

WILKINSON NEWSLETTER

December 2012 Happy Holidays!

Principal's Message

Today we publish the last Wilkinson Newsletter for this calendar year and with it send to you and your family every best wish for a safe and happy holiday season, and a prosperous and healthy New Year in 2013. And to help keep us healthy in 2013, Toronto Public Health has sent us some reminders:

- **Remind** children to wash their hands often especially after using the washroom and before and after eating;
- **Remind** children to cover their sneeze and cough;
- **Watch** for symptoms of vomiting, diarrhea, dizziness, and/or high fever;
- **Inform** the school if your child is ill;
- **Keep your child at home when he/she is ill.**

See you in the New Year!

–Leasa Adams, vice-principal

Fred Wah's Visit to Wilkinson

–By Maiyah Deedat and Angeline Gao

On Oct. 29, 2012, Canada's Poet Laureate, Fred Wah, came to Wilkinson for a visit to Room 22. It was a great opportunity to have him visit. We learned a lot when Wah came to our classroom. Wah taught us two new types of Japanese poetry, such as the

UtaNikki and the Haibun. We had a chance to try them out, too. He also let us read some of his poetry. It was also a good opportunity because we were doing a poetry unit in our classroom so Wah's visit allowed us to improve on our poetry.

Here is a Haibun that one student wrote during Mr. Wah's visit:

you brick wall, tiled with endless
rectangles going up to a stop.
the perfect height a sentinel
unblinkingly guarding
the house day and night for all
eternity. I hope.
bleached with orange red and
white. all the rocks thrown at, the
soccer
balls kicked at, the basketballs
lobbed at.
you are my fourth brother and my
second father.
you are all the ages and none at
all, I cherish you as an equal.

Servant to no one
Sentinal of loyalty
Friend of everyone
–By Aaron Sheppard

Eid celebration at Wilkinson

–By Habeebah Desai and Uzair Ingar

On Sat., Nov. 3, the Wilkinson Community had an Eid Celebration in the school gymnasium. Mrs. Wareham's and Miss Cheatley's classes made beautiful banners to decorate the gym. Some students talked about how Eid came to be and we wore our traditional clothes and hats. Mr. Krentz showed a slide show about the song the students sang, Native Deen Lebayk. Some people brought traditional food that was very delicious. There was also a food drive and raffle. At the end Mrs. Ingar gave the children loot bags. It was a great Eid Party and we can't wait until next year's.

Gonrah Desgohwah White Pine Dancers at Wilkinson

–By Lexi Boulougouris

On Nov. 27 in the afternoon, the Gonrah Desgohwah White Pine Dancers treated the Grades 1 to 6 to a presentation. The Gonrah Desgohwah White Pine Dancers are a group of traditional Aboriginal dancers from Southern Ontario. There were four dancers and two drummers. The leader of the group told the students stories about his life and other people's lives. The dancers wore their traditional regalia and did many different dances that also told a story. One of the dancers did some hoop dances. Hoop dancing is when a dancer takes several hoops and makes them into a design such as the earth, birds and other things in nature. The students and staff thought it was a great presentation because it taught them lots of things about Aboriginal Cultures.

Library News

Check back in the February newsletter for updates!

Sports and H.E.A.L.T.H.Y. Eating News

Here we are in December already and although there is no hockey being played in the NHL the primary grades are learning and sharpening their hockey skills.

Health topics this month include personal and home safety. Safety in the gymnasium is also of utmost importance.

As the weather changes, so does what we wear! Parents/Guardians, this is a kind reminder to send your children with an extra pair of proper running shoes to use in the gymnasium.

To continue on the topic of health, you may have seen Mr. Cross, Mr. Krentz, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Bozabalian, Mr. Bartl, Mr. Stoch and myself sporting moustaches and goatees over the month of November. We are growing them to raise awareness for men's mental health and prostate cancer. If you are interested in making a donation, please visit our website

at: <http://ca.movember.com/team/884545>.

Thank you!

Wilkinson has been doing a great job participating in the H.E.A.L.T.H.Y. eating program. There have been record numbers of students eating the healthy snack of the week or a healthy alternative. This is great to see. Continue to encourage others in the school and community to eat healthy! Here is a great health website that gives you nutrition data on various types of food:

<http://nutritiondata.self.com/>.

