



Issue 84 | January 2026

## From the WISE Office

Dear WISE Families,

Our teachers and staff are ready to welcome everyone back for our winter term. 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.

Warm blessings for this month and the whole of 2026,

*The WISE Admin Team*

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

### In this newsletter:

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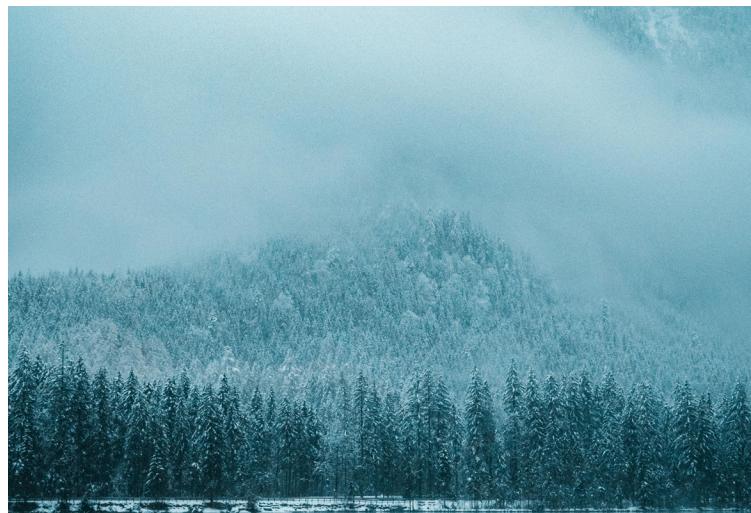
WISE Charter School Council

Meet the Board - Part 1 of 3

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.



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## Important Dates:

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
February 2	Jr. High Open House
February 6	1/2 day Gr 1-9; No Kindergarten, Nursery
February 7	Open House
February 7	No Sunflowers
February 16	Family Day, no programming
February 17 - 20	Winter Break, no programming

## Message from the Principal

With daylight hours increasing and the promise of a new year before us, January is a hopeful time in the cycle of the year. A held inhale continues to suspend us within ourselves, connecting us to the present moment and our internal world. The courage needed throughout the winter season is one of transformation, so that we may stave off timidity and anxiety and instead, use our selfhood powers for redemption.

*Mary Conrod*



## Office Notes

### Community Building

#### Call Out for Donations

Our school supply of sleds for recess is running low. If you have any extra plastic sleds (e.g NOT wooden toboggans or ski-sled sliders), or are able to purchase one and donate it to our school, our Class 1-9 students would be very grateful. Please drop sleds off at the office for storage in our playshed.

#### 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 with the snow! Layers are very helpful.



#### Labeling 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.



# 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

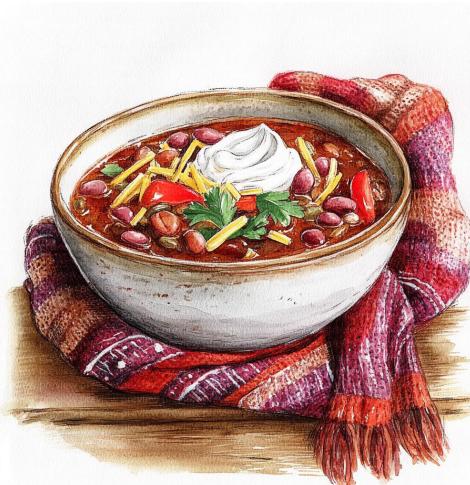
Participating in the School Council is a great way to connect with families from our school community and be involved in your child's experience. We hope to see you there!

## 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](mailto:wsc.vicechair@thewise.ca).

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



## Stirring the Pot: WISE & WESE Chili Cook-Off & Community Night

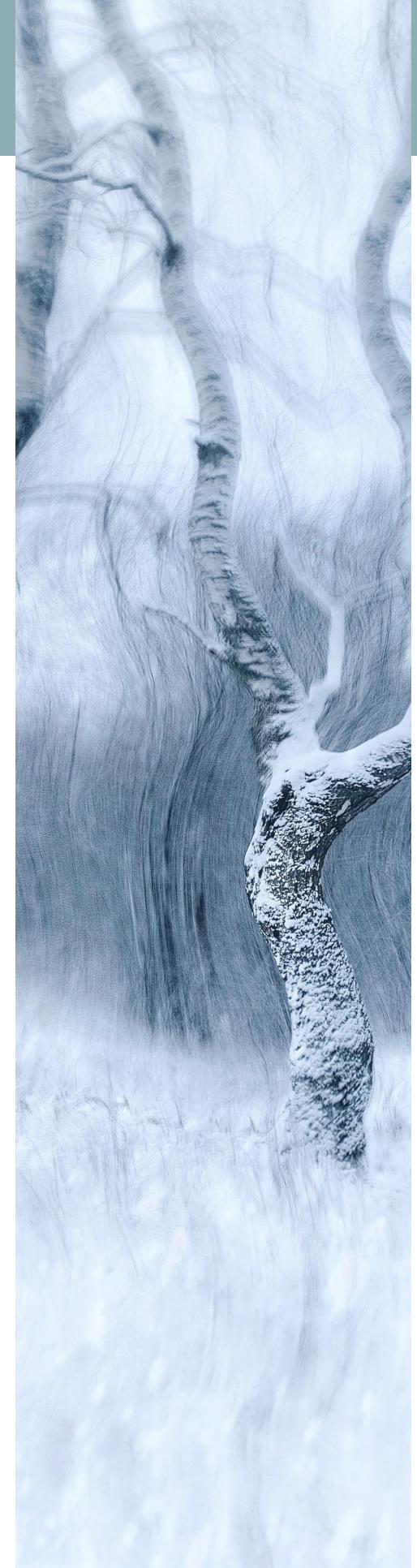
Mark your calendars for an evening of warmth, flavour, and community connection!

Join us on Saturday, March 21, 2026, from 6:30PM to 11:00PM in the WISE Gym as we gather once again for our annual Chili Cook-Off and Community Night.

Tickets go on sale on February 1, 2026 and are \$25 each, with early bird pricing of \$20 if purchased before March 6, 2026. Details on how to purchase tickets will be shared by email in the new year.

Do you have a chili that's ready to shine? From hearty carnivorous pots to creative vegan blends, we need our chili chefs to bring the heat. As a chili chef, your chili is your ticket in. Keep an eye out in the new year for an email inviting you to sign up and share your best chili creations.

This will be an adults-only evening, and we can't wait to gather for a warm, joyful night of connection together.





## Meet the Board

### Calvin Engen - WESE Board President

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.



### Steven Barnett - WISE Board President

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 5. 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.

## The Elf and the Snowman

"It's cold!" said the snowman,  
Slapping himself.  
"I'll build you a fire!"  
Said Tippy the elf.  
He brought a few sticks  
And set them alight.  
He kept up the fire  
All through the night.  
But alas, in the morning  
No snowman was there!  
"Now where can he be?"  
Cried the elf in despair.  
But there wasn't an answer,  
And nobody knew  
Where the snowman had gone.  
I wonder - do you?

-Enid Blyton

## Newsletter Submissions

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.

## The WISE Charter School

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	Facebook	<a href="#">The WISE Charter School and Waldorf Early Childhood Programs</a>
	Facebook Parent Group	<a href="#">The WISE Parent Connection</a>
	Instagram	<a href="#">waldorf_yeg</a>

## Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton (WESE)

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