

WILKINSON CALENDAR 2006/2007

FEBRUARY

- 2 (F): Tafelmusik Concert (Rms 21, 22, 23, 26, 27)
Movie Night - Open Season
- 5 (M): Performance: Morgan's Journey, 1pm
- 6 (F): TSO at Roy Thompson Hall (Rms 20, 24, 28)
Workshop: Is your child struggling in school?
- 7 (W): 100th day of school
- 12 (M): Council Meeting 7pm
- 13-15: JK/SK Registration (in-district and Dandy Lion)
- 14 (W): Valentine's Day
Sweetheart Bake Sale
- 16 (F): P.A. Day (No School)
- 18 (S): Lunar New Year begins
- 22 (Th): Young Authors' Assembly; 9am

MARCH

- 1 (Th): TDSB Music Fest. at Monarch Park (Primary)
- 2 (F): TDSB Music Fest. at Monarch Park (Junior)
- 2-9: Book Fair
- 5 (M): Council Meeting 7pm
- 9 (F): Beach Day Assembly; 1pm
- 12-16: March Break (No School)
- 23 (F): Performance: Taonga Treasures, 10am
Movie Night "Flushed Away"
- 26 (M): Report cards go home
- 29 (Th): Parent-Teacher interviews
- 30 (F): P.A. Day

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, Tanya Sterioff

Editor: Carol Bennett **Design/Layout:** Kim Diamond

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): 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

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

- 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

This newsletter was subsidized and printed by:

COPY CAT
REPRODUCTIONS
680 Danforth Ave. Tel: (416) 405-8484



WILKINSON NEWSLETTER

February 2007

Published by the Wilkinson School Community Council

COUNCIL NEWS



MEETING RECAP

The Wilkinson School Community Council met on January 15, 2007.

In the principal's update Ms. Sterioff advised that JK/SK registration for in-district and Dandy Lion students is scheduled for February 13 to 15 for students born in 2003. Flyers went home with students for the trustee-sponsored workshop entitled "Is Your Child Struggling in School?" being held at Wilkinson on February 6th at 7:00pm.

As a follow up to the discussion at December's meeting regarding playground security, Ms. Sterioff inquired to the board about putting gates on all entry

Movie Night

Friday, February 2

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.

points to the schoolyard. Even though the school is technically private property, gates cannot be installed as the community has a "right of passage" and it needs to be open to the public. The Council agreed not to pursue the other option investigated - "cattle lanes" - as this would cost \$5,000 and need to be wheelchair accessible and thus too far away from the actual exits to be effective.

The monthly Statement of Financial Position was distributed. There is currently about \$2,000 available at this time for disbursement. No funding requests were presented.

Highlights from committee updates:

- Arts (upcoming performances: Maori Dance Troupe, Robert Morgan; exploring opportunity for students to participate in "Share the Music" program at Roy Thomson Hall)
- Communications (always looking for people to contribute ideas and articles to the monthly newsletter)
- Fundraising (Outstanding money from chocolate sales, Cookbook sales, Pizza lunches, Movie nights - exploring possibility of having after school movie for grade 5 and 6 students)
- Fun Fair (event date tentatively set for June 2nd, looking for more sponsorships this year)
- Greening and grounds (looking at trees for enclosed playground)

Dandy Lion Day Care students are having a "Raising the Roof" fundraiser to help the homeless. This was inspired by one of the day care students who was concerned about the plight of homeless people. Toques are on sale for \$10 each, of which 80% goes directly to support the homeless.

One parent asked about the lockdown on December 15th and whether staff are briefed on the proper procedure. Ms. Sterioff confirmed that they will be reviewing lock down policy and procedure at the next staff meeting.

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

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday February 12, 2007 at 7:00 pm in the staff room on the second floor. Everyone is welcome to attend. Childcare will be available.

FAQ



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

Q: How are teachers at Wilkinson fulfilling the government's DPA requirements?

A: This year, the Ministry of Education introduced 20 minutes daily physical activity for every elementary school student. DPA, as it has become known, is one part of the government's Healthy Schools Plan. The plan is a response both to evidence that children who engage in daily physical activity perform better academically, and to increasing obesity rates amongst Canadian children.

DPA requires a minimum of 20 minutes of "sustained moderate to vigorous physical activity". Since most children at Wilkinson have physical education classes

at least twice a week, DPA may take place on those days when children do not participate in phys. ed.

Like all schools in the Toronto District School Board, a teacher representative at Wilkinson was chosen to participate in training on Daily Physical Activity. Ms. Bartkiw, who teaches Grade 3, was designated to participate in Board-wide training. Staff have also received resource materials through the school board and the Ministry of Education, on everything from the benefits of daily physical activity to instructions on how to exercise while seated.

There is a real range in the type of activities that children can participate in. While some Wilkinson classes regularly spend their DPA time outside playing organized sports or even running laps, others may do a combination of indoor aerobic and callisthenic exercises. As long as the target of 20 minutes of sustained physical activity is achieved, teachers are free to choose activities that fit within their scheduled day. Ask what your child does during DPA – chances are you'll get an enthusiastic response! For background information on DPA, or to download any of the Ministry of Education's documents, visit <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca>, click on Healthy Schools and follow the links in the index to Daily Physical Activity.

WORKSHOP:

Is your child struggling in school?

Tuesday February 6th – 7:00 to 9:30pm

This is a free forum sponsored by our trustee, Cathy Dandy. Parents and guardians can register for one of the following sessions:

- How Does the System Work?
- Does Your Child Have a Learning Disability?
- Helping Children Who Bully and are Bullied
- ESL for Children & Families (interpreters available)

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

FUNDRAISING



SWEETHEART BAKE SALE

Wednesday, February 14th

Buy something special for your sweetheart, your best friends or yourself for Valentine's Day! Treats will be available for 25¢ to \$3. We are asking again this year for parents to donate delectable home baked goods for the sale. A flyer will be coming home soon with more information. Your contribution would be greatly appreciated!

FUN FAIR

Saturday June 2nd

Even though it seems that winter has just arrived, members of the Fun Fair Committee have already started talking about this year's event which will be held on Saturday, June 2nd from 11:00am to 3:00pm. So mark your calendars now!

Not only is our annual Fun Fair an important community event, it is also our biggest fundraiser in support of art, music and science programs in our school. This year we would like to focus on getting more sponsorship for the event. If you have any suggestions or would like to help out on the committee this year, let us know! You can reach us through our Web site at www.wilkinsonschool.ca or leave a message at the school at 416-393-9575.

PARENT INFORMATION



PROVINCIAL PARENT BOARD

Application Deadline:

February 16, 2007 10:00am

Good schools become even better schools when there is a strong connection with parents. Involved parents can increase a child's self-confidence and success. Parents also have a major impact on school success and children's attitudes toward school.

To make parent involvement easier, the Ontario government is establishing a new Provincial Parent Board to help parents get involved in the education systems. The board will be a strong voice for parents at the provincial level. As advisors to the minister, board members will play a critical role in engaging parents with schools. Their advice will ensure that effective parent involvement programs are successfully implemented across the province.

Role of the Provincial Parent Board

The board has two key roles:

- 1) To advise the Minister of Education on how to increase parent involvement. It also helps the minister develop effective programs and supports for parent involvement - locally, at the board level, and across the province.
- 2) To monitor parent involvement levels, the implementation and effectiveness of programs that support parent involvement

Who is eligible?

Board members must be parents or guardians of a child in Ontario's public school system. If you have strong communication skills, experience working with school and community groups and are comfortable discussing and reviewing parent involvement programs you would be well suited to this challenging role. Board members will look beyond their own school, community, and interests. They should have a broad perspective on parent involvement that is appropriate and relevant to the school system as a whole.

For more information or to download an application form, go to the Ministry of Education's site at: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/ppb/index.html>

PARENT RESOURCE

Wilkinson's Special Education consultant has recommended a Web site for parents of primary students who would like to support them with reading at home. The site, located at www.starfall.com, has a number of phonics-based activities for emergent and early readers.