

From the WISE Office

Dear WISE Families,

And just like that, winter is upon us! It is such a pleasure to watch the children celebrate the snow and cold weather from the warmth and shelter of their woolens.

As we enter the darkest days of the year, we will celebrate our inner light with a number of festivals and celebrations. Our children will participate in an Advent Spiral and Winter Concert to share with our community the joy and reverence of the upcoming holidays.

We wish you the most joyful celebrations over the Winter Break.

With gratitude and blessings over this year and next,
The WISE Admin Team 🌱



Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton (WISE)



Phone:
780.466.3312



Address:
7211 96A Ave Edmonton AB T6B 1B5



Website:
www.thewise.ca



Email:
(Christiane) info@thewise.ca
(K.C.) registrar@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:

Dec 1 Winter Fair Set Up, No School

Dec 1 Candlelight Market

Dec 2 Winter Fair

Dec 4 Second Week of Advent

Dec 4 Last Day of Rosebuds

Dec 5 Last Day of Daisies and Marigolds

Dec 7 Last Day of Bluebells

Dec 11 Third Week of Advent

Dec 15 Winter Concert

Dec 18 Fourth Week of Advent

Dec 22 Last Day of School, Noon Dismissal for Grades

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

Jan 8 First Day of School, Kindergarten and Grades

Jan 8 Bulk and Fundscrip Orders Start

Jan 10 First Day of Nursery

Jan 12 Epiphany Assembly

Jan 12 Dance Night

Jan 14 Bulk and Fundscrip Orders End

Jan 15 Rosebuds Begins

Jan 16 Daisies and Marigolds Begin

Jan 18 Bluebells Begins

Jan 19 Bulk and Fundscrip Order Pick Up

Jan 19 Volunteer Appreciation Night

Jan 26 Mid Winter Assembly

Jan 29 PD Day, No School

Jan 30 Middle School Open House



Office Notes

WISE Winter Break

Monday December 25th - January 5th

We will be closed for all programming during this time. 🌱



Meet Our Classroom Teachers



John Sanders
Class 1 Teacher

My name is John David Sanders. I was born in a small town, High Prairie, in northern Alberta, but I spent my summers playing in the waters of Lesser Slave Lake. Living in the north allowed me to spend my childhood outdoors. Tobogganing in the winters, building forts in the spring, and building sand castles, swimming, and sitting around campfires in the summer.

I moved to the city of Edmonton when I was eighteen years old. I attended the University of Alberta where I received my Bachelor of Education degree. My degree has allowed me to pursue two of my many passions. One is education. Working with students and watching their excitement as they start to understand something in a new way, or learn a concept they had never been exposed to before, is a very satisfying feeling. My other passion is travel. Working in the field of education has allowed me to work for private English as a Second Language schools in South Korea, a New Brunswick/Chinese joint venture school in Beijing, and two American based international schools in Myanmar. I had in fact accepted a teaching position in Turkey and had planned to be there by August. However, when the opportunity to work at a Waldorf school came along I could not pass it up.

Working within the Waldorf values of harmony for the whole child, age appropriate lesson plans, and a focus on storytelling and the use of art to learn fit deeply into my person values. I am so grateful for the privilege of working with your children. I look forward to the year ahead. 🌱



Sarah Olsen
PM Kindergarten Teacher

My name is Miss Sarah and I am the afternoon Kindergarten Teacher. This will be my first year teaching at the WISE, and the first time I get to call a classroom my own. I could not be more excited to be on this journey full of adventures, imagination and growth with this school!

I have a combined Bachelor of Fine Arts/ Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Lethbridge where I graduated in 2015. After graduation, I decided to take a giant leap to start my career substitute teaching in London, England. During that time, my favourite calls were always the ones to teach Kindergarten. I love their sense of imagination and wonder of the world at this age. When I returned to Alberta in 2016, I decided to make Edmonton my new home as I found an arts studio to teach at here, as well as an in-school field trip company to present programs to elementary children.

I grew up in Ponoka, Alberta and I love to go back and visit my family there often. In my own time I love to paint, craft, travel and hang out with my puppy Hank. I'm looking forward to this year at the WISE and am so thankful for this opportunity to work at this amazing school. I am amazed each and every day at the warmth and love I feel here with the children and faculty. 🌱

Winter Concert

Dear WISE families,

Please join us for our Winter Concert on Friday December 15th, at 6:30pm. You will see performances from all Classes, 1 through to 8. The children are excited to share the gift of music with you! Choir, Recorder and Ukulele pieces will delight your ears.

