



the WISE connection

Issue 81

OCTOBER 2025



From the WISE Office

Dear WISE Families,

As October arrives, nature mirrors the changes we feel within as the seasons shift around us. Gardens are harvested and tucked in for the winter, and it won't be long before we wake to frost—or even snow. It's the time of year when we might need mittens, hats, splash pants, boots, and even shorts all within the same week!

At school, we, too, have found our rhythm. The children have settled into their classes, embracing the daily and seasonal rhythms that are so much a part of Waldorf education. As we look ahead to the festivals and celebrations that mark this time of year, we hope that you feel the warmth of our community.

May this season of gratitude bring you and your family moments of reflection, connection, and joy.

With warmth and gratitude,

The WISE Admin Team 

The WISE Charter School



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WISE Facebook Page:

[The WISE Charter School and Waldorf Early Childhood Programs](#)

Facebook Parent Group:

[The WISE Parent Connection](#)



WISE Instagram Page:

[waldorf_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:

Oct 8 School Council AGM

Oct 13 Thanksgiving, no programming

Oct 25 Pumpkin Walk

Oct 30-31 Parent-Teacher Conferences, no programming K-9

Nov 5 School Council Meeting

Nov 7 Lantern Walk, ECE-Class2

Nov 11 Remembrance Day, no programming

Nov 10-15 Fall break, no programming

Nov 19 WISE Charter/WESE AGM

Nov 28 No classes for Kinder, ½ day for grades

Nov 29 Winter Fair

OCTOBER 2025



Important Dates (cont'd)

Parent Coffee every
Tuesday from 8:30 am – 9:30 am
in the WISE gymnasium. 🍃



Office Notes



Dressing For the Weather

Please ensure your child is prepared to spend portions of the day outside, even in the crisp mornings.

Layers are very helpful, as are toques and light gloves as the weather cools. 🍃

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. 🍃



The journey toward Building our Dream Castle... and how you can help!

As you may have seen in a recent update from the WISE Charter Society, our proposal for a replacement K–9 school through Alberta Education’s School Construction Accelerator Program (SCAP) is still under review. While originally expected within 90 days, earlier submissions were only approved in late summer, delaying our own timeline. We remain in regular contact with Alberta Education and will share news as soon as it arrives.

As we wait, together we can strengthen our proposal and lay the groundwork for a successful project once approval comes. A key factor in Alberta Education’s decision is knowing that the City of Edmonton supports our land needs. This includes a potential land swap, the acquisition of additional land at our current site, and rezoning of the same. We continue to work behind the scenes with the City, but your voice can make a real difference right now.

A timely opportunity: October 20th Municipal Election

With the municipal election on October 20th, candidates are door-knocking and attending community events. This is the perfect time to speak up for WISE. Even if you do not live in Ottewell, an overall majority Council vote will be required for land approvals, so awareness across the city is invaluable.

How you can help

Improving neighbourhoods and enhancing children’s safety are consistently identified priorities for City Council. Framing your conversations with candidates around these priorities while sharing WISE’s story will help raise awareness of our school and its needs.

- WISE/WESE is a vibrant community school delivering Waldorf K - 9 and early years education at a shared facility.
- Our existing building is old and in need of replacement, and the current site layout makes safety a top priority - especially since 2024’s road narrowing created a chaotic pick-up and drop-off experience for families.
- A purpose-built Waldorf facility will provide the most enriching and supportive environment for Edmonton children’s learning and wellbeing.
- Beautiful green spaces around the school are central to the Waldorf experience and outdoor education; such spaces would enhance the neighbourhood and serve the wider community.
- A tuition-free, purpose-built Waldorf school attracts families to Edmonton and surrounding areas, while enriching the city.



Your direct ask to candidates

Please support WISE’s plan to build a replacement K - 9 school on our existing site and commit to voting in favour of the necessary land arrangements and rezoning at City Council.

Whether or not SCAP approval comes this year, every conversation you have with a candidate helps pave the way for our “dream castle” - a safe, beautiful, purpose-built Waldorf school for Edmonton families. Thank you for lending your voice and energy to this next step. 🌱

Invitation to School Council!

The WISE Charter School Council is an opportunity for parents to enrich the life of the school community by helping fundraising initiatives, supporting school-wide events and championing the efforts of teachers. Parents and guardians of WISE Charter School students are automatically members. Meetings are held at 7pm and offer the option of attending in-person at the school or online (watch for emails from the registrar with the Zoom link before each meeting).

This year's meeting will be on the following dates:

- Wednesday, October 8, 2025 (AGM)
- Wednesday, November 5, 2025
- Wednesday, January 7, 2026
- Wednesday, March 4, 2026
- Wednesday, May 6, 2026
- Wednesday, June 3, 2026



Participating in School Council is a great way to connect with families from our school community and be involved in your child's experience. We hope to see you there! 🌱

WISE School Council Clothing Swap – Rooted Now, Blossoming in Spring 2026

As the wheel of the year turns and we all settle into autumn's rhythm, our first Clothing Swap will await Spring 2026 to unfold. In the spirit of renewal, we invite families to begin setting aside gently loved garments that may be ready for a new home when the earth awakens. More details will come as springtime draws near. 🌱



Pumpkin Walk

We are excited to return to Gold Bar Park and bring our traditional Pumpkin Walk to our community this year.

