

## Frequently Asked Question

**Q: What clubs and activities are available to Wilkinson students? When do they happen? What grades can participate?**

**A:** While we realize that's actually more than one question, it's a common one and Lelia MacDonald, a Wilkinson parent, bravely stepped up to find out as much as she could! What she found is that Wilkinson has an incredibly rich offering for our students that strengthens school spirit and fosters a well-rounded experience for the kids. Lelia's discoveries are captured in the sheet that you'll find included with this newsletter – with the Junior Division on one side and the Primary Division on the other – Post it on your fridge! It is also on our Web site in Excel format for you to download and sort differently if you prefer. As we learn more, we will try to keep the sheet updated on the Web site.

## Clubs &amp; Activities starting this month:

- Dodgeball (Grades 4, 5 & 6)
- Chess (all grades except JK/SK)

# Thank you!

A special thank you to the

## Simpson family

for putting together the haunted house again this year!

Ask your child whether he/she went through with “lights on” or “lights off”!

## handy tip

## Tips for parents

People for Education has developed a series of eight information sheets called Tip Sheets. They're written in plain language and give parents practical advice on a range of topics: homework, starting school, parent-teacher interviews, special education, the EQAO tests, school councils, and solving problems at school. The Tip Sheets are available in 12 languages. You can print them from People for Education's Web site at: <http://www.peopleforeducation.com/resources/tips.html>.

*People for Education is a group of parents working to support public education in Ontario's English, French and Catholic schools.*

**There are new bike racks in front of Dandy Lion Day Care that all Wilkinson students and staff are welcome to use!**

## contact us

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

Thank you to this month's contributors: Carol Bennett, Susan Haney, Lelia MacDonald

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# WILKINSON NEWSLETTER

November 2008

Published by the Wilkinson School Council

## principal's message

It's almost November and time to turn on the furnace for winter! We have a number of activities planned for our students during this autumn month, many of which focus on literacy and storytelling themes. We have storytellers visiting all grades over the next few weeks – More details about these visits are provided in this newsletter.

Have you seen our Read@Wilkinson Library posters yet? It is important that our students realize reading can be fun and that we teachers like to read too. By displaying these posters we are hoping to encourage increased reading enjoyment across the school.

The students in rooms 22 and 27 have completed 4 totem poles based on the Haida (Pacific Coast B.C.) and they are on display on the third floor. They are truly impressive pieces of artwork.

The students in Room 5 enjoyed delicious feasts for both Eid-Il-Fitur and Thanksgiving. A special thanks to Mrs. Ingar, Mrs. Bhayat and Mrs. Manjra for helping with and providing our Eid Feast. Also, special thanks to Mrs. Wright, Keira and all the budding Room 5 chefs for preparing our Thanksgiving Feast.

The school, as always, will be involved in Remembrance Day ceremonies on November 11th. The primary students will participate in Room 3 and the junior students will be on the third floor.

Finally, report cards will be going home on November 28th this term with parent interviews on December 3rd and 4th. We look forward to seeing many of you at that time.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call Ms. Watt or myself at the school.

**Tanya Sterioff**  
principal

## important dates

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Fri., Nov. 7:</b>   | Pizza Lunch<br>(for those who have pre-paid) |
| <b>Mon., Nov. 10:</b>  | Council Meeting 7:00pm                       |
| <b>Tues., Nov. 11:</b> | Remembrance Day                              |
| <b>Fri., Nov. 14:</b>  | Movie Night<br>Doors open 6:00pm             |
| <b>Fri., Nov. 28:</b>  | Report Cards go home                         |
| <b>Fri., Dec. 5:</b>   | PA Day - No School                           |

## TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK THIS WEEKEND!

**Be sure to turn your clocks BACK one hour on Saturday November 1st before you go to bed.**

## important information

### School Council 2008-2009

The 2008/09 Wilkinson School Community Council held its first meeting of the school year on October 20th. The following parents have been elected as voting members of this year's council:

Carol Bennett (Chair)  
Laura Bullard-Brezovsky  
Karen Geraci  
Sarah Gillespie  
Susan Haney  
John Hykel (Treasurer)  
Ruby Lederman  
April Moon  
Alison Motluk  
Jill Spellman  
Erin Vaillancourt  
Sam Vrakking (Secretary)  
Paula Weekes Kahn (Vice Chair)  
Karen Wiseman

The council meets once a month and childcare is provided. All parents and community members are welcome to attend any meeting however to vote on motions, you must be an elected member. In addition to reviewing and discussing items related to the improvement of student achievement and the school environment, the agenda for these meetings typically consists of:

- updates from the principal and the treasurer,
- updates from the various committees (Arts, Communications, Fundraising, Greening, Health & Safety), and
- review of funding requests.

