

WILKINSON NEWSLETTER

October 2012

Principal's Message

The Wilkinson staff is committed to creating a safe, nurturing, positive and respectful learning environment so that all students are able to succeed to their full potential. Over the last couple of years, we have worked on implementing a comprehensive bullying-prevention program that has resulted in a decrease of reported incidents. We are also happy to report that our junior students, through a survey, indicated that they feel very safe at school. However, we continue to monitor and evaluate our initiatives and to look for new ways to better serve our students.

The role of the parent is also critical in preventing bullying and we rely on your support to make our efforts here at school successful. We have uploaded Toronto District School Board documents on our website (click: <http://www.wilkinsonschoool.ca/lettershome/lettershome.html> and scroll down to the bottom of the page) to help you understand what bullying is and how you can help. We are always happy to answer questions, take suggestions or listen to your concerns. Please do not hesitate to call either Mr. Kelly or myself. Let's work together to make Wilkinson a Safe and Caring School!
–Leasa Adams, Vice-Principal

Library News: Book exchange has started

Welcome back to another year of books and reading. All classes have begun book

exchange and you may have seen library books coming home with your child. Books borrowed from the library are self-selected by your child. I will provide them with suggestions and guidance and steer them toward age appropriate reading material. Reading with your child and providing her/him with a quiet time and space for reading are ways that you can help to instill a love of reading and foster reading confidence.

Grades 4-6 students may take out as many as 4 books, Grades 2-3 students as many as 2 books and Kindergarten and Grade 1 students may take out 1 book. Kindergarten students have a book bag with their name, classroom number and library day on it. It is important that all books are returned (or renewed) each time the class visits the library. Ask your child which day of the cycle her/his library day is and help them to return their books on time. "Library Day" may be noted on some classroom calendars. There are no overdue fines but students will not be able to take out any more books until outstanding books are returned.

By the time you are reading this, Wilkinson will have received 30 brand new notebook computers! These come as a result of our successful application last spring for new mobile computers. The submitted proposal is based on a focus on writing and is called the "Wilkinson Digital Writing Project." I will be working with classroom teachers to integrate technology into their already rich writing programs. Please contact me if you would like to read a copy of the proposal.

The notebooks will also give a much-needed technology influx to support digital learning and student research within the Wilkinson Library program.

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, among others.

Finally, to learn more about what is going on at your child's school, follow Wilkinson on Twitter! http://twitter.com/TDSB_wilkinson Happy reading!

–Joel Krentz

Sports and H.E.A.L.T.H.Y. Eating News:

Dept welcomes new phys-ed teacher

Physical education class has started well this year with students participating in cooperative games. Cooperative games will be the focus the rest of the month and in to the next month. A new Health and Physical Education teacher, Mr. Bozabalian, is team teaching the primary grades with me in the afternoons this year and is an excellent addition to the staff and program. Welcome, Mr. B!

Parents, please be sure to send your children with proper running shoes for the gymnasium. A suggestion is to keep a pair in their backpacks if they are not already wearing proper shoes. Our primary focus is safety in the gymnasium. Thank you for your cooperation!

Well it's been a great start to the year for the H.E.A.L.T.H.Y. eating program. It seems as though more students are participating in the program already! Great job, Wilkinson.

October's healthy snacks dates are:

- **Oct. 1-5:** Cucumbers
 - **Oct. 9-12:** Peaches, plums or pears – the 3 Ps!
 - **Oct. 15-19:** Cherry/Plum Tomatoes
 - **Oct. 22-26:** Oranges
 - **Oct. 29-Nov. 2:** Bell peppers
- Happy, healthy eating, Wilkinson!
–Mr. Kasaval

Eco-Team News:

Recycling and litter-less lunches

As a Silver EcoSchool, the staff and students at Wilkinson will continue to work hard on reducing our environmental footprint. One important way that parents can help is by sending litter-less lunches. We encourage students to bring their food in reusable containers and avoid bringing packaged food. By avoiding packaged food we are also encouraging healthy eating. To help with the work, get your children to participate in the making of their lunches and in the cleaning of the containers. In this way you will be teaching them about Responsibility which is the TDSB's Character Trait for October.

A big thank-you goes out to Room 22 for taking charge of our recycling program. These students have been giving presentations on what can and can't be recycled and they have been auditing the containers to make sure that there are no contaminants (e.g., straws, chocolate bar wrappers, pencil shavings).

