



NEWSLETTER

APR. 2012

Principal's Message

I would like to highlight two special days that will be coming up in April. Wilkinson will be participating wholeheartedly in both of these initiatives.

Wed. April 11 – Day of Pink

One of the situations that can confront students at any age is that of being bullied or observing someone else being bullied. The TDSB already has a strong mandate against bullying and intolerance in schools and in the workplace. To further recognize and to stand up against bullying, Wednesday April 11 has been designated as Pink Day.

This day is based on the actions in 2007 of two Nova Scotia Grade 12 students who marshalled their friends to wear pink in support of a younger student who had been bullied for wearing a pink shirt on the first day of school.

The e-mail campaign mounted by the older students resulted in not just 50 of their friends but in hundreds of students turning up the next day wearing pink in support of the bullied student. The Pink Day that started in a Nova Scotia high school has now spread across Canada. TDSB schools have participated in Pink Day celebrations for several years, but this is the third year we are supporting anti-bullying through a Board-wide call to action.

We urge every school and every staff member and student to join the anti-bullying campaign by wearing pink on Wednesday, April 11. Show your support against bullying and for intolerance.

Fri. April 20 – Earth Day

TDSB students, staff, and parents have been observing Earth Day for years, and have come up with many fun and ingenious ways to mark this event. Science classes from one school tested the health of the water in a nearby ravine. Many students and staff organize community cleanups or campaigns to reduce the school's impact on the environment with lights off, no bottled water, paper-free days, etc. The Board's Outdoor Education Centres also help many schools participate in Earth Day activities. Planned activities include exploring local ecosystems, learning how to use less energy for lighting, and removing invasive plant species. Many parents and students organize their own neighbourhood Earth Day events.

For ideas and how-to information, visit www.earthday.ca.

For many TDSB staff and students, every day is Earth Day. There are now 401 certified EcoSchools across the Board, and more are expected to join this year. EcoSchools is a program created by the TDSB that now acts as a province-wide model for green schools. For more information, visit the EcoSchools page on the Board's web site or www.ecoschools.ca.

At Wilkinson we are seeking Silver status as an EcoSchool. Over the next few weeks you will be receiving information on Wilkinson's plan for Earth Day. We encourage you to participate when possible and reinforce with your children the importance of this day.

– Allan Kelly, Principal

Eco Team News – Lights Off Winners!

We would like to congratulate rooms 27, 20 and 21 for having their lights off during every single recess in February. Also, congratulations to rooms 25, 26, 22, 29, 28, 13, 19 and 9, for only having their lights on during one or two recesses. Room 21 was randomly selected to win a popcorn prize. Great work, EVERYBODY! Your attentiveness and cooperation made a big difference!

During the month of March, the Eco Team has been continuing to work on its electricity presentations. Many Eco Team members have gone into other classes to discuss why it is important to save energy, and some simple things we can do around the school. For instance, whenever it is sunny, we encourage classes to roll up the blinds, and turn off their lights. We also encourage everyone to turn off computer monitors, lights and appliances and unplug radios when they are not in use.

On Friday March 30, we celebrated Earth Hour at Wilkinson. We encourage you to regularly celebrate at home. Why not try playing a board game in candlelight, or taking a night hike? What other fun activities can you think of that don't require electricity?

– Ms. Barbier

Library News!

Forest of Reading

The Blue Spruce and Silver Birch reading programs come to an end this month. Throughout April, Blue Spruce readers (K-3) will be voting on their favourite Blue Spruce book and, on Monday April 23, Silver Birch readers get a chance to vote for their favourite title. May the best book win! For more information on the Forest of Reading, check <http://bit.ly/rgTE9G>.

For more library news, don't forget to check out the Wilkinson Library landing page at <http://about.me/wilkinsonlibrary> and the Library Blog at <http://wilkinsonlibrary.tumblr.com/>. For regular updates on the great things that happen at Wilkinson, follow us on Twitter at http://twitter.com/TDSB_wilkinson.

Happy Reading!

– Mr. Krentz

Health and Physical Education News!

