



Mary Conrod

Principal

My name is Mary Conrod and I've had the fortune of becoming principal of the WISE. I have been a class teacher here since 2017. Since that time, I've created deep bonds with many students and their families, of which I am most grateful.

After beginning my Bachelor of Education degree at Grant McEwan, I transferred to the University of Alberta in 2010, and graduated in 2013 before accepting a job in Vauxhall. Here I held my first teaching position: a grade two class of 18 students, which fulfilled my long held desire of being a teacher, or as one of my then-students rephrased - having one of my childhood dreams come true!

Missing my hometown, however, I moved back to Edmonton the following year and soon began working at a Montessori preschool. It was through this thread that I discovered Waldorf education, though I didn't pursue it immediately. Trusting in the timing, I accepted a maternity leave position at the WISE during the 2016/2017 school year, in the then-grade-four class.

It wasn't until finding the WISE that my dream of being an educator wholly came true. Since my father had moved back to Nova Scotia, joining my older sister there, becoming a WISE community member allowed me to feel more deeply rooted to the city I was born in and belong to a community of like-minded people, allowing me to stay connected to my mom who also lives in Edmonton. Through the students, parents, staff, volunteers and board members, I have come to cherish the WISE community and its presence in my life. I've also come to admire how the Waldorf curriculum meets the age of adolescence, particularly in the middle school years.

I've come to understand the importance of daily rhythms as well, as the recent addition of children in both my professional and personal life (through the shared custody of my partner's two children Alo and Viola) has allowed me to expand my appreciation for not only the duties of parenthood, but the role of a teacher as well.