

## Community News

### Summer arts programs at St. David's

The Open Door Summer Arts Programming for Children and Youth has added an additional week of "Shakespeare Is Boffo!" camp – for a total of seven weeks of programming this summer (July 2–August 17).

The Open Door brings local visual and theatre artists and musicians together with families from the community to provide high-quality arts programming for young people at an affordable price.

### This year's programs include:

- Enriched Arts Camps (visual art, music & drama) (age 7–10) – offered on two different weeks
- Intensive Arts Workshops (visual art, music & drama) (age 11–14) – offered on two different weeks
- Shakespeare Is Boffo!, theatre for active kids (age 9–15) – offered on two different weeks
- Songwriting Workshop for Teens (age 15–18) – offered only once

For the schedule and more information, contact 416-466-3142 or e-mail [trishor@sympatico.ca](mailto:trishor@sympatico.ca). You can also visit: <http://www.stdavidsto-ronto.ca/opendoor2012/opendoor2012.html>

### Brick Works offers adventure camps

The Evergreen Brick Works (550 Bayview Avenue) is offering four- to 10-day summer day camp sessions to explore and discover the green side of Toronto. For more information, visit: <http://ebw.evergreen.ca/whats-on/kids-families/camps>.

### Brick Works' weekend kids' programs

Brick Works also offers Eco-crafts for kids on Sundays from 10am to noon. A \$5 donation is suggested per child. Visit: <http://ebw.evergreen.ca/whats-on/kids-families/ecocrafts>.

There are also programs offered in the Brick Works' Chimney Court on Saturdays from 10am to 4pm. A \$5 donation is suggested per child.

For more information on the programs offered, visit: <http://ebw.evergreen.ca/whats-on/kids-families/chimney-court>.

All donations go directly back into the Brick Works' programming for kids.

### Creative Preschool founders retire

Georgia and Wendy, the founders of The Creative Preschool (16 Phin Avenue), are retiring after 33 years of nurturing our children. Please join us to celebrate their years of dedication to our community and send them off in style with a four-course dinner at Whistler's Grille (995 Broadview Ave.) on Friday May 27 at 7pm. The night will include entertainment by The Tone Dogs, fantastic door prizes, raffle tickets, a chance to toast Georgia and Wendy and catch up with old friends. Dinner tickets are \$60 per person and can be purchased through Eventbrite at [www.creativepreschool.eventbrite.com](http://www.creativepreschool.eventbrite.com). They can also be purchased at the school or you can e-mail Michelle Hunt at [michelle-pampers@rogers.com](mailto:michelle-pampers@rogers.com) or Corynn Kokolakis at [corynnie@rogers.com](mailto:corynnie@rogers.com).

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## Important Dates

### Mon. May 7-Fri. May 11

Wilkinson's Annual Art Show

### Wed. May 9

Parent workshop on Internet Safety and Cyber Bullying @ 7pm

### Thurs. May 10

Student workshops on Internet Safety and Cyber Bullying

### Thurs. May 17

Storyteller Rukhsana Khan to present at Wilkinson

### Fri. May 18

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### Sat. May 19

Spring Clean-up in the school grounds

### Mon. May 21

Victoria Day – Statutory Holiday

### Thurs. May 24

Wilkitchen

### Fri. May 25

Pizza Lunch

### Sat. May 26

Fun Fair!

### Tues. June 12

Parent Council AGM

### Fri. June 15

Movie Night featuring Dr. Seuss' The Lorax

## Contact Us

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.

Editors: Deanna, Rosolen, Jill Spellman

Design/Layout: Gerald Flach - [gerald@zebragator.com](mailto:gerald@zebragator.com)

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# NEWSLETTER

MAY 2012

## Principal's Message

Ten years ago, Senator Vivienne Poy made the motion that the month of May be recognized as Asian Heritage Month in recognition of "the important contributions of Asian Canadians to the settlement, growth and development of Canada, the diversity of the Asian community, and its present significance to the country." To recognize and celebrate Asian Heritage month, we have several activities planned. On May 16 and 17, renowned children's writer, Rukhsana Khan, will be acquainting our students from kindergarten to grade 6 about the richness of Muslim culture through traditional stories as well as stories of her own. Also, please look for the world map in the front hall entitled: Wilkinson's Global Community. It will show the great variety of countries our students are connected to, and how many of our students have an Asian Heritage.

Something else I would like to highlight is the workshop we will be hosting for parents on Wednesday May 9 called **Streetproof Your Child for the Internet**. Children are exposed to so much through the Internet and social networking, and as parents we need to know what we can do to keep them safe. Steve Chappell is an expert in the field and will help us develop the necessary tools and strategies. More details about the workshop are contained in this newsletter. We hope to see you here on May 9 at 7pm.

