

Important Information

WILKINSON ECOTEAM

April 15th – 21st was Earth Week at Wilkinson. It was a full week of eco-friendly actions and activities, ending with a lively assembly to celebrate our accomplishments. On Friday April 15th, classes went outside to pick up litter in the school yard and the community. Tuesday April 19th, was litter-less lunch day at school. Almost all students brought in a litter-less lunch by using a reusable container and a reusable bottle. Wednesday April 20th was 'leave your car at home' day. Teachers and students were encouraged to get to school by foot, TTC or bike. As usual, most of the staff and students did not take their cars, and we hope that at least a few people changed their driving habits for the day.

We ended the week with some fun eco activities planned by classroom teachers. Classes had the chance to work with a total of three different teachers. Activities included predator and prey, a nature scavenger hunt, calculating your ecological footprint, and a discussion of the many uses of trees.

Throughout the week we collected used batteries, cell phones and eye glasses, thanks to all who brought items in! We ended with an Earth Week assembly where we celebrated the eco-friendly actions of classes, teachers and students. Teachers who normally don't drive to school were recognized and given some grapes, the healthy snack of the week. There was also a raffle in which prizes were given away to students who had brought a litter-less lunch to school on Tuesday. Twenty-five prizes were given out in total and caused much excitement amongst the students. (Thank you to Lemur at 900 Danforth Avenue for donating a few notebooks made from recycled sugarcane pulp!)

Thanks also go to the Eco Reps who worked hard promoting the events and to teachers for planning fun environmental activities. It was a great week – full of eco-friendly actions, learning and fun!

Sophie Barbier, Grade 4/5/6 Core French

JAPANESE RELIEF FUND

At the end of March, the Toronto District School Board held a Toonie Tuesday to raise money to help the people of Japan. The funds Wilkinson raised will given to the Canadian Red Cross.

One of our parents, Akiko Mitsui, also showed the junior grades how to make paper cranes. The paper cranes are a symbol of hope from us to the people of Japan. Finally, with the help of Mr. Krentz, our students also sent twitter messages of goodwill to children living in areas affected by the earthquake and tsunami.

OPENHOUSE & JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION

New students registered to begin in September 2011 will get a chance to visit the school and find out what it is all about on Thursday May 5th between 9:00 – 11:00am and from 1:00 – 3:15pm.

The orientation for 2011/2012 Junior Kindergarten students will be held on Tuesday May 31st. A letter will be sent home in early May with more details.

JUNE NEWSLETTER

The June Newsletter will be sent home during the last week of the academic school year. As a result, the May Newsletter has a list of Important Dates for the remainder of the current academic year. Take note of these today!

The Communications Team plan the first monthly eNewsletter starting in October 2011. The September Newsletter/Welcome Package will be sent home during the first week of school. Make sure to review this package as it is chock full of useful information about the 2011/2012 school year and how you can become involved!

LUNCH ROOM UPDATE

Next year we will no longer have microwaves in our lunch rooms to heat up students' food. This change is based on TDSB guidelines which are in place to ensure students' safety.

EQAO TESTING

All students in Grades 3 and 6 will be participating in the EQAO's annual assessment in late May and early June. The assessments measure students' knowledge and skills in reading, writing and mathematics. For more information speak to your child's teacher

LIBRARY NEWS

After months of reading, the Forest of Reading programs are winding down. Primary students voted for their favourite **Blue Spruce** book earlier this spring and the Silver Birch voting day took place on April 27th. **Silver Birch** readers came to the library and cast their ballot for their favourite title in one of three categories: Fiction, Non-Fiction or Express. To finish the Forest of Reading season, Silver Birch students will be attending the **Festival of Trees** at Harbourfront on May 12th. This is a celebration of reading where students will have a chance to meet many of the nominated authors and see the winners announced at an award ceremony.

The Wilkinson podcast team have worked hard to produce the second edition of the **Wilkinson Podcast**. Producing a weekly podcast has proven to be a bit ambitious for our busy Grade 5 team. This edition features an interview with Ms Levy, our fabulous music teacher, and with Mme Barbier along with members of the Eco Team. To have a listen, go to <http://web.me.com/joelkrentz/Wilkinson> and click on the 'Podcast' link.

Wilkinson's annual **Design-a-Bookmark Contest** ran throughout the month of April. Nearly 200 bookmark designs were submitted! Judges will look at the amazing entries and announce the winners in early May. Prizes will be awarded to the best artwork and the best design in each of the 3 categories: JK/SK, Grades 1 – 3 and Grades 4 – 6. The winners will also have their submissions made into bookmarks for other students to use. The winning bookmarks will also be posted on the Wilkinson Library blog (<http://web.me.com/joelkrentz/Wilkinson>).