More sports teams starting up!

Spring is here, which means warmer weather (hopefully!) and more sports teams starting up. Junior boys' and girls' soccer, cricket, ultimate frisbee and track & field will be starting shortly. Please remember to listen to announcements for more information about try-out times. Good luck to all students!

Badminton is the lone sport being played after school, coached by Mr. Enticknap and Mr. DePasqua. Students have been practicing hard and will play a few exhibition games in the next week to test their skills! Good luck!

The H.E.A.L.T.H.Y. eating program is rolling along nicely and the importance of eating fresh fruits and vegetables daily is constantly being reiterated in Health and Physical Education class, especially in March as it was nutrition month.

Here are some websites for more information on nutrition: www.dietitians.ca, www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/food-guide-ailment/myguide-monguide/index-eng.php.

April's Healthy Snacks are:

- April 2-6: Carrots
- April 9-13: Cherry/Grape Tomatoes
- April 16-20: Salad Veggie/Fruit
- April 23-27: Grapes

Happy, healthy eating, Wilkinson!

– Mr. Kasaval.

Hear all about it! Storytelling Club For Grades 2 & 3

There are 45 children participating in Storytelling Club this year. We have already engaged in many activities, such as storytelling circle, instant story, pair share with a buddy and more! The last day for storytelling club will be Tuesday April 10. Thank you to all of the children for being such enthusiastic participants and wonderful storytellers!

– H. Mangos, A. Cerqueira, M. Di Iorio, J. Krentz

Art Show – Wilkinson's artwork on display

Wilkinson's Annual Art show will take place from Monday May 7 to Friday May 11, 2012. Each student at Wilkinson PS participates by submitting one art piece to be displayed. The gallery is open until 4pm from Monday to Thursday.

We are looking for parent volunteers who can help with the set up on Friday May 4. If you are able to volunteer, please speak to Ms. Di Iorio, Ms. Currie, Mrs. Wareham or Ms. Butler.

We are looking forward to another successful Art Show!

– Ms. Di Iorio

Parent Workshops

A free workshop on teens with ADHD

Turning Point Youth Services is offering The Young (The Dreamy) and the Restless: Understanding Teens with ADHD workshop at its offices on Wellesley St. East. Joanna Blanchard of the Scarborough Hospital's ADHD Clinic is presenting the workshop, which takes place Wednesday April 25, 2012 from 6pm-7:30pm. The workshop will help parents understand key information about the disorder, and how ADHD can complicate the maturation process in the teenage years. Blanchard will also introduce information about treatment options.

To reserve a spot, contact: (416) 925-9250.

Parenting for Success Conference at RH McGregor

In response to the ever increasing need for information about all aspects of parenting, RH McGregor School and our Home and School Association have teamed up to organize and fund a Parenting for Success Conference on Saturday May 5 from 9:30am to 3:30pm. Our keynote speaker will be Ron Morrish, a Behaviour Specialist, who has helped countless parents and teachers improve their skills in developing responsible children. Workshops that will be offered include: Homework Strategies (Fr. Imm. & Eng.), Internet Safety, ABCs of Mental Health, Bibliotherapy, Substance Abuse

and Mental Health and many others. Registration is free and can be done online at www.rhmparentconference.ca. The conference includes free child care.

Great job, Wilkinson!

Some Wilkinson students decided to spend a few hours in March to help clean up the school grounds. Look at the garbage they collected – another great example of Wilkinson kid power!



From left to right are: Sam, Graham, Ethan, Nathan, Rachel, Madeleine, Claire and Mia.

Fri. April 20 – Movie Night!

The Parent Council's next movie night is Friday April 20. The movie is still to be determined. Doors open at 6:30pm and the movie starts at 7pm.

Movie Night is a team effort and there is a dedicated group of young volunteers and other parents who regularly help out. But we could always use more! If you're interested, speak to one of the parents at Movie Night or e-mail wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca.

Fundraise for Wilkinson!

Looking for a way to contribute to Wilkinson? Here's an easy way. 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.***

Sat. May 26 – Fun Fair News!

