

WILKINSON NEWSLETTER

December 2007

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principal's message

It seems like school just started and yet the first term is almost over. December is a busy month with lots of things happening at the school.

Our grades 5 and 6 students will be going to the Island Natural Science School for a 3 day 2 night stay. Our visits will begin on Wednesday, December 12th and end on Friday, December 21st. Cheques may be made out to Wilkinson Public School.

Room 2 would like people to take a look at their new addition to the classroom. They just received a vermin-composter from the EcoSchools programme at the TDSB and will be using it to compost leftover food scraps from snacks to make good soil and "compost tea" for the Learning Garden.

We have created a new display in the main hallway filled with our new Wilkinson hoodies! Sizes and prices have been included. Order forms were sent home and are available on the web site.

We have now had a new security system put in at the school. There are two new keypads that have been installed at the south doors and the north doors of the school. Each staff member has been given a fob which will open the doors so that they can enter the school safely with their class. Therefore, all doors except the main entrance will remain locked at all times.

We look forward to an exciting holiday season and the end to a successful first term.

Tanya Sterioff
principal

important info

Tuesday, December 4th we will host a French Immersion Information evening for parents who are considering placing their child in our mid-Immersion program.

Parents of Grade 5/6 Special Education students are invited to learn about the transition to Earl Grey Senior School at an information night on **Wednesday, December 5th** from 7:00 -8:00 pm in Room 210, 100 Strathcona Avenue. The evening will be hosted by Special Education staff and Principal Helen Bryce.

On **Monday, December 10th** there will be a School Council meeting. All parents/guardians

are welcome to join us in the staffroom at 7:00 pm.

EAST Alternative School is having an information night for all grade 6 students (and families) interested in applying for entry into the grade 7 program starting in September 2007. Attendance is mandatory for all potential applicants. The date of the open house is **Wednesday, January 23, 2007** from 6:30-8:30 pm.

A report is going forward to Board on **November 28th** recommending that placement in SK French Immersion (FI) programs be based on proximity and that the lottery process be removed. All applicants are guaranteed a placement but where there are more applicants than spaces, the process would be as follows:
Step 1: placement of siblings (as per Board policy re: FI)
Step 2: placement of home school applicants to the "host" school program
Step 3: placement of applicants attending the closest feeder school to their "host" school program
Step 4: placement of applicants in the next closest feeder school

Parents may be concerned that this is a loss of equitable access to the "host" school, previously guaranteed by the lottery. On the other hand, perhaps parents may find this acceptable as long as they can be assured their child will get a spot somewhere.

Parent feedback would be very helpful in understanding the priorities in our area. Parents should feel free to communicate directly with our trustee Cathy Dandy as it is trustees who will be making this decision: (www.cathydandy.ca).

sports & clubs

The Wilkinson Student Ambassador's Club has started off with much excitement and enthusiasm this year. Ms. Currie and Ms. DiModugno have met several times with the student ambassadors and have come up with some exciting ways to share the different cultures represented in the school. In this program the student ambassadors help school staff by offering to translate for new students and families who do not speak English. Presently there are 5 languages represented by our student ambassadors. Urdu, Cantonese, Hindi, Tamil and Gujarati. Thank you to all the students who have taken on this leadership role.

We are very excited about our new Comic Book club which has started at the school. Students from grades 4 to 6 will be able to participate on Tuesday or Wednesday from 12:00-12:40 pm. Participants will preview graphic novels and create and illustrate their own comic books.

We are also excited about our new House League Teams that are about to begin in December. We are kicking off the season with Floor Hockey and will be continuing in the spring with Ultimate Frisbee. Sign up will begin in a few weeks!

arts & entertainment

Our Winter Concert will take place on **Wednesday, December 5th** from 7:00-8:00 pm in the gym. The following groups will be performing at this concert: Primary Choir, Orff Ensemble and String Ensemble. All participating students are asked to arrive at the school by 6:40 pm the night of the concert.

As always, we will have our Christmas Carol sing at 1:00 pm in the gym on Friday, December 21st.

See our website for the year-at-a-glance calendar: www.wilkinsonschoo.ca

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