the WISE connection

Issue 92 | November 2026

From the WISE Office

Dear WISE Families,

A heartfelt thank you to the Fairs Committee, School Council, Fundraising Society, and all the dedicated parent and student Fairs volunteers, without whom these wonderful community gatherings would not be possible. Together, these remarkable humans are the grist and glue that bring our magical community celebrations to life. Please join in the fun and sign up to volunteer- we need you.

At WISE, the annual rhythm of seasonal festivals and gatherings offers children (and adults!) deeply nourishing experiences that carry them through the year. Perhaps even more significantly, these moments become part of the fabric of their childhood, creating memories and impressions they will continue to draw upon throughout their lives.

This is why the careful attention to both the big and little details matters. The extraordinary generosity, commitment, and often heroic efforts of the adults who come together to create the beauty, warmth, and wonder of these occasions are not simply about putting on an event. They are about creating meaningful shared experiences that nourish our children, strengthen our community, and endure long after the festivities have ended.

We look forward to gathering in November for multiple community events and engagement opportunities with the WESE and WISE AGMs, the Winter Fair and the Advent Spiral.

Warmly

The WISE Admin Team

The Sunlight Fast is Dwindling

The sunlight fast is dwindling,
My little lamp needs kindling.
Its beam shines far in darkest night,
Dear lantern guide me with your light

- traditional, adapted by M. Meyerkort and Nancy Foster

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Message from the Principal

The WISE Charter School and Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton acknowledge that we are Treaty people in ᐊᒥᐢᑎᒃᐧᐋᒋᐧᐊᓂᐢᑲᐦᐃᑲᐣ (Amiskwacîwâskahikan) on Treaty 6 territory and Métis Nation of Alberta Region 4 territory. This is the traditional gathering place for First Nations peoples such as Nehiyaw (Cree), Denesuliné (Dene), Nakota Sioux (Stoney), Anishinaabe (Saulteaux), and Niitsitapi (Blackfoot), and many others. Their knowledge of the land, histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant communities and remind us of the value of 'tawâw.'



Office Notes



Dressing for the Weather

With the colder weather settling in, please ensure children (even the older ones) come dressed in warm layers, mittens, and toques, so they can fully participate in the outdoor experiences we value as a core component of Waldorf Education.



Labelling All Items

A little label can go a long way in keeping our Lost & Found from growing! Our Lost & Found is overflowing with jackets, sweaters, mittens, and other forgotten treasures! Help us reunite these belongings with their owners by **making sure all your child's items are clearly labelled.**

Shop Mabel's Labels.

Friendly Reminder: Our Lost & Found is located in the east hallway, just past the gymnasium. All unclaimed items will be donated following Parent-Teacher Conferences on November 5th and 6th.



Call for Spruce Tree Boughs

Is there someone in our community with access to land with Spruce/Pine that we could gather boughs for our Winter Fair and Advent spiral? If yes, please reach out to Keely before November 13th to make a plan.

For many many years we have had the good fortune of access to an acreage with a small evergreen forest where we have gathered spruce and pine boughs for Winter Fair and the Advent Spiral. Our Waldorf acreage friends have moved and we are looking for a new place where we can gather boughs for the upcoming events. Ideally, we trim and gather boughs on November 21st or 22nd.

Important Dates:

November 5-6	No Programming K-9
November 9-13	November break, no programming
November 11	Remembrance Day, no programming
November 18	WESE AGM (6:30PM) WISE Charter AGM (7:15PM)
November 27	Winter Fair Setup, no classes
November 28	Winter Fair
November 28	No Sunflowers
December 7	Last Day of Marigolds, Winter Term
December 8	Last Day of Daisies, Winter Term
December 12	Last Day of Sunflowers, Winter Term
December 15	Last Day M-T Nursery before Winter Break
December 15	Last Day M-T Kinder before Winter Break
December 17	Last Day W-F Nursery before Winter Break
December 17	Last Day Th-F Kinder before Winter Break
December 18	Half-Day for Gr 1-9, Last Day before Winter Break
December 21 - January 1	Winter Break, no programming
December 25	Christmas Day
December 26	Boxing Day

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). Supervised children are welcome.



WISE Charter School Council

Invitation to School Council

All WISE parents and guardians are warmly invited to join us for our next School Council and Fundraising Society meeting on **Wednesday, November 4, at 7:00PM.**

Meetings are held in person at the school, with the option to participate online via Zoom.

School Council is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow parents, hear about what's happening within our school community, share ideas, and have a voice in your child's school experience.

