

# WILKINSON CALENDAR 2006/2007

## DECEMBER

4 (M): Report Cards go home  
5 (T): Performance: Discover the Joy of Music, 1pm  
6 & 7: Parent-Teacher interviews  
7 (Th): Jr. Choir at Centrepont Festival  
8 (F): P.A. Day  
11 (M): Council Meeting 7pm  
16-23: Chanukah  
22 (F): Last Day of School  
25 (M): Christmas Day  
26 (T): Boxing Day

## JANUARY

1 (M): New Year's Day  
8 (M): Back to school  
15 (M): Council Meeting 7pm  
19 (F): Movie Night - Open Season  
26 (F): P.A. Day

## FEBRUARY

5 (M): Performance: Morgan's Journey, 1pm  
7 (W): 100th day of school  
12 (M): Council Meeting 7pm  
14 (W): Valentine's Day  
18 (S): Lunar New Year begins  
22 (Th): Young Authors' Assembly; 9am

## CONTACT US



Have an article to contribute to the newsletter? Interested in helping out? Compliments? Go to our Web site at [www.wilkinsonschoool.ca](http://www.wilkinsonschoool.ca) or leave a message at (416) 393-9575. Thank you to this month's contributors: Karen Geraci, Lisa Watt, Karen Wiseman  
**Editor:** Carol Bennett **Design/Layout:** Kim Diamond

## MARCH

2-9: Book Fair  
5 (M): Council Meeting 7pm  
9 (F): Beach Day Assembly; 1pm  
12-16: March Break  
23 (F): Performance: Taonga Treasures, 10am  
26 (M): Report cards go home  
29 (Th): Parent-Teacher interviews  
30 (F): P.A. Day

## APRIL

2 (M): Council Meeting 7pm  
3-10: Passover  
6 (F): Good Friday (No School)  
9 (M): Easter Monday (No School)  
19 (Th): Earth Day activities at Wilkinson  
20 (F): Potential P.A. Day (not yet approved)  
22 (S): Earth Day  
26 (Th): Performance: The Great Canadian Songbook

## 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

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# WILKINSON NEWSLETTER

December 2006

Published by the Wilkinson School Community Council

## COUNCIL NEWS



### MEETING RECAP

The Wilkinson School Community Council met on November 13, 2006. The monthly Statement of Financial Position was distributed. There is currently about \$10,000 available for disbursement.

The following funding requests were approved:

- Up to \$2,000 for three authors to visit Wilkinson
- An allotment of \$3.00 per student to subsidize the cost of field trips. (total cost approximately \$1,600.00)

## YOUR FEEDBACK IS NEEDED!!

Log on to [www.wilkinsonschoool.ca](http://www.wilkinsonschoool.ca)

Ms. Sterioff is looking for feedback from parents regarding the school photographer so we have set up a survey for you to complete on our Web site, [www.wilkinsonschoool.ca](http://www.wilkinsonschoool.ca). Simply click on "survey" on the opening page to get to it.

Your input would be appreciated by December 15.

Committee updates were presented from:

- Performing Arts (3 performances scheduled, one more to be arranged)
- Greening and grounds (New tree to be planted in playground)
- Communications (Ideas for newsletter solicited)
- Fundraising (Cookbook sales, Pizza lunch, Movie night)

Two proposals will be submitted to the Parents Reaching Out initiative, funded through the Ministry of Education, for projects related to increasing parental involvement through the school community.

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, December 11 at 7:00 pm in the staffroom on the second floor. Everyone is welcome to attend. Childcare will be available.

## IMPORTANT INFO



### ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

What is alternative about "alternative schools"?

The short answer is, "It depends." Each alternative school, whether elementary or secondary, has a distinct identity and approach to curriculum delivery. They usually have a small student population, and a focus on a particular programming or theme. For

example, alternative schools may focus on an arts-based curriculum or offer programming that is very project-based and student-directed. Many alternative schools seek high levels of parental involvement.

The Toronto District School Board currently operates 15 alternative elementary schools and 20 alternative secondary schools. If you are interested in learning more about alternative schools, school profiles are available through the TDSB Web site:

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca>. Once here, click on "Programs" and select "Alternative Schools" from the menu.

#### What are the local alternative schools?

In the Wilkinson area, two alternative schools offer Grade 7 and Grade 8 programming. They are EAST (East Alternative School of Toronto), which operates out of Blake P.S. at 21 Boulton Ave; and Quest Alternative, which operates out of Withrow P.S. at 25 Bain Ave. A little further a field you will find Horizon Alternative School at 401 College St. and Spectrum Alternative School at 223 Eglinton Ave. East.

