

WILKINSON NEWSLETTER



November/December 2013

Principal's Message

Parent-teacher interviews

I would like to congratulate everyone on a very successful parent-teacher interview process. If you have questions or concerns about your child's progress, please contact the teacher or the school admin at any time as we encourage the lines of communication remain open outside of interview times.

Improvement plans

We have posted the Boards Improvement Plan on the bulletin board in the main Foyer as well as our own School Improvement Plan. We have aligned our goals with the Boards plan where possible. Please have a look if you are in the building and feel free to question or add input to the plan. We are happy to work through our improvement goals with those who are interested.

Let's fight the flu

Flu season is here again. In Canada, flu season tends to run from October to April. The Ontario government is encouraging Ontarians to avoid getting sick this flu season by getting their annual flu shot.

Toronto Public Health is recommending that whenever students and staff experience flu-like symptoms, they are to be sent home and not return to school until they are no longer infectious to others. Therefore, ill students and staff must be symptom-free (especially from vomiting and diarrhea) for at least 48 hours before returning to school.

The primary concern is for the health and safety of all students and staff. Please note that no special measures are required when there is a case of influenza in a school or daycare. However, everyone should do their part to stop the spread of the flu. As

parents, you can also assist by:

- reminding children to wash their hands often especially after using the washroom, and before and after eating;
- reminding children to cover their sneeze and cough (or to sneeze in their sleeve);
- watching for symptoms of vomiting, diarrhea, dizziness, and/or high fever;
- informing the school if your child is ill; and
- keeping your child at home when he/she is ill.

For more information, please visit the Toronto Public Health website at <http://www.toronto.ca/health>, contact your family doctor, or call Telehealth Ontario at: 1-866-797-0000.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our **Winter Concert on Thursday December 12.**

***- Allan Kelly
Principal***

Movie Night!

This month's Movie Night takes place **Friday November 29** with the animated film, *Planes*. Doors open at 6:30pm and the movie starts at 7pm. Children are welcome to bring blankets and pillows and sit up front by the stage.



Donations at the door – big or small – are much appreciated! So are volunteers!

Movie Night RULE REMINDER:

Adults (parents or guardians) must accompany their children to Movie Night and must remain with their children throughout the movie. No running is allowed in the gym or hallways. Please keep noise to a minimum. And enjoy!

Bring your used clothing!

Clothing Swap: The Eco-Team will be collecting gently used winter coats, boots and snow pants at Movie Night. All items will be available for swapping on Wednesday Dec. 18.

Pumpkinfest rocked!

On Sunday October 20, the outdoor kindergarten area hosted Wilkinson's annual Pumpkinfest. About 100 families came out to support the fall event. We sold nearly 180 pumpkins, all sorts of baked goods, pies, harvest produce and hotdogs. It was such a great day! The highlight, of course, was having the community together and watching families play in the field and children on the new kindergarten play structure. Thank you to everyone who came out, and a special shout out to those who volunteered and baked for us.

***– Erin Vaillancourt and April Moon
Wilkie moms and Pumpkinfest organizers***

Message from Community Council Chair – Next council meeting on Dec. 9

Wilkinson's 2013-2014 Community Council is well under way and as Chair of this year's Council, I want to take this opportunity to say Hello and invite you to attend one or all of our meetings. You do not need to be a member of council in order to attend and we really want non-member parents to come out to the meetings.

Wilkinson is fortunate to have an active Council that has been responsible for bringing forth events such as Movie Night, Pumpkinfest, performing and visual artists, as well as purchasing the kindergarten playground and many of the smart White Boards that are in some of the classrooms.

To gain a better understanding of what all Council contributes to the vibrant Wilkinson environment, read the AGM statement from last year that can be found on our website.

At every Council meeting you'll hear news and updates from Principal Allan Kelly and each of the parent-run committees. You'll also have an opportunity to hear about new funding requests and issues affecting the operations of the school, such as All Day Kindergarten, etc.

Council meets the second Monday of each month. **The next Council meeting will be held on Monday December 9 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Room 3.**

There is always childcare at these meetings, though ideally it would be good to let me know so we can staff childcare appropriately.

We hope to see you there!

***–Ruby Lederman
Community Council Chair***

Eat and Swap Clothes!

On Wednesday Dec. 18 the Wilkinson Community Council is hosting a



Wilkitchen with an evening of cookie baking.

