

## Fundraising

### DIRECT DONATION

Couldn't volunteer at Fun Fair? Can't make Movie Nights? You can still contribute to the Wilkinson School Community Council's fundraising efforts by making a Direct Donation.

Each year Wilkinson School Community Council fundraising drives support additional educational activities, supplement the curriculum and equipment purchases to enrich learning and schoolyard enhancements.

**Our goal this year is to raise \$10,000 to fund initiatives such as:**

- Smart boards
- Schoolyard revitalization
- Musical and theatrical performances
- Visiting Authors
- Scientists in the Schools
- Graduation festivities

Donations of \$25 or more are eligible for a charitable tax receipt. Unfortunately, receipts cannot be issued for cash donations.

**All you need to do is:**

1. Obtain a Direct Donations form (either online at: <http://www.wilkinsonschooll.ca/getinvolved/donate/donate.html> or through the school office)
2. If you would like a tax receipt, please make your cheque payable to "Toronto District School Board – For Wilkinson Public School." Only donations of \$25 or more are eligible for a tax receipt.
3. If you do not need a tax receipt, please make your cheque payable to "Wilkinson School Community Council."
4. Have your child return this form together with your cheque to their teacher or you can drop it off in the Council mailbox in the school office.

If you would like a tax receipt, please ensure we receive your donation no later than Dec. 9, 2011.

Thank you for your support! Any donation, be it money, time or talent is greatly appreciated!

## Contact Us

Go to our Web site at [www.wilkinsonschooll.ca](http://www.wilkinsonschooll.ca) or leave a message at (416) 393-9575.

**Thank you to this month's contributors:**  
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## Important Dates

### FRI. DEC. 2

Movie Night – The Smurfs (pre-release!!) @ 7 p.m.

### THURS. DEC. 8

- Kindness & Caring Assembly @ 1 p.m.
- Wil-Kitchen @ 6-9 p.m.

### FRI. DEC. 9

P. A. Day – NO SCHOOL

### THURS. DEC. 15

Winter Concert @ 6 p.m.

### THURS. DEC. 15 – THURS. DEC. 22

Wilkinson Food Drive

### FRI. DEC. 16

Taiko Talk Drummers drumming and storytelling performance for Grades 1, 2 and 3.

### FRI. DEC. 16

Pizza Lunch

### FRI. DEC. 23

Festive Sing Along @ 12:50 p.m.

### MON. DEC. 26 – FRI. JAN. 6

Winter Break – NO SCHOOL

### FRI. JAN. 13

Figura Theatre's puppetry performance, Metamorphosis, for the AM JK/SK and Grades 1, 2 and 3

### MON. JAN. 16 - FRI. JAN. 20

Grades 5 and 6 to Island School

### MON. JAN. 23

Chinese New Year (Dragon)

### FRI. JAN. 27

TDSB P. A. Day – NO SCHOOL

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# NEWSLETTER

DEC. 2011

## Principal's Message

It's hard to believe, but the first term of the school year is coming to a close! As we head towards the holiday season there are a couple of important events that I would like to highlight.

On December 8 at 1 p.m., we will be holding our Kindness & Caring Assembly in the gym which will be the first of our Character Trait Assemblies. Each month classes will take turns doing presentations for the other students to bring the TDSB character traits to life. Parents and guardians are more than welcome to join us.

Our Winter Concert extravaganza will be on the evening of Thursday, December 15. This year we are asking families to bring canned goods to support our food drive and to demonstrate kindness and caring in action.

We hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday and we look forward to an exciting second term in the New Year!

Sincerely,

**Leasa Adams, Vice-Principal**

### TDSB's Character Traits:

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Empathy
- Kindness & Caring
- Teamwork
- Fairness
- Honesty
- Co-operation
- Integrity
- Perseverance.

## Important Information

### Wilkinson Food Drive!

From December 15 to 22, Wilkinson will be holding a food drive. Please drop off canned goods and other non-perishables in the morning before school or at lunchtime. There will be a drop off point outside Room 3.

Remember, the most needed items include:

- baby formula & food
- beans & lentils
- canned fruits & vegetables
- canned fish & meat
- cans of soup or hearty stew
- dried pasta & tomato sauce
- macaroni & cheese
- peanut butter
- rice
- canned, powdered or tetra pak cartons of milk

### Head Lice

In order to try and eliminate head lice from our student population, a public health nurse and I will check every student's head for lice and nits a couple of times throughout the year. If it appears that a student has an infestation, the parent/guardian will be called and a letter will be sent home. Children will not be informed in the classroom in order to maintain confidentiality. In accordance with TDSB procedures, the parent/guardian will be required to make arrangements for treatment and to keep the child home until the problem is cleared. We can provide a Treatment Instruction Sheet.

If you would like more information on head lice, contact the Toronto Health Department at (416) 338-7600 or visit its website at [www.toronto.ca/health](http://www.toronto.ca/health). I am also happy to answer questions.

### Here are some suggestions for controlling the spread of lice:

- Discourage head-to-head contact and sharing of hats, scarves, hairbrushes, combs and hair ribbons;
- Tie long hair back in braids;
- Check heads of all family members and people in close contact;
- Treat all family members with head lice at the same time;
- Check young school-age children weekly for head lice, more often if there is an outbreak.

### If you do find lice or nits on your child's head:

- Tell all close contacts to check their heads; and
- Tell the child's teacher and/or day-care worker.

– Leasa Adams

## Important Information(cont'd)

### ECO TEAM NEWS!

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The Eco-Team has been hard at work getting the Wilkinson community engaged in environmental issues. So far, so good!

As noted in the last newsletter, students have been doing an excellent job monitoring the Litterless Lunch Program. During every lunch hour, student volunteers walk around handing out "Caught Being Green" tickets to all those who are able to bring a litterless lunch. So far, it's been a real success – we're seeing more and more students with eco-lunches. Good job, Wilkinson!

As part of our effort to conserve paper, the Eco-Team ran a "Decorate your Scrap Paper Bin Contest." Why decorate a bin, you ask? Well, we figure the best way to make sure all students are using their scrap paper before tossing it is to make the bin beautiful! We received several gorgeous, eco-friendly scrap paper bins as part of our contest. After a very close vote, Ms. Currie's class won the contest and received popcorn for the entire class. Congrats on your eco-achievement, Ms. Currie's class!

The coming weeks will be full of exciting eco-events. Erin, from Eco-Spark, has been helping the Eco-Team brainstorm ideas on how to better conserve energy at Wilkinson. We will also be working on spreading the news about the exciting eco-happenings to ensure students and staff know and everyone can be involved.

If you have any questions about or suggestions for the Wilkinson Eco-Team, please contact either Mme. Barbier or Mr. Carkner on the 3rd floor. Have an eco-amazing fall!

### LIBRARY NEWS!

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This year's Forest of Reading (<http://wilkinsonlibrary.tumblr.com/post/11801543445/forest2012>) books have arrived at the school! Starting in January, the primary classes will have the **Blue Spruce** books read to them during library time.

Also in January, junior students will be invited to join the **Silver Birch** reading club. In preparation for the program's launch at the school, a number of teachers will be reading one or two of the Silver Birch titles during the month of December. They will then be our go-to teachers for students to check in with as they read the books. The primary classes and the Silver Birch club will have a chance to vote on their favorite book in province-wide voting in late April.

By all accounts, the recent **Scholastic Book Fair** was a huge success! Five days of book fair madness were managed with grace by an amazing team of parent volunteers and Grade 6 library helpers. Purchases made at the fair not only support your child's reading, but also add book resources to the school's collection. Part of these new resources will include updated dictionaries and atlases for classrooms.

Thank you to everyone who expressed an interest in volunteering in the library. If anyone else is still interested, it's not too late! Please leave your name and contact information with the office or email me at [joel.krentz@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:joel.krentz@tdsb.on.ca).

To learn more about what is happening at the Wilkinson Library, check out our new landing page at <http://about.me/wilkinsonlibrary>.

There are links to the Library Blog, the School Library Website, Wilkinson's Twitter and more.

Happy Reading!

– Mr. Krentz

### HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS!

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It was a busy November with respect to Wilkinson Lions sports. On November 24, the girls' basketball team played a tournament at Cosburn Middle School and the boys' volleyball team played a tournament on November 25 at Valley Park Middle School. Both teams have been practicing very hard for well over a month and we wished them luck! Gooooo Lions! Junior boys' basketball and junior girls' volleyball teams start in December so good luck to all of those students trying out for those teams.

At the end of November/early December, the Wilkinson Junior Intramural Hockey League (WJIHL) will be starting up. Grades 4, 5, and 6 students who signed up will be playing floor hockey at lunch-time on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays to try and win the WJIHL championship. Good luck to all teams!

### H.E.A.L.T.H.Y. Eating Program update:

It was a great month for healthy eating at Wilkinson – keep up it! Next two month's healthy snacks are:

- Dec. 5-9: Peppers (*any kind, any colour*)
- Dec. 12-16: Oranges
- Dec. 19-23: Carrots
- Jan. 9-13: Bananas
- Jan. 16-20: Cucumbers
- Jan. 23-27: Peaches, Pears or Plums
- Jan. 30-Feb. 3: Tomatoes any kind!

Happy, healthy eating, Wilkinson!

– Mr. Kasaval

### LITERACY NIGHT – THURS. NOV. 24, 2011

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Parents of children of all grades came out for Wilkinson's first ever Literacy Night. Vice-principal Leasa Adams organized the event and brought in special guest speaker Kean Soo. Soo is a Toronto-based illustrator and graphic novelist and the creator of the children's comic character, Jellaby. Soo spoke to parents about the variety of comic books and comic-style books that children have to choose from. Graphic books and novels can be especially helpful for "reluctant readers" as they provide a unique entry point into the world of reading. Afterward, parents were invited to several break-out sessions geared to different grades. Each of the sessions offered strategies and tips to help parents support their children's reading development at home. For more information on Kean Soo and his work, visit: <http://www.secretfriendsociety.com/> Look for more such events for parents in 2012.

### CURRICULUM INFUSED ART

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The Junior and Senior Kindergarten North Playground is undergoing a facelift. Wilkinson students and parent volunteers are creating new art installations, which will be installed over the next few months of the 2011/2012 school year. The idea to create curriculum-based art installations was born on a grounds' tour of Wilkinson in 2009

and was brought to life by Kirsten McGoey with the help of MANY contributing members of the 2009/2010/2011 Wilkinson School Community Councils and the feedback of the 2010/11 Kindergarten staff at Wilkinson.

Charles Pascal writes in his document *Every Child, Every Opportunity*, that the role of play is extremely important both inside and outside of the classroom. "Play is a vehicle for learning and lies at the core of innovation and creativity," he explains. "It provides opportunities for learning in a context in which children are at their most receptive. Play and academic work are not distinct categories for young children, and learning and doing are also inextricably linked for them."

To reinforce the curriculum already being delivered in the classroom, this playground art project is designed to provide play resources for teachers to dovetail into their current lessons. The project will also reintroduce these concepts while the children participate in free outside play or perhaps while using the space during a weeknight or weekend visit with parents, caregivers and friends.

The first workshops on the alphabetical and numerical panels to hang along the fence enclosure were completed at the end of November 2011. JK and SK students got their hands dirty painting patterns on 2x2 plywood panels, which will be transformed into letters and numbers by older Wilkinson students and parents. Our friends at DandyLion also got their hands dirty allowing future Wilkinson students a chance to shape their future main play space.

