



WILKINSON NEWSLETTER

September 2013

Principal's Message

Welcome back to a new school year!

Safety is a primary responsibility and concern here at Wilkinson. We will be forming our Safe Schools Committee by the end of September, which will complete a school-wide safety audit by the end of October. The committee will be comprised of parents, chief caretaker, teachers and administration. Please look for regular Safe School updates in the Newsletter.

Allergy Awareness – Did you know?

We feel that all parents would like to be aware that there are children in our school with severe life-threatening food allergies. This condition is called anaphylaxis (ana-fill-axis). This is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to specific foods or other materials, and can result in death within minutes. Although peanuts and peanut products are the most common foods to cause anaphylaxis, shellfish, fish, eggs, sulphites, milk, sesame seeds, soy or any other food can cause this dangerous condition. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we want to inform you so that you may choose to send foods to school with your child that are free from potential allergens.

Our school has a specific Anaphylaxis Action Plan and the Board has procedures for the prevention and management of anaphylactic reactions. Staff is trained each year in-house, and from Anaphylaxis Canada who also can provide presentations to students. Although we cannot be a completely nut or allergen free school, we are considered a very "allergy aware school."

For more information, contact Anaphylaxis Canada at www.anaphylaxis.ca or (416) 785-5666.

If your child has health problems of any kind, please inform your child's teacher or office staff immediately so that the necessary health protection steps may be taken. If your child has been prescribed an Epi-Pen, we encourage you to train them to carry it on their person and to obtain a medic-alert bracelet for them to wear.

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation in this important matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please drop by the school office and we will be happy to address them.

– *Allan Kelly*

Principal

Music News

I am excited to announce that both the Junior Choir and Orff Ensemble Groups are starting in September. Ukulele will most likely start in October.

Here are the details:

JUNIOR CHOIR (Ms. Levy)

- Open to students in Grades 4, 5 and 6.
- **Rehearsals: Wednesdays – 11:50-12:30 - in Room 3**
- Semester 1: First rehearsal will be on Wed., Sept. 18.
- Semester 2: First rehearsal will be on Wed., Jan. 15.

ORFF ENSEMBLE (Ms. Levy)

This ensemble is geared more towards students in Grades 5 and 6, due to the level of difficulty. However, students in Grade 4 may also join if they feel they are up for a challenge.

Rehearsals: Due to the number of instruments, there is space for only 35 students in each Orff group. Students were asked to sign up for only **one** of the groups listed below:

- **Tuesdays – 12-12:30p.m.**
- **Thursdays – 12-12:30p.m.**
- **Fridays 12-12:30p.m.**

(However, if a fourth group is necessary, it will be on Mondays – 12-12:30p.m.)

All Orff Ensemble rehearsals are held in Room 6.

- Semester 1: Rehearsals to begin the week of Sept. 23
- Semester 2: Rehearsals to begin the week of Jan. 20.

If you would like to know which group your child signed up for, please feel free to e-mail me with your child's name and room number. **E-mail:** Batya.Levy@tdsb.on.ca.

UKULELE GROUPS

(Beginner Group: Ms. Bartkiw

Advanced Groups: Ms. Doane)

• These groups are run by Ms. Bartkiw and Melanie Doane (who is a parent at the school). Questions related to ukulele should be directed to Ms. Bartkiw. **E-mail:** Marianne.Bartkiw@tdsb.on.ca

• 1st Year (beginner) and 2nd Year (advanced) groups will rehearse on Mondays from 3:30 to 4:20 this year.

- 3rd Year ukulele students will rehearse as follows:
 - September – December: Mondays at lunch – 12:00-12:30.p.m.
 - January – June: Mondays after school – 3:30-4:20p.m.

More details about the start date and the rooms in which they will be held will be communicated by Ms. Bartkiw and Ms. Doane.

NOTE: Due to difficulties in getting the ukuleles delivered in a timely fashion, sign up for the beginning ukulele group happened last June. Unfortunately, the beginning ukulele group is already full – there are no more spots available. Students in Grades 3-5 will have another opportunity to sign up for beginning ukulele in June 2014 for the following school year.

WILKINSON CONCERT DATES

WINTER CONCERT (Semester 1) - Thursday, Dec. 12, 2013 – 6:00-7:00 PM

SPRING CONCERT (Semester 2) - Thursday, May 1, 2014 – 6:00-7:00 PM

NOTE: The early start times for the concerts were chosen in an attempt to accommodate the band and string itinerant teachers who will probably have concerts at other schools on the same night. The time of the concerts may be changed to 7-8pm based on the band and string itinerant schedules. We will be sure to announce any changes at least a month in advance of the concert.

FESTIVALS: Students may also have the opportunity to perform at festivals throughout the year. These will be announced as information becomes available to us.

