

## Is Your Child Struggling in School?

*A free forum for parents, guardians, and family members*

Find out how to help your child in school, get your questions answered, and develop a plan.

**Tuesday March 18th from 7:00 – 9:30pm**  
**Wilkinson Public School, 53 Donlands Avenue**  
(Danforth and Donlands, by Donlands Subway Station)

\*Free child care and interpreters will be available\*

Register early to attend one of the following sessions:

- How Does the System Work?
- Does Your Child Have a Learning Disability?
- Helping Children Who Bully and are Bullied.

To register, call 416-397-3083 and leave your name and number, along with the one session you would like to attend and if you require child care. Please also let us know if you would like an interpreter.

'Is Your Child Struggling in School?' is offered by Cathy Dandy, Toronto District School Board Trustee, Ward 15 (Toronto-Danforth) and the Toronto-Danforth Ward Council.

## WANTED

### Movie coordinator(s)

Sunny Mills has been coordinating the movie nights for the last few years along with a core group of dedicated parents. As this is Sunny's last year at Wilkinson we're looking for another parent volunteer to head up this activity and coordinate the volunteers starting next year.

For more information about this opportunity, send us an email at [wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca](mailto:wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca), speak to a council member or leave a message at the school.

Sunny will provide training to anyone who's interested!

## MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, April, 11th

The Bee Movie

## contact us

Have an article to contribute to the newsletter? Interested in helping out? Compliments? Go to our Web site at [www.wilkinsonschool.ca](http://www.wilkinsonschool.ca) or leave a message at (416) 393-9575. Thank you to this month's contributors: Bambi Alvia, Melanie Doane **Editor:** Carol Bennett **Design/Layout:** Kim Diamond

This newsletter was subsidized and printed by:



# WILKINSON NEWSLETTER

March 2008

Published by the Wilkinson School Council

## principal's message

I'm sure everyone would agree that this "winter wonderland" has run its course and needs to start turning into "the signs of spring". March break is coming up and with it brings our final term of the year. It continues to be a busy time with report cards, house leagues and music rehearsals.

Firstly, our Annual Talent Show will take place on **Friday, February 29th** at 1:00pm in the gym. Please join us and watch the natural abilities of a number of our students who will be performing that day.

Pape Public Library will be visiting our Kindergarten classes the week of **March 3rd**. The presentation consists of a short talk about the public library as part of the community, plus a short story and rhyme program. They will also be leaving outreach packages for each child to take home.

We have a visiting author on **March 19th** for grades 4-6. Her name is Marsha Skrypuch and she had a book nominated in 2006 Silver Birch called *Aram's Choice*. She also wrote a Dear Canada book called *Prisoners in the Promised Land* amongst her other titles. Thank you to the council for funding this visit.

Easter will also take place during the month of March. Good Friday is on **March 21st** and East-er Monday is on **March 24th**.

**Tanya Sterioff**  
principal

## important dates

- March 10-14:** March Break
- Monday March 17:** Council Meeting – 7:00pm; childcare provided
- Friday March 21:** Good Friday – No school
- Monday March 24:** Easter Monday – No school
- Saturday March 29:** Earth Hour 8:00-9:00pm (see article)
- Monday March 31:** Report cards go home

## earth hour

Earth Hour Toronto takes place on March 29, 2008 from 8:00 – 9:00pm. Millions of people around the world will show their support for action on climate change by turning off their lights for Earth Hour. This global lights-out event is coordinated by World Wildlife Fund (WWF). To sign up or find out more information about Earth Hour Toronto go to the City of Toronto website at: [www.toronto.ca/teo/earth-hour.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/teo/earth-hour.htm).

## sports & clubs

An amazing number of students came out to the tryouts for this year's badminton team. Ms. Dymont and Miss Pashby are excited for another incredible season that officially begins March 1st.

## attention parents!

The School Council is putting together an information booklet geared to parents new to Wilkinson. Is there anything you wish you'd known about the school from the start? For example, its routines, its layout, its operation? What information would you give a new parent? Is there anything you think still needs spelling out? Let us know! Please contact us with your suggestions at wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca or call Carol Bennett at 416-465-4157 before March Break. We hope to have this booklet published by May for the Open House. Thanks!

