



the WISE connection

Issue 83

December 2025

From the WISE Office

Dear WISE Families,

As the winter chill settles upon Edmonton, at WISE, we embrace the opportunity for diving into the seasonal magic and warmth. The entire school was transformed for the Winter Fair, adorned with handmade delights, and the scent of beeswax and spruce boughs in the air. These annual fair and seasonal festivals are opportunities to create soul-nourishing experiences for our children, celebrate our unique Waldorf school community, and share our school culture with the wider community. A heartfelt thank you to the Fairs committee and myriad volunteers for all the seen and unseen work that goes into making the Winter fair possible.

Our teachers weave the magic of winter into their lessons, engaging students in stories, verses and songs (just in time for the Winter Concert) that complement and deepen student learning. Outdoor experiences are also a big part of every season. Please support your teachers by ensuring students are ready to spend time in the winter weather; it is tricky to truly behold the beauty and wonder of a snowflake from indoors.

As we enjoy seasonal festivals collectively, let us come together to nurture and celebrate our inner light and joy. In the quiet moments of this season, may we find inspiration and renewal.

We wish you, and your family, holidays filled with good cheer and loved ones.

The WISE Admin Team

Winter Trees

All the complicated details
of the attiring and
the disattiring are completed!
A liquid moon
moves gently among
the long branches.
Thus having prepared their buds
against a sure winter
the wise trees
stand sleeping in the cold.
- William Carlos Williams

In this newsletter:

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Message from the Principal

The WISE Charter 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:

December 1	Advent Spiral
December 8	Marigolds ends, Fall Term
December 9	Daisies ends, Tall Term M/T Nursery last day before winter break
December 12	W-F Nursery last day before winter break
December 12	Winter Concert (Grades 1-4)
December 19	Half Day (Grades) No programming for Kindergarten
December 23 - January 3: Winter Break, no programming	
January 5	Classes resume: K-9, M/T Nursery First Day of Winter Term, Marigolds
January 6	First Day of Winter Term, Daisies
January 7	Classes resume, W-F Nursery
January 26	PD Day, no programming K-9

Office Notes

Community Building

Parent Coffee

Share some laughs, learn more about our school, and get to know your fellow parents after drop-off on Tuesday mornings. Coffee is on from 8:30 am - 9:30 am in the gymnasium (enter the front of the school and turn left at the hallway). Supervised children are welcome.



Dressing for the Weather

Please ensure your child is prepared to spend portions of the day outside, especially as it starts to snow. Layers are very helpful, as are extra socks and mittens.



JR. High Cooking Class

Take a look at some of the cooking class's gingerbread creations!



WISE Charter School Council

Invitation to School Council

The WISE Charter School Council is an opportunity for us to enrich the life of the school community by helping with 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).

Upcoming meetings will be on the following dates:

- Wednesday, January 7, 2026
- Wednesday, March 4, 2026
- Wednesday, May 6, 2026
- Wednesday, June 3, 2026

Participating in the 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!

Looking Ahead to Our January Book Study Circle

The WISE School Council will begin its shared study of *Understanding Waldorf Education: Teaching from the Inside Out* by Jack Petrash following the next School Council meeting on January 7, 2026 at approximately 8:30 pm - both online and in person. This gathering is an opportunity to enter more deeply into the guiding principles and living picture of Waldorf education, held in a spirit of reflection and community. All parents and caregivers are warmly welcomed to join.

For more information or to express interest, please reach out to wsc.vicechair@thewise.ca.

We look forward to coming together in January for our first conversation!



WISE Events

Winter Fair Thank You

The Fairs Committee would like to give a heartfelt THANK YOU to the community for the support of our Winter Fair. A very special shoutout to everyone who volunteered, and especially to those who filled more than one shift. Generosity of time and talent is what makes our community so special. Thank you to the musicians who set the holiday mood, to the ECE teachers for the very sweet story, to those who helped set everything up and to everyone who helped take it down and pack it all away.

Thank you to all the special crafting fairies (you adults, of course) who created so many beautiful things for the children to choose from in our Secret Store. Thank you to those who provided cookies to ensure our cave was never empty. Thank you to everyone who provided our Cozy Cafe with delicious foods to fuel the steady stream of people coming through the door; it's pretty incredible for one afternoon. May the children always remember these days as they grow up and away from this place. Thank you again for helping make it all happen.