Whether you're a familiar face or joining us for the first time, we would love to have you!

A New Home for School Council Information

We're pleased to share that School Council now has a dedicated page on The WISE Charter School website! Going forward, meeting agendas, minutes, and our permanent Zoom meeting link will all be available in one convenient place.

Visit: School Council – The WISE

Be sure to bookmark the page for easy access to future meetings!

Welcoming our 2026-2027 School Council Executive

Following our Annual General Meeting in October, we are pleased to introduce the newly elected WISE School Council Executive:

- Chair: Kelsey Gouveia
- Vice Chair: Mallory Engen
- Secretary: Melanie d'Haene
- Treasurer: Kris Cramer

We look forward to another wonderful year of strengthening connections, supporting our school, and nurturing the vibrant community that makes WISE so special.

We would also like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our outgoing Chair, **Laura Mercier,** whose dedication and leadership have been instrumental in establishing and guiding our School Council through its first two years.

Laura has helped lay a strong foundation for parent involvement, collaboration, and community engagement at WISE. We are deeply grateful for the time, care, and energy she has devoted to bringing Council to life.

Thank you, Laura, for all that you have given to our school community!

We warmly welcome all parents and guardians to become involved in whatever way feels meaningful to them. Whether attending a meeting, sharing an idea, or lending a hand at a community event, every contribution helps our school flourish.

WISE Community Book Circle: A Warm Invitation to Join Us

We are delighted by the wonderful response to this year's WISE Community Book Circle!

Our community is coming together to explore *Raising Sound Sleepers: Helping Children Use Their Senses to Rest and Self-Regulate* by Dr. Adam Blanning, who will also be joining us as the keynote speaker at the upcoming Gateways Conference (Save the date: April 30 & May 1)!

What a wonderful opportunity to become familiar with his work ahead of the conference, while gathering together to share experiences, deepen our understanding, and learn from one another.

Our first gathering: Wednesday, January 6, 2027, following the School Council meeting at approximately 8:30p.m. We will gather both in person at the school and online via Zoom, allowing families to participate in whichever way works best for them. The Zoom link can be found on the school website here: School Council - The WISE

It's not too late to join! Whether you're new to Waldorf education or have been part of our community for years, all are warmly welcome. No previous book study experience is needed, just curiosity, an open heart, and a willingness to share and learn together.

If you would like to participate and haven't yet reached out, please contact Mallory. Additional books take approximately 3 to 4 weeks to arrive, so we kindly ask that requests for copies be made by **November 13,** allowing us time to order them before the Christmas break.

We look forward to gathering in the new year for thoughtful conversation, shared experiences, and the opportunity to learn from one another as we nurture and support the children in our lives.

"Children weave back and forth between courageous outer exploration and the need for greater inward security."

— Dr. Adam Blanning, Raising Sound Sleepers



WISE Events

Thank you for making this year's Pumpkin Walk a Magical Evening!

The Fairs Committee sends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped bring the event to life. We couldn't have done it without our wonderful community, including:

- Our volunteers: Everyone who set the stage, managed tables, minded the fires, and packed everything away.
- Our performers: The actors who brought this year's story to life.
- Our supporters: Everyone who donated food, brought pumpkins, bought tickets, and shared the joy.

We love our community and can't wait to see you all at the Winter Fair!

Winter Fair

The school is transformed into a magical place - activities are found in each classroom (and outside), a market takes over the gymnasium, and live music sets the mood for a wonderful afternoon. This is our largest event of the year - friends and family are welcome!

Date: Saturday, November 28th
Time: 11:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Admission: $4 for adults | Children are free
Activities: Most activities cost $2 (tokens available at the front desk)

An event this magical requires everyone's support. **Each Family is asked to sign up for AT LEAST ONE VOLUNTEER SHIFT**; please do so early to get the shift you want! We also need parents' help to ensure we have enough treats and Secret Store items for all the children.

Nursery, Kindergarten, and Class 1 families are asked to craft 15 small items each for the Secret Store. Need ideas? check out our Wise pinterest board!

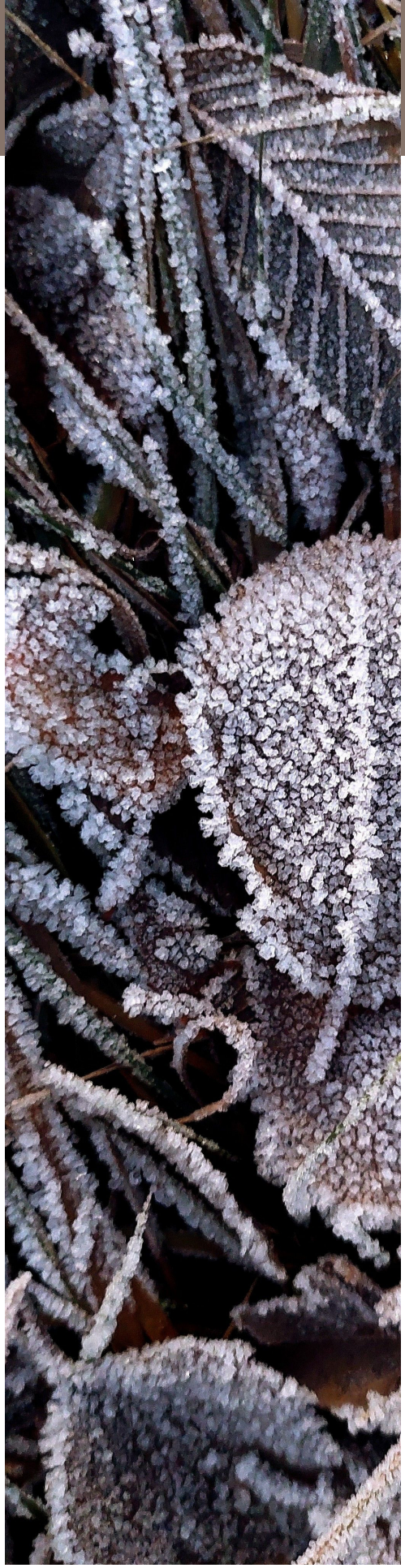
Class 2, 3, and 4 families are each asked to bring 1 or 2 dozen cookies (nut-free and free from artificial food colourings) for the Cookie Cave ~ a wondrous nook where fresh baked cookies float before your very eyes. Please package them individually in small clear plastic bags with colour-coded ribbons on them to indicate the following:

- White- regular
- Green- vegan
- Blue- gluten free

Class 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 families - if each family could bring one or two dishes for the Cozy Café it would go a long way! Savory items are recommended but everything yummy is welcome!

Items will be collected the week prior to Winter Fair (in marked bins outside the office), except for Café items, which we ask to have dropped off on Friday, November 27th or the morning of November 28th.

Thank you for helping us create a wonderful event!
The Fairs Committee



Candlelight Market

Looking for a chance to visit our local vendors before the Winter Fair and perhaps do some shopping without any little eyes watching? **Interested in pre-purchasing both admission and activity tokens to skip the line for the fair the next day?** Join us at the candle light market!

When: Friday, November 27th | 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Admission: $2 (Adults only; babes in arms welcome)
Perks: Complimentary tea and decaffeinated coffee provided

Winter Fair Vendors Needed!

Our beloved Winter Fair and Candlelight Market is a bustling holiday event, drawing in shoppers looking for the perfect holiday gifts. If you or someone you know wants to secure a vendor spot, we would love to have you!

How to Apply: Contact fairs@thewise.ca for more information and to reserve your table.

Concert Update

We are pleased to announce we will be hosting two concerts this year:

Concert One: for Grades 1 & 2 only on Wednesday, December 9th, 3:35-4:15 in the Gymnasium following school. Only parents and immediate family members such as siblings may attend.

Concert Two: for Grades 3-9 on Friday, December 11th, at First Presbyterian Church.

Students will have a dress rehearsal at the school during the day, and then will have a staggered call time at the church for a quick practice at the venue (more details to come).

Tickets are $10, which cover the cost of the venue.

Concert dress for Grades 3-5 is whatever makes students feel like their best selves - please refer to dress guidelines if you are unsure.

