

Important Information

WILKINSON ECO TEAM

The Eco Team has been working on raising awareness about recycling in the lunchroom. We are also starting a composting system in the lunchroom very soon. Students have been making posters, writing announcements and will be making presentations to other classes.

We are so excited that Wilkinson is becoming an Eco School and are looking forward to many more green initiatives!

LIBRARY NEWS

As a way of sharing what is going on at Wilkinson's library, I have created a library blog at [//web.me.com/joelkrentz/wilkinson](http://web.me.com/joelkrentz/wilkinson). The blog will include a regular library updates and happenings, student book-review page, useful links, a gallery of student work and the new Wilkinson podcast. With the help of their teachers, a small group of grade 5 students are ready to kick off podcasting at Wilkinson. The team has begun practicing and will soon be ready to launch the first ever Wilkinson podcast! It will be posted once a week on the **Library Blog** and feature interviews, Wilkinson news, special event reporting and school history. One of the team's first tasks will be to assist a grade 1/2 class to record some of their stories using podcasting software. We are looking for a name for the podcast - any suggestions are welcome! Stay tuned for the first episode.

As part of the TDSB's Mobile Computing Strategy (MCS), grade 6 students across the school board will be given access to brand new Apple MacBook computers. Wilkinson has received 6 of these laptops for student use and all grade 6 classes have already made regular use of them through the creation of book trailers (more below). The laptops are intended to be used only in the classroom or the library.

We are fortunate to have a number of authors visiting over the coming weeks and months. The first is Navjot Kaur, whose book *A Lion's Mane*, is about a Sikh boy's sense of being different than others and how he finds strength and courage in being different. Ms. Kaur shared her universal message of accepting and honouring our differences to the primary grades on January 27th. It is sure to resonate well with the students at Wilkinson.

The second visiting author is Jeremy Tankard, Wilkinson parent and award-winning author of *Boo Hoo Bird* and *Grumpy Bird* and *Me Hungry*. He will be speaking with all of the students at the school at different times over coming months. I will share the dates of Mr. Tankard's visits on the Library Blog.

Wilkinson has been selected to receive an author visit from TDSB Writer-in-Residence, Eric Walters. He will be visiting with the grade 3, 4 and 5 students on February 15th. Our school was chosen through the submissions of our students on TDSB's 'Just Read It' site, which has been set up to promote a love and sharing of reading. The grade 6 students are familiar with Mr Walters through their work on the creation of book trailers of his books. The students used the new laptops and quickly became proficient at integrating

audio, images and text into a movie format for presentation. All of the fantastic book trailers can be viewed on the Library Blog.

The Silver Birch Reading Program starts early February and continues through to the middle of May. Students commit to reading 5 of the 10 nominated titles in Fiction, Non-Fiction or Express categories. They then have an opportunity to vote at the end of April and attend the Forest of Trees celebration at Harbourfront where many authors are in attendance and the winner is announced on stage! I will provide more details to the participating students closer to the date.

As always, happy reading,

Joel Krentz, Teacher-Librarian

SWEETHEART BAKE SALE

The Wilkinson Council will hold its annual Sweetheart Bake Sale on Monday, February 14th during morning recess and over the lunch hour. We are looking for donations of sweets and baking to sell. Please be mindful that donations should not contain nuts or nut products and please mark if your donation is non-halal. (For example, halal food items should not contain gelatine unless it is of a vegetarian variety.)

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help out, please contact Sam Vrakking at 416-461-2867.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2011

Kindergarten registration will take place on Wednesday, February 23rd to Friday, February 25th during the mornings from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Appointments are scheduled every 15 minutes. Please call the office at 416-393-9575 to book your appointment. Remember this registration is only for in district children and children who are enrolled in Dandyllion Daycare.

Remember to bring all of the following information about your child to your Registration appointment:

- Proof of Birth / Citizenship (a Canadian birth certificate, a Canadian passport, a Permanent Resident Card or TDSB School Admission Letter, etc)
- your child's Ontario Health Card
- you child's Immunization Record (the card that shows a list of vaccinations your child has received)
- Address (two pieces of identification that show your home address, such as your driver's licence, telephone bill, hydro bill, lease, bank statement, etc.).

