

WILKINSON CALENDAR 2006

APRIL

- 2: Daylight Savings time begins
- 3: **Lice patrol. We need volunteers to help!**
- 7: School Bound - The BreadBox Theatre
Pizza lunch
- 10: Council Meeting
- 12: Beethoven meets Pollock
- 13: Passover
- 14: Good Friday
- 16: Easter Sunday
- 17: Easter Monday
- 20: Spring Concert
- 21: Earth Day Activities
Movie Night: Cheaper by the Dozen 2
- 23: Orthodox Easter
- 28: Pizza lunch

MAY

- 1-4: Wilkinson Art Gallery
- 4: Open House
- 8: Isis & the Seven Scorpions: COC
- 9: Council Meeting
- 14: Mother's Day
- 22: Victoria Day
- 23: EQAO Testing Commences
- 24: Track & Field
- 25: Track & Field
- 27: Fun Fair

This newsletter was subsidized and printed by:

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JUNE

- 9: EQAO Testing Ends
- 12: Council Meeting
- 13: Volunteer Tea
- 18: Father's Day
- 22: Awards Assembly
- 23: Play Day
- 26: Report Cards
- 27: Graduation
- 28: Last Day of School

CONTACT US



Have an article to contribute to the newsletter? Interested in helping out? Compliments? Contact us through our website at

www.wilkinsonschooll.ca or leave a message at (416) 393-9575.

Thank you to this month's contributors:

Wendy Cuthbert, John Hykel, Jacqui Strachan, Sharon Weller

Editor: Carol Bennett **Designer:** Kim Diamond

Dominion Save-a-Tape and Canadian Tire \$\$

Help raise money for the Council initiatives at Wilkinson! Collect your Dominion, Ultra Food and Drug, and A & P grocery tapes and send them in an envelope to the school. No receipt is too small or too big. Keep them coming!

We also are collecting Canadian Tire money! Send it in to the attention of the Fundraising Coordinator. Every little bit helps!

WILKINSON NEWSLETTER

April 2006

Published by the Wilkinson School & Community Council

COUNCIL NEWS



MEETING RECAP

The Wilkinson School Community Council met on March 7, 2006. The principal's report included an announcement that the school's Core French award will be renamed the "Creba Family Award" in honour and remembrance of Jane Creba, a former Wilkinson student.

The monthly Statement of Financial Position was distributed. There is currently about \$6,000 available for disbursement.

The following funding requests were approved:

- \$2,350 for two elephant basketball hoops to be installed at the south end of playground;
- \$1,600 for 2 removable basketball hoops and backboards to replace current hoops at the north end of playground; and
- \$1,620 to set up an in-class enrichment fund which represents approximately \$3 per student. This fund will be available to all classes to assist with costs related to field trips or other activities that enhance the curriculum.

Committee updates were presented from:

- Greening and grounds (see article under Volunteering),
- Communications (Policy document on website

- responsibilities and maintenance drafted), and
- Fundraising (Budget for Fun Fair approved).

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, April 10 at 7:00pm in the staffroom on the second floor. Everyone is welcome to attend. Childcare will be available.

NEW WEB SITE

www.wilkinsonschooll.ca

Come and take a tour of our new web site! Mark it as one of your online favourites and be sure to visit it regularly for upcoming events and volunteering opportunities. It also contains general school and Council info, and useful links. Comments or suggestions? Click on Contact Us and drop us a line.

Movie Night

Friday, April 21st

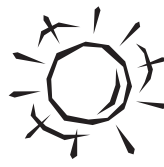
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2

Doors open at 6pm with a Lizzie McGuire episode followed by the movie at 6:30 pm

Pizza, popcorn and beverages too!

Want to help out? Call Sunny Mills at the school (416) 393-9575 and leave a message.

SPOTLIGHT



SUE THOMPSON - WILKINSON'S VISITING LIBRARIAN

Few would claim Sue Thompson lacks a sense of adventure. Last year, the South Australian native decided that her days of carrying a nearly blank passport were over. "I wanted to experience a different culture," she says.

Fortunately for her, the South Australian Exchange Teachers' League (SAETL) works with other organizations to provide exchange programs with teachers around the world. People in the teaching profession choose which country they wish to work in and the SAETL links them up with candidates in their nation of choice who want to work in Australia. Not only do the work buddies adopt each other's jobs but they also live in each other's homes. So, beginning in January, Ms. Thompson essentially exchanged professional lives with Wilkinson's Chris Enticknap, residing in his Roncesvalles home and taking over his duties in the Wilkinson School library.

Ms. Thompson says she chose Canada because she wanted to come to a cold climate where she could experience winter sports and activities. And she liked the idea that there would be no language barrier to overcome. In addition, she says, she had heard good things about the friendliness of Canadians.

