

## Online Communications

Another way we can support greening efforts at Wilkinson, not to mention reduce printing costs, is to reduce the number of newsletters that are sent home. One way we do this is by using a "sibling list" where only the youngest sibling at the school brings home the notices.

Another thing we're considering is for parents to opt for an online version of the newsletter, rather than a paper version. As part of our research it would help us if you could complete and return the following to the school:

.....  
**SURVEY** Check ONE of the following:

I want to keep receiving a paper version of the newsletter

OR

I would prefer receiving the newsletter via email and/or reading it online

### Join Wilkinson Council's email list today!

If you would like the newsletter, as well as email reminders and updates about what's happening at Wilkinson from time to time, please include your name and email address below or send us a note at [wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca](mailto:wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca).

Name: .....

Email address: .....

(please print clearly)

.....

### Our Web site: [www.wilkinsonschoo.ca](http://www.wilkinsonschoo.ca)

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

## Contact Us

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

### Thank you to this month's contributors:

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Published by the Wilkinson School Council

## SPACES AVAILABLE! ~ After School Program ~ DANDYLION DAY CARE

- Children grades 4, 5 and 6
- After school care daily from 3:30-6:00pm
- Cost is \$265 per month
- Includes snack, excellent programming by a Registered Early Childhood Educator, homework period, outdoor time, creative arts, clubs and sports
- No care provided on P.A. days or during Winter Break, March Break or Summer holidays

**Please call Karen Anthony @ 416-469-0091 to arrange for a tour and to register your child!**

The Wilkinson Newsletter is proudly subsidized and printed by:



# Wilkinson Newsletter



October 2009

## Principal's Message

Another school year has begun and there are a number of items to share with Wilkinson parents.

A large package of information was sent home on the first Friday of school and many of you may still be sifting through all the forms. However I would ask you to return your child's emergency form as soon as possible. We rely on these forms for accurate information in the event we need to make immediate contact with you.

These forms also provide the school with valuable information regarding allergies. A number of students require epi-pens. If your child has an epi-pen prescribed, I would ask that you provide the school with one to be kept in the main office. We also recommend that your child carry their epi-pen in a fanny-pack on a daily basis for added safety.

Many parents are concerned about the H1N1 virus so we have included an extensive article in this newsletter on what Wilkinson is doing to protect staff and students and what preventive measures families are encouraged to take.

Finally, welcome back to Mr. Banton, Mme Cooke and Ms. Gittlin! Also, a big welcome to Ms. Adams, Wilkinson's new Vice-Principal. Please read on for her special message to parents.

Feel free to call Ms. Adams or myself at the school if you have any questions or concerns.

**Tanya Sterioff**

Principal

## Vice Principal's Message

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the Wilkinson community. Although this is my first year as vice-principal, I come with much experience in education having taught for the past twenty-five years.

I graduated from teacher's college at the University of Western Ontario in 1984, whereupon I began my career in a small private school in Colombia, SA. After a short stint

overseas I returned to Toronto where I have been teaching ever since. I have taught in a variety of areas throughout the city, with my last teaching position being grade six at Jackman Ave. P.S. During my career I earned specialist certificates in ESL and Science, and I completed AQ courses in Special Education and Primary Education.

I am thrilled to be here at Wilkinson, under the direction of Ms. Sterioff, as I have heard so many great things about the staff, students, and the community. It also has some personal meaning for me to begin the next phase of my career here, as my mother and her siblings attended Wilkinson.

I would like to thank both students and parents for the warm reception you have given me, and I look forward to being of assistance to you in whatever way I can.

**Leasa Adams**

Vice Principal

## Important Dates

- |                     |                                                   |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MON. OCT. 5</b>  | Council Meeting – 7:00pm<br>(Child care provided) |
| <b>OCT. 5-9</b>     | Return pizza lunch forms<br>& payment             |
| <b>MON. OCT. 12</b> | Thanksgiving – No School                          |
| <b>FRI. OCT. 16</b> | Return money from<br>chocolate sales              |
| <b>MON. OCT. 19</b> | Picture Day                                       |
| <b>FRI. OCT. 23</b> | Pizza Lunch<br>(for those who have pre-paid)      |
| <b>FRI. OCT. 30</b> | Hallowe'en Parade – 1:00pm                        |

## Fundraising



### CHOCOLATE SALES

Our 2009 chocolate fundraising campaign has begun! There are still cases of chocolate available to sell so if you've already sold your case or forgot about sending in your form – please order now! Order forms are available in the school office or can be downloaded from our Web site at [www.wilkinsonschooll.ca](http://www.wilkinsonschooll.ca).

Each case contains 25 nut free chocolate bars (15 Caramel Bars, 5 Crisp Bars and 5 Milk Bars) to sell at a cost of \$2 per bar. The amount to be returned is \$50. **Money collected, plus any chocolates which are not sold, must be returned to the school on Friday October 16th.**

### PIZZA LUNCHES

A treat for the students and a break from making lunch once a month! Halal cheese pizza, juice and treats are served. The dates for pizza lunches this fall are October 23rd, November 27th and December 18th. Money will be collected for all three dates at once from October 5th to 9th. The forms were sent home outlining the choices and asking for volunteers to help on these dates. Please note that this is the only time students can register for the fall pizza lunches. Unfortunately, forms and/or money received after October 9th cannot be accepted.