SPIRIT WEAR

The new Wilkinson spirit wear will be available to order from Tuesday, February 22nd through to Friday, Friday 25th at the table set up in front of our wonderful new mural outside Room 3. We invite you to complete the order-form insert and to try samples on to be sure to get the best fit! If you have any questions please email Jill Spellman at jill_spellman@yahoo.ca.

Arts & Music

KOERNER HALL

On January 12th our Junior Choir performed at Koerner Hall in part of a series of concerts showcasing TDSB elementary and secondary students. It was an incredible experience for students and parents alike. Thank you to all who performed and attended!

DANCE CLUB

Dance Club is open to all students in grades 4, 5, and 6. We practice every Monday in the gym from 12:00 - 12:30. The students in the Dance Club will have a chance to participate in the TDSB Folkfest in May.

Thanks,
Marianna Di Iorio and Jacqueline Currie

STORYTELLING CLUB

We are starting a Storytelling Club in January for grades 2 and 3. It will be every Tuesday at 12:00pm, beginning on February 22nd until May. A letter will go home to parents in early February for kids to sign-up.

Thanks,
Helen Mangos, Adelia Cerqueira and Joel Krentz

UPCOMING ART PROGRAMMING

On Wednesday, February 9th, grades 5 and 6 students will enjoy Wisdom of Ages – Great Circle Stories & Drumming presented by Shannon Thunderbird. For more information on this performance visit <http://www.shannonthunderbird.com/>.

Sports & H.E.A.L.T.H.Y. Program

Happy New Year! Wilkinson is right into the swing of things as the junior girls' volleyball team is up and practising for their tournament next month as is the junior boys' basketball team. This year Wilkinson has teamed up with Morse P.S. to create a junior hockey team and have already posted victories of 10-1 and 9-5! Congratulations on the victories thus far Wilkinson/Morse hockey team, here's wishing there are more to come! Wilkinson has also started up the famous intramural floor hockey league at lunch time, which will prove to be exciting as it is every year!

The H.E.A.L.T.H.Y. eating program is continuing into the New Year right through until school ends as students are continually bringing healthy snacks to school! Excellent to see! Here is what to plan for in February:

- Week 1 – apples
- Week 2 - carrots
- Week 3 - bananas
- Week 4 - celery

Happy H.E.A.L.T.H.Y. eating everyone!

Craig Kasaval

Fundraising

FUN FAIR

The most eagerly anticipated event at Wilkinson is coming! Our annual Fun Fair will take place on Saturday, May 28th, from 11:00am to 3:00pm.

Upcoming newsletters will feature a Fun Fair section so that you can prepare for and, if you chose, participate in this event. Fun Fair meetings will begin after March Break.

FOOD DRIVE

To the Wonderful Wilkinson Community,

We collected over 400 packages of food and \$411.88 plus a matching contribution of \$365.00 for a grand total of \$776.88. The Daily Bread Food was very thankful. We were touched by the all-round generosity. It was wonderful to see some of the Kindergarten students bring in a penny they had found. It was also touching to see some of the students in Grade 5-6 going into their own piggy banks in order to give.

Thank you so much!
Room 8 and 9

MABELS LABELS

Most of us with kids have already become old friends with Mabel's Labels! These labels are designed to deliver maximum durability and will withstand the dishwasher, microwave and UV rays for years to come. Support our fundraiser today but visiting the Wilkinson Mabel's Labels site, <http://www.wilkinson.mabel.ca/>. This fundraiser continues until June 30th 2011.

SUPPERWORKS

Eat well and raise money for Wilkinson! SupperWorks is a fun and convenient way to get nutritious, tasty food on your table – without the time, hassle and mess! Even better, it is a fundraising activity for Wilkinson. When registering for a session at The Beach location, enter the charity code WPS and 4% of the gross proceeds will be donated to the school. Check out this month's menu at Supperworks at www.supperworks.com.

