

Important Information

LIBRARY NEWS (CONTINUED)

Every year the Ontario Library Association organizes a reading program known as the Forest of Reading. Wilkinson participates in the Blue Spruce (K-2) and Silver Birch (3-6) programs. I will be reading the Blue Spruce books to the primary classes over the next couple of months. Students interested in joining Silver Birch will be taking their first book home before the winter holidays.

Did you know? Students have checked out **4500** books since the beginning of school in September.

Finally, in early December, every grade one student across Canada received a free copy of “Caramba” by Marie-Louise Gay, as part of the TD Grade One Book Giveaway.

Happy Reading!

Joel Krentz, Teacher-Librarian

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS FOR GRADE 7

If you are a parent of a grade 6 student, one of the options your child may be considering for next year is attending an alternative school. Each alternative school has a distinct identity and approach to curriculum delivery. They usually have a small student population, and a focus on a particular programming or theme. For example, alternative schools may focus on an arts-based curriculum or offer programming that is very project-based and student-directed. Many alternative schools seek high levels of parental involvement. School profiles are available at www.tdsb.on.ca.

What are the local alternative schools?

In the Wilkinson area, two alternative schools offer grade 7 and grade 8 programming. They are:

East Alternative School of Toronto (EAST),

Blake Public School (operates out of)
21 Boulton Avenue
(416) 393-8442

Its Information Night takes place on Thursday, January 27th at 6.30pm.

Quest Alternative,

Withrow Public School (operates out of)
25 Bain Avenue
(416) 393-9430

Its Information Night takes place on Tuesday, January 25th at 6.45pm.

How are students admitted to alternative schools?

Most alternative schools admit students by lottery. Application forms are given out at an annual Information Night which both parent and student must attend.

WHO'S WHO IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM

Parents regularly hear the names and titles of the people working with us in the school system, but sometimes it's hard to know who's who and who does what. Here's a quick rundown of the people responsible to you and how they can help you with any problems that arise.

Allan Kelly,
Principal, Wilkinson Public School
416-393-9575
Allan.Kelly@tdsb.on.ca

The principal is responsible for the successful running of the school. It is his job to manage the staff, make sure Ministry and school board policy is followed, and to ensure the safety of everyone in the building. Allan's office is located just inside the front doors, on the left. It's best to contact him by phone or email to set up an appointment. Parents will have the most luck calling after the morning rush, which ends around 9:15am.

Leasa Adams,
Vice Principal, Wilkinson Public School
416-393-9575
Leasa.Adams@tdsb.on.ca

Wilkinson is fortunate to have a vice principal, who shares responsibilities with the principal. You can contact Leasa about any school matter, but especially if your concern is about the lunchroom or lice. Her office is directly above Allan's, and accessible by the set of stairs across from the large central stairwell.

Usually, problems can be resolved by working with the principal or vice principal. If you feel unsatisfied with how your problem was handled at this level, however, you can discuss the matter with the person the principal reports to, the superintendent.

Mike Gallagher,
Superintendent, Southwest 4 district
416-396-7932
Mike.Gallagher@tdsb.on.ca

The superintendent oversees several schools in a district. He can help not only to resolve a dispute a parent may have with a principal, but also to address issues that go beyond just a single school in a district.

Cathy Dandy,
School Board Trustee, Ward 15
416-397-3083
Cathy.Dandy@tdsb.on.ca

If you are not satisfied even after consulting the superintendent, you can contact the school board trustee, who may be able to mediate. Trustees help set board policy and make funding decisions. Like the superintendent, they work for a family of schools, not just ours. Unlike the people listed above, who are hired by the Toronto District School Board, trustees are elected to office by you. They are elected to represent your views.

Useful websites:
www.tdsb.on.ca
www.peopleforeducation.com

NEW MURAL

The new mural is well under way in the main foyer. The artist is getting ready for student participation and the estimated completion date is mid-January.

SPIRIT WEAR

This autumn the Community Council approved a new design for Wilkinson spirit wear. More information along with T-shirt and sweatshirt order forms will be out in January.

Arts & Music

ARTS CLUB

Thanks to the Arts Club for producing the Remembrance Day Assembly.