## Health Info



### PREPARING FOR FLU SEASON

Because schools are places where large numbers of people meet and interact, they are also the perfect setting for germs to be passed from one person to another. Every year the school takes steps to limit this transmission. This year, because of the risk of H1N1, or "swine flu", a few extra precautions are being taken. The school is asking families to be extra-cautious as well.

Flu viruses are spread mainly by coughing or sneezing. They travel through the air and into your nose or mouth. Or they can settle on surfaces such as handrails, doorknobs and countertops. From there, they can hitch a ride on your hands. If you touch a contaminated keyboard, for instance, then accidentally rub your eye or mouth, the virus could make it into your body.

### What the school is doing

This year the school is disinfecting handrails, doorknobs, library keyboards and the main office every day. Teachers will be instructing students on proper hand hygiene and the school will ensure soap is always available where children wash their hands. Hand sanitizers such as Purell will also be available in each classroom.

### What you can do

There are straightforward things that students, parents and teachers can do as well. It sounds too simple to be true, but washing your hands thoroughly with soap may be your best protection. It is especially important to wash your hands before and after you eat, after you sneeze or cough, and after you've used public transportation. Hand-washing can help protect you not just from H1N1 but also from the common cold, e coli, stomach flu and other viruses and bacteria.

Don't share drinks or foods that have touched other people's mouths. Never share straws, water bottles, face masks, eye wear or anything else that has touched someone else's eyes, nose or mouth.

If you need to sneeze or cough, use a tissue, and then throw it away. If you don't have a tissue, use your sleeve. Though it's hard, try to keep your hands from touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

### What if your child is sick

Even if everyone is careful, sometimes people get sick. It is important to recognize the signs of flu, and other illnesses that can be passed on to others. If your child has a fever, even one that can be reduced by medication, please keep him/her at home. A fever is a clear sign that your body is fighting something. People need rest to fight the illness. They also need to do their part to prevent the spread of the illness within the school.

Other signs of H1N1 include headache, chills, cough, fever, sore throat, fatigue, loss of appetite, muscle aches, runny nose, sneezing, watery eyes and throat irritation. Many people who have been infected with the H1N1 virus have also reported diarrhea and vomiting. If you are feeling unwell, please stay home. Please don't return your child to school until he/she has been symptom-free for at least 24 hours.

To protect all students and teachers, the school will also be watching for signs of illness in students. If a child shows clear signs of flu, especially fever, parents will be called.

If we all do our part, we should have a happy, healthy year. More information is available online at: <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/ccom/flu/default.aspx> and [www.fightflu.ca](http://www.fightflu.ca).

## Greening & Grounds



### LEARNING GARDEN UPDATE

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 north-west 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 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. 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.

### PRIMARY PLAY AREA

We are continuing improve the primary play area, located in the north part of the yard. In previous years the Parent Council and the School have 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 and added more sand to the "sand pit".

We are also purchasing another great play structure in this area that donations made through our direct donation campaign (coming up later this fall) will go to support.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Let's do it. We can always use more help. If you have any ideas to share or time to donate related to the greening of Wilkinson please feel free to contact John Hykel at [john62@sympatico.ca](mailto: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.tdsb.on.ca/_site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=207&menuid=1425&pageid=1052)

<http://www.earthday.ca/pub/index.php>

## Arts & Music



### Choir & Orff

Orff Ensemble rehearsals began the week of September 21st. All Orff rehearsals are during lunch hour from 12:00 to 12:40pm.

Junior Choir rehearsals start on Thursday October 1st. Junior Choir is held every Thursday from 12:00-12:40pm.

Students in Junior Choir and Orff Ensemble may eat their lunch at school beforehand in the lunchroom on the days that they have rehearsal.

### Ukulele Group – NEW DATE

The date of the first meeting of the Ukulele Group has been changed. The Ukulele Group will meet for the first time on Monday October 19th from 3:45 to 4:30pm (and not Monday October 5th as originally stated).

## Sports Update



The **Cross-Country** team has begun training with Ms. Currie and Mr. Mahovich as of Monday September 21st. The team will run at Ashbridges Bay on Wednesday October 7th.

**Girls Slo-pitch** has begun with a series of 4 games. The regular season goes until Thursday October 8th. Thanks to Mr. Cross for coaching the team.

**Boys Slo-pitch** has also begun with Mr. Banton and Mr. De-Pasqua as coaches. Our last game of the regular season will be against Withrow on October 8th.

Our house leagues will also be starting in the near future. Our first house league will be **Kickball** and will begin in October. All students in grades 4, 5 and 6 are eligible to participate.

**Don't forget to look your best!**



**MONDAY OCTOBER 19TH  
IS PICTURE DAY!**