Never been to a Wilkitchen? Then you're in for a treat!

This free event welcomes families to come together for a night of cooking and eating. Each Wilkitchen has a theme and on Dec. 18 it's all about baking cookies – just in time for the holidays. Come out, bake and decorate cookies, and try your hand at making chocolate truffles. Childcare will be available in case children are tired of helping out in the kitchen or just want to play with their friends. The event is held in the basement kitchen at Wilkinson and begins at 6p.m.



As an added bonus, the Eco-Team will be hosting a clothing swap on the same night.

Drop off your gently used winter coats, boots and snow pants and pick up an item you need. Clothing drop off will take place at Movie Night or at the school anytime. Parents and guardians can also drop off clothing in Room 22. Need a coat? Take a coat! Have a coat? Leave a coat! Let's reduce our carbon footprint by re-using within our community.

Wilkinson Ongoing Fundraisers – Easy ways to help your school community:

●Donate Naturally

Looking to make your life a little easier and to help the Wilkinson school community at the same time? Here's one idea: shop online at Donate Naturally (www.donatenaturally.com). This online store sells organic and natural products and will deliver them right to your home. The other good news is that Wilkinson will receive 15% of the total you spend. All you have to do is select Wilkinson from the scroll down menu when you register. First time users will also get a 30% discount by using the code: **tryit30**.

●SupperWorks

Eat well and raise money for Wilkinson! SupperWorks is a fun and convenient way to get nutritious, tasty food on your table – without the time, hassle and mess! Even better, it is a fundraising activity for Wilkinson. When registering for a session at The Beach location, enter the charity code WPS and 4% of the gross proceeds will be donated to the school. Check out this month's menu at SupperWorks at www.supperworks.com.

●Mabel's Labels

These labels are designed to deliver maximum durability and will withstand the dishwasher, microwave and UV rays for years to come. They are perfect for labelling students clothing, school and lunch bags. Very helpful when these end up in Lost & Found! Please support the fundraiser and visit the

Wilkinson Mabel's Labels site at www.wilkinson.mabel.ca. Mabel's Labels code: Just ADD Wilkinson in the box called "Please credit my order to this fundraiser."

● Save your Canadian Tire Money

We want your money – your Canadian Tire money, that is. If you have Canadian Tire bills that you're not using, please save them. Place them into an envelope and address them to Wilkie mom "April Moon – Fun Fair chair," and drop them off at the main office. Canadian Tire money will be used to purchase items for Fun Fair, Wilkinson's largest annual fundraiser that takes place in the spring.

● Bona Pizza & Pasta Receipts

If you're ordering from Bona Pizza & Pasta (431 Donlands Ave. (416) 406-5000), save your receipts. Parent Council can submit them at the end of the year for a cash donation. Place them in an envelope, address them to Wilkie mom "April Moon – Bona Pizza Receipt Drive," and drop them off at the main office.

Track your carbon and win for Wilkinson

Project Neutral is an organization run by volunteer neighbourhood members who want to help individuals, families and the Riverdale community lower their carbon footprint.



This fall, Project Neutral is launching its 3rd annual Household Carbon Footprint Survey. The campaign encourages households to measure their carbon footprint based on energy and water use, and transportation and food choices. All participating households will be able to view a breakdown of their carbon footprint and see how they compare to their neighbours. Also, all households will be eligible for more than \$2,000 in prizes!

There is an additional prize of \$500 for the school in Ward 29 or 30 that has the most number of families complete the survey.

The deadline for completing the survey and being eligible for the prizes is Dec 1, 2013.

Please take the carbon footprint survey at:

<http://www.projectneutral.org/survey>

When taking the survey, select **Wilkinson School** from the drop-down menu under the question regarding the school contest. This will credit Wilkinson School with another completed survey and be one step closer to winning \$500 for the school.

Music News

Wilkinson Concert Dates (in the gym)

Winter Concert: Thursday, Dec. 12, 2013 – 6-7p.m.

Spring Concert: Thursday, May 1, 2014 – 6-7p.m.

Recordings

Rehearsal recordings of the **Primary Choir** songs are now available at the following site: <http://www.soundcloud.com/wilkymusic>.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, rehearsal recordings of the **Junior Choir** songs can also be found at the same website.

