

# Thea Ramsfield

## Kindergarten Teacher

## Grade 7-9 French Teacher



My name is Thea Ramsfield and it is an honour to be working at the WISE. I have been interested in Waldorf teachings for many years. I was first introduced to Rudolf Steiner's concepts while living in Istanbul (circa 2007), where I met a friend who attended the Monadnock school in Keene, New Hampshire. She was the most well rounded person I had ever met and when I visited her home town, she showed me her old main lesson books and took me to see her school. My mind opened up to a resonance that I did not know was possible and I knew then that I wanted to be a part of the Waldorf world. After that I lived in Québec for 4 years exploring art, language, and life. I dabbled in toy making and took some courses through La Grande Ourse in Montréal (a Waldorf supplies and toy store). As an artist and gardener, I spent those years developing my art practice and becoming acquainted with permaculture, slow living, and biodynamic farming.

After facilitating art workshops and trades with families in various Québécois communities, in 2012, I decided to return back to the prairies to my home in the Waskasoo valley. There, I stepped into a role as an educational assistant for the Red Deer Public Schools. I worked with a wide range of ages and abilities, primarily on a one-on-one basis. I cherish my time as an EA and it was formative in the way I see the world, work with others, and have shaped my personal pedagogy.

A serendipitous thing happened when I came to observe some classes at the WISE in 2013. (I was looking into attending the Sacramento Waldorf teacher training school in California). The kindergarten teacher at the time told me that in order to teach at any Waldorf school in Alberta, I would need to have my conventional teaching degree. Once I had my degree, I could seek out Waldorf-specific training. So, after some reflection, I did that.

I graduated from the University of Alberta in April 2020 with my Bachelor's of Education. My graduation was during the first peak of Covid and I decided that I needed to get my bearings in this modern world before diving into my career. I spent a year after graduation reconnecting with my personal art practice and my love of nature. I feel very blessed to have had the opportunity to slow down, get the puppy I have dreamt of since I was 10, and observe the world around me with a new lens. Taking the time to deeply reflect on the type of educator I want to be has helped to root me in my values. I have both feet on the ground and I have never been more ready.

In October of 2021 when I saw the WISE job postings, I could hardly believe my eyes. I am just so thrilled to be a part of this community. Every step of the way has felt very natural and fluid. I walk towards the sunrise every morning on my way to the school, where I work as the Kindergarten teacher in the mornings and teach grades 7-9 French in the afternoons. I am very much enjoying my roles at the WISE and I look forward to what the future holds.