We need your stuff!

The date is set and prep work for Wilkinson's biggest fundraising event is underway. Fun Fair takes place on Saturday May 26 from 11am to 3pm.

Do you have Canadian Tire money kicking around? The Parent Council will need to purchase some tents this year and could use your "money" to put toward the cost. Please let April Moon know if you have Canadian Tire money and we'll arrange to collect it.

[Moon.wallis@sympatico.ca](mailto:moon.wallis@sympatico.ca)

Silent Auction

Parent Council is looking for items for the Silent Auction. Please e-mail Allison Arnott at AArnott@providence.on.ca

It's a Piece of Cake!

Parent Council is looking for baked goods and whole cakes for the Fun Fair Cake Walk. Please e-mail Karen Lawrie if you can help: klawrie@rogers.com

Volunteers wanted!

Calling all high school students! Do you need to add to your volunteer hours? Come out for Fun Fair – you'll be helping a great cause and you'll have a blast, too.

If you'd like to get involved, there are plenty of opportunities and something for everyone. Just e-mail Eric at ericandallison@sympatico.ca

Vacancies at Dandyllion Daycare

Dandyllion Daycare Centre has five vacancies in the After School-Age Program (ASAP) room as of April 1. The ASAP room is for children in Grades 4-6. This program is only offered after school from 3:20-6pm and is closed for the summer, Christmas Break, March Break and P.A. Days. The program teaches the children responsibility, team building, involves outdoor time and plenty of fun and creative activities for the children. For more information regarding the centre or going on our waiting list for another program, please contact Patrina Stathopoulos or Sarah Hoac at (416) 469-0091 or via e-mail dandyllion@bellnet.ca

Community News

Summer Arts for Kids

If you're looking ahead for activities for your kids this summer, St. David's Anglican Church is again running its Open Door Summer Arts Programming for Children and Youth from July 2 to August 10, 2012.

This year's programming includes:

- Songwriting Workshop for Teens (age 15-18)
- Shakespeare is Boffo theatre for active kids
- Intensive Arts Workshops (age 11-14)
- Enriched Arts Camps (age 7-10)

For the schedule and more information, contact (416) 466-3142 or e-mail trishor@sympatico.ca.

You can also visit: www.stdavidstoronto.ca/opendoor2012/opendoor2012.html

A showcase of local talent

The next Art of the Danforth is scheduled to take place from May 20 – June 10, 2012 and promises to be bigger and better than the last.

Art of the Danforth is a festival of free public art installations, activities and live performances presented at over 40 locations along Danforth Avenue between Greenwood and Woodbine. The first event took place in 2010.

The aim is to encourage foot traffic along the Danforth, increase community engagement, showcase local artistic talent and bring together people from various cultures and interests in the creation and appreciation of art.

The 2012 Art of the Danforth festival will include: public art, art in stores, walking tours, community workshops and performance, presented in venues such as: vacant storefronts, commercial spaces, public spaces such as parks, parking lots and sidewalks.

For more information, visit: www.artofthedanforth.com

Contact Us

Go to our Web site at www.wilkinsonschool.ca or leave a message at (416) 393-9575.

Thank you to this month's contributors.

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Important Dates

Thurs. April 5

Talent Show @ 12:30pm

Fri. April 6

Good Friday – Statutory Holiday

Sat. April 7

Passover

Mon. April 9

Easter Monday – School closed

Mon. April 10

Council Meets

Wed. April 11

Day of Pink

Wed. April 18

Comedian, speaker and disability activist, Alan Shain, performs @ 1:30pm for the Grades 4-6

Fri. April 20

Earth Day at Wilkinson

Sun. April 22

Earth Day

Fri. April 27

Pizza Lunch

Thurs. May 3

Spring Concert: Primary concert @ 6pm and Junior Concert @ 7pm

Mon. May 7-Fri. May 11

Wilkinson's Annual Art Show

Thurs. May 17

Storyteller Rukhsana Khan to present at Wilkinson

Fri. May 18

Storyteller Rukhsana Khan to present at Wilkinson

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