

WILKINSON NEWSLETTER

November 2012

Principal's Message

As parent teacher interviews are upon us, we encourage you to take this opportunity to find out about your children's progress. Report cards will be sent home on **Mon. Nov. 12**. Below are some questions and tips that you may find useful. Interpreters are available. Please contact your children's teacher or indicate your requirements on the parent-teacher interview form.

Great Questions to Ask

- What skills does my child need to work on?
- What activities can we do at home to strengthen those skills?
- Does my child complete his/her work and assignments efficiently and conscientiously?
- Is my child facing any struggles in class not related to her/his schoolwork?

Interview Tips

- **Talk to your children** about school before the interview. Ask how they think they are doing and how the teacher can help them meet their goals.
- **Get an idea** of what the curriculum is like, the level your children are working at, and areas where they are struggling.
- **Make a list** of what you want to know before the interview. Knowing what you want to know and writing it down ensures that you don't forget anything, and that you get the information you need.
- **Be open and honest.** Feel free to add your own observations around your children's behaviour, strengths and weaknesses.
- **Find out what they're learning.** Ask what your children have learned and what is coming up. Know the skills your children will need to be successful in the term ahead (i.e. knowing how to multiply and divide fractions).
- **Ask about** strengths and weaknesses. Find out about problems before they happen. This information will

allow students to get help before they fall behind.

- **Find out** how often and how much homework is being assigned as it relates to the TDSB's Homework Policy. Also ask if your children are completing their homework regularly, how long the work assigned should take to complete and does the teacher check the homework regularly and provide feedback. The answers to these questions will help you better monitor your children's work habits.
- **Ask what you can do** at home to help your children. Make a commitment to support your children's learning.

I hope you have a successful interview and Ms. Adams and I will be available for consultation on the evening of Nov. 15 and the morning of Nov. 16 during interview times. We are also available to sit in on interviews if necessary. Please contact the school if you have any questions.

–Allan Kelly, principal

Lincoln Alexander remembered

Lincoln Alexander was a former Wilkinson Student and, later on in his life, a respected member of parliament and a great leader. He was the first Black member of Parliament in Canada, representing Hamilton West in Ontario for four successive elections from 1968 to 1980. In 1985, Governor General Jeanne Sauv  appointed Alexander the 24th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. He became the first black person to serve in a vice-regal position in Canada and is a member of the Order of Ontario and a Companion of the Order of Canada.

Alexander was born Jan. 21, 1922, in Toronto, Ont., to his parents Mae Rose and Lincoln Alexander, Sr. He lived most of his life in Hamilton, where a highway, the Lincoln Alexander Parkway, was named after him. He often joked about this, since he never held a driver's licence.

While Alexander was working for the Progressive Conservative party, he was said by his fellow members of Parliament to be the only one with no enemies. He was always open to new people and new suggestions.

Alexander married Yvonne Harrison in 1948 when he was 26 years old. They were married for 51 years. She died of Alzheimer's in 1999 at age 88. Alexander remarried Marni Beal in the summer of 2011. "No way could an old codger like me attract someone as lovely and intelligent as Marni, but she fell for my bologna," he once said.

Sadly, Alexander and Marni were only together for about a year before his death, which fell on the night of Oct. 19, 2012.

We are saddened by the end of Lincoln Alexander's life, and appreciate all that we have learned from him.

– *By Julia Lapena, Genya Kleiner and Claudia Kindrachuk, Grade 6*

Celebrate Eid-al-Adha!

Wilkinson parents and graduates are organizing a **Community Eid Party on Sat. Nov. 3 from 5-8 pm in the gym**. Join us for a halal potluck dinner (including halal meat, and no animal/alcohol-derived products such as marshmallows, gelatine and vanilla) and an exciting evening of entertainment. Learn more about Eid and the traditional foods that go with it. Entrance is free, but please donate a non-perishable food item and get a ticket for a draw to win prizes. See you there!

News bites!

• Bring A Book – Take a Book

During the week of parent/teacher interviews, Nov. 12-16, stop by the Bring A Book – Take A Book table. Drop off a children's book you no longer want and take one your child would like to read. Drop off book(s) ahead of time at the office.

• Science news

On Fri., Oct. 19 all classes participated in the **World's Largest Practical Science Lesson**. The challenge was to get as many students as possible across Canada doing the same experiments at the same time. The students did two experiments, "Kissing Balloons" and "The Water Sprayer," which demonstrated Bernoulli's Principle.

• Let's get fit!

Fit2Dance will be at Wilkinson on **Mon. Nov. 12**.

Students will be participating in the **Groovin' KIDS** Workshop, which addresses the new Dance and Health & Physical Education curriculums. Watch for the permission form soon.

• Have your say!

Add Wed. Nov. 7 from 7-9 pm at Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute (800 Greenwood Ave.) to your calendars. All parents and guardians are invited to attend. The TDSB wants to talk about changes that need to be made to better meet the needs of all students in the future. And it wants to hear from you about how it can bridge today's education with the future needs of schools and students' learning. Visit www.tdsb.on.ca/shapeourfuture for more information.