#### How are students admitted to alternative schools?

Most alternative schools admit students by lottery. Application forms are given out at an annual Information Night which both parent and student must attend.

#### Upcoming Information Nights

(see addresses above)

EAST (416) 393-8442

Thursday January 25, 2007 at 6:30 pm

Quest (416) 393-9430

Tuesday January 30, 2007 at 6:45pm

Horizon (416) 393-1298

Date and time unknown at time of printing

Spectrum (416) 393-9311

Wednesday January 31, 2007 at 7:00 pm

## FAQ



### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

#### Q: I am concerned that bullying might be taking place in the schoolyard. What can I do about it?

A: Earlier in the school year, a publication by the Ministry of Education went home with all students called *"Bullying: We can all help stop it"*. This pamphlet is a guide for parents that outlines what we as parents can watch for, what we can do and where we can get help if we are concerned about bullying at our school. If you did not receive it, you can view or download it at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/bullying.html>.

#### What bullying is...

- a conscious, wilful and deliberate hostile activity that is intended to hurt;
- a pattern of repeated aggressive behaviour, with negative intent, directed from one child to another where there is a power imbalance.

#### What bullying is not...

- normal childhood conflict such as sibling rivalry, or one-to-one disputes among family or friends. These conflicts are random acts and there is no intended victim.
- teasing behaviour, as teasing is not intended to do harm. It maintains the dignity of the other and pokes fun in a light-hearted manner.

Research shows that bullying behaviours are more prevalent during late elementary through middle school years. The increases begin after age 8 years, Grade 3, and reach a peak in Grades 6 to 8. More males than females are bullied with taunting reported as the most common form of bullying.

#### What can parents do?

Wilkinson's vice principal, Ms. Watt, recommends parents to talk with their children about a couple of important distinctions:

**1. Reporting vs. ratting** - Ratting means telling on another student for the purpose of getting the student in trouble. Reporting is done for the purpose of getting help for a student and keeping the student safe.<sup>1</sup>

**2. "In, out, or both"** - Telling to get someone in trouble, out of trouble or both. Children need to tell or report if they know someone else is being hurt or hurting themselves.

#### What are Wilkinson staff doing to prevent bullying and heighten awareness?

Ms. Sterioff attended a full day Ministry of Education Bullying Prevention training session with all other principals in our Family of Schools. Ms. Watt attended an evening with Barbara Coloroso who spoke about her book *"The Bully, the Bullied and the Bystander"*. Ms. Watt highly recommends this book for the parents and staff at Wilkinson.

Ms. Watt also says: "If you think your child is being bullied, both Ms. Sterioff and I want to know when this happens. Please talk with your child about what has happened and document it. Also encourage your child to talk with a trusted adult at the school, their teacher or any other teacher, the office, principal or vice principal. Feeling safe at school is essential."

#### What if you think your child may be a bully?

Does your child tend to dominate other people, use others to get what they want, hurt others when parents/adults are not around and/or refuse to accept responsibility for their actions? If you've answered "yes" to any of these, Ms. Watt advises that the school can help with strategies to build empathy and understanding of others and rechannel your child's energy into helping others.

#### What if your child witnesses an act of bullying?

Watching a situation of bullying puts many children in a difficult position. Students are encouraged to report to the school staff any situations they feel are unsafe for themselves and for others. Again, having conversation with our children about the difference between telling and tattling can serve to help another child. It can help someone go from a bystander to a witness.

Unfortunately bullying is an on-going issue in all schools, but that doesn't make it acceptable. Always alert staff to your concerns and encourage open discussions with your children on the subject.

<sup>1</sup> Source: *Bullying Prevention – A Handbook for Schools* prepared by the Halton District School Board Fall 2003; accessible through [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca)

## FUNDRAISING



### WILKINSON RECIPE BOOK IS HERE!

Wilkinson's recipe book has arrived in time for the holidays! It is custom-made for Wilkinson – It has artwork created by the students, a poem from the poetry group and over 150 recipes submitted by Wilkinson families, teachers and friends. If you haven't received an order form you can get one online on our website: [www.wilkinsonschooll.ca](http://www.wilkinsonschooll.ca) They make a great gift for family and friends!

### NEXT MOVIE NIGHT

#### Friday, January 19

Bring the whole family out to enjoy Open Season! 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.