

WILKINSON NEWSLETTER

February 2006

Published by the Wilkinson School & Community Council

COUNCIL NEWS



OPENING NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

As many of you know, and for those of you who may not, this newsletter is written and put together by Wilkinson parents for Wilkinson parents. We endeavour to provide information to parents about:

- Wilkinson School (anything from an FAQ on school administration to the calendar of events)
- Education in general, both at the TDSB or provincial level (for example, any decisions that could impact us/our children and how/if parents need to get involved)
- Money (how the Council is raising it and spending it)
- Health and safety issues (anything from flu prevention to bike safety)

We welcome feedback from parents – and Wilkinson staff – that will improve our goal of keeping Wilkinson parents informed. Recent examples of changes due to input from parents are the Year-at-a-Glance calendar and the new piece on upcoming volunteer opportunities that we've started in this issue (see inside).

We are always looking for ideas and suggestions regarding topics for the newsletter as well as people to research and/or write them. Do you have a burning question that we could cover as an FAQ? Are you unsure of how something works at Wilkinson? If so, you are likely not the only parent who would like to know.

Every month we include the "Contact Us" section, so if you would like to contribute something or have an idea feel free to reach us that way or provide your ideas to me or one of the other Council members directly.

Thank-you,

Carol Bennett
*Chair, Communications Committee
& Newsletter Editor*

CONTACT US



Have an article to contribute to the newsletter? Interested in helping out? Compliments? Email us at wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca or leave a message at (416) 393-9575.

Thank you to this month's contributors:
Carol Bennett, Sharon Weller, Jacqui Strachan
Editor: Carol Bennett **Designer:** Kim Diamond

MEETING UPDATE

The Wilkinson School Community Council met on January 10, 2006. Lisa Watt, Wilkinson's new Vice-Principal, was introduced to Council members.

The Council has completed its review of the Constitution. The only change being made is the inclusion of the Performing Arts Committee. The monthly Statement of Financial Position was distributed and reviewed. There is currently over \$13,000 available for disbursement. Funding options being explored are a storage shed for the Kindergarten playground equipment and additional basketball nets in the schoolyard. Funding requests approved by the Council included \$500 for shrubs for the front garden and \$20 (annually) to register the domain name for the Council's new website.

Committee updates were presented from:

- Performing Arts (see the Calendar on the back page for scheduled performances),
- Greening and grounds (plans for the spring, curriculum ideas),
- Communications (newsletter and website development), and
- Fundraising (Movie Nights, Pizza Lunches, Fun Fair kick-off meeting).

The next meeting of the Council is on **Monday, February 13th at 7:00pm** in the staff room. Everyone is welcome to attend. Childcare will be available.

Sweetheart Sale

Tuesday, February 14

Buy something special at our annual Sweetheart Bake Sale! You can purchase delectable home baked goods, chocolates and candies in Room 56 in the morning and in Room 3 in the afternoon.

PARENT INFO



PROVINCE ANNOUNCES NEW PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

The Minister of Education has announced new provincial policy to support parents' involvement in their children's education. The Minister announced the new policy on December 1st, but details as to when the changes would take place were not provided.

The policy, which is partly based on recommendations from last year's Parent Voice in Education Project, is intended to create a more welcoming environment for parents in the education system. It includes a commitment to regular regional parent meetings with the Minister of Education, the creation of a new provincial Parent Advisory Board, and a provincial Parent Engagement Office. Other promised resources include a parent website portal, e-network, and a new parent handbook.

The new policy promises funding to support parent involvement, including grants to support local school council initiatives to reach out to new parents, \$500 per school council for outreach and communications, and funding for school board, regional, and provincial projects promoting parent involvement.

Former members of the Parent Voice in Education Project will act as interim members on the first Parent Advisory Board and provide advice to the Ministry as it proceeds with implementation of the new policy.

The complete policy can be viewed online at: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/nr/05.12/developing.pdf>

Thank you to People for Education for providing this update. People for Education is a group of parents working to preserve fully publicly-funded education

in Ontario. More information about People for Education can be found at: <http://www.peopleforeducation.com> or by calling 416-534-0100.

VOLUNTEERING



Here are some upcoming volunteer opportunities for Council events and how you can get involved:

SWEETHEART BAKE SALE

Tuesday, Feb. 14th

Volunteers needed to:

- donate baked goods for the sale (bring to Room 56 on the morning of the 14th)
- help out at the sale - morning or afternoon

Coordinator: Bianca Kapteyn

Leave a message with the school (416-393-9575).

MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, Feb. 17th

Volunteers needed to:

- set up (6:00pm) and clean up (out by 9:00 pm)
- collect donations at the door
- sell refreshments


Coordinator: Sunny Mills

Leave a message for Sunny with the school (416-393-9575) or arrive at the school gym at 6:00pm on movie night and ask for Sunny.

Movie Night

Friday, February 17

WALLACE & GROMIT



**Pizza, popcorn
and beverages too!**

PIZZA LUNCH

Friday, Feb. 24th

Volunteers needed to:

- assist with the collection of forms and money the mornings of Feb. 17th, 20th and 21st
- hand out pizza and drinks on Feb. 24th

Coordinator: Sunny Mills

Leave a message for Sunny with the school (416-393-9575) or indicate your interest on the form you return with your child's selection and payment.

FUN FAIR COMMITTEE

- Volunteers needed to assist with the planning and organization of our biggest fundraiser

Coordinator: April Moon

Complete and return the Volunteer Form sent home the week of January 23rd or contact April at 416-462-9719 or moon.wallis@sympatico.ca.

LICE PATROL

Volunteers needed to perform regular head checks at the school. Training will be provided.

Leave a message with the school (416-393-9575).

If you would like to help out in your child's classroom or on field trips, please contact the teacher directly. If you would like to help out with other school areas (for example, the lunch room or library), contact the school office at 416-393-9575.

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!

Also, send in your Canadian Tire money to the attention of the Fundraising Coordinator.

Every little bit helps!

WILKINSON CALENDAR 2006

FEBRUARY

- 2: Groundhog Day
- 8: 100 Day Celebrations
- 10: P.A. Day
- 13: Council Meeting
- 14: Valentine's Day & Sweetheart Bake Sale
- 17: Movie Night (Wallace & Gromit)
- 21: Kindergarten registration begins for in-district and daycare children
- 23: Young Authors' Assembly
- 24: Pizza Lunch

MARCH

- 1: Ash Wednesday
- 6: People of the Land - Native Dance Theatre
- 7: Council Meeting
- 13: March Break begins
- 17: March Break ends
St. Patrick's Day
- 24: Wilkystock Assembly
Movie Night: Chicken Little
- 27: Report Cards
- 30: Parent Teacher Interviews
- 31: P.A. Day

APRIL

- 2: Daylight Savings time begins
- 7: School Bound - The BreadBox Theatre
- 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

MAY

- 1-4: Wilkinson Art Gallery
- 7: 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

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

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