– Leasa Adams, Vice-principal

## Special Earth Day Edition – Eco-Team News

On Friday April 20, Wilkinson classes participated in the citywide School Clean-Up Day. Throughout the day, classes went through the school grounds picking up litter. By the end of the day, the entire school property was spotless! Students showed great dedication to the Earth and their school, worked hard and had fun while doing it. Together they collected more than 10 garbage bags of litter! That is AMAZING! A few students were even seen collecting garbage at recess! Keep up the great work everybody! Let's keep our school this clean every day!

During Earth Week we focused on reducing our waste by encouraging litter-less lunches and composting. We counted how many litter-less lunches there were each day, hoping the number would go up throughout the week. The bulletin board in the lobby recorded our progress. As of Friday April 20, the number of litter-less lunches had jumped from 23 to 45! Thank you to the families for packing litter-less lunches. We know how much easier it is to send juice boxes and plastic-wrapped snacks. Your efforts do not go unnoticed!

Further, after a period without compost, the compost bins in the lunch room are back! We also have the composter running outside and have added a second one.

April 23-27, 2012 was Earth Week at Wilkinson. Many of the classes talked about ways to be eco-friendly at home. Ask your students what their classes did to celebrate Earth Week. Wednesday April 25 was also Car-Free Day – it was a perfect day to try taking public transit, biking or carpooling to school.

Here are some ideas for things you and your families can do to engage in nature (from the book *Last Child in the Woods* by Richard Louv):

- Go bird watching, maintain a birdbath
- Look for insects under rocks or bricks
- Go for a hike (check out the Evergreen Brick Works, accessible by TTC)
- Go camping in the backyard
- Go "clouding" and study the shapes and movement of clouds
- Have a daily Green Hour, a time for unstructured play in the natural world ([greenhour.org](http://greenhour.org))
- Adopt a "sunny day rule" – go outside and play whenever it is nice out
- Make an eco-craft (<http://fun.familyeducation.com/earth-day/crafts/69844.html>)

Hope everyone in the Wilkinson Community had a fantastic Earth Day? It's an inspiration to work with such dedicated staff, passionate students and supportive families.

– Mme. Barbier and M. Carkner

## Wilkinson votes for its favourite books – Library News!

### Scholastic Book Fair #2

Wilkinson's second book fair of the school year will take place the week of June 4-8. I will be assembling another crew of parent volunteers and hope some of you will be able to help out. If you can offer some of your time during the book fair before school, at lunch or after school, please contact Mr. Krentz at [wilkinsonlibrary@me.com](mailto:wilkinsonlibrary@me.com).

### e-Books for the Library

To supplement the library's excellent non-fiction collection, a number of science related e-books have been purchased. Topics include the planets, the solar system, simple machines and body systems. 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](#). I would love to hear what you think about these new electronic resources.

### Forest of Reading

The Blue Spruce and Silver Birch reading programs have come to an end and students have chosen their favourite books. Nearly 300 Blue Spruce readers (K-3 + Dandy Cubs) voted during library time over the past few weeks. Wilkinson's favourite Blue Spruce book is *Small Saul* by Ashley Spires. Silver Birch Readers did their voting during a lunchtime Silver Birch celebration hosted by Mr. Krentz and Ms. Whitfield. More than 50 students talked about this year's books, had some treats and, of course, got a chance to vote. Wilkinson's favourite Silver Birch books are ... SB Express: *When Apples Grew Noses and White Horses Flew: Tales of Ti* Jean by Jan Andrews, SB Non-Fiction: *Don't Touch that Toad & other Strange Things Adults Tell You* by Catherine Rondina (illustrated by Kevin Sylvester) and SB Fiction: *The Glory Wind* by Valerie Sherrard. On Wednesday May 16, a group of Silver Birch readers will head down to Harbourfront for the Festival of Trees, a celebration of the Forest of Reading program. Many of the authors and illustrators will be on hand doing workshops, signing autographs and attending the awards ceremonies where this year's winners will be announced. For more information on the Festival of Trees, check <http://bit.ly/forestfestival>.

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

Happy Reading!

– Mr. Krentz

## Council's Annual General Meeting

Wilkinson's Parent Council is holding its annual general meeting on

Tuesday June 12 from 7-9pm. Don't miss it! Come out to hear what parents have been working on for the whole school community. All parents and guardians are welcome.

## Way to go team Kelly – Health and Physical Education News!

Congratulations to Team Kelly who won the W.J.I.H.L. floor hockey championships for the 2011-2012 school year. It was a great season and all Junior students who participated showed great spirit, enthusiasm and sportsmanship!

Four sports teams are currently practicing hard for their tournaments this month: the cricket team, both boys' and girls' soccer teams and the ultimate frisbee team. Keep working hard, athletes!

### Track and Field

Wilkinson's annual track and field meet took place on Thursday April 26. Students from Grades 1-6 participated in various running, jumping and throwing events. Students from Grades 2-6 who did exceptionally well in these events were asked to join Wilkinson's Track and Field team. The team will practice until May 15 when they will then compete with other schools in our area to see if they will advance to the city finals. It's great to see so many students participating in sports! Just another great way to stay active! Along with keeping active, students and teachers must remember to also eat healthy. Here are the healthy snacks for the month of May:

**May's Healthy Snacks are:**

• **May 7-11: Berries**

• **May 14-18: Cucumbers**

• **May 21-25: Peaches/Pears or Plums**

• **May 28-June 1: Carrots**

Happy, healthy eating, Wilkinson!

