



the wise connection

Issue 61

OCTOBER 2023



From the WISE Office

Dear WISE Families,

Suddenly we find ourselves in October and the change from a hot summer to a golden autumn has been swift. Gardens are harvested and some have been put to sleep for the year. It won't be long before we find ourselves waking up to frost, rain and even snow. It isn't unusual to need mittens, hats, splash pants, boots and shorts - all in one week! As the evenings grow longer, some of us may notice that bedtime routines are easier and we naturally feel a call to rest.

Within the school, our days have taken on a familiar routine and the children have settled into their classes and daily rhythms as well as the seasonal rhythms of school festivals and celebrations. As we gather our families to give thanks over the holiday, we hope that you feel the warmth and support of this school community.

With gratitude and blessings,

The WISE Admin Team 🌱

Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton (WISE)



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780.466.3312



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Website:
www.thewise.ca



Email:
(K.C.) registrar@thewise.ca
(Claire) info@thewise.ca
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WISE Facebook Page:
[Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton](#)
Facebook Parent Group:
[The WISE Parent Connection](#)



WISE Instagram Page:
[waldorf_independent_veg](#)

The Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton and the Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton are located 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:

Oct 4 Picture Day Classes 1-9, Kinder (group photo only)
Oct 9 Thanksgiving, no programming
Oct 14 Work-Bee 11am – 3pm
Oct 17 Charter School discussion, online
Oct 26-27 Parent Teacher Conferences, no programming
Oct 28 Pumpkin Walk

Nov 4 Charter School discussion, in person
Nov 8 No Nursery
Nov 9-13 Fall Break, no programming
Nov 11 Remembrance Day, no programming
Nov 12 Bulk Order opens
Nov 15 WESE Annual General Meeting
Nov 19 Bulk Order closes
Nov 24 Bulk Order pickup
Nov 25 Sunflowers ends

Important Dates (cont'd)

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

Handwork Circle every Tuesday
7:00pm – 10:00pm in the WISE Kitchen



Office Notes



Dressing For the Weather

Please ensure your child is prepared to spend portions of the day outside, even in the crisp mornings. Layers are very helpful, as are toques and light gloves as the weather cools.

Labelling All Items

Our lost and found is filling up! Please label your child's belongings so that they may get back to you. To reclaim lost items, look through the lost and found located in the east hallway just past the gymnasium.



Service Dog Drake at the School

We have a fully Accredited Service Animal, named Drake, joining our WISE school to assist a student in grade 7. You may have already seen Drake in uniform at drop offs and pickups, but on October 3rd and 4th, Lions Foundation Dog Guides Canada will be onsite to facilitate Drake's transition to school full time. Drake is a white standard poodle and is specially trained to support regulation needs for persons with Autism.

We will be sharing information with staff and students to make sure everyone knows how to interact with a working dog. It's really important that Drake not be distracted while he's working so he can focus on his person so please do not touch, talk to, or feed Drake.

We anticipate Drake will quickly blend into our school community and be an asset to student learning. Please contact administration@thewise.ca if you have any questions. 🌱



WISE Event

We are excited to bring our traditional Pumpkin Walk to our community this year, with a brand-new story and a brand-new location.

Here is some information for everyone:



The event itself is on Saturday, October 28th, from 5-8 pm at Gold Bar Park Picnic Site #2. Families purchase tickets in advance, for a specific "tour time", and embark on a sweet little walk through the forest, on a path lit by many carved pumpkins. En route, they will encounter actors who will bring a story to life. There will be a bake and cider sale, which will be by cash donation. You will be able to gather and enjoy your treats around a large fire. Many people choose to dress up in costume for the event. It's sweet and simple and usually quite a lovely evening. It should be noted that all who attend must have a ticket for the walk, including volunteers and committee members. They are only \$5 (no ticket needed for children three years old and younger) and are purchased in advance. Tickets sell out quickly every year, and the early time slots are the first to fill. So, if you have little ones for whom a bedtime is very important, please know that you will have to get your tickets ASAP.

We hope many people are looking forward to participating! We will need the usual bevy of volunteers to make this special event work and, as a perk for helping, all volunteers get early access to tickets, the chance to buy tickets for your family at just the right time. Some of the volunteer positions needed are: actors for the play, helping out the bake sale, and helpers for set-up and clean up. If you would like to sign up and have access to advanced tickets, please ensure you're signed up by NOON on TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10th. The link will be sent out that evening. Volunteers will have a few days to buy tickets before the link is made available to everyone on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14th. Students in classes six through nine are welcome to sign up as well.

In summary:

- Pumpkin Walk 2023 is Saturday October 28, 5-8pm at Gold Bar Park. Tickets are \$5 each (free under age 3).
- Sign up to volunteer by noon on Tuesday, October 10th in order to receive advance ticket purchasing.
- Tickets available to WESE families on Saturday, October 14th.
- Sign ups: [Pumpkin Walk](#) and the [Bake Sale](#)

Things to know:

- Bring cash for the bake sale and cider (by donation)
- Bring a reusable mug for cider
- This is NOT the venue for scary costumes. We have lots of little people who come, so please keep the scary or overly commercial costumes for other parties and come in friendly and fun attire.

Hope to see you all there!



Edmonton Elks Game October 14th

Support our junior high athletes and have a fun evening with your friends and family! Our junior high athletics program is running a fundraiser, with all funds raised going towards new equipment, jerseys, and opportunities such as more tournaments or renting a practice space (depending on how much is raised).

