

WILKINSON NEWSLETTER

May 2013

Principal's message

Education Week is May 6-10!

This year's theme for Education Week in the TDSB is *Engaging Voices through Caring Relationships*. This week is an opportunity to highlight and promote positive and caring relationships between students, students and staff, and staff and our community. During this week we will be speaking with students about the little things they can do to build and strengthen relationships.

Every class at Wilkinson either begins or ends the day, at least once or twice a week, with a Community Circle. During these times students are able to discuss issues that are important to them, and they provide an opportunity for students to develop a better understanding of their classmates. During Education Week the following questions will be explored during Community Circles:

- Whose name have you learned today?
- Who have you smiled at today?
- Who have you helped today?
- Who have you encouraged today?
- Who have you learned from today?

We will also be displaying these questions in the hallways and talking about them during announcements.

We look forward to meeting with parents and guardians during the month of May at the many events that will be taking place at Wilkinson. These events are listed under **Important Dates**.

– *Leasa Adams, vice-principal*

Music News

Summary of Performing Groups & Performances

Tuesday, May 21 @ 1pm:

- Band and Strings Concert Performance

Wednesday, June 19 – Daytime:

- 9am: Graduation of the morning Senior Kindergarten students PLUS a Concert Performance by all the morning kindergarten classes and Grade 1 classes.
- 1pm: Graduation of the afternoon Senior Kindergarten students PLUS a Concert Performance by all of the afternoon kindergarten and Grade 1 classes.

Wednesday, June 19 – Evening from 7-8pm:

- Primary Choir (all students in Grades 2 and 3)
- Ukulele – Beginner and advanced groups
- Junior Choir
- Orff Ensemble

–Batya Levy

Urban Voices

Every year the TDSB publishes a poetry anthology called *Urban Voices/L'echo de la ville*. The anthology consists of students' poems and artwork. This year, the TDSB received more than 1,200 poems from across the school board, and selected five from our very own Wilkinson students! There will be a TDSB ceremony in June to celebrate the publication of the anthology. Congratulations to the following students:

- **Evan Azmier-Burrows:** *Minecraft*
- **Aysha Begum Kalam:** *Snow*
- **Alexandra Boulougouris:** *This is Just to Say*
- **Nabilah Chowdhury:** *When the Night Comes*
- **Jaelin Simpson:** *Waterfall*

– Marianne Bartkiw

Library news

Book Fair

This year's Scholastic Book Fair is taking place June 3-7 in Room 3. I am looking for a team of parent volunteers to help run the fair, from set-up to clean up and everything in-between. If interested in helping out, I would love to hear from you. You can contact me at wilkinsonlibrary@me.com or check the volunteer schedule and sign up for a slot @ <http://bit.ly/wilkybookfair>.

Ever wonder how the profits from Book Fairs are used? Usually this money goes to replacing worn-out copies of the most loved titles. But this spring we made a special purchase of brand new Dictionaries and Atlases made to replace the dated copies in all of the classrooms. We look forward to making more of these special purchases, so thank you, in advance, for supporting our Book Fair!

Forest Reading programs

The popular Forest of Reading programs, including Blue Spruce and Silver Birch, have come to an end for another school year. 300 Blue Spruce readers (K-3) voted for their favourite book during library time over the past few weeks. Wilkinson's favourite Blue Spruce book for 2013 is *Splinters* by Kevin Sylvester. At the time of this submission, all of the Silver Birch readers had not yet voted. Check out the library blog @ <http://wilkinsonlibrary.tumblr.com> for the results of the Silver Birch voting.

Visiting Author

Author Marsha Skrypuch visited Wilkinson on April 10th. The author of the Silver Birch nominated, *Making Bombs for Hitler*, spoke to Grades 4-6 students about her books, the story behind them and about her learning difficulties when she was a student. Members of the Podcast

Team had a chance to interview Ms Skrypuch about her books and her writing. You can find the link to listen to the podcast @ <http://wilkinsonlibrary.tumblr.com>.

For more library news, don't forget to check out the Wilkinson Library landing page at <http://about.me/wilkinsonlibrary>. For regular updates on the great things that happen at Wilkinson, follow us on Twitter at http://twitter.com/TDSB_wilkinson.

Happy Reading!

–Joel Krentz

Physical and HEALTHY Eating news

Here we are in May and all the spring sports have started up!

Track and field

Track and field practices have been in full swing every morning in April and the beginning of May. Thursday, May 2 is track and field day at Wilkinson and Friday, May 3 is the rain date. Grades 1-6 will participate in this great event but only Grades 2-6 will have a chance to make it on the team following the results from Wilkinson's track and field day.