– *Batya Levy*
Music Teacher

Physical Education and HEALTHY Eating News

Welcome back, students! I hope you had an active, safe, healthy and fun summer.

Cross Country

Well let's not waste any time and I can see that the cross-country team hasn't! They have been running since the first week of school and this year all grades are welcome to join. Wilkinson will be taking Grades 2-6 to Ashbridges Bay on Thursday Oct. 10 for their cross-country meet and they're looking good running every morning. Great job, runners! We'll be handing out more information about the meet over the next few weeks.

Calling Parent Volunteers

Attention parents! We are looking for you to volunteer in any capacity with sporting events this year, including cross-country. If you are interested in assisting us, please call the school or leave a note in my (Mr. Kasaval's) mailbox in the office.

New Sports!

Two new sports will be starting up at Wilkinson this year. The first sport is girls Bordenball. It's very similar to European Handball and even closer to Ultimate Frisbee – but with a ball! Sounds like fun. Wilkinson is also putting together a co-ed flag football team. So get out there and participate!

Basketball, Volleyball

Girls' basketball and boys' volleyball seasons start in a month or so, but try-outs and practices are just around the corner. Stay tuned.

Safety and Attire

Wilkinson students, please remember to come to Health and Physical Education class with the appropriate attire. Proper footwear is especially important. Here at Wilkinson, we hold student safety in high regard. We want all students to participate in Health and Physical Education class but if they're not prepared with the proper attire it will be very difficult to participate in class. So bring those shoes to school or put them in your backpack and wear clothing suitable for class.

These Feet Were Made for Walking...

October is International Walk to school month and Wed. Oct. 9 is International Walk to school day. So try your best, choose a safe route and walk with friends or family to school this month.

Healthy Eating

The H.E.A.L.T.H.Y. eating program is well under way. Students are already participating in the program, which is great! We haven't missed a beat! Great healthy eating, Wilkinson. Keep encouraging others in the school and the community to make healthy choices. Apples were munched on the first week, carrots the second. The third week of the school year was bananas and the last week of September is cucumbers. Here are the healthy snacks for October:

- **Sept. 30-Oct. 4:** The 3 Ps: Peaches, plums or pears
- **Oct. 7-11:** Salad - any kind! (fruit, mixed greens, bean etc.)
- **Oct. 14-18:** Grapes
- **Oct. 21- 25:** Cherry/Grape tomatoes
- **Oct. 28 - Nov. 1:** Oranges

Happy Healthy Eating, Wilkinson!

– *Mr. Kasaval and Mr. Bozabalian*
Health and Physical Education Teachers

Library News

Hope your summer was full of good reading! All classes have begun (or will start very soon) regular **book exchanges** 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.

Library Day

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 children which day of the cycle their 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.

Scholastic Book Fair

The first **Scholastic Book Fair** is set to take place from Nov. 11-15. This falls on the same week as Parent Teacher interviews so be sure to pop into Room 3, say hello and do a little bit of book shopping! As usual, I will be putting a call out for parent volunteers. If this is something that interests you, please let me know.

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.

Twitter

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

–*Mr. Krentz*
Teacher-Librarian

Movie Night Rocked!

The Community Council's first Movie Night was a fantastic success! We kicked off the year with our largest turnout ever. A huge thank you to all our volunteers! And thank you to our Wilkinson community for supporting the event. There is one more: thank you to **Wilkie dad Martin Saxton** who has volunteered to head up Movie Night this year.

The next Movie Night will be Friday Oct. 18 with the animated film, *Despicable Me 2*.

Wilkinson's School Community Council

Wilkinson is fortunate to have an active Community Council with many parent and guardian members. The Council's mandate and responsibilities are covered in our constitution. This document and past approved meeting minutes are available on the school website at www.wilkinsonschooll.ca.

The Council meets monthly during the school year and **ALL** Wilkinson parents and guardians are welcome to attend even if they aren't elected/voting members. Some parents stay on the Council for a few years but each year members move on. We want to ensure our Council remains vibrant and representative of our school population so new parent members are always welcome and encouraged to join. Childcare is provided during the meetings.

Nomination Forms for the 2013-2014 Council are included in the Welcome Package. Anyone wishing to be a voting member of this year's Council should complete and return this form to the Council mailbox in the main office by **Wednesday Sept. 25**.

Your Community Council in Action in 2012-2013

In case you wondered what the Community Council does with the money we fund raise, here's a list of our many accomplishments from the past school year:

Extra Curricular Activities (ECA): *filling a gap in services*

- The absence of extra curricular activities in the 2012-2013 school year had council members step up to the plate and organize some of their own ECAs.
- Starting late January 2013, a series of ECAs were held on Friday evenings, allowing kids of all ages and abilities to come out and try their hand at Dodge Ball, Ball Hockey, Badminton, Volleyball, Basketball, and other fun games.

