above all, known as "crêpes day" and generations have kept alive a collection of traditions and customs around the making of les crêpes. We also look to the hibernating animals to come out and see if it is still winter, and whether or not we will have an early Spring. We can see how Groundhog Day developed, as a secular response to the natural world at this time of year.

(adapted from [www.vws.ca/candlemas/](http://www.vws.ca/candlemas/) and <https://frenchmoments.eu/candlemas-in-france-la-chandeleur/>)

For more info : <https://waldorfshop.net/blogs/waldorf-education/celebrating-candlemas> 🌱

## Meet WESE Board of Directors

### WESE Board Treasurer: Keith Martinot

Keith is passionate about continuous learning and enjoys exploring the outdoors with his family and friends. In his spare time, he likes to capture photos of people and experiences, along with tinkering in his garage on cars, bikes, metal working, or whatever needs to get fixed up.

As a member of his community league board, Keith is also excited about the opportunity to share his experience as the next chapter of WESE and the WISE Charter School unfolds. 🌱



## Meet WESE Board of Directors

### **WESE Vice President: Alisa Vaughan**

Alisa has been a member of our community for eleven years and is a parent of children in classes 3 and 6.

Volunteerism and community building were foundational values in her family growing up and she is passionate about sharing the same lifestyle and values with her own children. 🌱



## Meet WISE Board of Directors

### **WISE Board Secretary: Eoin Murray**

Eoin Murray is the parent of two WISE children, Tom (alumni) and Hugo (G7).

He is Chair of the New Build Committee and was instrumental in getting the WISE to apply to be a Charter School.

He works in communications, marketing and fundraising in the non-profit sector. People sometimes confuse Eoin with the semi-naked, rollerblading, uke' player seen around Old Strathcona but, well, it isn't him. 🌱



## Meet WISE Board of Directors

### WISE Board 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 chair of the Finance Committee and sits on the Communications Committee as well.

Margot joined the board, as the WESE Treasurer, in 2020. She continues to be inspired by her fellow board members and the Waldorf community. 🌱



## Community Announcements

### New Build Committee Update

Dear WISE Families,

We're excited to share some important updates as we take the next steps in addressing our building and space needs for the WISE Charter School.

Following the Alberta government's announcement of the \$8.6 billion School Construction Accelerator Program (SCAP), we've begun preparing foundations for both our 3-year Capital Plan and SCAP funding proposal. This is an incredible opportunity for our school, and we're moving forward with thoughtful planning to make the most of it. To support this process, we will conduct a Value Scoping exercise led by START Architecture. Value Scoping is a collaborative process which will help us determine the best way to address our building and space needs in alignment with Waldorf principles and Alberta Education priorities.

To learn more, please come to a community evening where you can:

- Meet the architect!
- Hear about Value Scoping and capital planning processes
- Share your thoughts and ideas on key themes that will shape the future of our school and inform the Value Scope exercise



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## Community Announcements (cont'd)

### New Build Committee Update (continued)

**Date:** Thursday, February 27th, 2025

**Time:** 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

**Location:** Kinder classroom (space allowing)

In addition, we're looking for two or three parent volunteers to participate directly in Value Scoping. This will include input from the WISE Charter School and WESE Boards, faculty, administration, Alberta Education, and other key stakeholders.

The sessions will take place over two full-day workshops:

- Thursday, March 6th, 2025
- Tuesday, March 11th, 2025

If you are available for both days and would like to contribute, please contact [natalie.otoole@thewise.ca](mailto:natalie.otoole@thewise.ca) by February 18th, 2025.

We understand the Value Scope exercise is a significant time commitment and appreciate that not everyone will be able to volunteer. Rest assured, your ideas, thoughts, and dreams from the Community evening will be brought forward to the Value Scope process regardless.

This is a chance for us to come together as a community and shape the future of WISE, ensuring it continues to reflect our shared vision and values.

We look forward to seeing you there! 🍀





(Artist: Amanda Clark)

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Waldorf Education Society of  
Edmonton



**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.**