– Batya Levy
Music Teacher

Physical Education and HEALTHY Eating News

Cross Country Finals

October was a busy month for sports. Wilkinson sent five students to the cross country City Finals. Congratulations! They did an excellent job representing Wilkinson. Here are the results:

- Matthew Jennings in Grade 4: 11th
- Ryan Gillespie in Grade 5: 44th
- Allison Brown, Lauren Lynch-Hudecki and Ava Welsh placed 64th, 65th and 66th, respectively.

All amazing accomplishments and we'll look to improve on those results next year!

Way to go!

Wow, December is around the corner, which means winter sports are here! Before I mention those sports it's important to acknowledge the junior girls basketball team and junior boys volleyball team. Both teams practiced and played really hard at their respective practices and tournaments but ran into tough competition and were unable to move on.

Both teams represented Wilkinson well and had a lot of fun playing at the tournament and practices. It was fun coaching both teams as they learned a lot of skills in a short period of time. Shout outs to Ms. Cameron who helped coach the junior boys volleyball team. Way to go, Lions!

Sports starting up

Junior boys basketball will be starting up shortly as will Wilkinson's ice hockey team and the junior girls volleyball team so make sure you listen to morning announcements for try-out dates and meetings. Good luck to all!

Morning Fitness Club

Need to get the blood flowing in the morning? Come to the gym from 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. each morning to play games, practice skills or just have fun!



Mr. Pirso and I will be there to start off your morning on the right (or left! haha) foot. You will need to fill out a permission form if you are new to the morning fitness club. If you need one, please see Mr. Pirso or myself for one. See you there!

Movember for Cancer Awareness

November is prostate cancer, testicular cancer and men's mental health awareness month. To raise awareness of these diseases, which affect men around the world, men grow moustaches and collect donations to support research. So don't be surprised if you see a teacher or two at Wilkinson growing a moustache for MOVEMBER!

H.E.A.L.T.H.Y. Eating Program

Each and every month it looks like there are more and more students eating healthy. Keep encouraging more people to eat healthy by eating healthy yourself! Here are the healthy snacks for December:

- **Dec. 2-6: Cucumbers**
- **Dec. 9-13: Oranges (any kind!)**
- **Dec. 16-19: Salad (any kind!)**

Happy Healthy Eating, Wilkinson! And happy holidays!

- Mr. Kasaval and Mr. Bozabalian
Health and Physical Education Teachers

Library News

Scholastic Book Fair

Wilkinson's first **Book Fair** of the school year took place from November 11 to 15. A big thanks to everyone who came out and supported the event. Book Fair profits in the past provided new dictionaries and atlases in all of the classrooms. This year's profits will go to replenish much-loved (and very tattered!) Scholastic favourites, such as Robert Munsch, Eric Carle, Magic



Tree House, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Amulet and Geronimo Stilton amongst others. Looking forward to our second Book Fair in the spring.

Grade 1 Book Giveaway

Every year the Canadian Children's Book Centre, with support from TD, gives Grade 1 students across the country a free Canadian children's book. This year the **Grade One Book**

Giveaway is *Boy Soup*, written by Loris Lesynski and illustrated by Michael Martchenko. I will be reading *Boy Soup* with the Grade 1 classes during the last week of November. A copy will be sent home with the student's name in it on the day I read it to them. If you have a child in Grade 1, I encourage you to read this book at home together. And don't forget, it is theirs to keep! No need to return this book. You can read more about *Boy Soup* and the Grade One Book Giveaway at <http://www.bookcentre.ca/bookgiveaway2013>.

Read New or Old Favourites Over the Holidays

As always, students are encouraged to take **books home over the holiday break**. Students can get their books during their regular library class/book exchange time or drop by the library at recess.

Library Blog

Don't forget to check out the **Library Blog** at:

<http://wilkinsonlibrary.tumblr.com>. In it you'll find information about this year's Silver Birch and Blue Spruce nominated books, the CCBC Grade 1 Book Giveaway and our very own Pinterest page! The Pinterest page highlights some of the great books at Wilkinson's Library. So far, I have boards for Picture Books, Silver Birch Fiction, Wordless Picture Books and Graphic Novels. New and notable selections will be shared on these boards. Feel free to have a look at <http://www.pinterest.com/joelkrentz>.

Wilkie Library Website

To learn more about what's happening at the Wilkinson Library, check out the following site: <http://about.me/wilkinsonlibrary>. Here you will find links to the Library Blog, the Wilkinson Podcast, the Library YouTube page and the School Virtual Library, amongst others.