Look for these creations and other installations to be added soon to enliven this outdoor learning and play space. Interested in getting involved? There are plenty more installations to complete – no art skills required! Contact Kirsten (Kris) McGoey at (647) 444-5414 or e-mail her at [krisandjoe@rogers.com](mailto:krisandjoe@rogers.com). For more information on the art installation, visit: <http://www.wix.com/knmcgoey/jkskartinstallation>

\* The installations are funded by the Wilkinson Parent Council through funding activities such as Direct Donations, Fun Fair and Pizza Lunches.

### OUR TRIP TO THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR

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On November 10, Rooms 22, 25, 26, and 27 went on a field trip to the 2011 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. Let us tell you all about it. It all started out with a one-hour subway trip to the R.A.W.F. When we got there, it smelled really bad! (Like horse dung.) Then we went to the dog show. When we went to the dog show there was a huge line up! Then we finally got in! The show started and we saw dogs do many tricks like dancing and skateboarding. An hour later the show was over and it was AWESOME!

Next stop, lunch! We were starving by the time we got out from the dog show. There were so many places to eat like Subway, St. Louis, Pizza Pizza, Funnel Cakes and lots of other places, too. We finally decided what to eat after seeing all the great selection of food. After a great lunch, we went to the healthy eating exhibits and we saw people having the times of their lives by dancing to the music. There were many healthy food related exhibits like the maple syrup booth, apple booths and more. Health Canada was even there promoting healthy eating. We saw honey bees and much more. We think everyone enjoyed it!

Last stop, the farm animals. There were so many sheep, cows, goats, pigs, lamas, horses and chickens. We fed the animals hay and they were so happy! We saw sheep getting shaved and rabbits eating grains. It was so adorable.

Good bye, R.A.W.F! We'll miss you! The R.A.W.F was great and we hope we go next year once again.

– Jade Germain and Lava Al-darraj, Room 22

### WIL-KITCHEN

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The next Wil-Kitchen is taking place Thurs. December 8 from 6-9 p.m. The theme is Multicultural Holiday Baking. There will be cookies, truffles, chocolate suckers, preserves, and so much more. Come with a little container so you can bring home some samples.

### WINTER CONCERT

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The Winter Concert will be taking place on Thurs., December 15 from 6-7 p.m. Mark your calendars! Everyone is invited to attend.

The following groups will be performing:

- the Primary Choir
- the String Ensemble
- the Advanced Ukulele Group
- the Junior Choir
- the Orff Ensemble.

– Ms. Levy

Note from Council: Kindergarten and Grade 1 students do not participate in the Winter Concert. Look forward to seeing them perform at our Spring Concert in 2012!

### LOST AND FOUND

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Parents: if your child is missing a hat, glove or a shoe, our Lost and Found inventory will be out on display during the Winter Concert on December 15. Don't forget to stop by and take a look in the foyer by the mural.

### DANDYLION DAYCARE VACANCIES

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As of December 1, 2011, DandyLion Daycare Centre will have two vacancies in the After School-Age Program (ASAP).

The ASAP room is for children in Grades 4-6. This program is only offered after school from 3:20 - 6 p.m. and is closed for the summer, Christmas break, March break and P.A. Days. The program teaches the children responsibility, team building, involves outdoor time and plenty of fun and creative activities.

For more information, please contact Patrina Stathopoulos or Sarah Hoac at (416) 469-0091 or via e-mail at [dandyLion@bellnet.ca](mailto:dandyLion@bellnet.ca).

### NEWSLETTER REMINDER

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Our next newsletter will run in February – just in time for kindergarten registration. Look for the newsletter and a package of registration information at the beginning of that month.

### SPIRIT WEAR!

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Looking for holiday gift ideas? Be sure to check Wilkinson's stylish spirit wear. With T-shirts and hoodies, there's something for everyone. Contact Jill Spellman at: [jill\\_spellman@yahoo.ca](mailto:jill_spellman@yahoo.ca). Happy Holidays!