The Winter Concert cost is by donation, with all funds raised going toward the music program (maintenance and repair of instruments). Stay tuned for information on our concert raffle, to win seats in the first and second rows!

Yours sincerely,

Kirsten Elliott
Music Enrichment & Band Director at the WISE 🌱

Winter Fair

The Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton is excited to invite you to their 12th Annual Waldorf Winter Fair. A wonderful family event that can be enjoyed by all.

Vendor Village - Unique items from Local Vendors!

- Wooden and felt toys
- Natural craft items
- Waldorf/parenting books
- Hand-crafted Jewelry
- ... and so much more!

Children's Activities:

- Fishing Hole
- Cookie Cave
- Children's Secret Store
- Storytelling Woodland
- Candle-Dipping
- Handcrafts
- Maple-Taffy Making

Also, live music, cozy cafe and an outdoor fire. A wonderful event for the whole family!
Admissions: \$4 per adult, most activities \$2 each

Please help make the magic by signing up to volunteer here <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4ba8aa2ea1fa7-20171>. 🌱

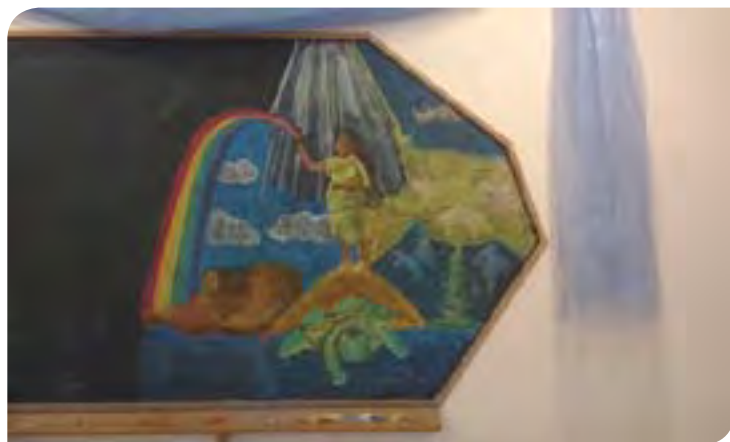
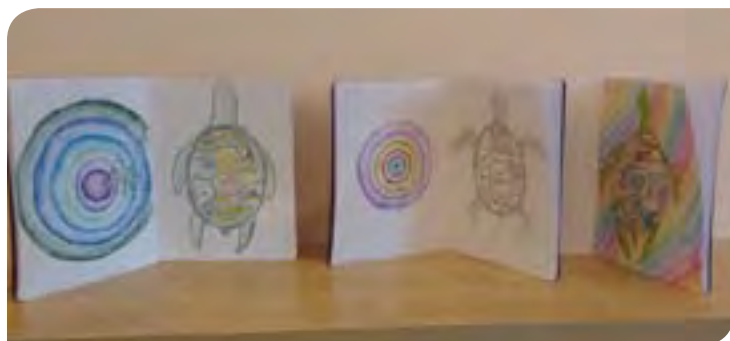


Highlight of the Class

Class 5

Mary Conrad (Class 5 Teacher)

Class 5 delved deep into the geography of Canada, studying not only the physical region of each province and territory but the original inhabitants of the land as well. Students studied the 3 groups of Indigenous peoples and made graphs to represent the dispersal of their population in the country. They also identified the numbered treaties throughout Kanata ("land of villages") and discovered the Aboriginal names of some regions, along with their translations. To complement this main lesson block, students also painted geographical regions and created artistic images based on the Canadian Inuit artist Kenojuak Ashevak. They also painted animal totems using the colors black, red, white and yellow and made soap carvings. Pictured here are some examples of a form drawing students were asked to make, which is of a turtle with 13 hexagons on its back, to represent each province and territory. The turtle is based on the story Sky Woman, which inspired a chalkboard drawing, also pictured here. The students were told many stories from multiple cultures as well as biographies, most notably that of Shanawdithit, the last known Beothuk. 🌱



Music Program

Kirsten Elliott (Music Enrichment and Band Director)