The Wilky Bros grow Moustaches for Movember

Again this year, Wilkinson is participating in the **Movember Moustache** campaign to raise awareness and funds for prostate cancer, testicular cancer and men's mental health. You can support our growing efforts by visiting our "**Wilky Bros**" team at <http://bit.ly/wilkybros13>, learning about our motivation and donating to the cause.

And don't forget to follow Wilkinson on Twitter!

http://twitter.com/TDSB_wilkinson

Happy reading!

- Mr. Krentz

Teacher-Librarian

Integra: Support for children with learning disabilities and their families

Integra is an accredited Children's Mental Health Centre that is dedicated to helping children and adolescents who experience social, emotional and behavioural problems related to their learning disabilities. Integra delivers its services with the aim of strengthening the family.

For more on the organization and its workshop schedule, visit:

www.integra.on.ca or call (416) 486-8055.

People for Education – News and more:

● Support for Parents

People for Education offers parents a variety of tip sheets, including one on children with special needs and one on homework. **The organization also offers a toll-free Parent Support Phone Line at: (888) 534-3944.**

● Changes to education funding formula?

Between November 18 and November 30, the Ministry of Education is consulting with key stakeholders on possible changes to the education funding formula. The consultations may result in substantial changes and some cuts to funding. Some of the areas being considered include:

- a more effective way for school boards to share costs;
- changes/cuts to funding for small and underutilized schools and possibly more school closings;
- changes to the Accommodation Review Process;
- a requirement for students to take at least one course through e-learning; and
- changes to boards' reporting requirements so that boards which are meeting Ministry academic and financial targets, will be rewarded with reductions in reporting requirements; boards who are struggling to meet the goals would presumably have more reporting requirements.

For more information, visit: <http://bit.ly/Id9pzy>

● New law would cover education labour relations

On October 22, the Minister of Education introduced **Bill 122, the School Boards Collective Bargaining Act, 2013.**

The act states that some bargaining will happen at central provincial tables, and some at the local board level. The act covers teachers and school boards, but other employees, such as support staff or other board employees, may be added by regulation. Regulations can be enacted without going back to the Legislature for a vote.

If passed, this law will take effect before August 2014, when most education collective agreements expire. For more information, visit: <http://bit.ly/1c4Zwz0>

New website for parents looking for childcare

If you're looking for childcare, check out this new website:

www.findingqualitychildcare.ca. The Childcare Resource and Research Unit and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers as part of the Parent Quality Information project developed the website. The site offers resources for parents in understanding and accessing high-quality childcare.

Important Dates

November

THURS. Nov. 28

First day of Hanukkah

FRI. Nov. 29

Movie Night featuring the animated feature, *Planes*

***Drop off gently used clothing for a clothing swap on Dec. 18**

December

SUN. Dec. 1

First Sunday of Advent

MON. Dec. 9

Community Council Meeting – members and non-members welcome! Childcare will be provided.

From 6:30p.m. -8p.m.

THURS. Dec. 12

Winter Concert from 6p.m. – 7p.m. in the gym

FRI. Dec. 13

Pizza Lunch!

WED. Dec. 18

WilKitchen: Come out and enjoy this free event with your children where you'll get to bake and enjoy cookies.

***The Eco-Team is also holding a clothing swap.**

FRI. Dec. 20

PA Day – School closed

FRI. Dec. 20 – Jan. 5, 2014

Holiday break.

SAT. Dec. 21

December Solstice

TUES. Dec. 24

Christmas Eve

WED. Dec. 25

Christmas Day

THURS. Dec. 26

Boxing Day

TUES. Dec. 31

New Year's Eve

January

MON. Jan. 6

Back to school!

TUES. Jan. 7

Orthodox Christmas Day

MON. Jan. 13

Community Council Meeting – members and non-members welcome! Childcare will be provided.

FRI. Jan. 24

PA Day – School closed

FRI. Jan. 31

Chinese New Year

February

SUN. Feb. 2

Groundhog Day

MON. Feb. 10

Family Day – School closed

Contact Us

If you'd like to contact the Wilkinson School Community Council, send an email to wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca.

If you'd like to contact the Communications team, visit our school web site at www.wilkinsonschoool.ca or send an email to wilkinson.communications@gmail.com.

Thank you to this month's contributors!

Editor: Deanna Rosolen