Finally, the Eric Walters book trailer project that the Grade 6 classes were working is now online. To view these fabulous trailers go to Wilkinson's YouTube page at <http://youtube.com/wilkinsonlibrary>.

Happy reading (and viewing)!

Joel Krentz, Teacher-Librarian

Arts & Music

ART SHOW

The Annual Art Show will take place during the first week of May (2nd – 5th).

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.

WILKINSON JUNIOR CHOIR

The Wilkinson Junior Choir has been invited to perform at a special tribute dinner for "The Learning Partnership". It will take place on Tuesday May 10th at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Congratulations to Ms. Levy and our Junior Choir!

ART PROGRAMMING

Room 14 Review – "O is for Ogre"

The students in Room 14 were pretty excited when they found out that they would be seeing a puppet show called, "O is for Ogre". It was presented by the Waterwood Theatre Company. It was hard to imagine what a show would be like about the letter O but what a great show it was! Connor said, "It was awesome!" The special effects were cool. They used real smoke, bubbles and made a whole ocean. The sets were amazing, too. One minute there was a bedroom for Owen and with a couple of quick changes it turned into a library! We were impressed with so many different kinds of puppets and that the puppeteers made a lot of them. The show was funny and made us laugh. It was great for all ages. (Even the teachers laughed.) A million thanks to the Parent Council for sponsoring this show.

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

Spring is here and so are all the sports! This month saw the Badminton Team traveling to Valley Park to compete in their regional badminton tournament. They fared well and competed with the best from the region. Great job students and strong coaching once again from Mr. Low and Mr. Enticknap.

On Wednesday May 4th, Wilkinson will be taking part in their annual track and field day where Grades 1 – 6 will compete in several events. Should be a fun day! The students from Grades 2 – 6 who compete well on this day and are interested in participating further will move on to the South Conference Track & Field meet on the Monday May 16th at Birchmount Collegiate. Parents and guardians - remember we can always use your help during such large events! Please leave a message at the Main Office if you are happy to volunteer.

Here are the rest of the sports starting up and tournament dates:

- Boys Soccer tournament on Friday May 6th (Friday May 13th rain date)

- Ultimate Frisbee Tournaments on Tuesday May 17th – Wednesday 18th (grades 5 and 6)

- Cricket tournament on Tuesday May 17th (Wednesday May 18th rain date)

- Girls Soccer tournament on Thursday May 19th (Wednesday May 25th rain date)

Please take note of the remaining 8 weeks of healthy snacks! In May they are:

- Week 1 – Berries
- Week 2 – Salad of your choice
- Week 3 – Mangoes
- Week 4 – Broccoli

Here are the healthy snacks for the month of June:

- Week 1 – Pears, Plums or Peaches
- Week 2 – Tomatoes/Cherry Tomatoes
- Week 3 – Watermelon
- Week 4 – Berries
- Week 5 – Pears

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

Craig Kasaval – Physical Education

Fundraising

FUN FAIR

Our Fun Fair is 4 weeks away and the countdown is on! A lot is going on to prepare for the big event and the first circular sent home was the annual Dream Basket letter. This should have made it home to you by now. Keep an eye out for the Event Package to be sent home early May.

Check out our top tips to make the most out of your Fun Fair!

- **Note the time.** Event starts at 11 am and ends at 3pm.
- **Buy your Food Tickets and Game Card early.** Avoid line ups to buy tickets later on!
- **3 places to play.** Games in the gym, bouncy castles and a giant slide near the school and out in our field! Plus, enjoy many free activities offered throughout the day.
- **Visit the International BBQ area.** Our food is spectacular! Expect line ups but be assured that it's worth the wait!
- **Visit the Bake Sale area in Room 3.** Enjoy coffee and a treat while you submit your ballots for the Dream Baskets and peruse the Silent Auction items.
- **Be prepared for the Silent Auction.** Bring your cheque books... This year's auction is bigger than last year!
- **Don't forget loonies for Loonie Land.** This area always sells out early. Winner every time!
- **Join in!** Sign up to volunteer by emailing: FunFairVolunteers@hotmail.com. Be sure to include name, telephone number and what area you are interested in!

Fundraising

WILKITCHEN

Mark your calendars and plan to join us at 5:30pm in the large lunchroom on Thursday, May 26th!

This is the Fun Fair WilKitchen cooking evening of 2011. Together we will prepare side dishes to sell at our food booth at the Fun Fair.

It's a great way to meet other Wilkinson families and support our Fun Fair while learning some new recipes. Child care will be provided but kids are welcome to participate if they are interested. There is no charge to attend.

Mark on your calendar for June! Our final WilKitchen for this school year will take place on Friday June 10th. Join us as we prepare and enjoy recipes from the Philippines!

Important Dates – JUNE

FRI. JUNE 10TH

WilKitchen – Philippines @ 5.30pm

MON. JUNE 13TH

Parent Council AGM @ 7pm – Room 3 (Childcare provided)

FRI. JUNE 17TH

Annual Play Day (Mon. June 20th rain date)
Pizza Lunch

WED. JUNE 22ND

Senior Kindergarten Graduation
AM @ 9am – Room 3 PM @ 1pm – Room 3

TUES. JUNE 28TH

Grade 6 Graduation @ 1.30pm
Final Reports go home.

WED. JUNE 29TH

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!

Contact Us

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

Thank you to this month's contributors: Jill Spellman, Leslie Domenico
Editors: Jill Spellman Design/Layout: Gerald Flach - gerald@zebragator.com

Published by the Wilkinson School Council

Important Dates – MAY

FRI. APR. 1ST

Annual Talent Show @ 1pm

SUN. MAY 1ST

Yom HaSho'ah

MON. MAY 2ND

Art Show Opening @ 12.15pm

WED. MAY 4TH

Annual Track & Field Day

THURS. MAY 5TH

Open House

FRI. MAY 6TH

Movie Night – Gnomeo & Juliet

SAT. MAY 7TH

Learning Garden Clean-Up Day @ 9am

MON. MAY 9TH

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

TUES. MAY 10TH

Junior Choir @ Metro Toronto Convention Centre

FRI. MAY 20TH

PA Day – NO SCHOOL

MON. MAY 23RD

Victoria Day – NO SCHOOL

THURS. MAY 26TH

WilKitchen – FF International Food Sides @ 5.30pm

FRI. MAY 27TH

Pizza Lunch

SAT. MAY 28TH

FUN FAIR @ 11am – 3pm

TUES. MAY 31ST

Junior Kindergarten Orientation

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WILKINSON NEWSLETTER

MAY 2011

Principal's Message

As the school year winds down, it is a busy time for everyone here at Wilkinson. We have a number of athletic events starting including Track and Field, Grade 3 and 6 EQAO testing, final report cards, graduations and Fun Fair. Please look for information coming home on these over the next little while.

This year one of the things we have focused on is preparing our students to be good ambassadors, to help each other out, to give to people who are less fortunate and to help out by fundraising for people who have experienced natural disasters. I am very impressed with the way the staff, students and families here at Wilkinson have embraced and supported these initiatives. Thank you for contributing to these endeavours and instilling these values in your children. I would also like to acknowledge the work of Ms. Adams in co-ordinating these activities throughout the school year.

Finally, our Spring Concert was a huge success and we collected almost \$1300.00 at the door. This money will go towards the purchase of new instruments. Thank you for your donations!

Facilities Update:

Our Safe and Caring Schools committee began a number of projects this year and have been successful in making Wilkinson a safe and caring school. These projects include the installation of new lighting inside and outside the building, new safety vests for supervision in the school yard and a new classroom hall pass system.

In the coming weeks we will be replacing the cameras in the front foyer and adding additional cameras in the basement and the schoolyard. There will also be a new digital recorder installed inside the office. This equipment is purchased and sanctioned by the TDSB Safe and Caring Schools department.

There will be grading work taking place in the school yard this Spring to allow for better drainage and to prevent the pooling of water. Our goal is to get rid of those small ponds that form in the yard after it rains.

We are constantly looking for ways of improving and upgrading the facilities here at Wilkinson. Your thoughts and ideas are always welcome. Your Parent Council is working hard on the Early Learning center in the Kindie area, the native plants Learning Area and the new Vegetable Garden.

Curriculum Update:

We have had continuous training throughout the year. The focus has been on Critical pathways, Descriptive Feedback and Success Criteria and our most recent training session on April 27th had Debbie Kasman from the Ministry focusing on Guided Reading. During the month of June we will be busy planning for the next year.

Please don't hesitate to call the school to speak to your child's teacher about any of these initiatives or concerns around the program. As always, my door is open and I'm available for consultation.

Alan Kelly

Principal

Important Information

CHARACTER EDUCATION

The TDSB character trait for May is **integrity**.

"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day"

– Sally Koch

What is integrity?

- Being honest, trustworthy, and incorruptible.
- Following your convictions.
- Maintaining steadfast adherence to a strict code of moral values.

What parents can do to teach their children about integrity:

- Encourage and praise your child when he or she shows integrity.
- Provide your child with opportunities to actively engage in discussion that will help develop his or her opinions.
- Brainstorm a list of controversial issues. Discuss both sides of the issues.