Here is some information for everyone:

The event itself is on **Saturday, October 25th**, from 5-8 pm at Gold Bar Park Picnic Site #2. Families purchase tickets in advance, for a specific "tour time", and embark on a sweet little walk through the forest, on a path lit by many carved pumpkins. En route, they will encounter actors who will bring a story to life. There will be a bake and cider sale, which will be by cash donation. You will be able to gather and enjoy your treats around a large fire. Many people choose to dress up in costume for the event. It's sweet and simple and usually quite a lovely evening.



It should be noted that all who attend the walk must have a ticket, including volunteers and committee members. They are only **\$5** (no ticket needed for children three years old and younger) and are purchased in advance. Tickets sell out quickly every year, and the early time slots are the first to fill. So, if you have little ones for whom a bedtime is very important, please know that you will have to get your tickets ASAP.

Because we have limited space, tickets are only available for the immediate family members of the WISE Charter School and WESE members. Your friends and extended family are invited to come to our Winter Fair on November 29th.

We hope many people are looking forward to participating! We will need the usual bevy of volunteers to make this special event work and, as a perk for helping, all volunteers get early access to tickets, the chance to buy tickets for your family at just the right time. Some of the volunteer positions needed are: actors for the play, helping out the bake sale, and helpers for set-up and clean up. If you would like to sign up and have access to advanced tickets, please ensure you're signed up by **NOON on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8th**. The link will be sent out that evening. Volunteers will have a few days to buy tickets before the link is made available to everyone on **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11th**. Students in classes six through nine are welcome to sign up as well; lines will have to be learned at home with family support.

In summary:

- Pumpkin Walk 2025 is Saturday October 25th, 5-8pm at Gold Bar Park. Tickets are \$5 each (free under age 3). Sign up to volunteer by noon on Wednesday, October 8th in order to receive advance ticket purchasing.
- Tickets available to WISE Charter School and WESE families on Saturday, October 11th.
- Sign-ups to help at the event: [Pumpkin Walk](#) (sign up by October 8th for early ticket access)
- Food donations: [Pumpkin Walk Donations](#)

Things to know:

- Bring cash for the bake sale and cider (by donation)
- Bring a reusable mug for cider
- This is NOT the venue for scary costumes. We have lots of little people who come, so please keep the scary or overly commercial costumes for other parties and come in friendly and fun attire.



Hope to see you all there! 🍂

Community Building

Parent Coffee is Back!

After taking a brief hiatus (due to spatial constraints) this cherished time to share some laughs, learn more about the school and get to know fellow community members returns on Tuesdays (not Wednesdays) in the gymnasium from 8:30-9:30 AM. Children are welcome, so long as they are being actively supervised.

In the event that the gymnasium is not available, Parent Coffee will be relocated to the Library.

We hope to see you there! 🍃



An Invitation from the Waldorf-Ottewell Community Garden

The gardens welcomes your helpful hands in nourishing their growth through the current and upcoming seasons! We are looking for brave stewards to wrestle prickly thistles. There are also many other activities: watering, organizing, planting, pruning, mulching, harvesting, etc. There is much magic to be discovered and enjoyed!

Please contact communitygarden@wese.ca for more information and to hear about current and upcoming garden events. 🍃



Welcome from the Principal

With the shift to the fall season, which officially began September 22nd, the Earth begins its inhalation. This gesture of an inhale is paradoxical, as it makes the external internal; what is beyond, moves within. As we look around at the fallen leaves, it's interesting to contemplate that at one point, what we grew, we now shed.

The prompt of the autumn season is to 'look around thee' and that we certainly are doing at the WISE, as educators and administration foster connections among their class community, including students and parents/guardians. I encourage you to 'look around thee' as well, striving to at least notice who in your own community - be it the class, the school or beyond, is calling for your loving attention.

Mary Conrod 🍃



THE WIND'S BROOM

By Enid Blyton

"I've a broom, a broom!" cried the autumn wind,
"And I'll sweep all the leaves away,
I'll hurry them, scurry them, rush them along,
And they'll sing me a crickly, crackly song,
Oh, I'll give them a fright today."

Then up he rushed with his great big broom,
And swish! All the leaves on the ground
Went bustling, rustling, hustling by,
Now scampering low, now rocketing high,
With a crispy, whis'r'y sound!

Under the hedge, and up by the wall,
Into the moss-grown ditch
The wind swept the leaves, brown, yellow and red,
Then tired, he put down his broom and fled.

Who rides on it now?
Why, a witch!



**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.**

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Waldorf Education Society of
Edmonton

