



Issue 91 | October 2026

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Important Dates:

October 7	School Council AGM
October 12	Thanksgiving, no programming
October 23	PD Day, no programming
October 24	Pumpkin Walk
November 5-6	Parent/Teacher Conferences, no classes
November 9-13	November Break, no programming
November 11	Remembrance Day, no programming
November 18	WISE Charter/WESE AGM
November 27	Winter Faire Setup, no classes
November 28	Winter Faire
November 28	No Sunflowers

Office Notes



Absences

Should your child be absent from school, **please let us know by 8:45 AM**. You can do this by emailing absences@thewise.ca, or by phone at 780-466-3312. If we haven't heard from you, we will call or email to ensure your child is well.



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.

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 or library (enter the front of the school and turn left). Supervised children are welcome.

An Invitation from the Waldorf-Ottewell Community Garden

The gardens welcome 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.

Capital Project Update

Building Our Dream Castle

Since our last capital project update in June, WISE has continued to move our proposal for a future purpose-built Waldorf school forward.

Our revised *Schools Now* proposal was formally submitted in June, incorporating feedback received from Alberta Education earlier in the spring. A further Ministerial call for capital proposals took place over the summer. In mid-September, the Province announced four additional Schools Now approvals for charter school capital projects; WISE was not among them.

In October, we are scheduled to welcome Alberta Education to WISE to tour our school once more and further discuss our proposal. This will provide an opportunity to introduce our school to a newer member of Alberta Education's Capital Planning team, share our Waldorf educational model, and continue building understanding of both our current facility limitations and our vision for a permanent home.

We remain actively engaged with Alberta Education and with elected officials and other government representatives as opportunities arise. Our goal is to ensure that WISE's needs and our strong case for a replacement school remain visible as the province considers its capital priorities and future investment decisions. We will keep our WISE community updated as soon as there is substantive news to share.

In the meantime, we would like to recognize the generosity of our monthly donors. Your ongoing contributions provide an incredibly important foundation for this project. Our capital fund supports the work required to keep the project moving forward, which may include pre-planning, assessments and responding to recommendations that arise through the capital planning process - work that can strengthen our case for approval and ensure WISE is ready.

Provincial capital funding, should WISE receive approval, is designed to deliver a standard school facility. Our own capital resources will also be crucial in supporting the elements that will make our future WISE school distinctly Waldorf.

If you are not yet a monthly donor and would like to help move our future school closer to reality, you can [become a monthly donor here](#). Every new commitment strengthens our ability to advance the work toward approval and helps ensure that, when our opportunity comes, WISE is ready.

Thank you for continuing to support the dream of a purpose-built home for WISE.



Message from the Principal

With a month now behind us, I hope you and your family have settled into the rhythms of the school year once again, appreciating the stability it offers. How tremendously heartwarming it has been to see the community come together during our school events such as the Rose Ceremony, Orange Shirt Week, and Michaelmas.

As the Earth continues its inhale, drawing its life forces inwardly, we are beckoned to do the same. In our pursuit for contentment, we are more apt to find balance by possessing a greater self-awareness, specifically regarding our tendency for complaint. In order to seek equanimity, which is a state of emotional composure, we must exert control over our expressions of dis-ease which ultimately leads to dissatisfaction. By striving to 'look around thee' with a more grounded self-awareness, we can begin to show gratitude for what is in our life, rather than what is not.

Mary Conrod



WISE Charter School Council

Join Us for the School Council AGM!

The WISE Charter School Council invites all parents and guardians to join us for our **Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, October 7 at 7:00 p.m.**

Every parent and guardian of a WISE Charter School student is automatically a member of the School Council, and the AGM is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about what Council does, meet other families, hear what is happening within our school community, and discover ways to get involved.

You can join us in person at the school or online via Zoom, making it easy to participate in whichever way works best for your family. An email will be sent prior to each session with meeting details and the Zoom link, so be sure to keep an eye out!

School Council helps enrich the life of our school community by supporting school-wide events, fundraising initiatives, and the work of our teachers and staff. Whether you are interested in becoming more involved, have ideas to share, or simply want to listen and learn more, we would love to have you join us.

School Council Meetings for 2026-2027

All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and can be attended in person or online.

- Wednesday, October 7, 2026 (AGM)
- Wednesday, November 4, 2026
- Wednesday, January 6, 2027
- Wednesday, March 3, 2027
- Wednesday, May 5, 2027
- Wednesday, June 2, 2027

Participating in School Council is a great way to connect with other WISE families and have a voice in the life of our school community. We hope to see many new and familiar faces at the AGM!



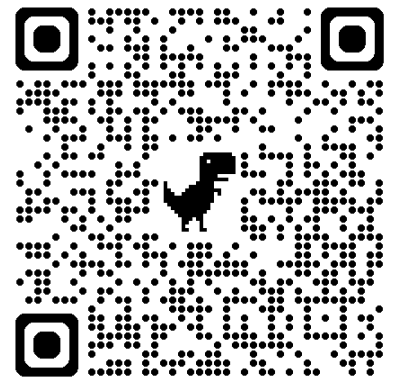
Join the WISE CS Board

Nominations for the WISE Charter Society Board are now open. We're looking for Society members who care about our school's mission and want to help guide its future. If you're 18 or older, a member in good standing, and not a school employee, you're eligible.

Different skills and backgrounds help the Board, so please nominate yourself or encourage someone you know (with their consent).

Just fill out the short [Nomination Submission Form](#) with a brief bio, why you're interested, and the skills you'd bring. The WISE Board needs a Treasurer. The WESE and WISE AGMs will be on Nov 18, 2026.

Questions? Contact the Nomination Committee at president@thewise.ca.



WISE Events

Pumpkin Walk

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

The event is on **Saturday, October 24th, 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 baked goods and cider for sale, 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 quite a lovely evening.

It should be noted that all who attend the walk must have a ticket, including volunteers and committee members. Tickets are \$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; 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 28th.

Call for Volunteers

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 7th**. 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 Monday, October 12th**. 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 2026 is Saturday October 24th, 5-8pm at Gold Bar Park.
- Tickets are \$5 each (free under age 3).
- Sign up to volunteer by noon on Wednesday, October 7th in order to receive advance ticket purchasing.
- Tickets available to WISE Charter School and WESE families on Monday, October 12th.
- Sign ups to help at the event: [Volunteer Sign-Up](#)
- Food donations for the bake sale: [Bake Sale 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!



Moon Catchin' Net

I've made me a moon-catchin' net,
And I'm goin' huntin' tonight,
I'll run along swingin' it over my head,
And grab for that big ball of light.

So tomorrow just look at the sky,
And if there's no moon you can bet
I've found what I sought and I finally caught
The moon in my moon-catchin' net.

But if the moon's still shinin' there,
Look close underneath and you'll get
A clear look at me in the sky swingin' free
With a star in my moon-catchin' net.

-Shel Silverstein

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.

The WISE Charter School

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