

NEWS FLASH

RAFFLE WINNERS!

Thank you all for supporting Wilkinson Community School Council by purchasing a total of 130 Wilkie tattoos! For each tattoo sold, an entry was made in two draws for either a pair of Leafs tickets or a pair of Raptors tickets. The winner of the first draw was Brenna Malcomson (Leafs tickets) and the winner of the second draw was Ms. Wareham (Raptor tickets)! Thank you also goes out to Susan Haney, April Moon, Brady Shepherd and Paula Weekes-Kahn for organizing the raffle. Proceeds will go to support our students through Council initiatives.

Important Dates

FRI. OCT. 7TH

Yom Kippur begins.

SAT. OCT. 8TH

Yom Kippur ends.

MON. OCT. 10TH

Thanksgiving Day – NO SCHOOL.

TUES. OCT. 11TH

Council Meeting @ 7pm – child care provided.

WED. OCT. 12TH

First day of Sukkot.

WED. OCT. 19TH

Last day of Sukkot.

SUN. OCT. 23RD

Annual Wilkinson Pumpkinfest

MON. OCT. 24TH

United Nations Day

WED. OCT. 26TH

Diwali begins.

FRI. OCT. 28TH

Movie Night featuring "Spooky Buddies"
Doors Open @ 6.45pm / Movie @ 7pm

MON. OCT. 31ST

Hallowe'en
Diwali ends.

TUES. NOV. 1ST

Picture Day

MOVIE NIGHT



**FRIDAY OCT 28TH
DOORS OPEN AT 6:45PM**

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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NEWSLETTER

OCT. 2011

Principal's Message

The Welcome Package sent home during the first week of school was large; many of you may still be sifting through all the forms!

If you have not already done so, please return your child's Emergency Form (mauve). It provides accurate information should we need to make immediate contact with you. These forms also provide the school with valuable information regarding allergies. A number of students require epi-pens. If your child has one prescribed, please provide the school with one to be kept in the Main Office.

Many extra-curricular activities have already started. Cross Country, Boys' Volleyball, EcoTeam, Ukulele Clubs, Orff Ensembles plus both Primary and Junior Choirs are up and running. Wilkinson is a busy place!

We would also like to welcome two new staff members to the Wilkinson Team – Ms. Morgan teaching kindergarten while Ms. Ault is on maternity leave and Mr. Carkner, our new Extended French Grade 6 teacher.

If you have any concerns at all please do not hesitate to call either Mr. Kelly or myself. We look forward to working with you to provide your children with the best possible education.

Sincerely,

Leasa Adams, Vice-Principal

Wilkinson School Community Council 2011/12

On Thursday September 23rd, the new Wilkinson School Community Council was elected. The new Council members, our constitution and bylaws of the Council are posted online at www.wilkinsonschool.ca. Be sure to regularly review the Council Information Board outside Room 3 for other updates not included on the website.

The first Council meeting with the new team will be held on Tuesday October 11th at 7pm.

For those interested, please feel free to come along to the Council meetings. All are welcome and child care is provided. This is an ideal way to get to know and to feel connected with your child's school and the administration and/or teachers who work there.

Remember if any parents have any comments or concerns please leave a note in the Council mailbox in the Main Office or email wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca.

Important Information

ECO TEAM UPDATE

The Eco Team is off to an early start this year, already scheming up ways to make Wilkinson a Silver EcoSchool. Our team is made up of 35 enthusiastic students in Grades 4, 5 and 6 who have started meeting every Tuesday at lunch. On Thursday September 22nd we hosted a special guest from **Ecospark** who led us in an energy audit. Students got a chance to use watt meters to measure the energy usage of various appliances such as lights, computers and projectors. In the coming weeks we will be creating and implementing a plan to reduce the electricity used by the school. We will also be educating the school about litterless lunches. October 17th – 21st is Waste Reduction Week across the city, and students will be given raffle tickets for bringing in litterless lunches throughout the week. Remember, a litterless lunch includes reusable containers, a reusable bottle and a reusable bag. Thank you to the Wilkinson community for your cooperation in the greening of Wilkinson!

Sophie Barbier & Nick Carkner

GREENING & GROUNDS

Our native Learning Garden continued to thrive over the summer months. Our Greening Committee is working on interactive fun for students and hope to have this available through the school website soon.

