

WILKINSON NEWSLETTER

February 2013

Principal's Message

Change in optional attendance status

The status of Wilkinson Public School will change from Closed to Limited for the upcoming 2012-2013 school year. What this means is we will be able to take students outside our catchment area if we have space in a particular class or grade. Special programs do not fall under optional attendance. The following is the definition of Limited status from the TDSB website:

*A school categorized as **limited** can accept students on optional attendance up to the projected enrolment. A limited school is not obliged to accept all students who apply on optional attendance. Acceptance is conditional upon space being available in the appropriate grade and program.*

At this time we will have a waitlist until we have a better idea of what our enrollment is looking like for the upcoming school year. Currently our Primary classes are full but we have space in our Junior grades.

Please call the office if you have any questions about this policy or change in status.

Kindergarten registration

February is Kindergarten Registration month. Kindergarten is the first step in a lifelong journey that will see your child learn, grow, and succeed. We look forward to sharing this journey with you and your child.

Kindergarten registration is taking place on Tues. Feb. 5, Wed. Feb. 6 and Thurs. Feb. 7 from 9am to 11:45am in Room 3. Please call the school at (416) 393-9575 to make an appointment.

To register your child, you will need to bring with you:

- **Proof of home address (two pieces)**
- **Proof of birth**
- **Child's Health Card**
- **Child's Immunization Record**

Also, to attend Junior Kindergarten in September, children must turn four-years-old by Dec. 31, 2013. For registration in Senior Kindergarten, children must be five-years-old by Dec. 31, 2013.

Recess during cold weather

Elementary school students are kept indoors for recess and lunch times for a number of weather conditions such as rain, lightning in the area, extreme winds and extreme cold. When temperature and wind chill measure

-28C or lower, students are kept indoors. Recesses and lunch hours may be shortened if the temperature and wind chill reading is between -28C and -20C.

If a student's medical condition requires further consideration due to weather conditions, or if parents have other questions or concerns about how and when weather conditions affect your child's school day, please contact the school office.

Traffic Safety Tips: Help make this a safe winter season

Now that winter is here, we know that severe weather will be part of our daily lives for the next few months. While traffic safety is an important matter all year long, this is a particularly good time to review what we can do to keep students safe.

The need to be aware and alert at all times, on any road, and even in the most routine circumstances is key to traffic safety. This applies to students and drivers alike. Road conditions can be challenging in the winter months. So to those of us who drive, please take extra care on the roads and in parking lots, especially in areas where children might be present.

School staff periodically review street and traffic safety with students. Parents can help reinforce these safety messages with children at home.

Here are some tips that might be helpful to review:

- Stop, look, and listen for traffic.
- Only cross at corners and crosswalks.
- Make eye contact with drivers.
- Walk on the right side of the crosswalk.
- Wear appropriate footwear to reduce the chances of slipping.
- Never run into the street.
- Obey crossing signals.
- Cross only if clear.

- Walk on sidewalks.
- Where there are no sidewalks, walk as far away from traffic as possible, facing traffic.

The safety of our students is always a top priority. Let's work together to make the winter season safe so we can enjoy all it has to offer.

—Allan Kelly, principal

Sweetheart Bake Sale

The Sweetheart Bake Sale is back again and coming up fast. The Wilkinson Parent Council will hold the sale in Room 3 on Thurs. Feb. 14 in the morning and over the lunch hour. We are looking for donations of sweets and baked goods to sell. Please be mindful that donations should not contain nuts or nut products and please mark if your donation is non-halal. **(Please note: halal food items should not contain gelatine or lard. Lecithin should be of a vegetarian variety, such as soya lecithin.)**

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact: Raihana Ingar at (416) 461-6675.

Free Healthy Eating Workshops!

The Wilkinson Parent Council's first Healthy Eating Workshop took place on one of the coldest days of the year, Wed. Jan. 23. Caterer Lisa Shamai, of Lisa's Kitchen, led the workshop, which focused on healthy, nutritious breakfast options. Parents prepared and sampled granola yogurt parfaits, baked eggs and breakfast burritos. Everything was delicious! The recipes will be posted on Wilkinson's website soon. Parent Council is presenting two more free Healthy Eating workshops with Lisa Shamai.

- Thurs. Feb. 28: Lunches and Snacks
- Mon. April 11: Dinners and Desserts

The workshops run from 6-8pm in the large lunchroom in the basement at Wilkinson. All meals are vegetarian. A Wilkinson parent will be on hand to translate information into Urdu and Gujarati.

Registration is not required and childcare will be provided. Join us for two fun, informative and delicious evenings!

PhysEd and H.E.A.L.T.H.Y. Eating news

Happy New Year, Wilkinson!

Well we jumped into the new year on the right foot by learning and sharpening our jumping skills in the gymnasium in January. All primary classes as well as Mademoiselle Cooke's class practised the skill of jumping. Jumping into February, all classes will have a chance to show and learn their balancing skills.

Discussing bullying and health

In health class in January, primary classes discussed issues pertaining to bullying and bullying prevention, while Mademoiselle Butler's class discussed topics surrounding injury prevention. Both primary and junior classes will continue to learn and partake in discussions this month surrounding bullying and injury prevention, respectively.

The H.E.A.L.T.H.Y. Eating Program is in full swing and students continue to participate. This is great! Keep up the healthy eating, Wilkinson!