## fundraising

### Successful Sweetheart Sale!

Whew! It was crazy, hectic but the sale was quite a success. The big hit was cupcakes! We ran out and kids kept asking for more. As expected, the teddy bears and other stuffed animals were sold out before the end of recess. We'd also like to acknowledge the awesome contribution from Dandy Lion Day-care. It was really nice to see baked goods and other treats put together by the Dandy Lion kids. Thank you to all the parents who bought or donated baked goods, set up, put together additional grab bags, ran the sale, cleaned up. A special thanks for the reviving coffee from Karen!

*Submitted by Bambi Alvia*

### Fun Fair 2008

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 Extreme Makeover tent complete with hairwraps and Mendhi, and of course fabulous food from around the world.

### We need you...

The success of the Fun Fair depends on parent involvement and community contributions.

The more involvement, the more activities we are able to have and the more we can raise to support additional educational activities and resources as well as a healthy learning environment for Wilkinson students. 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 us through our website ([www.wilkinson-school.ca](http://www.wilkinson-school.ca)), by email at [wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca](mailto:wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca) or leave a message at the school (416-393-9575) if you'd like more information on ways you can help.

## arts & music

### New Mural

Room 22 worked for a month on a mural for the school with Daphne McCormack. It is themed "Air, Flight and Space" and is on display on the third floor for all to see.



### Choirs

Both the Primary and Junior Choirs will be participating in the Toronto District School Board Choral Music Festival. The Primary Choir will be singing on **Monday, April 7th** (10:00-11:30 am.) and the Junior Choir will be singing on **Tuesday, April 8** (12:30-2:00 pm.). This year the festival will be held at Winston Churchill C.I. which is on Lawrence Avenue East. (just east of Warden Avenue).

Looking ahead, the Wilkinson Spring Concert will be held on Wednesday, April 30th. The format will be as follows:

6:00-6:45pm	Primary Concert (K - gr.3)
7:00-8:00pm	Junior Concert (Band, Strings, JuniorChoir, Orff)

### The Arts Committee presents...

A big thank you to the parents on the Arts Committee who have been busy organizing some fabulous activities for the Wilkinson students this winter!

### Song-writing Workshop

On January 25th, Wilkinson's grade 6 students participated in a song-writing workshop with top Canadian artists, Melanie Doane and Ted Dykstra, who are also Wilkinson parents. Melanie started off by performing a few songs for the students, talking a bit about lyrics and why she likes to write music.

The students then wrote down their own song title ideas and the group randomly chose one to work on as a class. Lyrics were suggested to construct the verses which were quickly brought to life by Ted and Melanie doing the music and singing out the lines the students had written. The choruses were created from the initial title and before too long they had most of the tune mapped out.

The workshop was met with rave reviews:

*"I've never experienced anything like this before. It was so fun making a song with Melanie Doane. My friends and I have been singing it ever since we've composed it!"* - Abby H., Rm.22

*"I had so much fun helping to write our random song. I thought that it was so cool to just come up with ideas and then sing it afterwards. I liked that everyone's ideas were part of our song."* - Allison P., Rm.22

*"I had loads of fun singing and writing the song. This was my first song that I wrote..."* - Nazhat C., Rm.22

Melanie also noted that "The kids sang along with every step and we were so proud of them. Each child contributed something to the song

and both groups wrote really cool ones... They were so proud of themselves and they should be. They are great kids."

**Melanie Doane is a Juno-award winning singer/songwriter. Ted Dykstra is a radio, television and theatre actor and director, recipient of both Dora Mavor Moore and Chalmers Awards, and a founding member of the Soulpepper Theatre Company.**

### Sho, Mo & the Monkey Bunch

- A review by Room 13



Hey! Have you ever heard of the Monkey Bunch? Well, they're hip and they don't just rock - they roll! They came to Wilkinson for not one but two exciting concerts on Tuesday February 5th. There's four of them in the band: Sho (who's talented and the lead singer), Mo (the bass guitarist and sometime singer), Graham (who is the electric guitar and sound effect guy) and finally John, the tall drummer.

The concert was monkey fun! When they got excited they made everyone go bananas! During Five Little Monkeys, they got all the students off their seats jumping, dancing, singing and acting like big hairy monkeys (nice ones though!). A lot of the songs from their first album were played as well as a couple new songs. If you're sad that you didn't get to go, don't worry. There's a website, [www.themonkeybunch.com](http://www.themonkeybunch.com), and you can always buy their CD. As Sho and Mo would say "Power to the little people!" and bye for now.

**These fabulous activities were made possible through the fundraising efforts of the Wilkinson School Council.**