

# Important Information

## EARTH HOUR

On Friday, March 25th from 2 – 3pm the whole school participated in Earth Hour. By participating in Earth Hour we hoped to heighten awareness about energy conservation and slow climate change. Lights, computers, photocopiers and all other electrical equipment were turned off. Each classroom made its own plan, coming up with many creative ways to enjoy the hour electricity free! During this time students took part in playground games, drama, music, board games and art.

## EARTH WEEK COLLECTIONS

During Earth week (April 18th to 21st) Wilkinson will be collecting **dead batteries, eye glasses and cell phones**. By collecting batteries and cell phones, we want to remind people that these items should never go into the garbage. Someone from the school will take them to a depot where they will be disposed of responsibly. We will be giving the eye glasses to a charitable organization for redistribution. There will be boxes in the front foyer for these items.

## COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP

On Thursday, April 21st students and staff are going to participate in the “20-Minute Toronto Makeover”. Each class will be cleaning up a part of the school yard or the surrounding community. If you would like to join us, please contact your child’s teacher or the vice-principal, Ms. Adams.

## LITTER-LESS LUNCHESES

We continue to encourage students to bring their lunches in reusable containers. Not only is it good for the environment, but it is healthier as students do not eat as much processed/packaged food. We also encourage students to take home any garbage they create (dipper containers, wrappers, etc.) to promote environmental responsibility. We do have a green bin for organic waste.

## GREENING & GROUNDS

The Council Greening Committee is gearing up to get our grounds ready for Spring and have organized the following events:

### **Learning Garden Overhaul Day**

Saturday April 30th

9am – 12pm, childcare provided

### **Learning Garden Clean-Up**

Saturday May 7th

9am – 12pm, childcare provided

No gardening experience required. For more information and to RSVP contact Leslie Domenico at [leslie.domenico@sympatico.ca](mailto:leslie.domenico@sympatico.ca).

There is also a new *Greening Vegetable Garden Sub-Committee*. We’re just getting started and look forward to developing a thriving vegetable garden over the coming year. We’re waiting for the TDSB consultation but are keen to get started with some container planting in the short term. All donations of planters or large bins are welcome!

If you are interested in learning more, helping develop and/or maintain this Wilkinson Community vegetable garden contact Jill Spellman at [jill\\_spellman@yahoo.ca](mailto:jill_spellman@yahoo.ca).

## LIBRARY NEWS

Readers of all ages are enjoying the Forest of Reading selections (aka Blue Spruce and Silver Birch). Readers from K-3 have read (or have had read to them) the 10 Blue Spruce nominated titles and some have already voted for their favourites. Silver Birch readers (grades 4-6) are busy finishing at least 5 of the 10 nominated titles in preparation for their voting day at the end of April. Silver Birch readers will have a chance to attend the ‘Festival of Trees’ at Harbourfront in May. It is a celebration of reading where many of the nominated authors will be on hand to meet their readers, sign autographs and witness the winning title announced on stage at the Silver Birch award ceremony! More details will be given in mid-April, and, yes, I will be looking for parent volunteers!

Local author and illustrator, Jeremy Tankard, visited Wilkinson’s library on March 31st to speak with the Grade 1 - 6 classes. Mr Tankard is not only last year’s Blue Spruce award recipient; he is also a Wilkinson parent! His presentation promises to be engaging and inspiring.

We are very excited to announce that the first ever Wilkinson podcast will be available on April 1st! The podcast will be posted twice a month and will include Wilkinson news, upcoming events, Student Voice (opinions on issues effecting students) and interviews. Check out the Wilkinson Library Blog and click on the Podcast link. While you’re there, check out the blog, the gallery and the student review pages. The blog can be reached at <http://web.me.com/joelkrentz/Wilkinson/>.

Happy Reading!

**Joel Krentz**, Teacher-Librarian

## SPIRIT WEAR

Spirit Wear was distributed during the final week of March. Thank you to all who helped make this community initiative a great success. If you missed your chance to get a t-shirt or hoodie we will be collecting orders at upcoming Movie Nights. Delivery will be the following Tuesday morning.

# Arts & Music

## TALENT SHOW

You’re invited! This year’s Talent Show will take place on Friday April 1st at 1pm in the gymnasium.

## SPRING CONCERT

Our annual Wilkinson Spring Concert will take place on Thursday, April 14th in the gymnasium. Remember to arrive early– come late and it will likely be standing room only for this eagerly anticipated event!

**Primary Concert** (JK – Grade 3)

6 – 6.50pm

All kindergarten through Grade 3 students have been working on performances for the spring concert.

**Junior Concert** (Grades 4 – 6)

7 – 8.15pm

Performing groups include beginner and advanced ukulele groups, band, strings, junior choir, and ORFF ensemble.

