

fundraising

Sweetheart Sale 2009

Once a year we have a bake sale close to Valentine's Day – the Sweetheart Sale. We sell something for everyone whether it is sweet to eat or cute to play with. This year's spread featured cupcakes, heart shaped cookies, macaroons, teddy bears and much, much more. Thank you to all who contributed baked goods and volunteered their time, especially the Dandy Lion Day-care who made a lot of tasty treats. We sold out over lunch hour and made \$368.10! We hope to see you all out next year so mark your calendar for the second week of February and save those loonies and toonies!

Eat Well and Raise \$\$ for Wilkinson!

SupperWorks is a fun and convenient way to get nutritious, tasty food on your table – without the time, hassle and mess! What makes it even better is that it's also a fundraising activity for Wilkinson. When registering for a session at The Beach location, enter the charity code WPS and 4% of the gross proceeds will be donated to the school. Since December, \$66 has been raised!

How it Works

Visit SupperWorks' website at www.SupperWorks.com and select The Beach location at 1735 Queen St. East. Choose between 6, 9 and 12 entrees – each entree is designed to feed 4-6 people. Certain days are designated vegetarian, seafood, kid-friendly, or organic. The last step is to book a session using the online calendar.

On the day of your session, simply show up with a cooler or hamper to carry your meals home in. After being greeted, given an apron, a complimentary beverage and an orientation tour (for first-timers), you will move from station to station, preparing an entree that you have selected at each one. Each station is equipped with the recipe; cleaned, chopped and prepared ingredients; utensils and measuring spoons; and containers. You measure and assemble the ingredients, then store the entrees in a fridge until you are all done. You

get to leave the mess behind and leave with a full cooler or hamper of meals you have prepared!

April Moon, a busy Wilkinson mom with three children, has been to SupperWorks several times. "Supperworks has changed my life. I cannot believe how easy it is to make 6 entrees in one evening. It's a win-win situation - In addition to having more variety and fewer take away meals, we're fundraising for our school. I also love going with other Wilkie parents."

To find out more about SupperWorks, including the menus for the current and upcoming month, see www.SupperWorks.com or call 416-690-3535.

Want to volunteer @ Wilkinson?

Email us at:
WilkinsonVolunteers@gmail.com

We will match you up with a volunteer activity. There are so many to choose from!

contact us

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

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WILKINSON NEWSLETTER

March 2009

Published by the Wilkinson School Council

principal's message

March is upon us. With that brings the beginning of our final term, March Break and, hopefully, signs of spring. Report cards will go home on Monday March 30th and parent interviews will take place during the evening of Thursday April 2nd and the morning of Friday April 3rd (which will be a P.A. day for that purpose).

Starting after March break, the Library will be opening twice a week for parents to visit with preschool children. It will be open Mondays from 8:45 until 10:00am and Fridays from 2:30 to 3:30pm and will be on a drop-in basis. Parents who wish to borrow books to read at home will be able to do so during these visits. You will be able to spend time reading, doing puzzles, drawing and playing games with your child during your visit. Speak with Ms. Found in the Library if you would like more details about these visits.

Finally, Wilkinson Public School has been selected by the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat as a SCHOOL ON THE MOVE.

We join three other schools in the TDSB and 100 other schools across the province of Ontario that have been selected for this initiative. Selection is based on the use of evidence-informed strategies that have led to improved learning for all students.

Representatives from the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat will be visiting the school

throughout the morning of Tuesday March 10th. After speaking with administration, staff, and a group of parents, they will publish a profile of the schools involved and distribute the publication to every school in Ontario. It is the hope that other schools will read the publication and use it for networking so they can benefit from the best practices of others.

We look forward to their visit and a tour of Wilkinson to let them see firsthand how great a school we are!

Tanya Sterioff
principal

important dates

- Tues. Mar.3:** Chester Choral Festival (Junior Choir)
 - Fri. Mar. 6:** Movie Night - 6:00pm (gym)
 - Mon. Mar. 9:** Council Meeting* - 7:00pm (staff room)
 - Thurs. Mar. 12:** Wil-Kitchen* -7:00pm (lunch room)
 - Mar. 16-20:** March Break (No school)
 - Fri. Mar. 27:** Pizza Lunch (for those who prepaid)
 - Mon. Mar. 30:** Report cards go home
 - Fri. Apr. 3:** P.A. Day (No school)
- * child care provided

upcoming events

Warm up with a taste of the islands at Wil-Kitchen!

**Thursday March 12th
7:00pm in the Large Lunchroom**

You are invited to a West Indian Feast at the first Wil-Kitchen cooking evening of 2009. Under expert guidance, participants will prepare, cook and then eat an authentic West Indian meal of fishcakes, peas & rice, West Indian style fish, vegetable rundown with salt fish and coconut bread. Everybody present will get to share in the preparations and try all of the different food. It's a great way to meet other Wilkinson families while learning some new recipes... and then enjoying a great meal and conversation together. Child care will be provided but kids are welcome to participate if they are interested.

Wil-Kitchen is sponsored by the Parent Council so there is no charge... but you must sign up so that we can get an idea of the supplies we need. Complete and return the registration form which will be sent home with your child shortly or available online at:
www.wilkinsonschoool.ca
or e-mail wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca.

Note: The large lunchroom is in the basement of the school. Enter through the front door and use the stairs in the middle of the school, not at the north or south ends of the school as these will be locked.

Movie Night: High School Musical 3 Friday March 6th (in the gym)

Join Troy, Gabriella, Sharpay and the rest of the East High School gang on Friday, March 6th when the Wilkinson Council presents High School Musical 3 at 6:00pm in the gym. Bring your blankets, bring your pillows, bring your dancing shoes! In honour of this special presentation we will be awarding door prizes. Each child will receive a ballot upon entry. Looking forward to seeing you at the movie!!!

These nights come together and run smoothly because of parent volunteers so if you are able

to help out, please speak to Susan Haney, leave a message at the office or send us a note at WilkinsonVolunteers@gmail.com.

arts & music

Talent Show

Our Third Annual Wilkinson Talent Show on Friday February 27th promises to be another amazing performance, with twice the number of acts. Students have been hard at work rehearsing for the big show. Ms. Pashby and Ms. Cerqueira wish to thank all the students that came to audition.

Wilkinson Choirs

The Junior Choir will be performing at the Chester Choral Festival on Tuesday March 3rd from 1:00-3:00 pm. Also, The TDSB Music Festival is coming up. The Junior Choir will be performing at the festival on the morning of Monday April 6th, and the Primary Choir will be performing at the festival on the morning of Tuesday April 7th. Both will take place at Winston Churchill Collegiate Institute.

important info

Storytelling @ Wilkinson

Students have been busy in their classrooms telling stories over the last few weeks. By March break, we will be asking them to choose one of their favourite stories to practice telling and to write up for our Telling Bee book. Keep talking to your children at home about family stories - you are all doing a wonderful job!

We are having a storytelling festival on Wednesday, April 15th. Students will be telling stories throughout the day and also at an evening assembly later in the year. Details about this event will be sent home nearer to the time.

sports update

On the sports scene, the girls' volleyball team displayed great teamwork as they came in second at the G.A. Brown Tournament on February 6th. They advanced to the semi finals against McMurrich Middle School! Thanks to Ms. Allen and Ms. DiModugno for coaching and to Kim Diamond for contributing her expertise.

Floor hockey house league has been a huge success. The season will wind down by the end of February.

Mr. Low and Ms. Pashby will soon be starting up our badminton teams. They will begin in early March.

greening & grounds

Upcoming projects

A quick word about what's ahead for Greening and Grounds at Wilkinson. As spring approaches it's a great time to start thinking about outdoor projects. Here are a couple of long term and short term projects that we're working on:

The Learning Garden had been a challenge at the school for a number of reasons but I should back up... We have a Learning Garden? Yes we do, and it's located on the northwest corner of the school. This area was planted with native Ontario grasses and perennials that were once quite common to the area. It contains paths for the kids and teachers to explore and get outside in a natural environment. It's also a great place for the kids to play tag. It was never intended to be a formal garden as we were trying to get it to represent a typical Ontario meadow.

This presents a challenge in an urban environment where people may favour structure. As a compromise, we're considering removing the fence that surrounds it and increasing the amount of paths in order to increase the number of footsteps in the garden. We want to strike a balance between supporting the natural elements that make the garden an educational

ecosystem but also respect the need for a certain amount of aesthetic control (that is, it needs to look good too!). We'll work on signs that will help the teachers, kids and neighbours better understand what the garden's all about.

We're also working on increasing the amount of trees on school property with the TDSB and Evergreen. We have approval to create at least two planting beds for native shade trees, possibly sugar maples, along the northern border of the school. This area is a little bare and mostly asphalt. A lot of runoff is generated in this area so the beds would help divert water out of the storm sewers. This is a long term project and we're looking at getting a grant to cover the cost.

Finally, we'd also like to continue improve the primary play area, located in the north part of the yard. To date the Parent Council and the School has funded the installation of a large storage shed which houses riding toys which used to be stored in the basement. We've added more trees to the space with a generous donation from TD's Friends of the Environment. More sand was delivered last year to the "sand pit".

Looking ahead, we'd like to add visual elements to the "Green Wall" that will help cheer the space up which could include large painted cut outs of animals and flowers. We'd also like to add some more play structures for the primary students. The teachers have come up with some great ideas and now we just have to work on funding.

Lot's to do. We can always use more help. No gardening experience required! If you have any ideas to share or time to donate please feel free to contact John Hykel at john62@sympatico.ca.

Here are a couple of interesting links if you'd like more information about greening at our schools.
<http://www.evergreen.ca/en/>
http://www.tdsb.on.ca/_site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=207&menuid=1425&pageid=1052
<http://www.earthday.ca/pub/index.php>

What's your Act of Green?