Students in Grade 2 and 3 who make the team will have their finals at Birchmount C.I. on Wednesday May 22. Grades 4-6 who make the team and are successful at Birchmount C.I. on May 22 will be able to move on to the next round. Further information will be given out to students who make the track and field team.

Soccer news

The boys' and girls' soccer teams have been practicing very hard for their tournaments. The boys' and girls' soccer tournaments are on Friday, May 10 (Monday May 13 is the rain date).

Ultimate Frisbee

The Ultimate Frisbee team has been practicing hard and will look to make some noise on Friday, May 10 at their tournament (Monday, May 13 is the rain date) at Don Mills Collegiate (15 The Donway E).

Cricket

The cricket team has been practicing hard and will be looking to play hard at their tournament. The date is Friday, May 24.

Good luck to all students and their teams! Gooooo Lions!

H.E.A.L.T.H.Y. eating program

The H.E.A.L.T.H.Y. eating program has been constant and consistent this whole year and it's great to see students participating in the program who didn't participate last year. I'm still hoping to see more junior students participating in the program but overall I'm very proud of our school and how health conscious we have become. Great job!

Here are the healthy snacks for May:

- **April 29-May 3:** Salad, any kind!
- **May 6-10:** Berries
- **May 13-17:** Bell Peppers
- **May 20-24:** Apples
- **May 27-31:** Cucumbers.

Happy Health Eating Wilkinson!

– Mr. Kasaval and Mr. Bozabalian

Fun Fair Update

Get ready for Fun Fair! It's just 4 weeks away. Mark your calendars for Sat. May 25 from 11am-3pm. The committee is hard at work, making sure that the event is ready for you when you and your family arrive.

Starting this week, we will be accepting donations for Loonieland, Dream Baskets, the Book table and the Auction. Please drop your donations off in the main hallway between 8:15am and 8:30am.

We are looking for donations of Canadian Tire Money. Please package your money and send it in to the school, labelling it for **April Moon**.

Friday Myers is filling volunteer spaces. Please feel free to e-mail her at fridaymyers@rogers.com if you are available. She is also looking for high school volunteers.

High School students can earn hours toward their mandatory volunteer hours. Please pass her e-mail on to your babysitters or other high school students that you know.

Please watch your email for the fun fair package. It will be sent out soon.

Aché Brasil review

Room 25 wrote the following collaboratively:

Our Review of the Brazilian Music and Dance Show

We are the students of Room 25. We have seen between 10 and 20 shows at Wilkinson over the past few years. This was one of the best shows that we've seen.

One good thing about the show is that the costumes were funny. The king's costume looked like an African monkey skeleton face. The performers were really great dancers. They did back flips, cartwheels and other moves. It was really cool.

The performance was amazing. We think anyone would enjoy it. The Brazilian crew was enthusiastic about getting kids involved. They taught us how to play an instrument with one string. If you want to see the show, you'll have to come to our school. Or maybe, if you're lucky, they will come to your school, too.

– *The students of Room 25*

Healthy Eating Workshop!

The Wilkinson Parent Council's last Healthy Eating Workshop with caterer Lisa Shamai is taking place on Tuesday, May 14 and will focus on Dinners and Desserts.

The workshop will run from 6:30-8:30pm in the large lunchroom in the basement at Wilkinson. All meals are vegetarian. A Wilkinson parent will be on hand to translate information into Urdu and Gujarati.

Guests will be treated to a light dinner and everyone will receive a gift. Registration is not required. And parent council is providing childcare.

Join us for a fun, informative – and *delicious* – evening!

Movie Night! -*Lady and the Tramp*-

The Parent Council's next movie night is Friday, May 10 with the animated Disney movie, *Lady and the Tramp*. Doors open at 6:30pm and the movie starts at 7pm. Children are welcome to bring blankets and pillows and sit up front by the stage. **Donations big or small are welcome!**

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!

From People for Education

Does homework improve student achievement?

Depends on whom you ask!

For as long as teachers have been assigning homework, students have been complaining about it. It can also be a divisive issue for parents – some support more homework, while others advocate for less.

An article in the March 2013 issue of *District Administration* magazine provides an excellent overview:

A U.S. survey found that time spent on homework has risen 51 per cent from 1981 to 2003. The greatest increase is among elementary students.

A review of research found a positive relationship between the amount of homework high school students do and higher academic achievement. However, among elementary students, there was no relationship between time spent on homework and academic achievement.

In countries with high homework demands, students perform worse on international TIMSS (math and science) testing than students with less homework.