– Mr. Kasaval.

## Wilkinson's artists to shine – Annual Art Show

Wilkinson's Annual Art Show will take place from Monday May 7 to Friday May 11. Each student at Wilkinson participates by submitting one art piece to be displayed. The gallery will be open until 4pm from Monday to Wednesday and 9pm on Thursday

### Volunteers wanted!

We are looking for volunteers from the community (parents, guardians, older siblings, family members) who can help with the set up on Friday May 4. If you can donate one or two hours, it would be a great help. If you are able to volunteer, please speak to Ms. Adams,

Ms. Butler, Ms. Currie, Ms. Di Iorio or Mrs. Wareham. We are looking forward to another amazing Art Show!

## Sat. May 26 – Fun Fair News!

The date is set and prep work for Wilkinson's biggest fundraising event is underway. Fun Fair takes place on Saturday May 26 from 11am to 3pm. **Check your e-mail soon for a complete Fun Fair information package.**

In keeping with Wilkinson's designation as a Bronze Eco School, Wilkinson School Community Council has opted to send out Fun Fair information via e-mail as much as possible.

### We need your stuff!

Parent Council is looking for several items:

- Books
- Used Lego pieces
- Items for Looneyland (such as puzzles, toys, loot-bag treasures)
- Items for the Silent Auction
- Items for our Dream Baskets (see your inbox soon for more details)

**Please e-mail April Moon at: [Moon.wallis@sympatico.ca](mailto:Moon.wallis@sympatico.ca)**

**Do you have Canadian Tire money kicking around?** The Parent Council will need to purchase some tents this year and could use your "money" to put toward the cost. Please drop off your Canadian Tire money in the Parent Council mailbox in the school office and label it for April Moon.

### It's a Piece of Cake!

Parent Council is looking for baked goods and whole cakes for the Fun Fair Cake Walk. Please e-mail April Moon if you can provide baked goods: [Moon.Wallis@sympatico.ca](mailto:Moon.Wallis@sympatico.ca)

### Volunteers wanted!

Calling all high school students! Do you need to add to your volunteer hours? Come out for Fun Fair – you'll be helping a great cause and you'll have a blast, too. If you'd like to get involved, there are plenty of opportunities and something for everyone – parents, too! Just e-mail Eric Malcomson at [ericandallison@sympatico.ca](mailto:ericandallison@sympatico.ca).

## Spring cleaning our school garden

Council's Greening Committee is gearing up to get our school grounds ready for spring and have organized a Learning Garden Overhaul & Clean-up Day. The event will take place on Saturday May 19 from 9am to 12 pm. Childcare will be provided. No gardening experience is required. For more information and to RSVP, contact John Hykel at: [john62@sympatico.ca](mailto:john62@sympatico.ca).

## Staying safe on the Net – Parent workshop

The Internet can be an incredible learning, teaching and socializing tool for children. Many of us have Internet accessible electronic devices at home like computers, cell phones, gaming systems or tablets. Your children may be using these devices to do multiple things such as play games, watch videos, read, download/listen to music, chat, text, post pictures, research and webcam.

Aside from the Internet's benefits, are you aware of its potential risks for children like loss of privacy, Internet predators, cyber-bullying and marketing scams? If so, are you wondering what you can do to ensure your child is safe and behaving responsibly on-line?

On Wednesday May 9 the Education Committee will hold its first parenting workshop called "Streetproof Your Child for the Internet." Join Internet safety expert Steve Chapelle as he discusses and answers questions about:

- Set-up and use of no-cost parental controls
- Social networking sites (e.g. Facebook, Skype)
- Cyberbullying
- File sharing (e.g. music, videos)
- User account security

Urdu and Gujarati translators will be available during the workshop. At the end of the evening parents can take home a free 42-page handbook containing detailed instructions for each of the above topics.

Snacks will be served at 6:30pm in the staff room and the workshop will begin at 7pm in the library. Childcare will be available in Room 16.

Steve will also be presenting Internet safety workshops to Grades 3-4 and Grades 5-6 on Thursday May 10.

For more information, look for an electronic or hard copy of the poster below. English, Urdu and Gujarati translations of the posters will be sent to the appropriate families via their children. Feel free to contact the Education Committee should you have any questions [wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca](mailto:wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca). We look forward to seeing you on May 9!

## Fri. June 15 – Next Movie Night!

The next movie night is Friday June 15. (There will be no Movie Night in May.) The movie is going to be Dr. Seuss' *The Lorax*. Doors open at 6:30pm and the movie starts at 7pm.

Movie Night is a team effort and there is a dedicated group of young volunteers and other parents who regularly help out. But we could always use more! If you're interested, speak to one of the parents at Movie Night or e-mail [wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca](mailto:wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca).