

# WILKINSON CALENDAR 2006/2007

## JANUARY

8 (M): Back to school  
15 (M): Council Meeting 7pm  
19 (F): Movie Night - Open Season  
25 (Th): Pizza lunch  
26 (F): P.A. Day

## FEBRUARY

2 (F): Movie Night - Open Season  
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

## 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

## 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: Carol Bennett

**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): 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

## 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

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# WILKINSON NEWSLETTER

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## COUNCIL NEWS



### MEETING RECAP

The Wilkinson School Community Council met on December 11, 2006.

The principal's report included confirmation that an anti-climb screen has been installed on the storage shed in the kindergarten play area, and that work is underway to remove the graffiti and treat the walls to make them easier to clean. Three new trees, donated by a local community member, have been planted in the schoolyard. Ms. Sterioff also advised of an upcoming presentation by Adrienne Madgason, a TDSB social worker, to the grades 5 and 6 classes. This session is being arranged to respond to concerns about name-calling in the schoolyard.

The monthly Statement of Financial Position was distributed. There is currently about \$2,600 available at this time for disbursement. The Council will be funding team jerseys, which will be purchased from Roots Canada. A Wilkinson logo has been finalized for these shirts. In the New Year, parents, staff and students will also be able to order Wilkinson hooded sweatshirts.

### Highlights from committee updates:

- Communications (On-line survey set up on Wilkinson's Web site to obtain feedback on the school photos)
- Fundraising (Cookbook sales, Pizza lunches, Movie nights, Direct Donation campaign)
- Greening and grounds (Winter Activity guide for the Learning Garden being developed)

## 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.

A parent raised two concerns regarding playground security at Wilkinson – One to do with a child being locked out after recess and the second to do with open access ways to the schoolyard. Ms. Sterioff explained the process in place to reduce the risk of a student being locked out: there are three teachers on outdoor yard duty, two of which are assigned to “sweep” the yard after recess to make sure all of the kids have gone in. The second concern was about the lack of gates at the entries to the schoolyard, and the risk that children may run out into the street after balls, etc. Of particular note is where the schoolyard meets the Dandylion day care driveway. It was also noted that local residents would be upset if all the access points to the schoolyard were gated. However, Ms. Sterioff will look at the cost of putting gates on the entry points and report back to the Council.

Full minutes for all Council meetings are posted on our Web site at [www.wilkinsonschooll.ca](http://www.wilkinsonschooll.ca).

**The next Council meeting will be held on Monday January 15, 2007 at 7:00 pm** in the staff room on the second floor. Everyone is welcome to attend. Childcare will be available.

## WILKINSON COOKBOOK

### COPIES STILL AVAILABLE

There are still copies of our fabulous cookbook available to purchase for \$10 each. To place your order, you can send us an email request at [wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca](mailto:wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca) and we'll make arrangements with you or you can go in person to the school office and purchase the books there.

## FAQ



### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

**Q: How are class sizes determined? Is this something set by the Board or the government?**

**A:** To most of us “class size” simply refers to the number of students in one teacher’s classroom. However, the government has a more complicated definition.

In elementary schools, each school board must have an average of 24.5 students per class. In the primary division, the average class size must not exceed 24 students. In secondary schools, the board-wide average must be 21 students per class. This board-wide average does not include special education classes. Because the average is calculated for the entire board, a board might have very large classes in some schools and very small classes in others but still meet the required average.

The school board assigns staff to individual schools based on a number of factors—number of students, number of primary classes, and number of high needs students. Some of the decisions about staff allocations are at the discretion of the superintendent.

At the school level, class size depends on decisions by the principal and, possibly, the staffing committee. These decisions may in turn depend on whether the school wants to have more specialist teachers (art, library, music, or phys. ed.) which will result in slightly larger class sizes.

The government has promised eventually to put a cap or maximum of 20 students per teacher on primary (JK to Grade 3) classes. As a first step, the Ministry of Education recently provided boards with an extra

\$166 per student in JK to grade 3 to reduce class sizes. Because JK/SK students count as half, the new funding equals approximately one additional teacher for every 450 students in primary grades. After consulting with boards, the Ministry has promised to implement a primary class size cap by 2007/08.

**Source:** People for Education Web site at [www.peopleforeducation.com](http://www.peopleforeducation.com). People for Education is a group of parents working to preserve fully publicly-funded education in Ontario.

## FUNDRAISING



### DOMINION SAVE-A-TAPE PROGRAM – NOW OVER

This program has now been discontinued. Thank you to all who participated. We had a total in receipts of \$11,503.42 which raised \$25.56 to go towards the Council’s fundraising efforts.

## IMPORTANT INFO



### PREMIER’S AWARDS FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

**Nominations due January 31, 2007**

Almost every day, until our children are 17 or so, we send them off to spend the better part of their day at school – with their teachers. We trust that these teachers are up to the challenging task of guiding our children to becoming effective, empowered, creative adults.

As a parent you now have an opportunity to nominate someone who excels at this challenge to be recognized for their contribution and efforts. Premier McGuinty has announced the first Premier's Awards for Teaching Excellence. These awards are intended

to recognize our educators and staff who excel at unlocking the potential of Ontario's young people.

The awards are open to anyone who works in Ontario’s public schools, including teachers, teaching support staff, department heads, principals and vice-principals.

### How to nominate someone

Students, parents, teachers and community members can participate. All you need to do is complete the nomination form which is available online at: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/teachingawards/nomination.pdf> (we have also included this link on our own Web site at [www.wilkinsonschooll.ca](http://www.wilkinsonschooll.ca)). Your nomination must:

- Explain how your candidate meets the criteria
- Contain letters of support from two other people
- Have the nominee’s permission.

**Nominations are to be sent to the following address by January 31, 2007:**

Premier's Awards for Teaching Excellence  
Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat  
400 University Avenue, 4th floor  
Toronto, ON M7H 2R9

**Awards will be given out in these categories:**

- Teacher of the Year
- Outstanding New Teacher
- School-to-Work Transition
- Contribution to School Leadership
- Excellence in Special Needs
- Parent and Community Involvement
- Enterprise in Teaching
- Excellence in Teaching Support
- Excellence in Teaching Literacy and Numeracy
- Lifetime Achievement

An independent selection panel will review the nominations and recommend award recipients. To learn more about this program and to download nomination forms, please visit: [www.ontario.ca/teachingawards](http://www.ontario.ca/teachingawards).