December's healthy snacks of the week are:

- **Dec 3-11:** Berries
- **Dec. 10-14:** Cucumbers
- **Dec. 17-21:** Grapes

Happy healthy eating, Wilkinson and stay active!

–Mr. Kasaval

EcoTeam News from Room 22

–By Owen, Room 22

Room 22 has been taking on the responsibilities of the Eco Club. We have been taking care of the recycling every Friday and we sort through the recycling to make sure that there is nothing that does not belong in there such as apple cores, tissue paper, orange peels, dirty tissues, etc. Soon we will be going around the school making sure that each light switch has a LIGHTS OFF sticker so the teachers and students remember to turn off the lights when they are not in the room.

Direct Donation campaign

No time to volunteer at Fun Fair? Can't make Movie Nights? You can still contribute to the Parent Council's fundraising efforts with a direct donation. Each year council raises funds to support additional educational activities and initiatives that enrich our students' experiences. These can include:

- Smart boards
- Musical and Theatrical Performances
- Visiting Authors
- Scientists in the Schools
- Graduation festivities.

All you need to do is complete the Direct Donation form included in the Information Package or print a copy from our website, www.wilkinsonschoo.ca/.

The deadline to receive a tax receipt for 2012 is Fri. Dec. 7.

Gift idea and new fundraising tool

If you give gift cards to your child's teacher, or to friends and family members, try using **Fundscrip**, an organization that Wilkinson is now working with that uses gift cards as a fundraising tool. But don't just think of these as gift cards. Think of them as shopping

cards. You can use them as cash at all major grocery stores, many restaurants and gas stations. With each card you purchase, money goes back to Wilkinson's Community Council.

Fundscrip December due dates are:

- Online banking: Dec. 5 @ midnight
 - Paper orders: Dec. 7 @ end of school day
 - All other orders – Dec. 10 @ midnight
- Cards will be available for pickup from Dec. 14 onward.

Have you been to the site yet? Check it out at www.fundscrip.com.

For instructions, there's also a video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OnRSZXHsO4k>

It's a great way to raise money for the school while shopping for items you regularly purchase. Use the Wilkinson invitation code: 6YPPMQ.

For more information, contact Susan Haney at susanpbell@yahoo.ca or (416) 901-5325.

Upcoming Movie Nights!

The Parent Council's next movie night is **Fri. Dec. 14** with the animated movie, *Arthur Christmas*.

On **Fri. Jan. 11**, Parent Council will be showing *Hotel Transylvania* (pre-release). Doors open at 6:30 pm and the movie starts at 7 pm. Children are welcome to bring blankets and pillows and sit up front by the stage.

Donations big or small are welcome at the door! So are volunteers!

RULE REMINDER: All children must be accompanied by an adult and adults should be present throughout the movie.

No running is allowed in the gym or hallways. Please keep noise to a minimum. And enjoy!

Healthy Eating workshops – Save these dates!

Don't miss a chance to come out and have someone else do the cooking. Parent Council is offering **three Healthy Eating workshops in 2013**, which will each focus on a different mealtime. Parents can sample the results and there will also be plenty of tips and ideas on eating healthy. The dates will be:

- Wed. Jan. 23: breakfast and snack
 - Thurs. Feb. 28: lunch and snack
 - Thurs. April 11: dinner
- Stay tuned – more information to come!

Wilkinson's Food Drive

'Tis the season to give!

From **Dec. 17 to 21**, Wilkinson will be holding a food drive for the Daily Bread Food Bank. Students can drop off canned goods and other non-perishable food items in the bin outside Room 3.

French Play Presentations

The Core French classes will perform plays during the last week of school in December. Parents and family members are invited to attend.

- Room 20 will be presenting "Louis La Grenouille" on Tues. Dec. 18, 8:50am-9:30am.
- Room 27 will be presenting "Le Chat et la Lune" on Tues. Dec. 18, 12:30pm-1:15pm.
- Room 22 will be performing "Salut Mon Ami" on Wed. Dec. 19, 9:30am-10:10am.
- Room 27 will be performing "Salut Mon Ami" on Wed. Dec. 19, 10:20-11:00am.
- Room 21 will be performing "Les Trois Petits Cochons" on Wed. Dec. 19, 1:15-1:55pm.
- Room 23 will be performing "Les Trois

Petits Cochons" on Wed. Dec. 19, 2:10-3:00pm.

All play presentations will take place in room 3, except for "Les Trois Petits Cochons", which will take place in room 55.

Your children have a specific role for the plays, and over the next couple of weeks you can ask them to practice their lines for you. Please also try to help your children gather clothing that will be suitable for their roles. Most costume accessories, such as headpieces, will be provided. But we are in need of a cat costume, a dog costume, a sheep costume, a horse costume, a king/queen costume, a ballerina costume, and an opera singer costume. If you are willing to donate/lend anything that would be suitable for one of these roles, please send them with your child and have them drop it off to Mme Barbier in room 55 in the basement. If you would like the items returned to you after the performances, please label the bag with your child's name and room number.

Thank you for your cooperation. We hope to see you at one of the performances!

If you have any questions, please email me at sophie.barbier@tdsb.on.ca

–Mme Barbier

Community Town Hall – discuss the TDSB labour issues

On Dec. 5 from 7-9pm Wilkinson's trustee, Cathy Dandy, is organizing a Community Town Hall. The focus of the discussion will be on the TDSB labour issues that have been affecting schools and students. Parents and guardians are all welcome. Childcare will be available.

When: Wed. Dec. 5 from 7-9pm

Where: RH McGregor gymnasium (555 Mortimer Ave.)

Important Dates

December:

FRI. DEC. 7

PA Day – no school

SUN. DEC. 9

First day of Chanukah

WED. DEC. 12

Deadline for Extended French applications (online)

THURS. DEC. 13

Kind and Caring Assembly @ 1pm

FRI. DEC. 14

Movie Night: *Arthur Christmas*

SUN. DEC. 16

Last day of Chanukah

FRI. DEC. 21

December Solstice

DEC. 24 – Jan. 4, 2013

Christmas Break – no school

MON. DEC. 24

Christmas Eve

TUES. DEC. 25

Christmas Day

WED. DEC. 26

Boxing Day

MON. DEC. 31

New Year's Eve

January 2013

MON. JAN. 7

Orthodox Christmas Day

FRI. JAN. 11

Movie Night: *Hotel Transylvania* (Pre-release)

THURS. JAN. 24

Prophet's Birthday

FRI. JAN. 25

PA Day – no school

February

FEB. 5, 6 and 7

Kindergarten registration takes place.

FRI. FEB. 15

PA Day – no school

March

MARCH 11-15

March Break

Contact Us

Wilkinson School Community

Council email:

wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca.

Communications team:

www.wilkinsonschooll.ca or email:
wilkinson.communications@gmail.com.

Thank you to our contributors!

Editor: Deanna Rosolen

Published by the Wilkinson School
Community Council

Printed by: Copy Cat Reproductions
(746 Danforth Avenue)

Streetproofing Tips

Keeping children safe at school is the TDSB's top priority.

For parents, guardians and teachers, the Toronto Police offers a streetproofing program. As part of the program, the police say it's key to teach your child:

1. his/her name, address, phone number;
2. to Dial 9-1-1 in an emergency;
3. to communicate with you when they feel unsafe or afraid;
4. to keep you informed as to his/her whereabouts at all times;
5. never to admit to being alone in the home when answering the telephone;
6. never to invite strangers into the house or answer the door when alone;
7. never to approach or enter a stranger's car;
8. never to travel or play alone;
9. to trust their feelings and say "NO" to an adult if that adult wants them to do something that is wrong;
10. not to accept gifts from strangers;
11. to tell you if someone has asked them to keep a secret from you;
12. that no one has the right to touch any part of his/ her body that a bathing suit would cover;
13. that if he/she is being followed, or approached too closely, to run home or go to the nearest public place and yell for help;
14. to report to your school authorities or a police officer, anyone who acts suspiciously towards him/ her;
15. never to play in deserted buildings or isolated areas;
16. never to enter anyone's home without your permission;
17. to avoid taking shortcuts through parks and fields;
18. never to show his/her money and if attacked to give it up rather than risk injury;
19. that a police officer is a friend who can

always be relied upon when he/ she is lost or needs assistance.

Please note:

The next newsletter will run in February.
Happy Holidays!