STORYTELLING CLUB

We are starting a Storytelling Club in January for grades 2 and 3. It will be every Tuesday over lunch, beginning in the New Year. The club will be supervised by Ms. Cerqueira, Mr. Krentz and Ms. Mangos. More information will be sent directly from the grades 2 and 3 teachers.

Sports

Last month was a busy month for sports at Wilkinson! Three teams - grade 4/5 boys' volleyball, grade 6 girls' basketball and grade 6 boys' volleyball - practised long and hard for their tournaments. The grade 4/5 boys' volleyball team and the grade 6 girls' basketball team showed great determination and sportsmanship, improving with each game. The grade 6 boys' volleyball team went undefeated in their tournament and successfully hosted their playoff game at Wilkinson. They will now go on to the quarter finals. Way to go boys!

During the third week of November, the **H.E.A.L.T.H.Y** (Healthy Eating Always Leads to Healthy Youths) Eating Program kicked off with great enthusiasm at Wilkinson. December featured bananas, carrots, apples and celery. Each week alternates from fruit to vegetable.

In January the target snacks will be:

- Week 1 – oranges
- Week 2 - cucumbers
- Week 3 - grapes
- Week 4 - cherry tomatoes

Take part and look for more information about the H.E.A.L.T.H.Y. Eating Program on the bulletin board located in the main hall of the school. Happy healthy eating!

Craig Kasaval

Fundraising

DIRECT DONATION

Thanks for contributing to the Direct Donation Campaign 2010! We were able to raise over \$1400 to help fund Wilkinson Community Council initiatives such as Scientists in the Schools, field trip subsidies, art performances and reading programs. If you are interested in contributing to our 2010/11 campaign please contact wilkinsonparents@yahoo.ca.

CHOCOLATE SALES

The chocolate sales winners are:

Grades 4 to 6: Room 29 – Free pizza lunch!

Grades 1 to 3: Room 14 – Free pizza lunch!

Kindies: Room 2 – Scholastic voucher to buy books

Honourable mentions:

Room 15 – Chocolate bar to share!

Room 22 – Chocolate bar to share!

Thanks to everyone who participated and if you still have monies to return please do as soon as possible by contacting the main office.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for parent volunteers to help with the kindergarten and grade 1 snack program. Volunteers are needed for 30 minutes in the morning or afternoon. If you are able to assist us, please let the main office know as soon as possible at 416-393-9575.

Community Information

MOSAIC STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

Mosaic Storytelling Festival tales from around the world feature stories for ages 5 to 95! The Open Door East End Arts Collective and St. David's Anglican Church celebrate the diversity and creativity of our rich East End neighbourhood – and our world – through six afternoons of storytelling with tellers and tales from all across the globe. This will take place every second Sunday at 3pm from Jan. 23rd to Apr. 3rd at 3 pm in St. David's Parish Hall. The ticket price is PWYC (“pay what you can”) with a suggested donation of \$5 per person.

Join the festival opener on Sunday, January 23rd, “*The King's Feast: Dilemma Tales from around the World*” with storyteller Dan Yashinsky. (Students will remember Dan from the most recent Wilkinson Telling Bee!)

Important Dates

THURS. DEC. 2ND TO THURS. DEC. 9TH

Hannukkah

THURS. DEC. 9TH

Winter Concert – 6pm to 7:15 pm

FRI. DEC. 10TH

Movie Night – The Search for Santa Paws

MON. DEC. 13TH

Community Council Meeting – 7pm
Childcare provided

THURS. DEC. 16TH

Ashura

FRI. DEC. 17TH

Pizza Lunch
Last day of school for 2010

MON. DEC. 20TH – FRI. DEC. 31ST

WINTER BREAK – No School

SAT. DEC. 25TH

Christmas Day

SUN. DEC. 26TH

Kwanzaa

MON. JAN. 3RD

First day back at school in 2011!

WED. JAN. 12TH

Junior Choir perform at Koerner Hall – 7:30pm
Note: Tickets are \$10.00

FRI. JAN. 14TH

Movie Night – Nanny McPhee & The Big Bang

FRI. JAN. 21ST

Professional Activity Day – NO SCHOOL

TUES. JAN. 25TH

QUEST Alternative School Information Night – 6:45pm @ QUEST

THUR. JAN. 27TH

EAST Alternative School Information Night – 6:30pm @ EAST

DANDYLION DAYCARE

We currently have spaces available in our **After School Program**. This program is fully supervised by a fabulous Registered Early Childhood Educator.

