



the WISE connection

Issue 1

September 2017

From the WISE Office

Dear WISE Families,

As Waldorf parents we know that summer is a treasured time. It's where we gear down and make room for unstructured play, nature, and time with our family and friends. Feeling the days grow shorter and more golden signals a change back to our familiar rhythm of school and work. While returning to school can be an exciting time, the adjustment for our families is sometimes stressful. Our sincerest wish for you is that the transition from the wild brightness of summer to the industrious work of Autumn be both joyful and gentle.

We have updated our newsletter format and you can expect monthly communication from WISE, delivered right to your inbox. Let us know what you think! You can email: communication@wese.ca with your feedback and suggestions.

Please be sure to complete all the requisite forms and permission slips for your child by the first day of school. These forms include the Unattended Release Form, Walking Field Trip Form and Attended Release Form. Copies will be distributed at the upcoming **mandatory** Parent Orientation night. Completed forms can be submitted to your child's Class Teacher.

Please take extra care during drop off and pick up times. We would like to remind all parents and guardians to drive slowly in the school parking lot and adjacent roads. Also, we should remind all of our children to cross the road safely or with the help of a sibling or adult. We greatly appreciate your support in keeping our arrival and departure areas safe for everyone.

We look forward to seeing all of your shining faces and marveling at just how much the children have grown.

With warmth and gratitude,

The WISE Admin Team 🌱

Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton (WISE)

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780.466.3312

 **Address:**
7211 96A Ave Edmonton AB T6B 1B5

 **Website:**
www.thewise.ca

 **Email:**
(Christiane) info@thewise.ca
(Keely) administrator@thewise.ca
(Jacquie) volunteer@thewise.ca

 **WISE Facebook Page:**
[Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton](https://www.facebook.com/WaldorfIndependentSchoolofEdmonton)

Facebook Parent Group:
[The WISE Parent Connection](#)

(Please contact communication@wese.ca to join our Facebook parent group)

Enchanted Garden Store Hours:

Monday: 2:50 - 3:15 pm

Wednesday/Thursday: 8:30 - 9:30 am

Or by appt: store@thewise.ca

Important Dates:

Sep 5 First Day of School

Sep 5 Rose Ceremony

Sep 11 Bulk order / Fundscrip starts

Sep 13 First day of Nursery

Sep 17 Bulk order / Fundscrip ends

Sep 19 Nursery / Kinder Toy Clean

Sep 22 Parent Night (Sports & Waldorf)

Sep 22 Bulk order pickup

Sep 25 PD Day. No school

Sep 29 Michaelmas Celebration

Oct 9 Thanksgiving. No school

Oct 9 Bulk order / Fundscrip starts

Oct 14 Work Bee

Oct 15 Bulk order ends / Fundscrip ends

Oct 16 Nursery / Kinder Toy Clean

Oct 20 Bulk order pickup

Oct 20 English Country Dance Night

Oct 28 Pumpkin Walk

Parent Coffee every Wed 8:30 am - 9:15 am in the WISE Gym



Office Note

Should your child will be absent from school please let us know by 8:30 am. You can do this by emailing: absences@thewise.ca, or by phone at 780-466-3312. If we haven't heard from you by 8:45 am and your child is missing from class, we will call to ensure your child is well. If you have to pick up your child during school hours, please sign your child out at the office. 🌱



Growing WISE

We'd like to thank all of last year's generous donors that contributed to our 2016/17 'Growing WISE' capital fundraising campaign. We received \$152,597.83 of the \$300,000.00 needed for our current building down payment. Once we own this building, our monthly rent will be nearly cut in half, freeing up a significant amount of money for our needs. 🌱

Community Building

Parent Coffee Hour

Looking for great ways to connect with other parents? Or learn about what is happening at the school? Or just want somewhere to spend a few moments sharing a laugh? Wednesday morning parent (and family) coffee is just the place! Join us in the gymnasium once a week just after morning drop off - we try to have the coffee ready by 8:30 am. 🌱



English Country Dance Night

No partner required. No dance experience necessary. Childcare available on site for \$5 per child.

Learn and enjoy a spot of old-fashioned English Country Dance, as seen in your favourite British costume dramas, with live music, tea and scones. Hosted by Melanie Kerr, of the Pride and Prejudice Ball. All are welcome.

Admission is \$20 drop-in. Cash and Credit Card accepted.