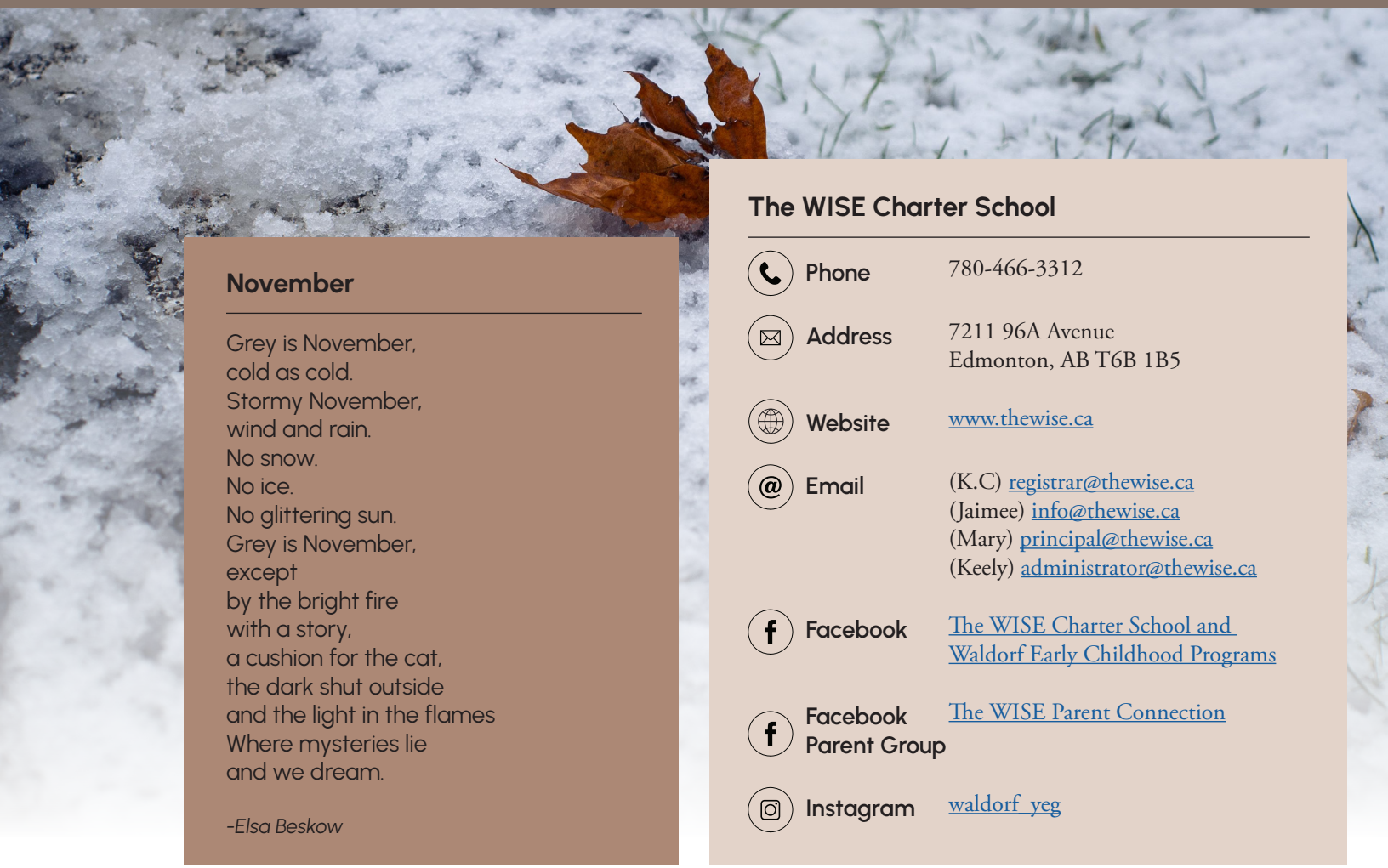
Concert dress for Grades 6-9 is Concert Black (all black) with 1 pop of colour if desired (such as a scarf, necklace, hat, tie...etc).



Message from the Principal

As the air starts to chill and ice appears on the ground, another kind of frostiness emerges in this final phase of fall. The presence of coldness is apt to sharpen our communication as we tense up in more frigid and bitter temperatures. Aware of the looming darkness ahead, a sense of haste emerges as we quicken to complete our tasks during the final warm days of the year. It's as though our tempers flare in an effort to provide internal warmth, which in turn develops impatience. Yet, as the earth takes its final inhale (where it will be held in the coming winter months), we have the potential to ignite an inner light. Just as the candles within carved pumpkins lit your path at the Pumpkin Walk, and jars in held hands lead the Lantern Walk, we too can spark the flame of insight within ourselves, which will cast a warmth of inner stillness, also known as patience.

Mary Conrod



November

Grey is November,
cold as cold.
Stormy November,
wind and rain.
No snow.
No ice.
No glittering sun.
Grey is November,
except
by the bright fire
with a story,
a cushion for the cat,
the dark shut outside
and the light in the flames
Where mysteries lie
and we dream.

-Elsa Beskow

The WISE Charter School

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Facebook Parent Group	The WISE Parent Connection
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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