Initially, she thought that she would go to Vancouver but SAETL hooked her up with Mr. Enticknap because he, too, was only interested in a six-month exchange, rather than the more typical 12-month arrangement. "I'd just miss my family too much," she says of the usual time span for the program. While Ms. Thompson's 21-year-old daughter came to Canada with her, her 24-year-old daughter, whose photo she has hung in her library office, stayed at home. "I'm missing her dreadfully," she says. "We're extremely close."

The difference between her life here in Toronto and her life in a suburb about 30 minutes out of Adelaide is dramatic, she says. Toronto's pace is very busy compared to that of her Australian home. The school where she has been a librarian for eight years, sometimes performing the duties of acting principal, is very different from Wilkinson. It boasts only 140 students, all of whom she knows by name. Wilkinson is obviously much larger and more culturally diverse, as well, she says. However, the welcoming attitude of the students has been impressive, she says. "The children have been wonderful." She recalls one morning when a class entered the library singing an Australian folk song she had taught them the week before and says it was very moving as it reminded her of home.

The library systems are also completely different, she adds. "It's been a learning curve." It also means she is in constant email communication with Mr. Enticknap, who is teaching Canadian studies to her former students.

At first, finding her way around Toronto was challenging but now she's comfortable with it and enjoys the fact that it's taken her out of her comfort zone to enjoy what Canada has to offer. With the SAETL group of about 50 participants in and around Toronto, she's enjoyed dogsledding, skiing and broomball, and has travelled to Ottawa, Quebec City (for its Carnival) and Niagara Falls.

She's also made some new friends. One SAETL teacher, for example, stays with her every weekend when they take the opportunity to explore other areas of the city. So far, she's been to Chinatown, the Toronto Zoo and the Art Gallery. She points out that other teachers at Wilkinson have told her that she's managed to do more in Canada in three months than many of them have done in a lifetime. "I've seen more of Toronto and area than many longtime residents," she says.

Submitted by Wendy Cuthbert

VOLUNTEERING



IT'S EASY BEING GREEN!

The Green Team has been spending the dark winter months plotting ways to make Wilkinson's grounds safer, more fun, and pleasing to the eye. As the weather gets warmer, we're swinging into gardening action. We have many ambitious plans for the schoolyard this year, but we need your help. Green thumbs are not required - as long as your thumbs are opposable, you qualify!

Enhancements planned:

1) Redevelopment of the "primary play area" at the north end of the yard. After meeting with the primary teachers, we are putting plans in place to:

- * cut up some of the concrete, plant more trees, and make the area more fun by attaching big cut outs (painted by students) onto the green wall.
- * improve the sand play area, paint pathways for riding toys, and eventually provide a secure outdoor shed for play equipment to allow easy access to outdoor play equipment and to store tools for the Learning Garden. What's so much fun about a shed you may ask? Nothing! It's what's inside that counts! Right now, tricycles and other outdoor toys are stored in the basement making it very difficult to get them up and down the stairs.

2) Improvements to the front garden along the gym wall - adding more shrubs and native plants that will survive the dry conditions and give the school more curb appeal.

3) Using the Learning Garden as an outdoor classroom by developing curriculum-related programs that provide students and staff with interesting environmental activities. The garden has taken well to its surroundings and will require the usual amount of love this spring and summer. We are also working to map the learning garden and provide a guidebook for users.

New Basketball Hoops

We are replacing the north basketball hoops with removable hoops that can be taken down in the evening and on weekends to discourage vandalism and noise in this area that disturbs our neighbours. Smaller basketball hoops will also be added to the south side of the yard. These plastic hoops are designed for younger children and are intended to alleviate some of the demand for the bigger hoops.

We need your help!

Participation on the Green Team provides a wonderful opportunity to learn more about gardening, meet the many community members who stop by to chat, and make our kids' play environment more welcoming. We encourage the participation of parents, students, and staff, so please join us. If you would like to help, leave a message for the Green Team at the school or email John Hykel at john62@sympatico.ca.

FUNDRAISING



FUN FAIR MAY 27, 2006

The Fun Fair is Wilkinson's biggest fundraising effort of the year, and a great chance to come out, eat well and have fun with your school community. Highlights include a great selection of outdoor games and events, an expanded salon area complete with hairwraps and Mendhi, and of course fabulous food from around the world. The old favourites will be back, including Loonieland, Dream Baskets, and a select Silent Auction. New for 2006 are a Karaoke Talent Contest, Donut Dangle and "Guess How Many" games.

We are also looking for donations for Loonieland (new or gently used items). Items can be dropped off on Friday mornings in Room 56.

Interested in helping out? Contact April Moon at (416) 462-9719 or by email at moon.wallis@sympatico.ca for more information on ways you can help.