All proceeds to the Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton
Dress Code: Casual 🌱



Nursery/Kinder Toy Clean

Toy Clean nights will be held monthly in the Nursery and Kindergarten rooms. It is important that the toys are regularly cleaned to help stop the spread of germs and keep our little ones healthy. Keep an eye out for the sign up opportunities throughout the year. 🌱



Parent Night: Sports & Waldorf

On September 22, Jack Petrash, a respected authority on Waldorf Education and author of *Covering Home: Lessons on the Art of Fathering from the Game of Baseball*, will be presenting a lecture for parents with respect to sports in Waldorf Schools. There are many misconceptions surrounding the appropriateness of competitive and informal sports in Waldorf Schools, and Jack is the perfect person to clarify this often controversial topic. 🌱

WISE Events

Rose Ceremony

We will begin our school year with a Rose Ceremony welcoming our new Class One students, as they rise from Kinder and into the grades.

While it is not mandatory to attend, all parents and siblings of class one are welcome to join us for this special time.

Below are some details for your reference:

8:25 am – Class teachers will ring their bells and gather their students
8:40 am – Rose Ceremony begins

** Parents and children can gather by the outdoor playground. The ceremony should take 15-20 minutes. Parents are welcome to take photographs after the ceremony* 🌱*



Michaelmas Event

The School's festival round of the year begins with Michaelmas on Friday, September 29th!

Michael beckons us to find the spirit to come alive through the dying year. The flashing meteor showers are said to be the sword he wields for us; each falling star is made of iron – the iron we need to strengthen the resolution of the heart. The seed thoughts of the summer can be harvested now as deeds – to find their place in the world among the people, to generate a life of their own that goes on into the future.

At WISE, we will celebrate Michaelmas by gathering at 1:55pm on Friday, September 29th in the gymnasium. After a

short assembly, the grades children will go back to their classes and a group of parent volunteers will help set up an obstacle course. Shortly, the children will emerge outside, to ask for courage for something in their lives, and to run the obstacle course.

Every grades class will require dragon bread and red juice (no food colouring please), so please contact your class rep if you are interested in baking/providing.

Please email pam@thewise.ca if you would like to help set up the obstacle course or be a fire-tender. 🌱



Community Building Continued

The Enchanted Garden

The Enchanted Garden carries a beautiful selection of natural Waldorf toys, such as Ostheimer, Sara's Silks, and Grimms. We have a great selection of Waldorf art & craft supplies. Whether it's for watercolour painting, colouring, or bringing vibrant window stars into your home, we have the supplies. Our wide range of books are for the young and old alike. Simple Sweet board books for little readers, age appropriate picture books and novels for the bigger kids, or Waldorf and Anthroposophic books for adults. We also carry a small line of Uriel, which is anthroposophic bath and body care as well as homeopathic starter kits.

All Profits from the store go straight to fundraising for our growing school. We know these quality goods usually come with a higher price which is why we keep our mark up very low. It gives families an opportunity to get some harder to find, and specialty items for a very reasonable price. If you are wanting to bring a little more Waldorf into your home or looking for unique quality gift ideas, then come check out what our store has in stock.

For more information, please contact **Kellie Menard** at store@thewise.ca.

FundScrip

Canada's Leading Gift Card Fundraiser. FundScrip is a respected, Canada-wide fundraising program in which charities and non-profit groups (in other words, you!) are encouraged to pay for shopping (groceries, gas, home & garden, entertainment, restaurants) with gift cards bought from FundScrip.

How does it work?

It's dead simple. When you buy a gift card for \$100, you get to spend that \$100 at the retailer of your choice.

There are over 190 retailers in Canada to choose from, so you can continue to shop at exactly the same stores you usually shop at.

So, if you normally shop at Esso, you can buy a re-fillable FundScrip gift card for Esso. You buy the gift card for \$100 for gas and you spend that exact same \$100 on the gas you'd be buying anyways.

Same goes for Safeway, Canadian Tire, Staples, The Bay - to name a few. Please check out <http://www.fundscrip.com/> retailers for retailer list.

What does this actually mean?

Each time you buy something with your FundScrip card, you automatically donate to The WISE. Other than buying the gift

card, there is no extra effort on your part to raise money for the school. Period.

What's the benefit to me?

We are hoping that, if this campaign is successful, there will be [almost] no other forms of small fundraising asked of you this year. Everyone wins!

There will be something on the list which you and your extended families and friends will find legitimately useful. We promise.

You can pay by cash or cheque (no credit or debit) at our monthly bulk order pick-up. Please email fundscrip@wese.ca to place your orders.