Our Veggie Garden was created in late June and comprises of two raised beds. One raised bed (west) holds a Three Sisters Garden* and the other (east) a traditional vegetable and herb garden. You'll notice that some of the plants have gone to seed and these seeds will be collected to be used again in the Spring.

Important Information(cont'd)

More information soon on how the Learning and Veggie Gardens will be used to enrich learning at Wilkinson!

*A Three Sisters Garden is an ancient method of gardening using an intercropping system which grows corn, beans, and squash crops simultaneously in the same growing area that is typically a rounded mound of soil, often called a hill.

LIBRARY NEWS!

The first few weeks of the school year have been busy in the library. Many classes have begun **book exchange** and you may have seen library books coming home with your child. If not, she/he will start to take books home on a regular basis by the end of September. 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.

Grades 4 – 6 students can take out as many as four books, Grades 1 – 3 as many as two books and Kindergarten students take out one book. Kindergarten students have a book bag with their name, classroom number and library day on it. It is important that these books are returned (or renewed) each time the class visits the library. Ask your child which day of the cycle her/his library day is and help them to return their books on time. It may have been noted on some classroom calendars. There are no overdue fines but students will not be able to take out more books until outstanding books are returned.

This year's **Scholastic Book Fair** is taking place in Room 3, November 14th – 18th. This coincides with Parent-Teacher interviews! I am looking to form a team of parent volunteers to help run the fair, from set-up to clean-up and everything in-between. If interested in helping out with this year's book fair, I would love to hear from you. To learn more about what's happening at the Wilkinson Library, check out the following site <http://aboutme/wilkinsonlibrary>. Here you will find links to the Library Blog, the Wilkinson Podcast, the Library YouTube page and the Library Website, amongst others. Finally, to learn more about what is going on at your child's school, follow Wilkinson on Twitter! http://twitter.com/TDSB_wilkinson Happy reading!

Joel Krentz, Teacher-Librarian

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

One month in and we're well on our way with our sports and healthy eating programs. Cross country season is well under way and this year students from Grade 2 and 3 will be running on the team! It's been a great turn out and the team has been running since the first week of school. Great running team! Ashbridges Bay is the site of the first two races - the South Conference and South Conference Finals which take place on October 5th and 13th respectively. Hopefully some lucky runners from Wilkinson will be able to make it to the City Championships which take place on October 20th at Centennial Park. Junior boys' volleyball try-outs began at the end of September.

Please see Mr. Krentz and Mr. Kasaval for more information. Good luck to all students trying out!

Wilkinsons H.E.A.L.T.H.Y. Eating Program is well underway and the first month was successful. Our goal is to **eliminate** any type of junk foods (i.e. sugary or salty snacks) being brought to the school. This will ensure that we continue to be recognized as a healthy school in our community. Remember a healthy mind and body produces a healthy lifestyle and improved academic marks!

October's healthy snacks:

Oct. 3rd – 7th Apples
Oct. 10th – 14th Cherry tomatoes/tomatoes
Oct. 17th - 21st Berries (your choice!)
Oct. 24th - 28th Celery

Craig Kasaval, Physical Education

Volunteer Opportunities

HELP WANTED FOR JUNIOR CHOIR SET-UP

Volunteers are needed each Wednesday from 11:20 - 11:40am to set-up chairs in Room 3 and/or 12:30 - 12:45pm to put back chairs in Room 3. If you can volunteer one or two or more Wednesdays please contact April Moon at april.moon@rth-mh.com.

With sincerest thanks!

Batya Levy, Music teacher

PIZZA LUNCH

A student favorite – the Pizza Lunch – may not be offered this academic year unless a volunteer is able to take its leadership over. If this is something that interests you, support will be provided. You do not need to be a member of Council to lead this fundraiser. Express your interest by sending an email wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca or dropping off a note to the Council mailbox in the Main Office.

Upcoming Events

STUDENTS VOTE

This October the junior division is taking part in **Student Vote**. Student Vote is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that creates authentic experiences to help students understand government and the electoral process. Their website is www.studentvote.ca. On October 4th every junior student will be taking part in a mock vote with the same candidates on the ballot as the Toronto Danforth riding. The results will be then sent into Student Vote and tabulated with other classes participating across the city and province. On the night of the election, the results will be published on the Student Vote website. Look to see how Wilkinson P.S. voted in the election!

