

the WISE connection

Issue 55 FEBRUARY 2023



From the WISE Office

Dear WISE Families,

Though February can often make the hope of Spring warmth feel far away, we are looking ahead to the 2023-24 school year and are preparing for re-registration and the new registration season at WISE. Word of mouth has been an essential key to promoting our school. If you know of families interested in a Waldorf school experience, please let them know about our Open House on Saturday, March 4th and invite them to sign up for a school tour. If you are interested in what's next for either Elementary or JH programs, the open house is a great way to speak with teachers and learn more about the offerings at the WISE.

From February 10th -16th, the whole school will focus on Random Acts of Kindness and how helping others can bolster our sense of well-being. We hope cultivating this inner warmth will have a positive effect during the "heart" of the cold winter weather. We look forward to the last hurrah for skating, sledding, and outdoor winter activities that enrich students' learning at the WISE. Thank you for helping the students be prepared to be outside with appropriate winter layers, boots, mitts and hats. Have an excellent and well-earned winter break this month. These times of reflection, rest and rejuvenation are pivotal for our students and staff.

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:
(K.C.) registrar@thewise.ca
(Claire) info@thewise.ca
(Melina) principal@thewise.ca
(Keely) administrator@thewise.ca
(Matt) volunteer@thewise.ca



WISE Facebook Page:
[Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton](#)
Facebook Parent Group:
[The WISE Parent Connection](#)



WISE Instagram Page:
[waldorf_independet_yeg](#)

The Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton and the Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton acknowledge that we are uninvited guests on Treaty 6 Territory, a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples including the Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway/Saulteaux/Anishinaabe, Inuit, and many others whose histories, languages and cultures continue to influence our vibrant communities.

Important Dates:

Feb 5 Bulk Order Due
Feb 9 La Chandeleur
Feb 10 Bulk Order Pickup
Feb 13-16 Random Acts of Kindness Week
Feb 17 PD Day, no programming
Feb 20 Family Day, no programming

Feb 21-24 Winter Break, no Programming

Mar 3 No school Kinder, Nursery, 12:20pm dismissal for grades

Mar 4 No Sunflowers
Mar 4 Open House 1-3pm

Mar 5 Bulk Order Closes

Mar 10 Bulk Order Pickup

Important Dates (Cont'd)

Parent Coffee

every Wednesday 8:30am - 9:30am in the WISE Gymnasium. 🌱

Handwork Circle

every Thursday 7:00pm - 10:00pm in the WISE Wondergarden classroom. 🌱



Office Notes

Re-registration

Families in Grades 1-9 will have received their re-registration packages January 30th (they are due back by February 14th) and Kindergarten families will receive their packages from their teachers at the end of February. New registrations for our Kindergarten, Nursery, Parent & Tot and Home Education will be accepted starting March 4, 2023, 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. 🌱



Tax Receipts

Families who made charitable donations to WESE in 2022 can expect to receive a charitable donation receipt mailed out soon. Contributions made through Canada Helps will be sent electronically. Your support makes our programs and growth possible; thank you! 🌱

Bulk Order

The bulk order is back, ready to stock your empty shelves. The order is open now at foodclub.org/wise/, and will close at 10pm on Sunday, January 8th.

Pickup will be between 3:00 - 4:30 pm on Friday, January 13th. 🌱



WISE Events

La Chandeleur

On Thursday, February 9th, students will be invited to the school gym to celebrate La Chandeleur. Following our tradition here at the WISE, Class 5 will be our hosts. All students will be encouraged to speak en français during the celebration.

Students from Kindergarten to Class 9 will play a game, sing songs, prepare a crêpe, recite a verse, practice “merci et s’il vous plaît”, and enjoy eating their crêpe.

This festival began in ancient times as a celebration of lights and as a way to honour the Celtic goddess Brigit. La Chandeleur gets its name from the blessing of the candles 40 days after Christmas. The candles were then traditionally used in churches throughout the year. Early February also marked the start of winter seed-time, meaning surplus flour could then be used without too much risk of shortage. Crêpes were made as a symbol of prosperity for the coming year.



In modern times, La Chandeleur is primarily known as “Crêpes Day”. Various traditions and customs around the making of les crêpes have been kept alive for generations. It is also a time when we look to the hibernating animals to come out and see if it is still winter, and whether or not we will have an early Spring. We can see how Groundhog Day developed, as a secular response to the natural world at this time of year.