Community Information

LEGION PRIZES FOR OUR STUDENTS

On 8th December, the Royal Canadian Legion visited Wilkinson to present two of our students with prizes in a Remembrance Day contest that the Legion held in November. Haleemah Chhiboo won first prize for an essay she wrote and Aiman Khan won second prize for a poem she wrote. Congratulations, girls!

eNEWSLETTER

Please pay special attention to our insert requesting that you support our move to make this newsletter electronic!

Fun Fair 2011 Silent Auction

Q: How do you get front row seats to this year's grade 6 Graduation?

A: Bid at this our Fun Fair 2011 Silent Auction!

Important Dates

THUR. FEB. 10TH

100TH Day

SAT. FEB. 12TH

Mawlid al-Nabi

MON. FEB. 14TH

Annual Sweetheart Bake Sale – Room 3
(Remember to donate nut-free treats)

Lunar New Year – Kindergarten Parade

Valentine's Day

TUE. FEB. 15TH

First Provincial Report Card sent home

THUR. FEB. 17TH

Teacher Interviews – evening only

FRI. FEB. 18TH

Professional Activity Day – NO SCHOOL
Teacher Interviews – morning only

MON. FEB. 21ST

Family Day – NO SCHOOL

WED. FEB. 23RD to FRI. FEB. 25TH

Kindergarten Registration

FRI. FEB. 25TH

Movie Night featuring Tangled

Badminton Nights are back!

Check the Wilkinson Badminton Club Facebook page for upcoming dates.

DANDYLION DAYCARE

We currently have 3 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.

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

FEB. 2011

Principal's Message

February is a festive month at Wilkinson as we have much to celebrate – 100th Day, Valentine's Day, Lunar New Year, Black History Month and Family Day!

February is also a reporting month. On Tuesday, February 15th you will receive your child's first Provincial Report Card of the school year. Parent teacher interviews take place on the evening of Thursday, February 17th and on Friday, February 18th during the morning. (Note: There will be no school for students on Friday, February 18th.)

Finally February may be the coldest month of winter. Principals are often asked how we decide whether it's too cold to allow our students out in the schoolyard for recess.

Fresh air and exercise are important for children. It keeps them physically fit, and helps them stay alert all through the school day. Parents can help by making sure their children come to school prepared to spend time outdoors. Hats, mitts, boots and a warm jacket are important to keep students comfortable during lunch and recess.

But extreme cold can be dangerous, and parents want to know that their children will be safe. When the temperature is predicted to drop below -15C, the City of Toronto may declare a cold-weather alert. Schools are very sensitive to the needs of our students and pay close attention to the weather, especially when the wind chill is below -20C.

The TDSB Severe Weather Protocol sets guidelines for when to allow students outside for recess, when to make outdoor breaks shorter, and when to keep students inside altogether. It is flexible so that every principal can make a decision that meets the needs of his or her school.

Canadian winters can be wonderful but when the weather is cold, school staff keep one eye on the thermometer and the other on the needs of our students - a perfect balance of fun and safety.

Find out more at www.tdsb.on.ca/communications/severeweather.htm

Leasa Adams
Vice-Principal

Important Information

CHARACTER EDUCATION

The TDSB Character Trait for February is **Fairness**. Fairness is practicing justice, equity and equality, which we aim to do each day at Wilkinson.

What does fairness look like?

- Recognizing the uniqueness and value of each person within our diverse society
- Playing by the rules and not changing the rules to benefit ourselves
- Taking turns when playing a game or a sport and giving each person a chance to play
- Sharing our resources so that everyone has access to them
- Treating each person with respect and dignity
- Recognizing our personal biases and prejudices and not letting them influence how we treat other people
- Considering all points of view before making a decision
- Listening to others without judgment
- Making efforts to compromise when there is a disagreement
- Giving someone a second chance when he or she makes a mistake

Encouraging fairness in your child:

- Listen to your child if he or she has a concern or request. Engage in fair discussion to resolve the issue
- Show that fairness is important, and that it is crucial to treat others with respect and without judgment
- Share a situation in which you felt you were treated fairly or unfairly, and describe how that impacted your day

"Intelligence plus character
-that is the goal of true education."

Martin Luther King Jr.