Horizon Bulk Order

Great deals, healthy organic options and a great way to support our school all wrapped into two words - Bulk Order! Everything from spices to school snacks to laundry detergent. Your friends and family are also welcome to participate and the first order of the year is coming soon.

Place your order at:

<https://foodclub.org/wise/login>

If you don't have an account, use that same link and request to have one created, we'd love to have you!

Our bulk order window is from the designated Monday, one week before the pickup, to Sunday. Pick-up is the following Friday, between 3:00-4:30, at the school gym.

Please check our yearly and monthly calendar for bulk order pick up dates.

If you have any questions please email bulkorders@thewise.ca

Happy shopping!

Committees

Board and Committee Development

boarddevelopment@wese.ca

committeedevelopment@wese.ca

The Board and Committee Development Committee was created two years ago to support the growth and governance of The WISE school and the WESE committees. We research and provide the WESE board members with training opportunities, Waldorf related study materials, board orientation and recruitment of new members. We host the Annual General Meeting (AGM for WESE) as well as support events such as the quarterly combined board and staff meetings. We also analyze our committee structure and support their organization, recognition and recruitment. This committee requires strategizing and visioning with key working members of our school and community and looks at the WISE and WESE with a broad perspective. If you have a passion for governance, visioning, analyzing and 'the big picture', this might be the perfect committee for you to join.

Communication

communication@wese.ca

The Communication Committee activities include managing the WISE/WESE website, co-ordination of *The WISE Connection*, managing email accounts and file sharing. We update the WISE website, calendar, and community calendar, as well as committee calendars for WISE staff and WESE board members. We also create posters for community events and cooperate with the enrolment committee to create registration packages and pamphlets.



Community Outreach

community@wese.ca

The Community Outreach committee endeavours to connect with those in our geographical community, the anthroposophical society, and our parent body. We run community teas, as well as support the Open House, Fairs and Gateways committees. We also initiate ways to contribute to our neighbors and outlying community. One example would be asking older grade students to shovel sidewalks for seniors.

Enrolment

enrolment@thewise.ca

The purpose of the Enrolment Committee is to facilitate healthy student registration and enrolment to the The WISE. The Enrolment Committee works closely with the faculty, administrative team, pedagogical advisors, finance, communication, and growth and development committees. We ensure that Enrolment decisions are handled in a fair manner, with the best interests of the individual students as well as the school as a whole. This is achieved by having delegates from the faculty, administrative team, board, registrar and finance committee. We manage new and continuing registrations and tuition contribution changes while remaining in alignment with our mission and vision of accessible tuition.



Finance

treasurer@wese.ca

The Finance Committee manages the financial and spending budgets (including grants and casino funds) of the WESE, and the WISE.

We do fiscal financial reporting to Canada Revenue, Alberta Education and the Alberta Game and Liquor Commission. We approve and file yearly tax returns and oversee the Auditor and Bookkeeper/Accountant. We create the yearly budget for spending and growth. 🌱

Fundraising

fundraising@wese.ca

The Fundraising Committee seeks ways to raise funds to support the operation and initiatives of the WISE and WESE organizations. We oversee community-led fundraising, and major gift and grant fundraising which is our primary focus moving forward. We are currently shifting our focus from predominantly smaller fundraising efforts, common to many schools and charitable organizations, to a farther reaching and consistent flow of support, easing the strain and drain on our community. We have a variety of positions, big and small; independent and group work opportunities available. If you are passionate about the future of our school and want to be a part of this initiative and assist in reshaping how we raise funds, please connect with us. 🌱

Human Resources

hr@thewise.ca

The Human Resources (HR) Committee is composed of a balance of Board, Faculty and Administrative team members. This committee meets weekly to review and manage the tasks of the committee and work on action items between meetings. With over 25 paid staff members, this is a very active and busy committee. The HR committee hires, writes contracts, reviews and dismisses, as required. This committee assists in mediations and disciplinary action as required. 🌱

Parent Partnership and Volunteer

parentpartnership@wese.ca
volunteer@thewise.ca

The evolving Parent Partnership committee strives to be ambassadors of clarity and communication between all facets of the WISE and WESE community, including WISE parents and staff, and WESE board members. We strive to nurture relationships between all members of our community so that we may grow stronger as we use our resources in the most effective ways possible.