Program Outline

- For students in grades 4-6
- Hours of operation-3:30 pm to 6.00 pm
- We offer care 5 days a week but are closed on PA days, Winter Holidays, March Break and summer. We only operate when school is open!
- Cost is \$273.00 monthly
- Nutritious snacks
- Homework program
- Science experiments, creative art projects, social games, outdoor fitness
- This program also encourages independence as many of the students will be on their own after grade 6. We assist in the "walking home alone" program.

We also have an opening in our **Full-time Program**. It has one Registered Early Childhood Educator and a maximum number of 15 children.

Program Outline

- For students in grades 3 to 6
- Hours of operation 7:30 am to 6:00 pm
- We offer care 5 days a week, 12 months, summer, winter and March break included
- Nutritious lunch and 2 snacks included
- Cost is \$515 per month
- Trips and enhancements included homework program, exciting and challenging arts and crafts, science, and drama.

For more information or details please call Karen Anthony at DandyLion 416-469-0091 or via email dandylion@bellnet.ca.

Contact Us

Go to our Web site at www.wilkinsonschoo.ca or leave a message at (416) 393-9575.

Thank you to this month's contributors:

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WILKINSON NEWSLETTER

DEC. 2010

Principal's Message

I am pleased to announce that we have started an Ambassador program here at Wilkinson. The students chosen for the program are from grade 6 and show a great deal of responsibility, respect, leadership and citizenship. These students will be greeting visitors, monitoring halls and attendance, helping out with concerts, assemblies and special events as well as being overall role models and ambassadors for our school. I would like to congratulate this year's ambassadors:

Jaden Adams
Hanifa Chhiboo
Faaizah Desai
Emilia Grujic
Matthew Ireland
Aimon Khan
Ruby Moon
Liam Ottman
Nico Prows
Shefa Shaikh
Keyan Sheppard

As this is the last newsletter before the holiday break, I would like to wish everyone a safe and relaxing holiday season.

Allan Kelly
Principal

Important Information

CHARACTER EDUCATION

The TDSB Character Trait for December is **Kindness and Caring**.

"Don't wait for people to be kind, show them how". Unknown

For the month of December we challenge our students to do random acts of kindness – saying something nice to someone, helping others voluntarily, picking up a piece of garbage in the school yard, etc. Furthermore, we demonstrated kindness and caring by having a school wide food drive.

The TDSB Character Trait for January is **Teamwork**.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much"

– Helen Adams Keller

At Wilkinson we try to provide as many opportunities as possible for students to be a part of a team.

Questions to discuss with your child:

- What does it mean to be a team player at home?
- How do you deal appropriately with conflict when it occurs during teamwork?
- Sometimes a teammate may have to make a sacrifice so that the team can succeed. What does this mean?

WILKINSON ECO TEAM

Wilkinson's Eco Team took part in an after-school workshop with Watershed on Wheels on Tuesday, November 30th. The team learned about many different ways to help the environment, which they depicted in a mural now in the main hallway. Thank you to Mme. Barbier and Ms. Mangos for all their hard work getting the Eco Team up and running.

LIBRARY NEWS

A big thank you goes to Wilkinson students, parents and staff for your support of the Scholastic book fair. Each purchase helped to raise money toward classroom and library resources and your numerous, generous donations of books to classrooms and the library have already been put to good use.

On November 12th, grade 6 students were treated to a visit from author Eric Walters. He spoke of his writing and of his children's outreach program, The Creation of Hope Project (<http://creationofhope.com>), which provides direct support, education, advocacy, micro-grants and micro-loans for Kenyan children and their extended families. Grade 6 students are creating 'book trailers' of a number of Eric Walters books. The final product will be shared with the Wilkinson community after Mr Walters follow up visit in January. On December 7th, Deborah Ellis visited the grade 5 students. Ms Ellis' books have received wide praise for their themes of peace and social justice.