

efforts and enrich the Wilkinson community.

Jacqui Strachan is leaving Wilkinson after 12 years of solid commitment to the school and the council. In addition to being the council's Chair for several years she has been active in the greening of the school grounds, mentoring of new parents and council members and an enthusiastic participant in and promoter of all our fundraisers. Her voice and actions have been an essential part of our journey to where we are today, both as a school and as a parent council.

We will miss Jacqui and Sunny and as they leave Wilkinson we express our appreciation and thanks to them for being an important part of our school, our council and our community. They leave a couple of very big shoes to fill next year! So when the Council nomination forms come home in September, we encourage you to consider putting your name forward to become a Council member. We will be meeting again on Monday September 8th at 7:00pm in the staff room on the 2nd floor, so feel free to come out to see what it's all about!

On behalf of this year's Council, we extend our congratulations to Wilkinson's grads and best wishes to all parents, students and staff for a wonderful summer!!

Carol Bennett
Chair, Wilkinson School Community Council

fun fair 2008

A day many worried would be marred by rain turned into a perfect sunny Saturday for the Wilkinson Fun Fair!

The day kicked off with a solid turn-out at 11am, and the crowd continued to grow through the afternoon. What fun to watch the smaller children run their version of the Grand Prix time trials on their little motorbikes and race cars while the older kids challenged themselves on the rock climbing wall! What would a Fun Fair be without the perennial favourite, the bouncy castle, which on this day was packed to the turrets with airborne kids!

Inside the school, senior students and parent volunteers provided face painting, hair beading, henna designs and temporary colour tattoos.



Pink cotton candy spun to the delight of youngsters and the tantalizing scent of the delicious food prepared and served by our volunteer chefs wafted through the halls. Familiar favourite Looney Land was such a hit, it ran out of prizes in record time! Inside the gym, students and parents alike tried their luck at the games. Who would have thought throwing chickens could be so much fun - rubber chickens, that is!

Room 3 once again held the Dream Baskets, the Silent Auction and the yummy Bake Sale, all of which were very successful in their fundraising. Thanks to all who bought tickets for the baskets, bid on items and indulged at the sweets table!

Congratulations and thanks to all who helped out, donated items, donated time and those who came out for the day to have FUN!

Submitted by Laurie Januska

contact us

Have an article to contribute to the newsletter? Interested in helping out? Compliments? Go to our Web site at www.wilkinsonschoo.ca or leave a message at (416) 393-9575.

Thank you to this month's contributors:
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WILKINSON NEWSLETTER

June 2008

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principal's message

It's hard to believe that this is my last newsletter of the year and that we'll soon be breaking for the summer holidays!

We received many requests for teacher placements for next year. Unfortunately, we were not able to accommodate all of them, however we have ensured that children have been placed with friends next school year. Your child's classroom placement will go home with their report card on Monday, June 23rd.

Also there are a few staffing changes from what was communicated in last month's newsletter. Ms. Gupta has accepted a position at Islington Public School. We will miss her but certainly wish her well in her new role as a JK/SK teacher. Ms. Stelmanis will now be teaching grade 1 and Ms. Whitfield will be teaching special education in the morning. New to Wilkinson, Ms. Zafred will be teaching JK/SK in the afternoons. Ms. Zafred comes to us from Frankland Community School and is also trained as a Reading Clinic teacher. We look forward to having her join our staff and welcome her to Wilkinson in the fall.

The Continuing Education Department of the TDSB offers English as a Second Language classes for beginner and intermediate level adults at William Burgess School, 100 Torrens Avenue (west of Donlands, north of Cosburn) every morning. The next term begins September 2nd. They welcome permanent residents, landed immigrants, Canadian citizens, refugees and refugee claimants.

I wish you all a relaxing and safe summer. I look forward to seeing you again in the fall!

Tanya Sterioff
principal

field trip review

On May 2nd, six grade 3 students from Ms. Barkiw's class accompanied Ms. Found to Storyfest 2008. Storyfest is a TDSB celebration of telling stories and about 20 schools were taking part in the festival ranging from grade 3 to grade 8. They told stories and listened to many other stories being told over the course of the morning.

Itah Sadu, storyteller and author, performed a lively and inspiring presentation for the students. Itah is the author of *Christopher Changes his Name*, *Christopher Please Clean Your Room!*, *A Touch of the Zebras*, and *Name Calling*, all of which can be found in our library. The students did an amazing job of bringing their stories to life and all had a great time at this event. We look forward to next year's festival!

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important dates

- Thurs., June 19:** Pizza Lunch
(for those who have pre-paid)
- Fri., June 20:** Play Day
(wear your hat & sun screen!)
- Mon., June 23:** Report Cards go home
- Tues., June 24:** Grade 6 Graduation
(4:00pm in the Gym)
- Wed., June 25:** Last Day of School!

And for those of you who like to plan ahead...

