

From the WISE Office

Dear WISE Families,

This winter of ours has been rife with extreme temperatures, from the warmest to the coldest of days. With this in mind we are called to adapt and be prepared for any weather. Please ensure that your children are prepared for the day with warm outerwear, mittens and hats to enjoy being outside. If the weather is too inclement we welcome children inside and will post notices on our doors advising parents.

Though Spring is still a way off, we are looking ahead to the 2018-19 school year, and we are busy preparing for the Enrolment season at WISE. Families in Grades 1-8 can expect to receive re-registration packages in February and Kindergarten families will receive their packages at their Parent Teacher Interviews. Registration for Nursery, Parent & Tot and Home Education will be accepted starting March 3, 2018, at our annual Open House. More information will follow but you are always welcome to speak with us in person if you have any questions.

Have a wonderful and well earned winter break this month. These times of rest and rejuvenation are so important for our families and children.

Warm winter blessings,

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:

- | | |
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| Feb 2 Candlemas (K-Grades) | Mar 3 Open House, K-Grade 6 |
| Feb 5 Bulk Order / Fundscrip Open | Mar 5 Bulk Order / Fundscrip Open |
| Feb 11 Bulk Order / Fundscrip Close | Mar 11 Bulk Order / Fundscrip Close |
| Feb 16 Bulk Order / Fundscrip Pick Up | Mar 12 Rosebuds Ends |
| Feb 19-23 Wise Break, No Classes | Mar 13 Daisies / Marigolds Ends |
| Feb 26-27 Parent Teacher Conferences, No Classes | Mar 15 Bluebells Ends |
| | Mar 16 Bulk Order / Fundscrip Pick Up |
| Parent Coffee every Wednesday at 8:30 am - 9:15 am in the WISE Gym. | Mar 24 Campaign Gala and Silent Auction |
| | Mar 29 Last Day of Term Assembly |
| | Mar 30 Good Friday, No Classes |

Office Notes

WISE Winter Break

Monday, February 19 – Friday, February 23, 2018

We will be closed for all programming during this time, including Home School Arts Enrichment, Parent & Tot, Nursery, Kindergarten and the Grades. 🍀

Parent-Teacher Interviews

Monday, February 26, 2018 & Tuesday, February 27, 2018

The following programming will not run during this time : Kindergarten and Grades.

There is still Homeschool and Parent & Tot during February 26th and 27th. 🍀

February Bulk Order/ Fundscrip

Order Closes : Sunday, February 11, 2018 at 10:00PM

Order Pick Up : Friday, February 16, 2018 between 3:00PM – 4:30PM. 🍀

WISE Events

Candlemas - La Chandeleur (K-Grades)

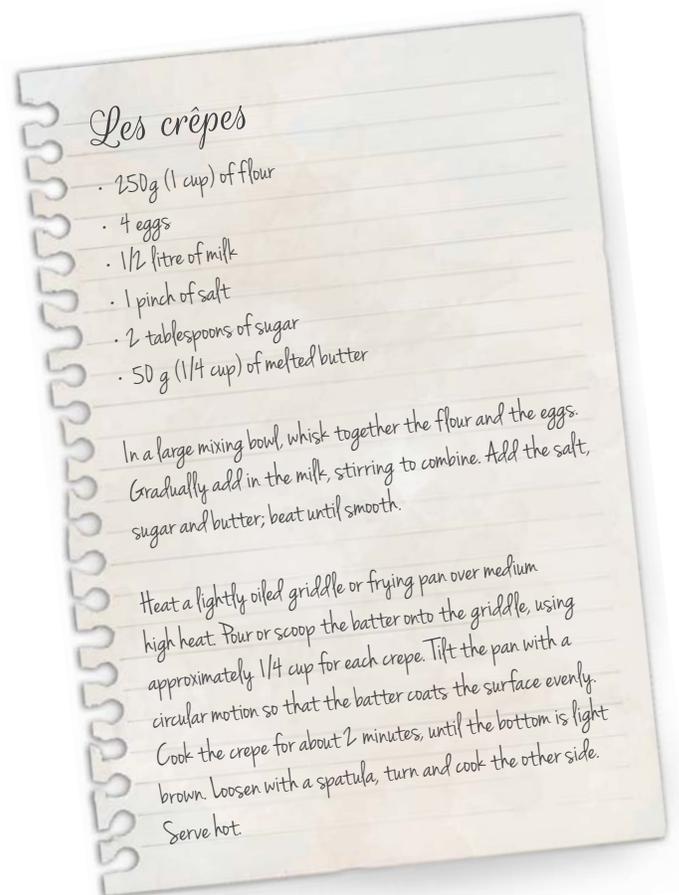
*Candle candle burning bright
Winter's halfway done tonight
With a-glowing we are knowing
Spring will come again*

-Candlemas Verse, Unknown Author

As the festival to Pan gave way to La Chandeleur or Candlemas, so too did torches give way to candles. Les chandelles – tall, tapered candles took on the symbolism of Jesus, bringer of light. Candlelit processions were organized from churches at sunset on **February 2, 2018**. Participants then walked home to the light of their new candle. The family would then feast on crêpes, their round shape evoking the return of the sun after the dark winter. Peasants believed that if they did not eat crêpes at La Chandeleur, their harvest would not be plentiful in the coming year.