Remember to speak to your child’s teacher so you know what time to drop off your child at his/her classroom prior to the concert starting.

## ART SHOW

The Wilkinson Annual Art Show will take place during the first week of May (2nd – 6th).

**You’re invited!** The Opening Ceremony and ribbon cutting will take place on Monday, May 2nd at 12:15pm outside of Room 3. The gallery will be open during the day for classes to visit with their teachers and will also be open from 11:20-11:30am and 3:15 – 4:00pm for parents and visitors to view the gallery.

We are looking for volunteers who can help set up for the art show on Thursday, April 28th. If you can help, please let Ms. Currie, Ms. Di Iorio or Ms. Wareham know. You can speak to them personally or leave a note in the Main Office for them.

## STORYTELLING CLUB

Storytelling Club is off to an exciting start! We meet every Tuesday during lunch. This club focuses on developing children’s oral communication skills and developing the confidence to express and present their ideas fluently. The last day for Storytelling Club will be on April 26th, 2011.

**Adelia Cerqueira, Helen Mangos & Joel Krentz** - Supervising Teachers

## UPCOMING ART PROGRAMMING

Students from Grades 3 – 6 will enjoy Ukulele Magic! on Tuesday April 5th. This performance by James Hill is an engaging and energetic 45-minute concert presentation that demonstrates the surprising versatility of the four-stringed ukulele. Students of all ages will enjoy a mix of popular songs, folk tunes, classical melodies, and jazz favourites. The concert is fun, entertaining, up-beat, and calls for lots of audience participation. For more information visit: <http://www.ukulelejames.com/schools/>.

# Sports & H.E.A.L.T.H.Y. Program

Wow, spring already! Hope everyone had a great, active and healthy March Break. Monday, March 21st saw Mr. Pirso’s Hot Rocks floor hockey team win an incredible and close game over Mr. Pane’s SHARKS Predators in a shoot out! Congratulations to the Hot Rocks. Mr. Low and Mr. Enticknap have started up the badminton team and have been practising them hard for their upcoming tournament. Starting the last week of March primary students (Grades 1-3) will be signing up for indoor intramural soccer. More information about this intramural league will be forwarded to classroom teachers and through announcements.

Here are the healthy snacks for the month of April:

- Week 1 – 3 P’s! (Peaches, pears or plums)
- Week 2 – Cucumber
- Week 3 – Grapes
- Week 4 – Carrots

Happy H.E.A.L.T.H.Y. eating Wilkinson!

**Craig Kasaval**

# Fundraising

## FUN FAIR

Only eight weeks until the Annual Fun Fair on Saturday, May 28th! This year there will be some old favourites like dunk tank, motorized toddler trains, motorized cars, Wii Games, two bouncy castles and – new this year! - one GIANT slide. We’ll also have the same fabulous international food to enjoy plus a new Wilkie Store that will sell the new spirit wear, water bottles, cookbooks... even tattoos!

Keep an eye out for the Volunteer List which will be coming out soon to fill two-hour intervals between 10am and 4pm. Specifically the Fun Fair needs mehndi and face painting artists plus a DJ (who will need to provide own equipment). Contact Karen Lawrie via [funfairvolunteers@hotmail.com](mailto:funfairvolunteers@hotmail.com).

## PIZZA LUNCH

The final three Pizza Lunches will take place on the following Fridays: April 29, May 27th and June 19th. Forms will be sent home and collection will take place in front of Room 3 before school during April 4th – 8th.

# Community Information

## PARENT/CAREGIVER DROP-IN

The parent/caregiver Drop-In at St. David’s urgently needs more volunteers. The Drop-In runs on Wednesday mornings from 8:30 - 11:30am during school term. It has brought together many local parents and caregivers for a chance to relax for an hour or two and exchange of information and mutual support - and is turning into a vital resource for the community. But many of our volunteers have had changes to their work schedules that make it impossible for them to continue. If we can’t find more volunteers, we may not be able to keep the program running. St. David’s is providing the space to the community for free but we need to provide at least two more volunteers each week. Responsibilities involve bringing snack, opening / setting up the space, greeting people, handling any problems that arise and tidying up at the end. There should always be least two volunteers there, so no one has to do all this alone. If you think you can help – even just once a month – please contact Liisa Repo-Martell at 416-469-8206.