Information adapted from: www.vws.ca/candlemas/
<https://frenchmoments.eu/candlemas-in-france-la-chandeleur/> 🌱

WISE OPEN HOUSE

Interested in seeing what the older grades are learning? Want to show your friends and family what our school is all about? Our annual open house is on Saturday, March 4th from 1pm - 3pm, and classrooms will be open with teachers ready to answer your questions. It's a wonderful opportunity to see the great things that happen in our school and learn more about Waldorf education.

Hope to see you there! 🌱

Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton
 Open House ~ Early Childhood ~ Kindergarten ~ Grades 1-6, Grades 7-9
 Engaging Curriculum ~ Academic Excellence ~ Lively Integrated Arts

March 4th
1-3pm
www.ewise.ca
7211-96a Ave

Funds for the WISE and Savings for you?

We have a great opportunity to serve both of these goals through the Foothills Energy Co-Operative. There is a rate calculator on their website, so you can compare your current energy costs to what you would pay through them. For more information, reach out to graham.lettner@wese.ca.

"I was very happy to be able to choose the % of green power via Foothills Energy co-op, and our energy bills were about 30% less than they had been in the previous years with a different energy co-op we had used." - Netta Johnson 🌱

WISE
Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton

GIVE MONTHLY to OUR SCHOOL
(at no cost to you!)

By getting your electricity and gas via the WISE and Foothills Energy Co-op.

FOOTHILLS ENERGY CO-OP

1 Sign up via the WISE to get your electricity and natural gas from Foothills Energy at no extra cost to you (and maybe even a savings!)

2 The WISE directly receives 50% of the monthly revenue (about \$8), which would otherwise go fully to your utility company each month.

3 At 125 sign-ups, the WISE receives \$1000 every month, and there's no limit to how many WISE supporters can sign-up.

Ready to contribute?

Contact Graham Lettner (WESE director)
\$87.718.0059
graham.lettner@wese.ca
 Or visit:
foothillsenergycoop.ca/wise.html

Community Events (cont'd)

New Build Committee Update

The Campaign Planning Study took place in December. Thank you so much to the 18 people who volunteered to participate in consultations about our new school build.

We heard some very interesting perspectives about our school and the high levels of dedication among parents, teachers and the wider community.

The next step is for a report to go to the New Build Committee and then to the Board for consideration. If you missed the opportunity to participate, don't worry. This is the first step of many in progressing towards the construction of a new school building. 🌱



WESE Board of Directors (part 2 of 3)

Executive Director Netta Johnson

Netta Johnson has been on the WESE board since 2002, and was one of the founding members of the Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton. After attending Waldorf School in Edmonton in the 80s, and discovering how formative her experience with Waldorf Education was, Netta was drawn to helping to re-establish a Waldorf school in Edmonton. Joining WESE in 2002 as the Treasurer, she has held nearly every position on the board since then, including Secretary, Secretary-Treasurer, Director, President and Vice-President. At the moment, Netta sits on various staff and board committees, and Co-chairs the Finance and Gateways Committee. In her other life, Netta is a Publisher at Stonehouse Publishing, a new Literary Publisher in Edmonton, and is on the board of the Book Publishers Association of Alberta. She has two children, Oliver and Eloise, who attend or have graduated from the WISE. 🌱



Secretary Eoin Murray

Eoin Murray is the parent of two children in the WISE, Tom (G8) and Hugo (G5). He is Chair of the New Build Committee which seeks to build a new school addition. He works in communications, marketing and fundraising in the non-profit sector. People sometimes confuse Eoin with the semi-naked, rollerblading, uke' player seen around Old Strathcona but, well, it isn't him. 🍀



Director - Graham Lettner

Graham and his partner, Thulasy, and their two daughters, Marya and Laurel, moved to Edmonton in September 2021. The two girls are self-directed learners, and Marya had been enrolled with another homeschool board in Alberta before the family met WISE facilitator Kory Baker-Henderson in their new neighbourhood and decided to make the switch to homeschool through the WISE.

Graham resonates with the spiritual values of the WESE and simply wishes to contribute to the success of the WISE with a particular interest in the homeschooling program of the school. This is his second year on the board. 🍀

Director (Faculty Representative) Mary Conrod

Mary has been at the WISE since 2017, when she became Class Teacher to a grade 4 class (for the final three months of the school year) before taking them through grade 5, 6 and 7. In 2020, she joined a new group of students in Class 6, which she currently teaches in Class 8. During the 2021-2022 school year, Mary joined the board and is excited to serve on it again this year. She also serves as a member of the Faculty Council and as the Junior High Division Chair. 🍀





(Art By Wendy Andrew)

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@thewise.ca



WESE Facebook Group:

Waldorf Education
Society of Edmonton



Waldorf Education Society of
Edmonton

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.