Our school relies heavily on the dedication of our volunteers which allows us the freedom to provide Waldorf education with accessible tuition rates. In order to align with this mission, we are weaving together a team of class reps and co-ordinators to clearly identify volunteer opportunities throughout the year and spread the work among the whole community. 🌱

Policy

policy@wese.ca

The mandate of the WESE Policy Committee is to establish and update policy and procedure directives for the many and varied aspects of school governance.

Such policies include administration, child protection, discipline, safety, human resources, finance, evaluation, supervision, transportation and volunteers. All policies must be maintained to reflect changes in government regulations pertaining to human rights, educational standards and health and safety issues.

In addition to our legislative responsibilities, we are also required to meet the standards and policy expectations for AWSNA (Association of Waldorf Schools of North America), and look to our advocacy membership with AISCA (Association of Independent Schools and Colleges of Alberta) to support and update the school on issues that are relevant to the school community.

Our most recently implemented policy, added this February, was to deal with whistle blower procedures. We updated our Home Schooling Policy to meet the new legislative changes in the Alberta Regulations. Our next policy, under review will address media matters.

Policy Development meets monthly and holds the school's values and vision as its guiding principles to serve the children and the community at large. 🌱

Site Development

sitedevelopment@wese.ca

The Site Development committee collaborates with WISE stakeholders to provide adequate space and facilities required by the school and its programs. This involves coordinating the use of existing space and facilities, planning for future requirements and the development of new facilities. The committee works with the maintenance and garden/playground sub-committees and provides leadership and coordination support to these committees as required. 🌱

Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton (WESE)

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 **Email:**
president@wese.ca
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volunteer@wese.ca

 **WESE Facebook Group:**
Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton



Waldorf Education
Society of Edmonton

Special Thanks

We would like to thank Jane Huang for your dedication and persistence in getting our WISE Connection launched for this school term. Your vision has come to life and it is beautiful, thoughtful and appreciated. Your time on the Communication Committee and Committee Development team have brought excitement, action and we could not have gotten this far without you! Thank you for being on top of the long to-do lists and getting them done with grace.

Thank you to Holly Boisvert, our lovely graphic designer, who has been patient and hard working for months on our new monthly newsletter, posters and the school calendars which are beautiful and enormously helpful and appreciated.

Thank you to the new editing team: Elisabeth, Margot, and Tamarah, for taking on this work! 🍀

From WESE President

Dear WISE Families,

Welcome to the 2017-18 school year! My name is Eva and I am pleased to fill the role of interim president for the Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton Board of directors. I am excited about the upcoming school term and all of fun and challenges that come with each new year. I am honored to serve with some of the most caring and dedicated people that I have had the privilege to work with since joining the board a few years ago. I often reflect upon our WISE community and the commitment given that allows us to provide Waldorf Education in Edmonton and I feel very proud to be part of that.

I really think we are going to have an awesome year! There has been so much behind the scenes work happening related to building the internal structures, collaborating and seeking out the talents of our community to fill all of the many, many volunteer jobs that are needed to have a successful year. I welcome you all to contact me or a committee of choice to lend your time. It is incredibly rewarding, sincerely appreciated and community building. It also sets an example for all of our children on how we much we care for each other.

To give you a feel for who I am and what I am passionate about: In my pre-parent life I have an extensive background in management, building systems for business from scratch, contracts, estimating and team building. It is so important to make it easy for people to come together and serve joyfully, to provide an environment and culture that helps us all become better people. I am also very analytical which helps me to look at the big picture and often avoid unnecessary set backs using prevention and communication. I left my career early due to some medical issues, which lead me into the health industry and now I enjoy part time consulting while raising my children.

To be honest, I accepted the position of President because I felt called to help build the structure, clarity, to foster open communication, and provide a sense of transparency where it can sometimes be difficult and complicated. I will do my best to facilitate this. We are a unique group of people. We care deeply about educating our children differently. As Jack Petrash said at teacher training a few weeks ago, "I believe Waldorf Education is designed to develop divergent thinking." Growing thoughtful, well-rounded people who will, in my opinion, literally change society for the better. By learning how to collaborate and foster meaningful relationships, we can repel the all too common isolation and avoidance happening in everyday life. And for some of us, it is a lesson we are still trying to learn as adults. We want better for our children. By coming together at The WISE, we are building an environment for our children to live, grow and be safe in. I am so grateful to be a part of this with you all.

Thank you for your support and for your contributions.

With gratitude,
Eva Niven. 🍀

We encourage your comments, suggestions, and submissions to communication@wese.ca.

The deadline is the first of the month. Anything after the deadline will be considered for the following month. All submissions are subject to editing and approval.