Wil-Kitchen: *connecting parents through cooking*

- Through a TDSB Parents Reaching Out Grant, Council hosted three sessions on Health Eating run by Lisa Shama, a caterer in our community who's interest is in the relationship between the food we eat and our health.
- Wil-Kitchen also hosts a Fun Fair prep night.

- Wil-Kitchen has been an important part of our parent outreach as it brings together a mix of new and seasoned Wilkie parents of diverse backgrounds and abilities to connect and learn from each other.

Fun Fair: *Wilkinson's day to give back to the kids*

- This is the Council's biggest fundraiser and community event of the year.
- The event promotes Wilkinson in the community and enables Council to provide services and programming to the students and fulfil funding requests from the staff.

Movie Nights: *flicks for fun and fundraising*

- Council held seven movie nights this year three before Christmas, four after).

Sweetheart Sale: *controlled chaos for one's sweetheart*

- Council held its annual Sweetheart Bake Sale in February. This is a much anticipated event for the kids.

Pumpkinfest: *enjoying the fall and our community*

- A community event held in the fall that includes selling pumpkins and other items. Though this event brings in some funds from the sale of pumpkins, the focus is to bring the community together and to enjoy the fall weather.
- Free coffee, apple cider and baked goodies shows that community activities don't always have to be about raising funds.

Pizza Lunches: *how excited the kids are on those Fridays*

- The last Friday of the month has come to be known as Pizza Day.
- A fundraiser that gives the opportunity for the students to have lunch with their friends.

Communications: *keeping parents informed*

- Council prepares monthly newsletters and issues special notices of events to keep parents informed and engaged in what is happening at the school, and with education at the TDSB and provincial level.
- We maintain a Website that we strive to keep current with upcoming activities, school and council information, forms and links to other resources.

Arts: *developing appreciation through painting and performances*

- This year the Grades 1 to 6 had two performances and the AM and PM Kindergartens had one each – all paid for by Council.
- The performances in 2012-2013 included Native Dancers, Brazilian Dancers, Kim and Jerry Brody who are folk singers, and a puppet play.
- Bringing the arts into the school ensures an opportunity is given to all students to develop an appreciation of artistic expression in various forms.

Garden Party Clean-Up: *families keeping Wilkinson "green & tidy"*

- An eco-focused, community effort to keep our schoolyard green and relevant.
- Part of the Council's ongoing support of the Learning Garden Revitalization.

Curriculum Night & Council Elections – Sept. 26

Curriculum Night is **Thursday Sept. 26 from 6-7p.m.** This is an opportunity to meet your child's teacher, see the classroom, and learn about grade expectations and the class routines. Before the classroom activities start, Mr. Kelly will introduce the teachers in the gym at 6p.m. and then the School Community Council elections will take place. The election only lasts a few minutes and then parents head off to the classrooms for the remainder of the evening.

Curriculum Night is an informative evening to learn more about your children's education and what they do each day at school. If you require specific information about your child's progress, please make arrangements with the teacher to meet privately. Curriculum Night is not intended for parents to discuss their child's progress.

Lateness Reminder

In order to provide the best possible program for students, it is necessary for them to attend school regularly and on time. When students are late they miss important information and it is disruptive to the teacher's lesson.

Late Slips – Safe Arrival!

Teachers take attendance twice a day – first thing in the morning and right after lunch. For those students who don't arrive before the national anthem in the morning or before 12:35pm after lunch, they must go to the office and get a late slip before going to their classroom. This lets the office know that a child is safe at school, even if a teacher has already marked them absent. Problems arise when a child doesn't get a late slip because there is no record that he/she is at school. We want to avoid unnecessary concern and panic of parents being called and told their child is not at school when they are! If your child isn't going to be at school, call the *Absence Line* (416-393-9575; press "1").

School All-year Fundraisers:

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.

Important Dates

September

THURS. Sept. 26

- **Curriculum Night & Community Council Election** for the 2013-2014 school year. Begins at 6p.m.
 - **Concussion and Brain Injury Community Information Evening** at Sir John A Macdonald CI. Presented by the TDSB and Parachute.
- For more information, contact: (416) 396-5043

FRI. Sept. 27

First Pizza Lunch!

October

FRI. Oct. 11

PA Day

MON. Oct. 14

Thanksgiving – School closed

FRI. Oct. 18

Movie Night with the animated feature, *Despicable Me 2*

SAT. Oct. 19

Special Education Conference at Earl Haig Secondary School from 8a.m.-2:30p.m.
For more information, visit: www.tdsb.on.ca/parentconference

FRI. Oct. 25

Pizza Lunch!

November

SAT. Nov. 2

People for Education's 17th annual conference
Visit www.peopleforeducation.ca

FRI. Nov. 22

Pizza Lunch!

December

THURS. Dec. 12

Winter Concert from 6p.m. – 7p.m.

FRI. Dec. 13

Pizza Lunch!

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