In 2012, Finland and South Korea ranked numbers one and two on the *Global Index of Cognitive Skills and Educational Attainment*, based on international test scores, literacy and graduation rates. Yet these two countries have very different approaches to education, with Finland offering shorter school days and little homework, while South Korea has longer school days and rote learning.

So the homework wars continue! To read the full District Administration article, visit <http://bit.ly/18cKZ1O>

To read other research or download the People for Education Homework Tip Sheet, visit <http://bit.ly/18cL45N>

Parent Census Results

The Toronto District School Board recently released the results of its 2012 Parent Census. The survey results contain both good and bad news. Among the findings:

- 93% of parents felt welcome in their schools, up from 87% in 2008
- 83% of parents go to parent-teacher interviews, up from 72% in 2008
- 49% of families have income of \$50,000 or less
- Only 47% of parents attend school meetings and events, but that is up from 38% in 2008
- 90% of higher-income families participate in activities outside of school, while only 38% of lower income families participate in programs

For more the full census results, visit the TDSB website.

Reducing childhood obesity

North American children are at risk of being the first generation to have a shorter life expectancy than their parents, in large part because they weigh more and they get less exercise.

Last year, Ontario's Ministry of Health and Long Term Care appointed the Ontario Healthy Kids Panel to make recommendations about how to reduce childhood obesity by 20%. In its report, the panel recommended working in three main areas: pre-natal care, changing food "environments," and building healthy communities, including substantial changes to health policies and practices in schools.

The government has announced that the Ministries of Health and Long Term Care, and Children and Youth Services will work together to develop a plan for implementing the panel's recommendations.

To read more, visit: <http://bit.ly/13M9QGe>

Parent Engagement workshops

These are free workshops for parents provided through the TDSB. **Registration is required. To register, call: 416-397-3529 or e-mail: outreach@tdsb.on.ca**

Please indicate your name and the location you will be attending. Child minding is available upon request (Ages 2 1/2 - 12).

Understanding Middle and Secondary School Programs and Options.

- May 9 2013 @ Marc Garneau C.I. (Library) at 135 Overlea Blvd @ 6:30pm.
- May 21 2013 @ Richview Collegiate (Library) at 1738 Islington Avenue @ 6:30pm.

Understanding Safe Schools/Inclusive Schools.

- May 16, 2013 Northern Secondary School (Auditorium) 851 Mount Pleasant Road @ 6:30pm.

Promoting Positive Mental Health.

- May 23, 2013 @ Lester B. Pearson (Cafeteria) at 150 Tapscott Road @ 6:30pm.

Nurturing Emotional and Mental Wellness in your Child.

- May 29, 2013 @ Earl Haig Secondary School (Auditorium) at 100 Princess Avenue @ 6:30pm.
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Important Dates

MAY

WED. MAY 8

- Wilkinson Open House from 9:30-11am and again from 1-2pm
- Author Linda Sue Park will speak to the JK/SK to Grade 3

THURS. MAY 9

Welcome to Kindergarten! From 5:30-6:30pm in Room 3

FRI. MAY 10

- Girls' and Boys' Soccer Tournament @ Cosburn Middle School (RAIN Date: Mon. May 13)
 - Ultimate Frisbee Tournament @ Don Mills Collegiate (RAIN Date: Mon. May 13)
 - Movie night featuring the Disney movie, *The Lady and the Tramp*
- Doors open at 6:30pm, movie starts at 7pm

TUES. MAY 14

Parent Council's last [Healthy Eating Workshop](#) @ Wilkinson!

MON. MAY 20

Victoria Day – School closed

TUES. MAY 21

Band and Strings Concert Performance @ Wilkinson @ 1pm

WED. MAY 22

Area Track and Field Meet @ Birchmount Stadium

FRI. MAY 24

Cricket Tournament

SAT. MAY 25

Fun Fair! From 11am to 3pm

MAY 27 – JUNE 6

EQAO

JUNE

JUNE 3-7

Book Fair! (Volunteers needed)

FRI. JUNE 7

PA Day

JUNE 13 and 14

In-Class French plays

WED. JUNE 19

Daytime schedule:

- @ 9am: Graduation of the morning Senior Kindergarten students PLUS a Concert Performance by all the morning kindergarten classes and Grade 1 classes.
- @ 1pm: Graduation of the afternoon Senior Kindergarten students PLUS a Concert Performance by all of the afternoon kindergarten and Grade 1 classes.

Evening schedule from 7-8pm:

- Primary Choir (all students in Grades 2 and 3)
- Ukulele – Beginner and advanced groups
- Junior Choir
- Orff Ensemble

FRI. JUNE 21

- National Aboriginal Day
- June Solstice

TUES. JUNE 25

Grade 6 Graduation at 1:30pm (Photo at 1pm)