

Important Information

WILKINSON IS BECOMING AN ECOSCHOOL

EcoSchools is a TDSB program designed to help fight Climate Change. The program addresses both what students learn and how our schools are run. Our EcoSchools Committee includes administrators, teachers, caretakers, students and parents. The committee decides on goals for the school and how the school will meet those goals. In April 2011 we will apply for certification, and after an assessment it will be determined if we are a bronze, silver, gold or platinum EcoSchool. The assessment is based on a point system looking at the following areas:

- Foster Leadership and Teamwork
- Reduce impact on the Environment: Energy Conservation
- Reduce impact on the Environment: Waste Minimization
- Improving Students' Achievement through Ecological Literacy
- Contribute to Healthy, Safe and Caring School Communities.

EcoSchools welcome any ideas and suggestions on how to improve our ecological footprint. Please send them to Leasa Adams at leasa.adams@tdsb.on.ca.

LIBRARY NEWS

The Wilkinson library will be hosting a couple of author visits over the next few weeks. The first visit is from **Eric Walters**. He will be at Wilkinson on November 12th to kick off a project that the grade 6 classes will be working on during November and December. The project involves creating 'book trailers' for a number of Eric Walters books. Mr Walters will return to Wilkinson to see the finished book trailers in January.

I am excited to share that I have recently secured a visit from **Deborah Ellis** who will be coming in early December. I will provide more details closer to the date. A number of author visits geared to the primary grades are also in the planning stages. More details to follow.

This year's **Silver Birch and Blue Spruce reading program** titles have been announced and the lists are full of good books! Each year the Ontario Library Association's annual Forest of Reading program runs 8 different reading programs for students of all ages across the province. To participate, students make a commitment to read 5 of the 10 nominated titles in their reading program and vote on their favourite. Submitted votes from across the province are tabulated and the winner is announced at the Festival of Trees on May 12th and 13th at Harbourfront. I plan to take a group of Silver Birch down to Harbourfront for the event. To see this year's list go to www.accessola.com/reading or check the bulletin board just inside the library.

Don't forget - You can get the most up to date information about **daily life and learning at Wilkinson** through Wilkinson's Twitter

account. You can check it at twitter.com/TDSB_wilkinson. If you already have an account, be sure to follow us.

Happy Reading!

Joel Krentz, Teacher-Librarian

COMMUNITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

This month let us introduce the different Council Committees our parents are involved in. Together, these work to create a better Wilkinson for all. If you are interested in joining any of these committees please contact the Council via wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca. Remember you don't need to be a voting member of Council to join in and make a difference!

Arts Committee – Its mandate is to bring in artists and performers to support the curriculum and create opportunities for Wilkinson students to develop an appreciation of artistic expression in various forms.

Communications Committee – This committee coordinates communication between the school, the home and the community through the website, a monthly newsletter, email and flyers.

Education Committee – Provides education information to the Wilkinson community by liaising with the Communications Committee.

Fun Fair Committee – This committee organizes and runs the annual Fun Fair that takes place every May and is our biggest fundraiser and community event.

Fundraising Committee – Organizes and coordinates fundraising events (e.g. movie nights) which support Wilkinson students and community.

Greening & Grounds Committee – This committee maintains Wilkinson's gardens and works with teachers to incorporate our learning gardens into the curriculum.

Health & Safety Committee – This committee supports the Wilkinson community with input, direction and/or action in the physical and personal safety of children. It also includes Public Health initiatives and the Physical Education & Sports aspect of the curriculum. Members of this committee also serve on the new **Safe and Caring Schools Committee** introduced within the October newsletter Principal's Message.

Arts & Music

ARTS CLUB

The Arts Club, run by Ms. Stelmanis and Ms. Cooke, consists of students in grades 4 to 5 and meets every Monday at lunch. Over the past few weeks the club has focused on poetry and drama. Be sure to visit the beautiful design and poetry display in their first floor exhibit. What's next? The Arts Club is currently organizing and producing the Remembrance Day Assembly on November 11th.

Sports

Sports update with Mr. Kasava! Last month saw the boys and girls grade 6 slo-pitch teams compete in tournaments hosted at Wilkinson. Both teams played great and showed good sportsmanship. Last month also saw the cross country team advance to the South Conference finals and one runner, Victoria SanFrancesco (grade 6) advanced to the city finals at Centennial Park placing 32nd out of over 100 girls. Great running! This month boys volleyball and Grade 5/6 girls basketball is in full swing. Wilkinson's grade 6 girls basketball team will compete in a tournament on the November 17th at Gledhill P.S. On the November 24th the grade 4/5 team plays an all day tournament at Adam Beck P.S. and the Grade 6 team plays an all day tournament at Valley Park Middle School. Good luck to all teams!

Fundraising

PUMPKINFEST

Wilkinson's 2nd Annual Pumpkinfest was a huge success! Even though the sun was not shining, many Wilkinson families and neighbours came out to buy their pumpkins and enjoy homemade treats and hot apple cider. Thanks goes out to Tarquin Singh, who showcased her henna art; Nathalie and Jeremy Schofield, Ruby Lederman and Brady Sheppard for all their work to bring this together and finally to all the parent/grandparent volunteers who donated baked goods and helped out on the day.

CHOCOLATE SALES

Chocolate sales were a huge success this year! So much so we had to order more chocolates, twice! We distributed 190 cases of chocolates and should raise close to \$5000 to put towards additional school programming that Community Council supports like Scientist in the schools, Authors in the school, Art programs and many more.

A big thanks to everyone who participated this year. The counting isn't finished yet, but it's sure to be a close race for the pizza lunch. Great job everyone!