February's healthy snacks are:

- Feb. 4-8: Berries
- Feb. 11-15: Salad (any kind!)
- Feb. 18-22: Pears
- Feb. 25-Mar. 1: Bell peppers.

Happy healthy eating, Wilkinson!

–*Mr. Kasaval*

Movie Night on Fri. Feb. 8!

The Parent Council's next movie night is Fri. Feb. 8 with the animated movie, *Wreck it Ralph*. Doors open at 6:30pm and the movie starts at 7pm. Children are welcome to bring blankets and pillows and sit up front by the stage. **Donations big or small are welcome! So are volunteers!**

RULE REMINDER: All children must be accompanied by an adult and adults should be present throughout the movie. No running is allowed in the gym or hallways. Please keep noise to a minimum. And enjoy!

Tips for Parents: Special Education (From: People For Education)

All students will have times when they struggle with schoolwork or with school life. But some students may need extra support from a special education program.

Parents may be the first to notice that their son or daughter is having problems in school, or a teacher may suggest to a parent that their son or daughter might need extra and ongoing support.

Some things to remember:

- Some issues can be solved by the teacher in the classroom, so speak to the teacher first if you are worried about your child's progress.
- Needing Special Education support is not a bad thing – all students learn differently, some just need different kinds of support to succeed.
- Just because your child does not speak English, it does not mean that he/she needs Special Education help. Some problems are a normal part of adjusting to a new language and school. It may help to provide the principal with information about the student's academic skills in his or her first

language.

- Some parts of the process for getting Special Education support can feel confusing and it may have many unfamiliar names. Always ask questions if there are things you don't understand, or, if you are not comfortable in English, ask for an interpreter.
- Parents play an important role in Special Education. Don't give up. It is alright to ask for support for your child.

What is Special Education?

Special Education is used to describe a wide range of supports, programs and placements for students who need different teaching methods or special equipment to allow them to be successful in school.

Education can involve anything from a different way of teaching, to special equipment to help students with their school work, to simply providing students with extra time for writing tests. Students may be in specialized class for all or part of the day, or stay in their regular class with support from an educational assistant.

The most important thing to remember is that Special Education is intended to help your child succeed in school.

What should you do if you think your child needs Special Education support?

Ask questions and meet with school staff. Some questions to ask include:

- Ask your child if there are particular things that are consistently difficult at school.
- Ask the teacher if he or she thinks your son or daughter needs extra support and if the teacher can provide the extra help
- Some medical conditions may affect learning (e.g. hearing, vision etc.), so it might help to talk to your child's doctor.

Where can parents go for help?

- Ask your teacher, principal or guidance counselor for information.
- People for Education has more information and links to special education organizations at <http://www.peopleforeducation.com/links/specialied>
- If you have a school settlement worker, he/she can help explain the Special Education process.
- Other parents can be a wonderful resource – talk to the parents in your school about how Special Education works or contact your school board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).
- At www.edu.gov.on.ca, you can find an IEP Resource Guide, an Educator's Guide to Special Education and the document, *Education for All*.

Community News

From St. David's Anglican Church (49 Donlands Ave.)

- The **Mosaic Storytelling Festival** launches its third season of spellbinding tales from across the globe at St. David's (downstairs in the parish hall; enter by side doors). Upcoming performances are on Feb. 2 and 17 and March 3.

All performances are Sundays at 3pm and are suitable for anyone age 5 to 95.

Admission is pay what you can (suggested donation \$5/person).

- The Open Door is proud to offer once again for March Break the amazing and dynamic **Shakespeare Is Boffo!** program.

For more information, contact Trish O'Reilly-Brennan: (416) 466-3142 or

trishor@sympatico.ca

Important Dates:

February

FEB. 5, 6 & 7

Kindergarten Registration. Call ahead to make an appointment @ (416) 393-9575

FEB. 6, 7 & 8

Pizza Lunch Sign-up/Collection Dates in the front foyer in the mornings.

FRI. FEB. 8

Movie Night: *Wreck it Ralph*

SUN. FEB. 10

Lunar New Year

MON. FEB. 11

Parent Council Meeting @ 7pm.
All parents & guardians welcome!

THURS. FEB. 14

Sweetheart Bake Sale – Valentine’s Day

FRI. FEB. 15

PA Day – No school

MON. FEB. 18

Family Day – No school

SUN. FEB. 24

Purim

THURS. FEB. 28

Free Healthy Eating Workshop
@ Wilkinson. Registration not required.
From 6-8pm.

March

MON. MARCH 4

Parent Council Meeting @ 7pm.
All parents & guardians welcome!

SUN. MARCH 10

Daylight Savings Time begins. Don’t forget to turn your clocks forward 1 hour.

MARCH 11-15 (inclusive)

March Break

SUN. MARCH 17

St. Patrick’s Day

TUES. MARCH 26

First Day of Passover

FRI. MARCH 29

Good Friday – No school

April

MON. APRIL 1

Easter Monday – No school

TUES. APRIL 2

Last Day of Passover

MON. APRIL 11

Free Healthy Eating Workshop
@ Wilkinson. Registration not required.
From 6-8pm.

Contact Us

Wilkinson School Community Council
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Communications team:
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wilkinsoncommunications@gmail.com.

Thank you to our contributors!

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Community Council