The Music Program at the WISE is now in full swing! Class 1 students are learning some lovely seasonal songs, and are almost ready to be introduced to their pentatonic flutes. Class 2 has been working on seasonal songs, musical games, and they are practicing their pentatonic flutes as well. They are enjoying their songs very much, and love to put actions to them. Class 3 received their ukuleles a few weeks ago and they are loving this new challenge! They are now practicing pieces where half the class plays ukulele, and half the class plays (diatonic) recorder. They sound wonderful! Class 4 are also enjoying their ukuleles, and are learning new chords in every class. Some of them are already making up their own tunes. In addition they are a wonderful choir, and they sound beautiful playing rounds on their recorders. Class 5 and 6 are enjoying both ukulele, and band. They are taking on the challenge of learning these new instruments with determination, joy, and excitement, and they are making good progress as an ensemble. Also- what a choir! The Class 7 and 8 sing beautifully, and enjoy the accompaniment of ukulele to their pieces. These students are also making great strides already as an ensemble, and it is exciting to hear the progress they are making on their band instruments!

Please come to the WISE Winter Concert, on December 15th at 6:30pm, to take in music from all of the Classes, 1 through 8. More details to come...you won't want to miss it! 🌱

Community Building

Note from Gudrun von Selzam

Thank you to all of you, my WISE school community, for inviting me back into your midst this summer and fall. I really enjoyed my time working with you and your children, as well as seeing the amazing ongoing progress, development, commitment, and love that goes into this big project.

I am also very happy that I was invited to give our school walls some more life and colour.

Wishing you the best and a peaceful winter season.

Gudrun von Selzam 🌱



Uriel Body and Health

Need a great gift idea? We are excited to sell Uriel body and healthcare products in the office.

Derived from mostly biodynamically and organically grown plants, Uriel body and healthcare products are produced according to antroposophic principles.

Besides body care products, we carry First Aid antroposophic medicine and cold relief, travel and goddess gift sets.

Christiane will be happy to assist you. Our special this month is Uriel Silk Lip Balm for \$5. 🌱



Pumpkin Walk

Thank you to the volunteers who participated in the Pumpkin Walk 🌱




Annual General Meeting

Thank you to those that were able to attend the Annual General Meeting. Here is the following WESE Board of Directors slate for the 2017/18 term:


President: Eva Niven
Vice President 1: Rafael Bustamante
Vice President 2: Jane Huang
Treasurer: Vanessa Bodnar
Secretary: Jacquie Yuzwenko
Executive Director: Netta Johnson
Executive Director: Tim Burnham
Director: Greg Moore
Director: Eoin Murray
Director: Aimie Michaud-Chabot
Director: Tara Rout
Member-at-Large: Merry Yoon
Member-at-Large: Sahana Parameswara


Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton (WESE)

 **Phone:**
780.466.3312

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

 **Website:**
www.wese.ca

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

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



Waldorf Education
Society of Edmonton



Julie Yerex has served on the WESE board for the last 8 years, helping to transform our non-profit board into the operator of a full-fledged Waldorf school. During that period, her work, commitment, judgment, and support were pivotal to the growth and success of our school. Julie began by developing our school store and then turned her focus to supporting the growth of our fledgling community. Julie facilitated Handwork evenings in the school, where new parents could come and get to know each other. She also was pivotal in organizing group trips to the Calgary Gateways conferences, which saw 20-30 staff/parents traveling to Calgary together in 2011-14. Julie spearheaded the creation of our own Edmonton Gateway conference in 2013, which has greatly enhanced the community life of our school. Julie has been a part of all major decisions of the school since she joined the board, consistently supporting and guiding the work of the board and the board executive. Leaving the board, Julie continues her community work on Gateways and via the Festivals committee! Our heartfelt thanks to Julie for all her incredible work on the WESE board. 🌱



Keely was one of the founding members of WESE, and has worked tirelessly to develop our Society, seeing it through the different phases; from a small group of parents in 2002 to the multifaceted organization it is now. Over the years, Keely has held various positions on the executive, including President and Vice-President; tackling yearly challenges with an incredible mix of strength, patience, and insight. Keely helped to create our basic board structure and helped organize and facilitate our very first festival celebrations. Keely also lead WESE's first study group, helping us delve into anthroposophy and Waldorf pedagogy as we planned for the future. Keely has worked on the board and in the office, and she retires from the board to continue her current work as WISE's Executive Administrator. Our immense gratitude to Keely for her work on so many projects and her support of so many aspects of WESE/ WISE's growth. 🌱

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.