Tickets are \$20.62 each, and the school will receive \$4 for every ticket sold. There is a free ticket available for every student in junior high; please contact Ms. Burak before October 14th to claim one.

[Tickets can be purchased using this link.](#)

Thank you for your support! 🍀



WISE CHARTER SCHOOL?

At the AGM on November 15th you can vote to decide if our school applies to become a Charter School.

Learn more about it at these sessions:

- Tuesday, August 29th, Grades 1-9 Parent Orientation
- Thursday, September 28th, In person discussion, 7:15 - 8:30pm
- Tuesday, October 17th, Online discussion, 7:15 - 8:30pm
- Saturday, November 4th, In-person, 11:00am - 12:30pm

All are welcome.

Email questions to evin.murray@wese.ca



Charter School Possibility

At their June meeting, the Board passed a motion stating that WESE will apply for Charter School Status, if approved by the membership at the November AGM.

Upcoming Q&A sessions:

- Tuesday, 17th of October - Online discussion, 7.15 pm - 8.30 pm
- Saturday, 4th of November - In-person discussion, 11.00 am - 12.30 pm

Come and learn more! All are welcome.

E-mail your questions to evin.murray@wese.ca 🍀



Work Bee

Saturday, October 14th from 11am – 3pm

Join fellow parents in caring for our school. We will have indoor and outdoor tasks, some of which have no special skills required.

Come to the school's main entrance when you arrive to find the list of jobs to choose from (come when you can, stay for as long as you are able to).

If you have any questions, please reach out to volunteer@thewise.ca.



Message From Principal

Dearest WISE Families,

The 2023-24 school year is now underway, and with it comes the transition from one season to another. Our Michaelmas festival marked the passage of summer to fall and our community honoured Orange Shirt Day by wearing the colour orange throughout the final week of September.

I have learned so much already about the WISE through the vantage point of the office and have a newfound appreciation for our administrative team, which includes Keely, KC, Claire, Adam and Kellie. It truly takes a village to raise a child and I hope to deepen the collaboration between staff, students and families this year.

Throughout the month of September, I visited Kinder to Class 9, as well as our specialty classes. It was wonderful to see our teachers in action and become more familiar with our student body.

May we each continue to develop our head, heart and hands,
Mary Conrod



Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton - Annual General Meeting

Dear WESE Members,

The Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton (WESE) is holding its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the WISE gymnasium, beginning promptly at 7 pm on Wednesday, November 15th, 2023. The AGM includes presentation of the society's financial reports, committee reports, election of new board members and amendments to the bylaws. We invite all of our members to join us for this important event.

In preparation for the AGM, we are currently recruiting nominations for new board members. If you wish to join the board or nominate someone as a board member, please submit nominations, or your [application form](#), to boarddevelopment@wese.ca. The nomination process is open, and closes on October 15th, 2023. Nominees will be required to complete an application that will be reviewed by the nominations committee. The new board members will be officially voted in during the AGM. Questions about the nominating and voting process can be sent to boarddevelopment@wese.ca.

WESE Board members meet the 3rd Thursday of each month from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. There are also three mandatory meetings per year with the Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton (WISE) faculty and administration. Each Board member generally participates and/or chairs a WESE or WISE committee. Committees include areas such as finance, site development, welcome & gratitude, growth & development, fairs, fundraising, community garden, and communications. Committees serve an essential role in the operations and leadership of our accessible school and other programs.

The positions up for election this year are:

- Vice-President (2 year Term)
- Treasurer (2 year Term)
- Executive Director (2 year Term)
- Director(s) (2 year Term)
- Member(s)-at-Large (1 year Term)

Please visit our [WESE website](#) and scroll down to see the board position descriptions.

Please Note:

To be eligible to vote, nominate or stand for office, members must be in good standing. Membership payments must be received one day before the AGM; one vote per family [membership](#).



Message From The Board

On behalf of the WESE Board, I would like to deeply thank and appreciate two recent amazingly generous donations we have received that have kept our building running. Last year, we received a generous gift which covered our furnace replacement, and this year, an anonymous donation was made to pay for the replacement of our front doors. These multi thousand-dollar donations display the very real commitment of our community members to care for our students and families, and we hope these examples motivate you to also give where you can. Even if it's 20 dollars here and there, or signing up for a monthly donation amount, we encourage you to enhance the experience for all of us at WESE and the WISE through your donations to the school.

To all our donors: We sincerely thank you for your donations. Your efforts go directly into the head, hands, and hearts of our students.

Thank you!

Steven Barnett, WESE President



WISE Information


Who to Talk to at The WISE

- If you have questions regarding your child, it is best to talk directly to the class teacher. You may also make an appointment with the Principal: principal@thewise.ca or the Executive Administrator: administrator@thewise.ca
- Questions regarding the building, maintenance, or the grounds can be addressed to: info@thewise.ca
- Curriculum or discipline related questions go to the class teacher and/or the Principal: principal@thewise.ca or the Executive Administrator: administrator@thewise.ca
- Questions regarding health and safety inside or outside can be directed to: info@thewise.ca
- Questions regarding payment or enrolment go to the Registrar: registrar@thewise.ca
- Questions regarding volunteer opportunities, committee work or school connections can be directed to: parentpartnership@wese.ca




Waldorf Education Society of Edmonton (WESE)

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 **Website:** www.wese.ca

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



(Artist: Amanda Clark)