Winter Concert

- What** Winter Concert (Grade 1-4)
- Who** Parents/guardians of students in Grade 1-4.
- Note: If Grade 5-9 siblings are also in attendance, they are expected to remain in the gymnasium supervised for the duration of the concert unless access to the washroom is required.
- When** Friday, December 12th
6:00 - 7:00 PM
- Doors open at 5:45 PM
- Where** Gymnasium
- Why** To support ease of transportation and viewing pleasure, the WISE Winter Concert will be held at the WISE and feature Grade 1-4 only, with Grade 5-9 performing in the Spring.

Tickets

\$10 per person - 2 adults max (ages 16 and under attend for free) and are available for sale in the office, from December 3rd to December 10th.

Dress Guidelines

Students are encouraged to wear appropriate attire, dressing in a way that makes them feel like their best selves, while following our dress guidelines, refraining from clothing featuring media images.

Concert Expectations

- Parents/guardians will drop off and pick-up their child in the classroom, with the Class Teacher.
- Audience members are not permitted to take photographs or videos during the concert.
- Parents/guardians are expected to ensure any siblings remain in the gymnasium for the duration of the concert, unless they are accessing the washroom when required.

If you have any questions about suitable clothing for the concert or any other details, please email our Music Teacher, Ms. Toews at emily.toews@thewise.ca.



Class 6 Small Business Craft Market



Tuesday, December 16, 9:00 AM-10:20 AM
and 11:00 AM - 11:40 AM in the WISE
Gymnasium

As part of their Business Math block, Class 6 will be holding a market. To show your support, please send your child(ren) with some spending money, where they can purchase bookmarks, knitted and felted stuffies, slime, jewelry, decorative crochet items, hand lotion, Christmas ornaments and cards, art, keychains, flying stars, toddler slippers and more! The market will be great for gifts or to enjoy themselves during the holiday season! Parents are also welcome to attend if they are able. Items will be priced between \$0.50 and \$20 with most items under \$5.00, with 50% of proceeds going towards a charity and 50% towards a class field trip.





Message from the Principal

In contrast with the past few months, which represented the Earth's inhale, December marks a shift in the cyclical breath, with it now being held, carrying us through the depth of winter. The onset of this held inhale remains a force until February, which is profound, as it beckons us to reignite the light we beheld at the summer solstice, but from within. In our weariness of the darkness that surrounds us, we must strive to sustain our inner light, which is in its purest form at the winter solstice.

Holy Nights

As we bring the 2025 portion of the school year to a close, I wanted to extend an opportunity to join me for the Holy Nights, an anthroposophical activity that will take place over the Winter Break, from Wednesday, December 24th to Monday, January 5th from 10:00 - 10:30am.

During this span of time, an opportunity to deepen our consciousness becomes available as we connect to our internal forces. Much like the proximity of the Sun to the Earth, which is at its closest at this time, our physical self becomes attuned inwardly, towards our soul. It is with this perspective that we are able to look behind and ahead of us, reflecting on the year that is ending, and the one that is approaching, with a much greater awareness.

Daily sessions will be held over Zoom (with the exception of Christmas and New Years Day) and will include an overview that features information to help guide the Holy Nights, such as reference to the specific zodiac sign, month, force, virtue, sense and viewpoint that corresponds to each of the twelve Holy Nights. Participants will use this information to guide their practice, completing a journal prompt and/or their personal artistic choice, such as constructing a dodecahedral, making a calendar, completing zodiac etch paintings, rolling a beeswax candle etc. Recordings will be sent upon request.

If you are interested in joining, please send a donation to accounts@thewise.ca, (security answer: Edmonton), with a recommended amount of \$60. All donations will go towards our school. Following registration, you will receive a Zoom link, as well as other information to support your work during the Holy Nights.

Mary Conrod

The Song of The Holly Fairy

O, I am green in Winter-time,
When other trees are brown;
Of all the trees (So saith the rhyme)
The holly bears the crown.
December days are drawing near
When I shall come to town,
And carol-boys go singing clear
Of all the trees (O hush and hear!)
The holly bears the crown!

For who so well-beloved and merry
As the scarlet Holly Berry?

-Cicely Mary Barker

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Waldorf Early Childhood Programs](#)
- Facebook [The WISE Parent Connection](#)
Parent Group
- Instagram [waldorf_yeg](#)

Newsletter Submissions

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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