Library News: Book Exchange

More than 3,000 books have been checked out since the beginning of the school year! **A reminder to students:** bring back your library books on your scheduled library day, even if you're renewing. **Parents,** please help your children by knowing when book exchange day is.

e-Books for the Library

The library has purchased a number of science related e-books. These electronic books can be accessed from any computer by visiting <http://my.abdodigital.com/login/>. The username is wilkinson and the password is lions. Topics include the planets, the solar system, simple machines and body systems.

Another great digital resource is PebbleGo, a collection of digital reference books set up as an interactive research site:

www.pebblego.com/content/choose_product.php. It is geared to Grades 2-5 and features images, video and audio along with related text. A great feature for beginning or struggling readers is the audio button, which reads the text aloud. Contact me for access passwords.

Notebooks and Digital Writing

I will be working with classroom teachers this year to integrate technology into their already rich writing programs. Over the next few weeks all Grades 2-6 classes will receive an orientation of our 30 new Notebooks, after which classes will work in grade teams on a **Digital Writing Project** connected to their classroom-writing program. I will keep you up to date through the monthly newsletter or feel free to contact me should you have any questions. And don't forget to check out the Wilkinson Library

Landing page @ <http://about.me/wilkinsonlibrary> and the Library Blog @ <http://wilkinsonlibrary.tumblr.com>.
–Mr. Krentz

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

Eating News:

Health and Physical Education classes have been very active. Primary students have been learning co-operative games and more recently have been participating in an extension of Mr. Pirso's circuit training program.

Learning co-operative games teaches students the importance of being part of a team and helps develop social and interpersonal skills.

Primary students have also been learning about the importance of road safety by understanding and identifying the significance of safety signs and signals and important people in our community.

Wilkinson's Healthy Eating Program has been a great success as many students can be seen eating the healthy snack of the week. Great job, Wilkinson, keep up the healthy eating!

Healthy snacks for November include:

- Oct. 29-Nov.2: Bell Peppers
- Nov. 5-9: Apples
- Nov. 12-16: Carrots
- Nov. 19-23: 3Ps – Peaches, Pears, Plums
- Nov. 26-30: Salad - any kind!

–Mr. Kasaval

EcoTeam News:

Check back next month!

Wilkie's Terry Fox Run 2012!

On Fri. Oct 5, staff and students ran and walked to raise money for the Terry Fox Foundation. We raised more than \$4,000! A big thank you to everyone for their generous support of this worthy cause. Once again the Wilkinson Community has shown that it is a caring community!

Fall 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.wilkinsonschooll.ca/.

Gift idea and new fundraising

If you give gift cards to your child's teacher, or to friends and family members, try **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. Paper forms with cheques are due **Nov. 9** in the Fundscrip bin in the Main Office. For online with EFT, they're due midnight on **Nov. 12**. For online banking payee, they're due **Nov. 4**. For online with Interac, they're due midnight on **Nov. 12**. Visit: www.fundscrip.com. Use the Wilkinson invitation code: 6YPPMQ. For more information, contact Susan Haney at susanpbell@yahoo.ca or (416) 901-5325.

Movie Night on Fri. Nov. 2!

The Parent Council's next movie night is Fri. Nov. 2 with the animated movie, *Pirates! Band of Misfits*. 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! 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!

Pizza Lunch supplier news

As many of you may know, Wilkinson's Pizza Lunch supplier is changing to Pizza Pizza. Pizza Pizza's school fundraiser program offers exceptional value for Wilkinson while adhering to TDSB nutritional requirements. The pizzas are Halal, low-sodium, virtually trans-fat free and contain no MSG. And the program will allow us to direct more of the collected funds to school programs and initiatives for our students.

If you have any questions or concerns, please write us at wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca

Important Dates:

November

FRI. NOV. 2

- Picture Day
- Movie Night: *Pirates! Band of Misfits*

SUN. NOV. 4

Daylight Saving Time Ends – Don't forget to turn you clocks back one hour!

WED. NOV. 7

TDSB Consultations – all parents and guardians welcome. Visit:
www.tdsb.on.ca/shapeourfuture

FRI. NOV. 9

Remembrance Day Ceremony at Wilkinson @ 10am

SUN. NOV. 11

Remembrance Day

MON. NOV. 12

Fit2Dance Groovin' KIDS Workshop

NOV. 12-16

Bring a Book – Take a Book event

TUES. NOV. 13

Diwali/Deepavali

THURS. NOV. 15 and FRI. NOV. 16

Teacher/Parent Interviews

FRI. NOV. 16

PA Day – No school

SAT. NOV. 17

Parents Make a Difference conference @ Earl Haig Secondary School

WED. NOV. 21

School Picture Retake Day

TUES. NOV. 27

First Nations troupe, Gonrah Desghowah White Pine Dancers, perform in the gym @ 1 pm for Grades 1-6

FRI. NOV. 30

Pizza Lunch

December

SUN. DEC. 2

First Sunday of Advent

SUN. DEC. 9

First day of Chanukah

FRI. DEC. 14

Movie Night: *Arthur Christmas*

Contact Us

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Thank you to our contributors!

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