If you would like to raise an item for a council meeting, please email: [wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca](mailto:wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca) or leave a message in the parent mailbox in the office. Minutes from all council meetings are posted on our Web site at [www.wilkinsonschooll.ca](http://www.wilkinsonschooll.ca) as well as the meeting dates for this year.

Check our website for current info on school initiatives:  
[www.wilkinsonschooll.ca](http://www.wilkinsonschooll.ca)

## arts & music

### Wilkinson's Choirs

We have a number of music ensembles in full swing at the school. Primary Choir rehearses every Thursday during class time (12:45-1:30pm). Junior Choir rehearses every Thursday at lunch from 12:00 to 12:40pm and Orff ensemble rehearses at lunch on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays (depending on which group the ensemble member signed up).

### Cosima Grunsky was here!

Cosima [koh-zee-mah] has performed for many years with her well-known father, Jack Grunsky, as a singer-songwriter. She plays the guitar, ukulele, hand drum, dulcimer and a variety of other instruments from around the world. With the help of her accompanist, Louis Vautour, Cosima plays a mixture of traditional and original songs with engaging melodies that explore different moods and celebrate life and the joy of making music.



Cosima performed for Wilkinson's primary grades on October 15th. The children responded to the music enthusiastically with clapping, singing and dancing. A big thank-you to the parents who won this performance for the school at a Prologue to the Performing Arts preview!

## fundraising

### Direct Donation Campaign

**We still have a ways to go before we meet our goal so if you would like to contribute there is still time!**

Thank you to those who have donated generously to our campaign to raise \$5,000 for improvements in the schoolyard - \$2,500 towards a play structure in the Kindergarten play area and \$2,500 toward other play structures and enhancements, for example additional basketball hoops, in the larger playground.

The Direct Donation form can be downloaded from our Web site ([www.wilkinsonschooll.ca](http://www.wilkinsonschooll.ca)). Tax receipts can be provided for donations over \$25.

### Wilkinson Water Bottles

Stainless steel, BPA-free water bottles will be available soon to order. They hold 750ml and will have our Wilkinson lion logo on them. They will sell for \$15.00 and should be available mid-November.

We thank you in advance for your consideration and support of the council's fundraising efforts. All money raised goes to fund additional educational activities and resources to supplement the curriculum, purchase equipment and enhance the school environment.

## library news

### World Book Online

This year we have subscribed to the World Book online. The version we can access is aimed at Elementary students and is available in both French and English. It is a superb tool for research and for general interest. It is available to be used at home using the password given at the end of this article. Please do not share the password outside of our school as the license covers the students of Wilkinson only. The "at home" use may be removed by World Book if they see usage outside of our school

area. You can access world books on our library web page. The login ID is wilky and the password is read123.

### Library Blog

Don't forget to visit the library blog with your children. We just held our first online contest and 5 children won a new book. Congratulations to the winners! You can visit the blog at <http://wilkinsonway.blogspot.com>.

### Storytelling @ Wilkinson!

There will be 2 storytellers visiting with the students in November. Anna Kerz, a storyteller with the Storytellers of Toronto, will visit with our grade 4, 5 and 6 students on **November 4th and 5th**. She is going to share the art of telling stories with the students.

On **November 19th**, storyteller Cheryl Thornton will visit with our grade 1 and kindergarten students. She will be exploring the themes of fall and winter through folk tales and other stories. She encourages lots of audience participation in the storytelling. Cheryl will return to our school on November 25th to visit the grades 2 and 3 students. This time, the theme will be celebrating heritage and once again the students will have opportunities to participate in the storytelling. Cheryl has a website of stories on our school library web page. All of the stories support the TDSB's Character Education initiative. Each story is matched to a character trait. If you would like to check out these stories, visit the library web page at [www.tdsb.on.ca/libraries/links.asp?school-No=5282](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/libraries/links.asp?school-No=5282) and click on Storyvalues.

## MOVIE NIGHT

**Friday, November 14**

Doors open at 6:00pm. Movie starts at 6:30pm.

Donations at the door.

Bring your pillows and blankets to get a floor seat up front! As usual, pizza, popcorn and drinks will be available for sale.