Upcoming Events

BOOKFAIR

Wilkinson's annual Scholastic Book Fair is coming soon! It will take place from November 12th-19th including the evening of the 18th when many parents and their children will be at the school for Progress Report meetings. Mr. Krentz will be looking for volunteers to help out, especially with setup on the 11th, and clean up on the afternoon of the 19th. If you are interested in helping out in any capacity, please contact Mr. Krentz at the school or leave a message his mailbox in the main office.

NEW ART INSTALLATION

PAINT DONATIONS! If you have any half-used cans of low VOC, latex indoor or exterior paint in different colours – bright colours, black or white please – contact Kris McGoey via krisandjoe@rogers.com or on 647-444-5414. They are to be used in an art installation project approved for the north enclosed play space and in which we hope to use as much recycled materials as possible. Stay tuned for future notice on other material donations so we can develop a rejuvenated space with green methods in mind! Thanks you in advance for your donations!

Community News

URBAN ORCHARD - GREENWOOD TTC SUBWAY YARD

On October 24th and 25th, Oakdale Green Community Gardens along with a large team of volunteers – including over 50 students from Eastern Commerce Collegiate, the Creative Preschool and the STEP after school program – came out to plant 31 apple, pear, cherry, serviceberry and Cornelian cherry trees in the green space just north of the Greenwood TTC subway yard. Please take a peek at www.oakvalegardens.ca if you want to know more about Oakvale and the history of this land we are all neighbours to.

COMMON GROUND - Schools as Community Hubs

Check this link for a summary of the amazing conference on schools as community hubs recently held by the Social Planning Council of Toronto: <http://socialplanningtoronto.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/Common-Ground-Symposium-Proceedings-Notes-Final-Draft.pdf>

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE
SIMPSON FAMILY
FOR CREATING THE 22ND ANNUAL
HAUNTED HOUSE!**

Ask your child whether they went through the house with "lights on" or "lights off"!

**TDSB 4th Annual
Parents Make A Difference Conference**

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 13

@ Earl Haig Secondary School.
Register now @ www.tdsb.on.ca/!

Important Dates

MON. NOV. 8TH

Community Council Meeting – 7pm (Childcare provided)

THURS. NOV. 11TH

Remembrance Day assembly – 10.30am

FRI. NOV. 12TH

Author Visit – Eric Walters

FRI. NOV. 12TH – FRI. NOV. 19TH

Scholastic Book Fair @ Wilkinson

SAT. NOV. 13TH

TDSB 4TH Annual Parents Make a Difference Conference

TUES. NOV. 16TH

Eid al Adha
Elementary Progress Reports go home

THURS. NOV. 18TH

Picture Re-take Day
Parent Interviews (evening only)

FRI. NOV. 19TH

Professional Activity Day – No School
Parent Interviews (morning only)

FRI. NOV. 26TH

Pizza Lunch

TUES. NOV. 30TH

Choir Festival @ Cloverdale Mall – 10am to 11:30am

THURS. DEC. 2ND TO THURS. DEC. 9TH

Hanukkah

THURS. DEC. 9TH

Winter Concert – 7pm to 8:15 pm

FRI. DEC. 10TH

Movie Night! (Mark it on your calendar now!)

MON. DEC. 13TH

Community Council Meeting – 7pm (Childcare provided)

THURS. DEC. 16TH

Ashura

FRI. DEC. 17TH

Pizza Lunch
Last day of school for 2010



Pumpkinfest 2010.

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:

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WILKINSON NEWSLETTER

NOV. 2010

Principal's Message

As the first progress report nears, I thought it would be helpful to pass along some tips for parents to consider prior to interviews with your child's teacher:

1. Prepare questions beforehand as the one on one meeting time is short
2. If possible, leave younger children at home as they find these interviews hard to sit through
3. Ask about subjects areas not included in this first report
4. If an interpreter is required, let the teacher know well in advance.

You may want to ask the teacher, does my child:

- participate in classroom activities
- join in discussions
- show self control in school situations
- relate well to the teacher and other adults
- express his/her thoughts and ideas clearly
- seem happy at school?

You may want to tell the teacher about:

- school activities your child talks about at home
- responsibilities your child handles at home
- significant changes/disruptions that may have occurred at home
- the strengths and needs of your child.

Sharing information about your child with his/her teacher will enable us to provide a learning program that best meets the needs of your child. Open, honest, and ongoing communication is paramount to ensuring a successful school experience for your child.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Allan Kelly

Principal

Important Information

ELEMENTARY PROGRESS REPORTS

In the past, students in grades 1 to 8 received three report cards a year. Beginning this fall, teachers will use a progress report card in the fall and a provincial report card in the winter and spring terms.

The **progress report card** is different from the report card in that it places a strong emphasis on the development of students' learning skills and work habits. It has been designed to facilitate rich discussions between teachers, parents and/or students in the fall interview to help establish a positive tone for the remainder of the year. Wilkinson students will be receiving their progress report card on Tuesday, November 16th.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

The TDSB Character Trait for November is **Empathy**.

"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Questions you can discuss with your child:

- What is empathy? How can we show empathy?
- What does it mean to be empathetic?

CREATING A SAFE & CARING SCHOOL

At Wilkinson Junior Public School, we strive to provide a safe and nurturing environment where all students are free to learn, grow and pursue their personal best. The staff works diligently towards erasing all forms of bullying in our school.

Parents can also be a big help. Here are some suggestions on what you can do:

- Model appropriate ways of getting along with others: e.g. showing empathy for others, managing angry feelings, accepting differences, and coping with peer pressure
- Monitor your child's television viewing and discourage TV programs that model anti-social behavior
- Help your child find ways to express anger that do not involve verbally or physically hurting others. When you get angry, use it as an opportunity to model these appropriate responses for your child and talk about it.

If a problem around bullying arises and you are not able to resolve it with your child's teacher, please make an appointment to speak with the principal or vice-principal.