

WILKINSON CALENDAR 2006/2007

APRIL

2 (M): Council Meeting 7pm
3-10: Passover
5 (Th): Pizza lunch
6 (F): Good Friday (No School)
9 (M): Easter Monday (No School)
13 (F): Movie Night - "Happily N'Ever After"
19 (Th): Earth Day activities at Wilkinson
20 (F): P.A. Day (No School)
22 (S): Earth Day
24 (T): TSO at Roy Thompson Hall (Gr. 2 & 3)
26 (Th): Performance: The Great Canadian Songbook
27 (F): Pizza lunch

MAY

2 (W): Spring Concert
7-11: Wilkinson Art Gallery
14 (M): Council Meeting 7pm
17 & 18: Track & Field
21 (M): Victoria Day (No School)
22-25: Gr. 3 EQAO
28 (M): Gr. 6 EQAO testing starts

JUNE

1 (F): Pizza lunch
2 (Sa): Fun fair 11:30am - 3:30 pm
11 (M): Council Meeting & AGM
12 (T): Volunteer Breakfast; 8am
15 (F) Awards Assembly; 1pm
22 (F): Play Day
25 (M): Report cards go home
26 (T): Graduation
27 (W): Last day of school

CONTACT US



Have an article to contribute to the newsletter? Interested in helping out? Compliments? Go to our Web site at www.wilkinsonschoool.ca or leave a message at (416) 393-9575. Thank you to this month's contributors: Carol Bennett, Karen Geraci.

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WILKINSON NEWSLETTER

April 2007

Published by the Wilkinson School Community Council

COUNCIL NEWS



MEETING RECAP

The Wilkinson School Community Council met on March 5, 2007.

In the principal's update Ms. Sterioff advised that the incidence of lice has dramatically decreased this past year. Lice checks by staff and volunteers have occurred every 2 to 3 months, and weekly announcements are made on the topic as reminders. The Fun Fair committee reported that they are now in action, and looking for ways to reduce expenses. They are exploring sponsorship opportunities with local and regional businesses. The committee will also look at ways to reduce the advertising budget by using free listings and targeting the most effective information distribution methods. No funding requests were received at this meeting.

Upcoming Pizza Lunches: April 27, June 1 [editor's note: Thursday April 5th has been added to the upcoming pizza lunches]

Full minutes for all Council meetings are posted on our Web site at www.wilkinsonschoool.ca.

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday April 2, 2007 at 7:00 pm in the staff room on the second floor. Everyone is welcome to attend. Childcare will be available.

FUNDRAISING



FUN FAIR 2007

Saturday June 2nd - 11:30am to 3:30pm

Thank you to all who attended the kick-off meeting on March 23rd! We are still looking for volunteers to help with both the organization of the event beforehand and on the day of the event. If you are interested please let us know through our Web site at www.wilkinsonschoool.ca or leave a message for April Moon at the school at 416-393-9575.



This year our goal is to raise approximately \$2,500 through sponsorships to cover some of the expenses related to putting on this event. If anyone knows of a company that would be willing to donate money in return for a "Thank You for Sponsoring..." acknowledgement at one of the activities, please let us know.

Donations needed for:

1. the Silent Auction
2. Loonieland
3. the "Buck-a-Book" / media table.

Drop off information

There will be someone in Room 56 (in the basement

of the school) on Friday mornings from April 13th to June 1st to receive these donations. Perhaps this will provide some incentive to get started on your spring-cleaning!

FAQ



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

Q: Can you tell us more about the Parent Reaching Out (PRO) grant that was approved for a Wilkinson Kitchen project?

A: To bring parents in a culturally diverse community together, we submitted a proposal to hold a series of evening events in the fall of 2007. We want to get to know each other through sharing, cooking, having fun and of course, eating! We would like to join together to prepare dishes from our school cookbook that was published last fall. These will take place in the school lunchroom and its adjoining kitchen. So please keep your eye out in the coming months for flyers regarding dates for these events! If you would like more information and/or are interested in helping to coordinate them, please email us at wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca or leave a message at the school at 416-393-9575.

Movie Night

Friday, April 13

Happily N'Ever After

Doors open at 6pm. Come early for a good seat. Bring your blankets and pillows to get a spot at the front. Movie starts at 6:30. As usual, pizza and drinks will be available for sale.

UPCOMING EVENTS



FREE INFORMATION FORUM

Monday April 16th 7:00 – 9:00pm

Pape Avenue Public School

220 Langley Ave (east of Carlaw, north of Gerrard)

This is the second free forum sponsored by our trustee, Cathy Dandy for parents and guardians.

The Homework Problem will explore whether homework is an effective way to learn and some helpful homework strategies for you and your child. Professor Linda Cameron from OISE (University of Toronto) will lead this session.

The **Children's Mental Health** session will discuss how to tell if your child needs mental health support for issues such as depression or anxiety and where you can go to find that support.

To register call 416-397-3083 and leave your name and phone number along with the session you would like to attend and whether you require childcare. (Free childcare will be available.)

PARENT INFORMATION



EDUCATION SYSTEM 101

WHO DOES WHAT?

As our children enter and progress through the world of public education, sometimes it can be overwhelming and/or confusing for parents to keep track of who is responsible for what when it comes to our children's education. If this is the case for you, here is a brief overview of the roles and responsibilities when it comes to education in Ontario:

THE CHILD AND THE FAMILY

- **Parents** are responsible for sending children to school prepared to learn

- **Students** are responsible for attending school, and for behaving in a respectful manner.

THE SCHOOL

- **Principal:** supervises the teaching staff and support staff, oversees the implementation of curriculum and supervises the day-to-day operation of the school.
- **Teachers:** deliver the curriculum to the students.
- **Support staff** (psychologists, social workers, etc.): contributes to the maintenance and administration of the school (caretakers, office staff) and provides professional support services as needed.
- **School Council:** works with the staff and principal to offer advice about issues such as school safety, school improvement plans, and enrichment opportunities and to raise issues of concern to the parent and student community.

THE SCHOOL BOARD

- **Trustees:** elected in municipal (city) elections to oversee the board's management of the education budget that is allocated by the province. Trustees act as liaisons and advocates for parents and students with board staff.
- **Staff and Superintendents:** paid employees who run the board and the schools.
- **Staff Unions:** sometimes negotiate work conditions in their contracts that may affect student learning (e.g. length of school day or class sizes)

- **Financial resources** are delegated to the boards by the province. There are special grants that each board may be entitled to apply for to increase the basic amount (foundation grant) given to each board, depending on need.

The Ontario Ministry of Education

- is given responsibility for education by the federal government
- established the **Education Act** and other regulations that set out the rules by which schools are organized and funded
- developed the **funding formula** fund all schools in Ontario equally. Funding is calculated on a per pupil basis with special grants added to address specific needs such as those of remote and rural schools, ESL, special education students etc.
- develops the curriculum which is implemented by boards and teaching staff.
- **EQAO** (Education Quality and Accountability Office) designs and supervises standardized testing for all students in grades 3, 6 and 10.
- established a **Code of Conduct** outlining provincial standards of behaviour with mandatory consequences for students who do not comply with these standards. The code applies to all individuals involved in the publicly funded school system.

Source: People for Education Web site at www.peopleforeducation.com. People for Education is a group of parents working to preserve fully publicly-funded education in Ontario.



Pizza Lunches

Mark the dates in your calendar!

Thursday, April 5
Friday, April 27