This WISE mid-winter celebration of La Chandeleur gives us the opportunity to taste iconic French crêpes and sing French songs and a blessing in the warm comforting glow of candles. It has now become a tradition for Class 5 to host this event in the gym where grades are welcomed one class at a time. Words of welcome, food distribution and blessings are all done using French expressions, giving students an opportunity to use their second language skills in a real-life situation.

Class reps will be contacting parents soon to find volunteers to make crêpes. Each class is expected to supply about 30 crêpes so that all grades students, staff and volunteers can sample a taste of La Chandeleur. Gluten-free crêpes will be available. 🍀



WISE Events cont'd

WISE Parent Evening

A Presentation on Instructional Storytelling

Melina Cartmell & Justine Pavelich

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Narratives and stories have long been an important traditional learning tool in many cultures across the globe, particularly in oral cultures. Learn how Waldorf schools apply storytelling and narratives as a primary mode to deliver curricular content for Elementary and Junior High in a way that meets the needs of the whole child while fostering creativity and imagination alongside current research on the use of narratives for teaching and learning.

Community talk: 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Classroom meetings (Class 3 & 4 only): 7:00 - 8:00 pm



Open House: Kindergarten - Grade 6

Mar 3, 2018 Please join us to for the open house K-Grade 6 on Mar 3, 2018. No registration is required.

Community Building

Volunteer Appreciation Night

Thank you, Jane & Luc, for hosting our Volunteer Appreciation Night in your Rec Room. What a great spot to hang out and have fun! Thank you Aaron, for bringing Karaoke, and Aimie for coordinating drinks and snacks. What a great bunch of people we have at our school! And thank you to all that were able to come eat, drink, swim, sing, play pool and visit together.



Work Bee

Thank-you very much to all those who volunteered at our last maintenance work bee on January 21, 2018. There were approximately 25 people that showed up to help with various projects in the office, classrooms and portables. A work bee is such an important part of our school's life as it provides much needed maintenance but more importantly models hard work and commitment to our children. Fixing things and improving the aesthetic of the school also helps take some of the burden off our teachers that work so hard each and every week. There were so many projects completed and at the end of the day it was impressive to take stock of what had been accomplished. Thank-you again to our dedicated volunteers. For those that were unable to come our next work bee is planned for April 14, 2018. See you then! 🌱



First Aid with Homeopathy and Natural Remedies for Dogs

February 10th 3-5 pm



What do you do in a First Aid situation with your dog, before you reach a veterinarian? Learn how to effectively use gentle homeopathic and natural remedies for Canine First Aid.

This workshop is an introduction to essential remedies. It will not cover veterinary procedures.

Christiane Benoit has a diploma in Homeopathy (BIH Canada/United Kingdom) and a veterinary assistant certificate (Tierärztekammer Hamburg, Germany.) She started training GSD's in 1978 and treats all her dogs with homeopathy and herbs since 1990 (she does vaccinate her dogs though.) She also trains and breeds working Standard Wire-Haired Dachshunds.

Location: the WISE
Costs: \$50 p.p.

50% of the proceeds will be donated to the Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton

Please register by email to: ahornzwinger@gmail.com 🌱

WISE Champagne Gala and Auction- March 24, 2018

Dear WISE Families,

The Gala Committee is excited to announce that our annual Champagne Gala and Auction is quickly approaching. We are asking for your help to deliver a fun and profitable fundraiser.

Each year the WISE holds a Gala and Auction. This year, the Gala will be held on March 24, 2018, at a beautiful new location. We will have a fresh new schedule of events and entertainment, which will include a lively auction and social.

After years of renting space for our school, the WISE is preparing to purchase our building and is in the final stages of fundraising for the down-payment. Supporting us in this venture will make a difference to more than 300 students and their families. Please consider this request to donate to the event.

Ways that you can help:

- Purchasing tickets for yourselves and inviting people outside of our circle to buy tickets and attend (we have limited tickets and tickets will not be available at the door.)
- Donating quality silent and live auction items (please email gala@wese.ca for ideas.)
- If you have a business, or know of one, that may contribute to sponsorship, please email gala@wese.ca for the corporate sponsorship package.
- Contribute items to your class 'themed' raffle basket (more info below and will also come from your class rep.)
- Buying raffle tickets and selling to your friends and family.