- Tues., Sept. 2:** First Day of School
- Mon., Sept. 8:** Council Meeting 7:00pm
- Fri., Sept. 26:** P.A. Day – No School

sports & clubs

PALS is up and running at Wilkinson!

"There's always room for one more" -- that's the motto for P.A.L.S. -- a playground leadership program offered by Toronto Public Health in collaboration with the TDSB. The objectives of the PALS (Playground Activity Leaders in Schools) program are to:

- increase physical activity
- decrease conflict and reduce the incidence of playground bullying
- provide leadership opportunity for students

Over 48 enthusiastic grade 4 and 5 students filled out applications for a PALS position -- they were asked how they were good helpers, and why they thought PALS would be good for Wilkinson. After careful consideration of their applications, and teacher recommendations, 23 PALS were chosen. They then spent a half-day training on leadership and games with a Toronto Public Health nurse.

Beginning May 20th our great group of leaders were out on the playground during recess, teaching great ball, tag and skipping games to any interested primary grade students. Each PALS leader has one or two scheduled days a week on the playground, and so far they seem to be having a great time sharing their new found knowledge of classic games!

Special thanks to the Wilkinson Parent Council for funding our "outdoor playground" kit to support the games the students are teaching. Check out our bulletin board in the main hall and see photos our PALS in action!

arts & music



Wilkinson's Grade 6 Songwriters

Friday June 13th was a lucky day for Wilkinson's grade 6 students... At the school's awards assembly, led by Melanie Doane on guitar, they sang the songs they had written at a workshop earlier this year. Rooms 23 and 27 performed "Let it Out!" and room 22 sang "And the sky is blue today".

library news

Starting in September, Ms. Found will be using our new school library blog with students. It will be used as a tool to teach safe internet use as well as being a place to share information relevant to students and their families. If you would like a sneak preview, go to: www.wilkinsonway.blogspot.com.

Also, Kari Lynn Winters, author of Blue Spruce nominated Jeffrey and Sloth, visited with students in grades K to 3 on May 20th. Kari gave 4 lively and interesting presentations that

included stories, jokes, songs and lots of interaction with the students. A big thank you to the parent council for funding this valuable and enjoyable visit.

Khadijah in room 16 had this to say about Ms. Winter's visit:

"This is one of the best books I have read this year. Even if there were no words in the book, the pictures tell a great story. I love to doodle just like Jeffrey. I hope my pictures come to life like the sloth did in this book. Ms. Winters is a great author and I look forward to reading more of her books."

parent council report

Highlights from the 2007-2008 School Year

This year was another busy and productive year for the Council and the committees. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of parents who join and consistently come out to the meetings.

Financials

Our opening bank balance in Sept. 2007 was approx. \$15,580. This year we raised just over \$14,000 with expenditures totaling just over \$17,300. Therefore, we will be starting the next school year with approx. \$12,280 in the bank.

Our main fundraisers this year were Pizza Lunches, Movie Nights and the Fun Fair. While overall we did well financially with our fundraising efforts, chocolate sales were not as profitable this year. We will be looking at some other alternatives for fundraising for next year. The major items that the Council provided funding for this year are:

Field Trip Subsidy	\$1,638
Visiting Authors	\$2,000
Performances	\$2,500
Scientists in the Schools	\$4,800
Newsletters & other comms	\$ 800
VHS/DVD Site License	\$ 760
Graduation Trophies	\$1,000

Arts Committee

We arranged for at least 2 performances for each grade – all within our budget of \$2,500.

Next year we are looking to bring in more visual arts to the programming.

Communications

We combined the principal's newsletter with the council's so that the school could present a consolidated message for parents. This also reduces the amount of paper going home which is "greener" and lowers our costs. We also made several enhancements to the Web site. This year we gathered input and created an outline for the Parent Manual. Next year we'll put it together and distribute it.

Greening & Grounds

A pine grove funded by TD Friends of the Environment was planted in the primary play area. We continue to gain support from teachers and parents for outdoor classroom/learning garden and Eco Schools Program. We have plans to rejuvenate the primary play area and to plant 8 new trees in the yard.

Health & Safety

This year focused on ways to make the school and school grounds safer (e.g. access pads installed on all the doors). Next year we'll continue to work with staff to promote and support bullying prevention and intervention at Wilkinson.

"Wil-Kitchen"

Our Community Cooking Evenings

This year we had two Wil-Kitchens – One in the fall where a Wilkinson parent led us through the art of making samosas and the second one at the end of May where we made some of the dishes for our Fun Fair food booth. These are relaxed, hands-on, informal evenings to cook, eat and chat. There is interest in continuing these cooking evenings so we will look into having more next year.

Special Recognition

Sadly we have to say farewell to a couple of long-term council members as their children are completing their final year at Wilkinson:

After 5 years, Sunny Mills is leaving Wilkinson. Sunny will fondly be remembered for introducing Pizza Lunches and Movie Nights to Wilkinson and rejuvenating aspects of our Fun Fair, all of which are now embedded in our fundraising