

WILKINSON CALENDAR 2006

MARCH

- 1: Ash Wednesday
- 6: People of the Land - Native Dance Theatre
- 6-10: Book Fair (Rm 3)
- 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
- 3: **Lice patrol. We need volunteers to help!**
- 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
- 4: 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

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:
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WILKINSON NEWSLETTER

March 2006

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COUNCIL NEWS



MEETING RECAP

The Wilkinson School Community Council met on February 13, 2006. The principal's report included an update on the potential CUPE walkout as well as an update about the measures Wilkinson is taking to control head lice. The next school-wide check is scheduled for April 3rd. The vice-principal, Lisa Watt, is the contact for this.

The monthly Statement of Financial Position was distributed and reviewed. There is currently over \$12,000 available for disbursement.

A member of the community attended the meeting to raise concerns about the noise and disturbance caused by the current location of the basketball nets and after school usage. Possible solutions were discussed. At the next meeting, the Council will review funding needed for retractable basketball nets that can be taken down at the end of each day.

Committee updates were presented from:

- Greening and grounds (working with Wilkinson's Environmental Club),
- Communications (new website launched – read further for more information on this), and
- Fundraising (reported on funds raised from the

Dominion-Save-a-Tape program and from movie nights and pizza lunches, which continue to be popular and well attended. Preparations for the Fun Fair have begun and a proposed budget will be presented at the next Council meeting.)

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 7th at 7:00pm in the staff room. Everyone is welcome to attend. Childcare will be available.

NEW WEB SITE

www.wilkinsonscool.ca

Come and take a tour of our new web site! Mark it as one of your online favourites and be sure to visit it regularly for upcoming events and volunteering opportunities. It also contains general school and Council info, and useful links. Comments or suggestions? Click on Contact Us and drop us a line.

Dominion Save-a-Tape and Canadian Tire \$\$

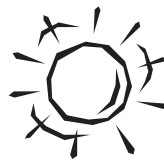
Help raise money for the Council initiatives at Wilkinson! Collect your Dominion, Ultra Food and Drug, and A & P grocery tapes and send them in an envelope to the school. No receipt is too small or too big. Keep them coming!

We also are collecting Canadian Tire money! Send it in to the attention of the Fundraising Coordinator. Every little bit helps!

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SPOTLIGHT



LISA WATT - WILKINSON'S NEW VICE-PRINCIPAL

Wilkinson said good-bye to Jonathan Root as vice-principal in December, who was promoted to principal of Bruce P.S. Karen Geraci took a few moments to find out a little more about our new vice-principal...

Just before the holiday break in December, Lisa Watt learned she would be taking on the position of vice-principal at Wilkinson. It was a busy few weeks of preparation, but the transition has been remarkably smooth. Crediting a supportive principal and staff, Ms Watt explains, "It has really been an easy adjustment. Everyone has been so helpful and patient. I think the first two weeks I asked a million questions, but I got to know everyone's names, meet many parents, and got to know the staff."

Ms Watt comes to Wilkinson after four and a half years at Thorncliffe Park Public School, where she taught in the primary grades. The last two years she served as the school's literacy coordinator. Prior to that, she taught at Highcastle School in Scarborough. The move to Thorncliffe meant a big learning curve. "I went from Highcastle, which had 300 kids, to Thorncliffe Park, which has 1,700 students just from kindergarten to grade 5."



Not surprisingly, space was at a premium at Thorncliffe, where some offices were carved from closets to accommodate the growing school population. Ms Watt muses, "When I arrived there were 47 portables. We had contests to name the

streets between portables, mostly after our favourite books and authors." Happily, space isn't quite the issue it was, and all students are now accommodated within the main building.

Since graduating from teacher's college at OISE/University of Toronto, Ms Watt has taken additional qualifications in mathematics education, special education, reading and ESL. A native of Richmond Hill, she enjoys the downtown experience and the diversity it offers.

Ms Watt's responsibilities at Wilkinson include addressing behavioural concerns with children, arranging supply teachers and organizing EQAO testing in the spring. In addition, she hopes to bring some of her experience in early years literacy initiatives to Wilkinson. Last year Ms Watt coordinated a volunteer reading program at Thorncliffe Park, matching community volunteers with struggling readers in grade 3 for one-to-one supportive reading sessions. The program was a hit, and resulted in most participants meeting grade level expectations by the end of the year. Ms Watt sees these kinds of programs as a great way to both increase kids' skill levels and community involvement.

And speaking of community involvement, look for Ms Watt at this year's Wilkinson Fun Fair on May 27th, where she has promised to participate in a meaningful way....We've even heard rumours of a dunk tank.



Movie Night

Friday, March 24th

CHICKEN LITTLE

Pizza, popcorn
and beverages too!

Want to help out?
Call Sunny Mills at the
school (416) 393-9575 and
leave a message.

FAQ



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

Q: I notice that our winter and spring concerts showcase instrumental performances. How do Wilkinson students become involved?

A: In addition to our choirs and Orff, Wilkinson offers an instrumental program to grade five and six students: string and concert band. Mr. Ron Harry teaches string (viola, violin and cello), while Mr. Ross Wooldridge covers band (flute, trumpet, trombone, French horn and clarinet.) Both teachers hail from Earl Grey school, where they teach music.

Every September, Mr. Harry or Mr. Wooldridge, puts on a presentation to the grade five students. An information letter is sent home and those interested in participating take an informal music aptitude test. According to Mr. Harry, the test is mainly an "ear test" – a simple determination as to whether the student understands and responds to tune, rhythm and pitch. This is to ensure that the budding musician won't become frustrated down the road, he says.

Once a student has parental permission and has passed the aptitude test, he or she is assigned an instrument. Although some instruments are available to borrow from the school, sometimes they need to be rented from an outside source for a reasonable cost. A violin rental for the school year might cost \$150, for example.

Once the ensembles are formed, the musicians leave their classes twice a week to practice for 45 minutes and are encouraged to practice for 20 minutes on their own time at least four times a week.

The only entry point for this program is in grade five, at which time the students are making a two-year commitment.

FUNDRAISING



FUN FAIR 2006

The Fun Fair is Wilkinson's biggest fundraising effort of the year, and a great chance to come out, eat well and have fun with your school community.

Highlights include a great selection of outdoor games and events, an expanded salon area complete with hairwraps and Mendhi, and of course fabulous food from around the world. The old favourites will be back, including Loonieland, Dream Baskets, and a select Silent Auction. New for 2006 are a Karaoke Talent Contest, Donut Dangle and "Guess How Many" games.

Help, please!

Whether you can attend a meeting, spend a couple of hours organizing before the big day, or donate an item, we would love to have your help. Contact April Moon at (416) 462-9719 or by email at moon.wallis@sympatico.ca for more information on ways you can help.

Currently we're looking for:

Donations for the Silent Auction. Be creative! Can you donate a couple of hours to help someone learn how to use the internet? Or how about a cooking lesson or pet walking? Susan Haney is coordinating this activity. If you are interested in providing a service or item, call her at (416) 901-5325 or email her at susanbell@yahoo.ca and she will contact you.

Items for Loonieland. We welcome any unwanted new or gently used items that may be taking up valuable space at home. We ask that you bear in mind when donating an item whether you would be okay with your child winning it and bringing it home – If you're not, then it may not be suitable. Items can be dropped off on Friday mornings in Room 56.