Please stop by the WISE gymnasium to drop off your auction donation items. We will be accepting donations beginning on January 30th, and then Tuesdays/Thursdays from 3:00-3:30 pm and Wednesdays from 8:30-9:15 am.

As each donation requires paperwork and proper storage, please drop off donations during one of the scheduled times, or email gala@wese.ca to arrange another time to drop off your generous donations.

We are requesting that each class work together to gather items for a theme basket. The theme will be presented to you by your parent rep, so please watch for further details. The deadline for bringing the items for the class theme basket is March 2, so you have plenty of time to work your magic! The items will be collected for the basket and then the baskets will be assembled offsite. Please email gala@wese.ca if you would like to make arrangement to drop of donations outside of the scheduled times.

For more information about this event, donations and volunteer opportunities, please contact us at gala@wese.ca 🍀

Warmly,
The Gala Committee



Highlight of the Class

Class 3

Melina Cartmell

Class Three enjoyed their shelter project celebration this month. This project is a huge milestone and was such a success.

This is the first project where students began to truly apply the process of reading to learn rather than just learning to read. They also learned how to form a report. They loved getting hands on, designing and building with a variety of materials, with the aim of recapitulating the process of building a true model on a much smaller scale,

On a deeper level, students explored how the world sustains us. At this time in a child's development, they begin to develop a sense of independence. They discover that the earth provides the materials we need to survive, not only with the food we eat, but also with protection from the elements, such as snow, grasses, trees and the earth itself. 🌱



Highlight of the Class cont'd

Class 6

Jessica Sykes

The grade sixes last main lesson block of 2017 revolved around Economics. A specific focus on Business Math gave students a sense of numbers being applied in the context of the real world. Students thoroughly enjoyed the real-life application and linear quality to this block. Just as the Romans were judicial and practical in their nature, so the sixth grader wants math to be rooted in real life. Money, therefore, becomes interesting from a mathematical perspective as they learn about interest, profit, commission, tax and sales. As a class, we spent time becoming very adept at converting between fractions, percents, and decimals.

Currently, our Roman Empire Block focuses on the rise of dictatorships and the impacts of Roman expansion. This block offers students a biographical study of key figures within the Empire, while creating a space to contrast other groups varying perspectives of the world, ethics, and power. Once again, independent compositions, maps, and drawings form the students' main lesson books, all which emerge from the biographies and innovations from the practical aspects of Roman life and government. 🌱



Meet the School Board

Director Tara Rout



Tara studied linguistics, English and theatre at the University of British Columbia and law at the University of Alberta. Tara is a reckless lover of clotted cream, a staunch defender of the semicolon and a fierce opponent of unpleasant music. She wooed her current and only husband with false promises of skill at word games and eternally good hair. She lives in Ritchie, where she raises her three children, sews her own Regency costumes, runs the Pride and Prejudice Ball and the Harry Potter Festival, drinks pretentious coffee, endeavours to take over the world and occasionally practices law.

From AWSNA

Join AWSNA and the ASA for Who Are The Honey Bees? with Alex Tuchman and Gunther Hauk.

When:

Wednesday, January 31
7:30-8:45 pm EST

What:

Discover the relationship of bees to the human being, based on inspirations from Rudolf Steiner and biodynamics.

Find out more about who the honeybees are and how we can relate to them.

Investigate the honeybee hive as a dynamic organism including workers, drones, queen, wax, hive body.

Where:

Join us live on Zoom by registering at this link. Can't join us live? No worries! The webinar will be sent via email to all registrants within 24 hours of the live event.

Who:

Alex Tuchman and Gunther Hauk from **Spikenard Farm Honeybee Sanctuary**.

Looking forward to seeing you online!

Gunther Hauk has been a Waldorf gardening teacher, biodynamic gardener, and beekeeper for over 40 years. In 1996 he co-founded the Pfeiffer Center in Chestnut Ridge, NY and, together with his wife, he founded Spikenard Farm Honeybee Sanctuary in 2006. He has a long career of teaching biodynamics and beekeeping both nationally and internationally. In his book "Toward Saving the Honeybee" he calls for radical changes in beekeeping methods. His work is featured in documentaries "Queen of the Sun", "Vanishing of the Bees" and "Hour of Decision".

Alex Tuchman is a beekeeper, educator, farmer and writer. As the Farm Manager and Co-Director of Spikenard Farm Honeybee Sanctuary, he is responsible for the care and development of the Sanctuary. He has been working with bees for 10 years and came to Spikenard Farm in March of 2014, after working as the manager, farmer & beekeeper of the Student Farm at Loyola University Chicago. His beekeeping and farming experience has been enriched with educational trainings at the Michael Fields Agricultural Institute, the Angelic Organics Learning Center and the Biodynamic Association.



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.

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



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