Olympic Athlete visits Wilkinson

By Sophia Kahn, Grade 6

On Sept. 20, Summer Mortimer, a Paralympic athlete, came to Wilkinson. Summer is only 19 years old, but she has already won four Paralympic medals in swimming; two gold, one silver and one bronze. She spoke to Wilkinson students about her life.

Summer was always a good swimmer but she originally tried out for gymnastics and the trampoline. During a trampoline competition, she came off the trampoline but missed the sponge pit and landed on cement. She broke all the bones in her left foot and many in her right foot, and needed surgery. She had to use a wheelchair for half a year and then crutches for another six months. She was determined to recover, though, and returned to the pool as soon as she could. Her father Craig has been a swimming coach for 20 years, and he helped her find a way to swim that relied more on upper body motion. Summer also found a way to walk without it being obvious that she had overcome a serious injury.

The day after Summer's visit, there was a big Olympic and Paralympic parade in downtown Toronto. Ms. Bartkiw's class and Mr. Carkner's class watched the parade in Maple Leaf Square. They saw many Olympic and Paralympic athletes who competed in London, including gold medal trampolinist Rosie Maclennan, soccer superstar Christine Sinclair and Summer Mortimer. Olivia Portelli from Mr. Carkner's Grade 6 class also marched in the parade, holding up a "Cycling" sign in front of the cyclist Clara Hughes. It was great seeing the athletes in person after we had cheered for them on television.

Wilkinson's Terry Fox Run

On Friday Oct. 5, the Wilkinson Community will take part in our second annual Terry Fox Run for cancer research. Terry Fox dreamed of a world without cancer, and last year Wilkinson really did our part. We raised \$8,149.45, which was the most of any school in the area! This year we're hoping to do even better! GO WILKINSON, GO!

Parent Council

This year, Parent Council elections will take place via hand-in ballot. Election ballots will be sent home during the first week of October and must be returned before Wed. Oct. 10. Parents and guardians can drop off the ballots with their children's teacher, in the Parent Council mailbox in the office or at Dandy Lion Daycare.

COMMUNITY NEWS

St. David's Anglican Church (49 Donlands Ave.) offers several programs open to everyone in the community.

- The Silver Spirit Karate Club offers karate classes for children and teens, ages 7 to 18 in St. David's parish hall (downstairs – enter by side doors). Classes are Monday to Thursday 5–6 p.m. For more information, contact: info@silverspirit.ca or 416-886-3717 or visit: www.silverspirit.ca
- Open Door yoga classes in St. David's parish hall run on Tuesdays from 7-8 p.m. The cost is \$96 for six classes (\$90 for students and seniors). All welcome. To register or for more information, contact Saraswati Shanti at saraswatisanti@gmail.com or 416-358-2385.

• Danforth Community Fitness offers fitness classes for adults, family zumba classes and prenatal fitness classes in St. David's parish hall. For fees and more information, contact Charlotte Schwartz at charlotte.dobo@gmail.com or 416-460-7826.

Creative Preschool openings

The Creative Preschool of East Toronto has openings available in its afternoon Junior Explorers program for children in Junior and Senior Kindergarten. The school also has an After-school program for children in Grades 1-3 from 3:30pm to 5:30pm. The co-op-run centre is just a five-minute walk from Wilkinson, located in Eastern Commerce Collegiate. For more information, contact: 416-465-3865 or visit: www.creativepreschool.ca.

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!

Editors: Deanna Rosolen and Jill Spellman
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Important Dates – October

FRI. Oct. 5

- Terry Fox Run

SUN. Oct. 7

- Last day of Sukkot

MON. Oct. 8

- Thanksgiving Day – NO SCHOOL

WED. Oct. 10

- International Walk to School Day

THURS. Oct. 11

- First International Day of the Girl (Canada)

MON. Oct. 15

- Parent Council meeting – guests welcome!

SUN. Oct. 21

- Pumpkinfest!

WED. Oct. 24

- United Nations Day

FRI. Oct. 26

- Eid-al-Adha
- Pizza Lunch

WED. Oct. 31

- Halloween
- Halloween Parade

November

SUN. Nov. 4

Daylight Saving Time ends

SUN. Nov.11

Remembrance Day
• Remembrance Day Ceremony at Wilkinson at 10 a.m.