Marianne Bartkiw, Grade 5/6

PUMPKINFEST

The Annual Pumpkinfest gets bigger and better! Come out to the kindergarten area (north side) on Sunday October 23rd. Join us and enjoy a complimentary warm cider and home baked treats while you pick out your pumpkin from the pumpkin patch. Prices for pumpkins range from \$2 - \$6.

This year along with the fresh produce table, we hope we will have more of the community purchasing tables to show case and sell their wares. We are also offering a BBQ for those who want to eat lunch in the Pumpkin patch. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be sold.

If you'd like to donate home baked treats to share with Wilkinson friends and family or if you'd like to purchase a table there to promote and sell your own goods please contact Ruby Lederman via wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca or a message in Council mail box in Main Office as soon as possible.

Fundraising

TERRY FOX RUN

The first annual Wilkinson Terry Fox Run took place on Wednesday September 28th. Students gathered sponsorship to raise funds for the Canadian Cancer Society.

Students had an opportunity to watch a film about Terry Fox and his Marthon of Hope. Our children were invited to decorate a paper shoe to indicate who they are running for.

Wilkinson's goal is to raise \$5000. If this total was reached Mr. Cross and Mr. Krenz promised shaved their heads in front of the school.

Note: At the time this newsletter went to press the final total raised was not confirmed. Find out what happened in our next issue!

DISASTER RELIEF IN EAST AFRICA

Tuesday September 20th was Toonie Tuesday with an aim to raise money to help people in East Africa who are in need of food aid. The TDSB is supporting the Canadian Red Cross, UNICEF, Free the Children and the Stephen Lewis Foundation in their relief efforts. Wilkinson raised several hundred dollars. Again, Wilkinson has proven itself to be a school that can be counted on to help others in need. Your support is very much appreciated.

FALL DIRECT DONATION CAMPAIGN

2011/12 GOAL = \$10,000

No time to volunteer at Fun Fair? Can't make Movie Nights? You can still contribute to the Council's fundraising efforts by making a **direct donation**.

Each year Council fundraising drives support additional educational activities, supplements the curriculum, equipment purchases to enrich learning and schoolyard enhancements. This includes:

- Smart boards
- School Yard Revitalization
- Musical and Theatrical Performances
- Visiting Authors
- Scientists in the Schools
- Graduation festivities.

What you need to do:

1. Complete the Direct Donations form included in the Information Package or print a copy from our website, www.wilkinsonschool.ca/.

• If you would like a tax receipt please make your cheque payable to "Toronto District School Board – For Wilkinson Public School". Only donations of \$25 or more are eligible for a tax receipt.

• If you do not need a tax receipt, please make your cheque payable to "Wilkinson School Council".

2. Have your child return this form together with your cheque to their teacher or if you would prefer you can drop it off in the Council mailbox in the Main Office

Remember, if you would like a tax receipt please ensure we receive your donation no later than December 9th 2011. Thank you so much for your support! Any donation, be it money, time or talent is greatly appreciated!

Community Information

YOUNG CARERS PROGRAM

Wilkinson Junior Public School we are coming to you! The Young Carers Program will be having a free weekly Young Carers Club Night at the school from 6pm - 8pm starting September 21st. A Young Carer is a child or youth who is in a care-giving role. They may help care for a parent, grandparent, or sibling with an illness, disability, addiction, or mental illness. They may even be helping by translating a lot. Often the struggles of a young carer are overlooked as most people don't realize the impact a young carer may feel due to their extra responsibilities. Sometimes they have trouble completing homework assignments or making time for friends and play. Sometimes the biggest difference is just being with other kids who "get it"! The Young Carers Program helps young carers to get the support they need! Each Wednesday we will be doing lots of fun recreational and sports activities, even helping with homework and school projects. Think you are the only young carer in this school? Think again! Come meet others who are helping a family member! It will be a great opportunity to hang out, talk, play, and learn new stuff! Join us weekly or as often as you can make it! For more information please contact Larisa or Natalie at 416-364-1666 or email larisa.macsween@hospicetoronto.ca. You can also visit our webpage at www.hospicetoronto.ca/youngcarers.