## Important Dates

### FRI. APR. 1ST

Annual Talent Show @ 1pm

### MON. APR. 4TH – FRI. APR. 8TH

Pizza Lunch Collection @ 8.30am

### TUES. APR. 5TH

James Hill performance

### FRI. APR. 8TH

Movie Night – Open Season 3

### MON. APR. 11TH

Fun Fair Meeting @ 6pm – in Room 3  
Parent Council Meeting @ 7pm – in Room 3  
Childcare provided

### THURS. APR. 14TH

Primary Concert (JK – Grade 3) @ 6pm  
Junior Concert (Grades 4 – 6) @ 7pm

### FRI. APR. 15TH

WilKitchen – Pancakes @ 5.30pm

### MON. APR. 18TH – 21ST

Battery, Cell phone & Eye Glasses Collection

### TUES. APR. 19TH -26th

Jewish Passover

### THURS. APR. 21ST

Wilkinson Earth Day Celebrations

### FRI. APR. 22ND

Good Friday – NO SCHOOL

### SUN. APR. 24TH

Easter

### MON. APR. 25TH

Easter Monday – NO SCHOOL

### FRI. APR. 29TH

Pizza Lunch

### SAT. APR. 30TH

Learning Garden Overhaul Day @ 9am  
Childcare provided.

## PEOPLE FOR EDUCATION

It is a parent-led organization working to support public education in Ontario's English, French and Catholic schools. Its' site is a valuable resource and is available in multiple languages.

Visit People for Education at:

<http://www.peopleforeducation.com/>

## DANDYLION DAYCARE

We currently have 3 spaces available in our After School Program. This program is fully supervised by a fabulous Registered Early Childhood Educator.

### Program Outline

-For students in grades 4-6

-Hours of operation-3.30 pm to 6.00 pm

-We offer care 5 days a week but are closed on PA days, Winter Holidays, March Break and summer. We only operate when school is open!

-Cost is \$279.00 monthly

-Nutritious snacks

-Homework program

-Science experiments, creative art projects, social games, outdoor fitness

-This program also encourages independence as many of the students will be on their own after grade 6. We assist in the "walking home alone" program.

For more information or details please call Karen Anthony at DandyLion 416-469-0091 or via email [dandyliion@bellnet.ca](mailto:dandyliion@bellnet.ca).

## Contact Us

Go to our Web site at [www.wilkinsonschoo.ca](http://www.wilkinsonschoo.ca) or leave a message at (416) 393-9575.

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# WILKINSON NEWSLETTER

APR . 2011

## Principal's Message

Happy Spring! April is here and that means the staff and students are getting ready to celebrate one of the most important days of the year – Earth Day. As an EcoSchool, we have been working hard throughout the year to reduce our environmental footprint and increase our environmental awareness so we will have much to celebrate on the 21st. Here are some of our accomplishments:

- a reduction in our waste by promoting litter-less lunches and by improving our recycling program
- the development of an e-newsletter to reduce our use of paper
- a reduction in energy consumption by implementing a "Turn Off The Lights" campaign
- weekly yard clean-ups
- heightened environmental awareness through morning announcements, classroom presentations and special events such as Earth Hour

Throughout this newsletter you will read more about what we have been doing as an EcoSchool, what we have planned for Earth Day and how you can help us become even greener.

Another important event that takes place in April is the Wilkinson Spring Concert. Our students will be filling the air with beautiful sounds on April 14th, and we look forward to seeing family and friends there.

**Leasa Adams**

Vice Principal

## Important Information

### CHARACTER EDUCATION

The character trait for April is **co-operation**.

*"We are all dependent on one another, every soul of us on earth."*

– George Bernard Shaw

Co-operation is working together for a common purpose or working together to reach a common goal.

Through our EcoSchools initiatives we are teaching students the importance of co-operation. Students are learning that by co-operating with one another they can accomplish great things such as reducing the amount of garbage being sent to landfills and having a cleaner yard. You can help your child understand the importance of co-operation by making a list of things that your family does that require co-operation. This might include completing a puzzle together or working together on a chore (many hands make light work).

### WILKINSON ECOTEAM

**What's in Wilkinson's Garbage?** On Tuesday, March 1st, eleven Eco Reps spent the afternoon sorting through seven large bags of garbage. The garbage was produced by the school during the previous 24 hours. Students got right in there, picking up every little piece of garbage and putting it into the appropriate category, including recyclable containers, recyclable paper and food waste. Then we weighed the amounts in each category.

**What were the results?** 70% of the garbage was compostable material, including food, soiled napkins and paper towel. The most interesting bag was full of half eaten pizza slices, and even some whole ones. Put together, these slices amounted to about five WHOLE PIZZAS! We would like to recommend that parents purchase appropriate amounts of pizza for their kids during pizza lunches and movie night, and that fewer cookies are given out. Parents, also please encourage children to bring home uneaten food at the end of the school day. (See our Litter-Less Lunch article!)

This was not a job for those who have a weak stomach, and the Eco Reps did a fantastic job! A special thanks goes out to Jill Spellman for helping out during the audit and to the caretakers who put the garbage aside for us. More waste audits to come! Please contact Mme Barbier ([sophie.barbier@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:sophie.barbier@tdsb.on.ca)) if you would like to help out.